

why I believe we should consider week-end voting.

Mr. President, I recognize a change of this magnitude may take some time. But the many questions raised by our last election have given us a unique opportunity to reassess all aspects of voting in America. We finally have the momentum to accomplish real reform. How much lower should our citizens' confidence plummet before we adapt and create a more "consumer-friendly" polling system? How much more should voting turnout decline before we realize we need a change?

Weekend voting will not solve all of this democracy's problems, but it is a commonsense approach for adapting this grand democratic experiment of the 18th century to the American family's lifestyle of the 21st century.

I am pleased that the Senate saw fit to adopt our amendment and I am looking forward to hearing the views of the new Election Administration Commission on this matter.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein not to exceed 5 minutes each.

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

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, later this week I hope we will move on to our energy bill on which all of us have worked for so long, certainly recognizing that energy policy is one of the most important issues we will consider this year. Although we have the pressure of other bills—campaign reform and so on—I hope we move, as was promised, to energy later on this week so that we can move forward.

We need this policy out there. The President has put forth a policy. The House has passed a policy. We need to deal with the situation with regard to oil and gas, and of course the opportunity to increase our production domestically so we are not as reliant as we have become on foreign imports. We need to look, obviously, to a balanced bill and different energy sources such as renewables. We need to do more research in terms of coal, and clean coal, and using those resources which we have in abundance.

We haven't yet really, it seems to me, defined where we want to go, particularly with the electric component of energy, but I have to tell you that I think it is very important. People are certainly touched as much by electric energy as any other source. The issue to a large extent is transmission and transportation.

As we develop more and more opportunities to generate electricity, it has to be moved where the market is. Of course, selfishly, in my State, an energy-producing State, the problem is

being able to move that energy to where the markets are.

I hope we will try to get together to act. I am afraid we are going to get all wrapped up in Enron, and so on, which has very little to do, frankly, with the energy aspect of it. But we can take a long look at that and take action that will help us more efficiently use those energies that are available.

HADASSAH INTERNATIONAL'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we are all, by now, too familiar with reports of cowardly terrorist attacks in the streets of Jerusalem. With each of these terrible attacks, we also hear amazing stories of heroism.

I recently read a powerful account of the health care professionals who cared for the victims of the bombings on Ben Yehudah Street last December. It was written by Barbara Sofer, and it featured the work of the doctors and nurses of the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem who saved the lives of dozens of young people under the most trying circumstances.

Two things were clear from the account. First, the contributions of Hadassah members make an undeniable difference in improving lives around the world. Second, in our international war against terrorism, the compassion and dedication personified in Hadassah will defeat terrorists whose only interest is destruction.

Today Hadassah celebrates 90 years of excellence in health care and social justice. Hadassah started as a movement to bring health care to a poor people in a troubled land. It has become much, much more. Hadassah has energized women for nine decades. It helped build modern Israel. It has created world-renowned medical and education institutions in Israel, which provide trained medical experts not only for Israel, but for countries the world over. In fact, Hadassah-trained health professionals have responded to health care crises in Rwanda and Bosnia.

We have felt the impact of its excellent work right here in America, as well, on issues of concern to women and to the American Jewish community. Hadassah has over 300,000 members in 1500 chapters across our Nation, and its work has benefitted Americans of all backgrounds.

We are reminded day in and day out that there are forces who want to destroy Israel, weaken America and destabilize the world. But Israel is more secure, America stronger, and the world more stable because of the work of Hadassah. It is only fitting, therefore, that we celebrate Hadassah International's 90 years of excellence.

I extend my congratulations to Bonnie Lipton, National President of Hadassah, and the women who serve on the Hadassah Foundation's Board of Directors. To each of them, and to each of the 300,000 members in this country, I say, thank you.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this month, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, will celebrate its 90th Anniversary. Hadassah is a unique organization, which has distinguished itself in many arenas over nearly a century. With priorities that range from women's advocacy to developmental health care, Hadassah has consistently made significant contributions around the globe.

I take great pride in the Baltimorean, Henrietta Szold, who founded Hadassah in 1912. Henrietta Szold was a remarkable woman, a person not only of high principles, great intelligence and inexhaustible energy, but someone with the rare and precious ability to translate principles into reality. It was she who set out for Jerusalem in 1918 with staff and supplies for a 50-bed hospital. Today that hospital is known as the Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem; it cares annually for more than 600,000 patients, sets standards for excellence in health care, teaching and research both in Israel and around the world, and opens its doors to everyone in need.

