

These are only illustrations of problems which, I believe, should yet be corrected in conference or in later legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON. I am very pleased that S. 149, the Export Administration Act of 2001, passed the U.S. Senate by such an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 85-14. This important law reforms our export controls of dual-use items to reflect the vast geopolitical, technological and commercial changes that have occurred since the old law was enacted back in 1979. While we must remain ever-vigilant to protect our nation from security threats, we must at the same time recognize that our security depends in large measure on a vibrant economy, and in particular on our ability to continue innovating in the high technology sector. Ensuring that American producers have the ability to participate in the global marketplace is critical to this effort.

The hard work that contributed to the overwhelming support for S. 149 cannot be overstated, and I was especially gratified by the spirit of cooperation that dominated the discussion. This bill, and the quality of its provisions, owe a great deal to the thoughtful participation of a variety of players on both sides of the aisle. In some cases, too many cooks spoil the broth. In this case, however, a variety of players made very thoughtful improvements to the bill. I extend my thanks and gratitude to the core group of sponsors, which included Senator MIKE ENZI, Republican of Wyoming, Chairman PAUL SARBANES from Maryland, Senator PHIL GRAMM from Texas, and also to so many others contributed to an improved final product.

In particular, I would be remiss in not mentioning the important and dedicated efforts of Senator MARK DAYTON, my Democratic colleague from Minnesota. Senator DAYTON and his staff worked tirelessly to ensure that S. 149 protects the interests of the agricultural community relative to export controls. While there are many legitimate reasons to restrict the export of certain items abroad, especially where the export of such items could pose a threat to America's national security, there is to my mind absolutely no acceptable logic for imposing restrictions on the export of food.

The export of food can never pose a national security threat to this Nation, and Senator DAYTON, along with his Republican colleague from Kansas Senator PAT ROBERTS, put together an amendment that eliminated the possibility that this government ever restrict the export of food for a purported national security threat. I look forward to continuing to work with Senator DAYTON on agricultural issues, and I know that the farm community is grateful to the Senator for his work in this area. I also wish to commend Senator DAYTON's staff, in particular Jack Danielson, Sarah Dahlin and Lani Kawamura.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, a consensus emerged during the 1990s with regard

to the national security of the United States. That consensus was and remains that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical and biological—and their means of delivery constitute the most important threat to our national security. There is also widespread acknowledgment that a number of rogue nations, and particularly China, represent the new national security challenge for the United States.

Yet, this body, the U.S. Senate, is about to pass with overwhelming support a major piece of legislation that stands in direct contradiction to the objectives of U.S. national security policy—to limit the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

This is not hyperbole; it is a simple statement of fact. I acknowledge that the administration has endorsed S. 149. A campaign pledge has been kept. But the long-term ramifications of the vote we are about to take should not be underestimated. S. 149 received the strong opposition of the former chairmen, now ranking members, of each committee and subcommittee with responsibility for national security. It can in no way be considered to represent a prudent balance between commerce and national security. It is, in fact, heavily weighted in favor of the former, with scant regard for the latter.

The list of exports with which we have traditionally been concerned, the Commerce Control List, has 2,400 items on it. It is important to note that exports of these items are licensed, not prohibited. Contrary to the rhetoric of some, it also is not the shopping list of someone making a Sunday trip to Radio Shack. It is, rather, a compilation of esoteric items that have military applications, including for the construction of nuclear weapons and ballistic and cruise missiles. The amount of commerce at issue is minuscule relative both to the amount of U.S. exports and to the size of the gross domestic product. Restrictions or limitations on the export of items on the Commerce Control List do not now, nor have they ever had a deleterious effect on the U.S. economy, or on U.S. competitiveness. They do, however, represent the regulatory manifestation of our national security requirements and the role our moral values should play in the conduct of foreign and trade policies.

Some of us who oppose this bill support permanent normal trade relations with China. And, yet, we oppose this bill. We oppose it because it will, by design, open the door to the export without government oversight of the very items and technologies that contribute to the threats to our security that justifies a defense budget of over \$300 billion per year. When we debate national missile defense over the months ahead, we should not hesitate to reflect on the connection between what we do here today, and what those of us who support missile defenses hope to do tomorrow.

NICS—KEEPING GUNS OUT OF CRIMINAL HANDS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Brady law mandated the establishment of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to allow federally licensed gun sellers to establish whether a prospective gun buyer is disqualified from purchasing a firearm. The NICS system is working. In its first 25 months of operation, more than 156,000 felons, fugitives and others not eligible to purchase a gun have attempted to do so and have been denied by an FBI NICS check. At the same time, NICS has not placed unreasonable constraints on law abiding citizens' ability to buy a gun. In fact, the Department of Justice reports that more than 7 out of 10 NICS background checks are completed immediately and 95 percent are completed within 2 hours.

But I'm concerned that recent action by Attorney General Ashcroft could limit the effectiveness of NICS and hamper law enforcement efforts to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Regulations issued in January allowed the FBI to keep NICS data for 90 days following a check. The 90-day period is critical to law enforcement's ability to audit the NICS system for errors, search for patterns of illegal or false sales, such as purchasers using fake ID's, and screen for gun dealers who may abuse the system. But in June, the Attorney General announced plans to reduce the length of time that law enforcement agencies can retain NICS data to 24 hours. The 24-hour period is insufficient and would severely restrain law enforcement's ability to target illegal purchasers and corrupt gun sellers.

