

with her the importance of implementing measures that will expedite the completion of the numerous highway projects for which America's taxpayers have been waiting for a great many years. Ms. Peters explained that she is committed to pursuing efforts to streamline the federal approval process. I look forward to working with her in this effort.

I again urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of Mary Peters to be our next Federal Highway Administrator.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate has just confirmed almost 30 people for various positions in the Federal Government, and that number will be more than that counting all the military people. So it is a good day for us. In fact, I have just been informed by the staff that the military who were approved today are in the hundreds, so we have done very well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Agriculture Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and that the Senate proceed to their immediate consideration:

Mark Edward Rey, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture;

Mark Edward Rey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation;

Hilda Gay Legg, to be Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service at the Department of Agriculture;

Elsa Murano, to be the Under Secretary of Agriculture;

Edward McPherson, to be the Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these nominees be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mark Edward Rey, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

Mark Edward Rey, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Hilda Gay Legg, of Kentucky, to be Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture.

Elsa A. Murano, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

Edward R. McPherson, of Texas, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

#### OFFICER RONALD C. SHEFFIELD

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today family and friends gathered outside De-

troit to pay their final respects to Federal Protective Services Officer Ronald C. Sheffield and to remember a life of sacrifice and service to others. Last Friday, September 21, 2001, Officer Sheffield was shot and killed while on duty at the McNamara Federal Building in downtown Detroit. My largest State office is in the McNamara Building and many members of my staff were in the building when the shooting occurred. His loss will be felt by the entire McNamara Building family but most deeply by those closest to him, particularly his daughters Jessica Lynn and Jinelle Marie. Officer Sheffield spent his career protecting Americans and defending our great country. He was a sergeant in the Marines during combat operations in the Persian Gulf War and a police officer with the Veterans Administration before joining the GSA.

The past 2 weeks have made all Americans even more aware of the dedication and bravery of the thousands of law enforcement officers, firefighters, military and emergency personnel who risk their lives every day to protect us. Officer Sheffield now joins the ranks of those American heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice. My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Sheffield's family, friends and fellow officers who are grieving. And my sincere thanks and admiration go out to law enforcement officers, firefighters, military and emergency personnel across the country.

#### 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 August 1998 in Bridgeport, PA. Greg Thorpe, 30, allegedly made anti-gay threats and assaulted a lesbian outside a bar. On September 23, 1998, he was charged with aggravated and simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, terrorist threats, harassment, stalking, disorderly conduct, conspiracy and ethnic intimidation.

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.

#### PRE-ELECTION CONDITIONS IN ZIMBABWE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to draw the Senate's attention to the continuing political and economic crisis in Zimbabwe.

This summer, the Subcommittee on African Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing on this crisis. The overwhelming consensus of the witnesses at that hearing, witnesses from the administration, from NGOs, and from academia, was that Zimbabwe would continue in a downward spiral, with potentially disastrous results for the entire Southern African region, unless the rule of law is sufficiently restored to create conditions for a fair Presidential election next year.

I regret that recent events suggest that the Government of Zimbabwe is intent on taking the opposite approach. Zimbabwean authorities have expelled representatives of the widely-respected International Foundation for Electoral Systems, better known to many in this body as IFES. An IFES team had traveled to Zimbabwe to monitor pre-election conditions, which are critically important to a free and fair election. If the only information available to voters is state-controlled propaganda, if opposition party leaders and supporters are intimidated, and if the administrative structure established to prepare for and govern elections is biased, the deck is stacked against democracy before voting even begins. Without international monitors in place, the international community cannot adequately assess these important issues.

In fact, despite recent encouraging reports that the government of Zimbabwe had agreed to a rule-governed land reform strategy in return for significant assistance from Britain, conditions continue to be grim within the country. Reports indicate that 900 of 1,150 farms are unable to continue normal operations because they are still under occupation, and food supplies are inadequate.

I strongly support rule-governed land reform in Zimbabwe. It is clearly urgently needed and the United States should provide significant assistance to such an effort. But the most pressing problem in Zimbabwe is not about land. It is about the systematic destruction of the rule of law; it is about the intimidation of independent journalists; it is about executive interference with the judiciary; and it is about the abuse of Zimbabweans who support the opposition party or have the misfortune of standing between ruling party-financed thugs and the objects of their desire. So far no evidence has come to light indicating that these fundamental issues have been resolved.

As the United States quite rightly devotes itself to fighting terrorism, we must not let the horrific attacks of September 11 deter us or distract us from our other important foreign policy goals and interests. This country must continue speaking out against oppression and in favor of freedom all over the world. Sham elections will not be legitimized by the international community, and President Mugabe's government cannot regain credibility

if international monitors are barred from the country. The United States and the international community must work to keep the pressure on the government in Harare and to support the forces of democracy in Zimbabwe. I have joined my colleague, Senator FRIST, in sponsoring the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act for this very purpose. The bill has passed the Senate unanimously, and I urge my colleagues in the House to take it up. In Zimbabwe, where many courageous citizens continue to struggle to protect their institutions and to save their country from lawlessness, our honesty and our solidarity is needed now more than ever.

REPORT ON FOREIGN TRAVEL:  
TAIWAN, CHINA, AND SOUTH  
KOREA

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, from August 4-11, 2001, I joined Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman JOSEPH BIDEN, Senator PAUL SARBANES and Senator FRED THOMPSON on a congressional delegation to Taiwan, mainland China, and South Korea, with a brief stopover in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Pearl Harbor Naval Base.