Henrietta Szold's greatest contribution may not have been her own devotion to her community, but the framework she instituted for Hadassah members under which they could carry on the principles that inspired her—service, generosity of spirit, human kindness, and commitment. Hadassah members have acted on these principles, over the past nine decades turning Hadassah into the largest women's group and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States, with nearly 1,650 chapters and a membership of over 300,000.

In Baltimore alone, Hadassah has contributed to health education and community outreach through a number of award-winning programs. These include Check it Out, a program to increase breast cancer awareness and prevention; Act Against Osteoporosis, a campaign to teach prevention and promote the early detection of osteoporosis; Prostate Cancer Awareness Program, a program to educate men about early detection and awareness of prostate cancer; and the 5K Race for Research, an annual race for breast and prostate cancer research. Hadassah has also contributed greatly to education and advocacy in Baltimore through programs like Reach Out and Read, a program in which volunteers read aloud to children in the pediatric offices at Sinai Hospital, Read, Write, Now! an elementary school tutoring program, and Lunch and Learn, a weekly women's study group. Baltimore Hadassah also offers a number of programs for Jewish youth, including Al Galgalim (Training Wheels), Wheeling On and Young Judaea, exceptional programs designed to foster an interest and devotion to Zionism and Jewish heritage.

The welcome evidence of Hadassah's efforts is everywhere around us. The work of Hadassah has contributed very

significantly to the vibrancy and vitality of Jewish life in America and Israel and has strengthened the bonds between our two countries. It has done this by expanding educational opportunities, funding advanced research and health care facilities, establishing youth programs and activities and defending democratic freedoms and social justice around the world.

It would be impossible to pay adequate tribute to all of Hadassah's achievements contributions over the years. But as Hadassah enters its tenth decade, I want to commend this organization for its broad and abiding commitments. In areas from humanitarian relief, education and women's health, to their partnership with Israel, Hadassah is always ready to lend a hand, open a door, or inspire a young mind. I look forward to celebrating many more years of Hadassah's impressive achievements.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, who, in addition to having the privilege of sharing its name with my beautiful wife, have worked tirelessly over the past 90 years, leaving an indelible mark on Israel and the American Jewish community. From a small group of women who first gathered in February 1912, Hadassah has grown into the largest women's and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States. Today, comprised of 1500 chapters and more than 300,000 members, who can be found in every congressional district nationwide, Hadassah remains committed to the worthy mission of its founders: promoting education, health care, and social justice to Israel and American Jewish women and their families.

Today, I take a few moments to pay tribute to this institution on its 90th anniversary by sharing with my colleagues a little bit about its founder. Henrietta Szold was born in Baltimore, MD on December 21, 1860. The eldest of eight children, her father, Rabbi Benjamin Szold, raised Henrietta to be a scholar. After graduating high school, she taught French, German, botany, mathematics, and other subjects at the Misses Adam's School for Girls in Baltimore. At the same time, she taught bible history classes for adults and youth Sunday school classes at her father's synagogue. In 1893, she moved to Philadelphia to become the secretary-editor of the Jewish Publication Society. In 1902, after the death of her father, she moved to New York City with her mother where, in 1907, she joined the Hadassah Study Circle, a women's Zionist group.

In 1909-1910, Henrietta and her mother visited what was then known as Palestine—a trip that would change her life. Over the course of 6 months, she was moved by what she witnessed, especially the absence of basic medical care. Her mother suggested that Henrietta get her study group involved in health work in Palestine. Greatly af-

fected by her mother's suggestion, Henrietta posed this idea to her group and, in February 1912, the Hadassah Chapter of the Daughters of Zion adapted this mission, dedicating themselves to the improvement of health care in Palestine and the promotion of Jewish education in the United States. Because they initially met on Purim, the group took the name of the holiday's central figure, Queen Esther, who's Hebrew name is "Hadassah."

Today, Hadassah's achievements in advancing health care are evident throughout Israel. Hadassah Medical Organization supports the most advanced medical center in the region, comprised of two hospitals, 90 outpatient clinics, and numerous health centers. Each year, the organization provides health care to over 600,000 patients a year and participates in global outreach programs to developing countries.

In the United States, Hadassah has taken on a broad range of initiatives on behalf of women and the Jewish community. From the Women's Health department's "Check It Out" breast cancer detection and awareness campaign to the family programs sponsored by the Jewish Education department Hadassah provides the American Jewish community with countless services and educational opportunities. Furthermore, the Government Relations Unit provides members and the general public with education and promotes widespread civic participation on public policy matters such as American-Israeli relations, church-state separation, and women's health.