After reviewing Attorney General Ashcroft's action, I decided to cosponsor S. 1253, a bill introduced by Senators KENNEDY and SCHUMER to maintain the 90-day period for law enforcement to retain NICS data. The bill takes a common sense approach to keeping guns out of the hands of criminals without compromising the privacy rights of law-abiding citizens. It is a good bill and the right remedy to the Attorney General's regrettable action.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 25, 1994 in Dana Point, CA. A man allegedly beat two gay men and threatened to kill them after yelling anti-gay slurs. Bradley Jason Brown, 22, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and committing a hate crime.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

RECENT ELECTIONS IN EAST TIMOR

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the people of East Timor on the success of their recent Constituent Assembly elections.

On August 30, 2001, the people of East Timor voted to elect a new Constituent Assembly. That Assembly will begin meeting almost immediately to adopt a new constitution and to establish the framework for future elections and a transition to full independence next year. The vote was conducted on the second anniversary of the violent 1999 independence referendum. In that earlier referendum, nearly 98 percent of eligible voters risked their lives to vote for independence from Indonesia. Last week, the people of East Timor demonstrated their continuing commitment to democracy by turning out again in force to elect the women and men who will lead them now to full democracy and independence. Final voter turnout in this recent election was reported at more than 91 percent, in a territory-wide poll that was both peaceful and orderly.

After 25 years of occupation by Indonesia, and a much longer period of colonization by Portugal, many ordinary men and women walked for hours and lined up before dawn to vote for the first time for their own political leaders. Clearly, many difficult decisions and fractious debates now lie ahead for the 24 women and 64 men who have been entrusted by their election to the Constituent Assembly to establish a sound legal framework for independent governance. It is my fervent hope that the same spirit of civic participation and tolerance that guided this most recent election will continue to guide the elected representatives of the Constituent Assembly as they establish a new democratic system to promote the cause of peace, independence, and prosperity in East Timor.

The United Nations must also be credited for organizing a successful election and establishing a firm foundation for future independent governance. As U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has noted, it is in many respects the conviction with which the people of East Timor have embraced democracy that continues to strengthen the commitment of the world community to their cause. I commend the United Nations Administration in East Timor, UNTEAT, for their dedication in implementing this important mission and for their success in organizing this recent election.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, September 7, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,772,587,811,775.31, five trillion, seven hundred seventy-two billion, five hundred eighty-seven million, eight hundred eleven thousand, seven hundred seventy-five dollars and thirty-one cents.

One year ago, September 7, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,680,707,239,455.93, five trillion, six hundred eighty billion, seven hundred seven million, two hundred thirty-nine thousand, four hundred fifty-five dollars and ninety-three cents.

Twenty-five years ago, September 7, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$625,934,000,000, six hundred twenty-five billion, nine hundred thirty-four million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,146,653,811,775.31, five trillion, one hundred forty-six billion, six hundred fifty-three million, eight hundred eleven thousand, seven hundred seventy-five dollars and thirty-one cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS BIRTHDAY

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, the Congress of the United States recognizes with extreme pleasure the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps on its thirtieth anniversary of their Congressional Charter of September 10, 1962.

A non-profit training and education organization for young men and women, the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps has consistently provided, in conjunction with the Navy and Coast Guard, an outstanding opportunity for our country's youth to sample military life and experience the challenges and rewards of the maritime services. Over 8600 Cadets ages 11 to 17, led by 2,000 adult volunteers, across the United States and overseas participate with active forces in a wide variety of maritime training activities.

The Sea Cadet program is applauded in developing not only interest and skill in seamanship and aviation, but also instilling in America's young people a sense of patriotism, personal courage, self-reliance and those qualities which mold strong moral character and self-discipline, all in an anti-drug, anti-gang environment. Many of our former and current military leaders established their roots and love the Naval services as a Sea Cadet.

On behalf of my colleagues in the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, I offer our heartfelt appreciation and respect to all the members of "our" U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

To Volunteers and Cadets: "Bravo Zulu"—Well Done!•

IN RECOGNITION OF HAIFA FAKHOURI

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my Senate colleagues to join with me in honoring dedicated activist and respected community leader Dr. Haifa Fakhouri. Dr. Fakhouri will be named a Lady of Charity by the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME Missionaries) at the 43rd Knights of Charity Award Dinner in Dearborn, Michigan on October 11, 2001.

The Knights of Charity Award is presented each year to men and women who clearly exemplify "Unity in Family Life with Person-to-Person Charity." This award is given to those whose words and actions promote the ideals of charity, friendship, love and interfaith and intercultural collaboration.

Dr. Fakhouri clearly exemplifies these ideals. Since coming to America from Jordan in 1968, she has become one of the most respected leaders of the Arab-American community. Her most well known and far reaching achievement was helping to found, and serve as President and CEO of the Arab-American and Chaldean Council (ACC), the largest community based human services agency in the nation, serving the Arabic and Chaldean speaking population of southeast Michigan. Founded in Detroit in 1979, the ACC has quickly grown to offer 36 outreach centers and over 50 specialized programs to the Arab/Chaldean community in Detroit and the surrounding area.

Under Dr. Fakhouri's leadership, the ACC has adopted goals and ideals that closely match those of the Knights of Charity Award. The ACC is dedicated to building community cooperation and coordination, increasing cross cultural understanding and raising the level of the community's general well-being. Because Dr. Fakhouri has been so successful in guiding the ACC towards achieving these goals, she has received recognition from numerous state and national organizations. For example, she has served as Special Advisor to the United Nations on the role and status of women and population policies in the Middle East Region, and she has received the 1999 Governor's Community Leadership Award, the 1999 Michigander of the Year Award and many others.

Dr. Fakhouri's leadership, vision and compassion have made her one of the nation's greatest community activists. Her dedication to serving others have made her an invaluable part of the southeast Michigan community. I know that my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating her on being named a Lady of Charity.•

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORY MUSEUM FOR SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, this month the History Museum for Springfield-Greene County will celebrate its 25th