During our very brief time in Hawaii, the delegation met with Admiral Dennis Blair, Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command. In preparation for our scheduled meetings with various Asian heads of state, Admiral Blair outlined U.S. preparedness and presence in the Asian Pacific region.

In Taipei, following an extensive briefing from the American Institute of Taiwan Director Raymond Burghardt on the status of cross-Strait relations, the delegation met with Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian at the Presidential Palace on Monday, August 6, 2001. President Chen seemed genuinely pleased that Taiwan was the first stop on our delegation's multi-country jaunt, and recognized and appreciated the U.S. Congress's longstanding friendship with the Republic of China.

The President discussed his efforts as Mayor of Taipei to improve cross-Strait relations, and stressed his resolve to continue down this path as President. He said he believed that he has made "good sincere gestures" to the People's Republic of China, but continues to be disappointed in what he sees as rebuffs of his efforts by Beijing. He cited Beijing's disregard for Taiwan's plan for tourism by citizens of mainland China as an example of this lack of Chinese engagement.

I raised the point that many in the U.S. are concerned about several issues involving Southeast Asia, such as China's allegedly illegal sales of weapons of mass destruction and China's human rights record. When facing whether to grant permanent normalized trade relations, PNTR, with China, I let him know my view that I believed it better to leave trade status subject to annual review to retain leverage in U.S.-China talks on proliferation, human rights, and many other items.

President Chen countered that in order for all countries' relationships with China to improve, China must become a trustworthy member of the international community and abide by international laws. He believed that PNTR would help this process along, and he would support the granting of such status by the U.S.

President Chen said he believed that the U.S. could play a more active role in the region, but that belief seemed to be tempered by his recognition that it is inappropriate for the U.S. to act as a mediator. He said he will continue to attempt to engage the mainland in cross-Strait talks, and that he is not discouraged by the failure of past efforts.

From Taipei we traveled to Shanghai, China, on Tuesday, August 7, 2001, for another brief stay, and conducted a working lunch meeting with members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. That afternoon, we conducted a large "roundtable" discussion with a handful of professors and approximately 100 undergraduate students enrolled in the Center for American Studies at Fudan University. It was enlightening to learn how young Chinese men and women view the United States and our involvement in the region. The session provided a real opportunity to assess how our Southeast Asia policy is perceived among Chinese citizens in general and among future leaders in particular.

Upon arrival in the Chinese capital of Beijing on Wednesday, August 8, 2001, we immediately proceeded to the seaside town of Beidaihe, located 3-3.5 hours outside of the city by car. Beidaihe, a resort town popular among vacationing working class Chinese, is the site of the very private Chinese leadership retreat compound, where party leaders spend much of their summer months. Our delegation was honored to be the first Westerners invited to attend meetings on the grounds.

The delegation first met with General Chi Hao-tian, the Chinese Defense Minister, and again raised the non-proliferation issue. We expressed our grave concerns about recent intelligence reports describing the sale or transfer of missile hardware and technology to Pakistan, despite China's November 2000 pledge to cease assisting other countries develop missile capabilities.

General Chi denied the missile sales allegations, saying that China always sticks to its commitments. The General went on to blast the U.S. media for creating distrust of China, and called the reports of missile sales "totally baseless." He also countered with his assertion that the U.S.'s sales of arms to Taiwan violate the "One China" articulated since the Nixon administration.

In our discussions later that afternoon with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, many of the same hot-button issues such as nonproliferation and China-Taiwan relations were raised.

However, our audience with the President afforded an opportunity to delve more into some human rights and religious freedom concerns as well. We were dismayed to hear President Jiang, unprovoked, refer to the Falungong movement as a "cult." But overall, the President's tone was positive, and he called China a connected nation with a strong market economy.

With regard to arms sales to Pakistan, President Jiang joined General Chi in a blanket denial of any wrongdoing, saying China did not violate "any rule." He said that China does maintain arms sales to friendly nations, but always within international rules. He further claimed that China had done nothing to contribute to missile development in North Korea or Taiwan.

I discussed briefly with President Jiang my previous two visits to the People's Republic of China in 1982 and 1994. On PNTR, I conveyed my reluctance to support normalized trade status with his country due to concerns about proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Despite his denials of such activities at the commencement of our meeting, I again raised the allegations of illegal weapons sales to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, as these were weighty matters on the minds of the international community.

Of particular concern to me during my visit to China were questions of religious freedom and detention of U.S. citizens by Chinese authorities. I asked President Jiang about the case of Mr. Yongyi Song, the librarian from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania who had been held for five months without formal charges or the benefit of legal counsel. The matter of Mr. Song was only resolved after Congressional intervention with the Chinese ambassador to the U.S. and introduction of a Senate resolution calling for Mr. Song's release. I told President Jiang that I was extremely concerned about cases like these, and I called on China to develop standards of judicial practice and a reasonable rule of law that would sustain international scrutiny.

President Jiang responded that I had made a good suggestion, and that China had been working for years to establish a rule of law. He went on to say that the Chinese constitution guarantees citizens religious freedom, with the exception of Falungong, a group he again characterized as a cult. The President concluded with a description of his hopes for the future of China in the coming decades, that his country will have completed the transformation to a market economy, accompanied by a strong infrastructure of appropriate judicial and political systems.

On Thursday, August 9, 2001, the delegation traveled to Beijing's Great Hall of the People to meet with Chinese Premier Zhu Rong-ji. The Premier was quite generous with his time, and during an hour and a half long meeting, outlined barriers and misperceptions