Additionally, Hadassah funds and maintains four other major programs in Israel and the United States: Hadassah Israel Education Services which gives Israeli citizens vocational and technical training; Youth Aliya which provides disadvantaged Israeli and immigrant youth with education and housing; Young Judea, which helps American teenagers build connections to Israel and Jewish life through clubs, camps, and programs in Israel; and the Jewish National Fund which works to preserve Israel's ecology and natural resources.

Nine decades after a group of 38 women first met in New York City to establish a social action group, Hadassah has grown into a nationwide organization providing much needed services and support to Israelis and the American Jewish community. I am proud to wish them congratulations on their 90th anniversary and extend my appreciation for all their important work, which can best be summed up in the traditional words, "Mazel tov."

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the founding of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. Ninety years ago on the holiday of Purim, Henrietta Szold founded Hadassah, a volunteer women's humanitarian organization that is 300,000 members strong and one I am honored to have worked with on many

an occasion. Hadassah's President, Bonnie Lipton has been a great leader and a friend.

The holiday of Purim celebrates the story of Esther, who saved the Jews from annihilation by the Persian King Ahasuerus. Esther was Ahasuerus' wife, and when she learned that Ahasuerus' advisor, Haman, convinced him to kill the Jews, at great personal risk she intervened to save the Jewish people. In celebration of this event, Esther, whose Jewish name was Hadassah, instructed the Jewish people to give gifts to the poor. It is appropriate that Henrietta Szold created an organization dedicated to Esther, Hadassah, and Purim: ensuring Jewish continuity and giving the gift of a better life to the poor.

Ms. Szold was inspired to create Hadassah when she learned of the conditions of impoverished Jews living in the slums of Turkish-ruled Jerusalem in 1912. By convincing nurses in New York to help in pre-state Israel, Henrietta Szold created a women's institution dedicated to public service and community responsibility. Hadassah continues today to help bring hope to the less-fortunate across the United States and abroad.

Through educational programs, including vocational training and exposure to the arts and athletics, Hadassah helps disadvantaged youth realize their dreams and potential. Hadassah's Youth Aliyah program offers teenagers from around the world who are struggling with depression solace, support and hope. Hadassah members also work with local elementary schools to help ensure that children are given every opportunity and helping hand to learn to read.

Hadassah offers a positive experience for its members and those who they help. They volunteer their time to assist in soup kitchens, nursing homes, day care centers, libraries, hospitals, clinics, domestic violence shelters, schools, and synagogues. Its members recognize the importance of mentoring and provide many opportunities for young women to learn about the importance of commitment, charity, leadership, community, and individualism, qualities of character that our children need to learn.

Beyond its charitable mission, Hadassah has been a key advocate of women's health issues and led efforts to warn Congress of the dangers of genetic testing. Best known for its medical facility in Jerusalem, Hadassah offers the most advanced medical care in the Middle East, to Jews and Arabs alike, and has helped build hospitals in the poorest of countries. Hadassah has been a leader in medical research, especially in women's health.

For years Hadassah was prevented from gaining special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC. I am happy to say that Hadassah was finally admitted in May 2001. This "status" should have been a simple thing. ECOSOC oversees the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNESCO, the

Commission on the Status of Women, and the Human Rights Commission. It seemed logical that Hadassah would gain this status, routinely given to many organizations, given its leadership for 90 years in medicine, education, welfare, and women's rights abroad. Hadassah, however, had to fight a long battle with the anti-Semitism present in the United Nations in order to gain this status.

I salute Hadassah for its 90 years of charity and leadership as a humanitarian organization both in America and Israel and look forward to continue to working closely with its membership.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, a wonderful organization that exemplifies a spirit of volunteerism and commitment to others is celebrating their 90th anniversary. With more than 300,000 members nationwide, Hadassah is one of the largest women's and the largest Jewish membership organization in America.

Hadassah was founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold as a group of women "interested in the promotion of Jewish institutions and enterprises in Palestine." What began as an attempt to provide health and social services to both Jews and Arabs in Palestine has grown into myriad undertakings.

Today, Hadassah's major activities in Israel and in the United States span the arenas of health, education, social services, and environmental preservation. For instance, the Hadassah Medical Organization supplies quality medical care to individuals in the Middle East, regardless of race, religion, or nationality. The Youth Aliya Program provides housing and support for disadvantaged and immigrant youth in Israel.

Additionally, the Jewish National Fund helps to build parks and preserve Israel's natural resources, while Young Judea helps U.S. teenagers build connections to Israel and Jewish life. In all of its endeavors, Hadassah has fulfilled its mission to promote a peaceful and prosperous Israel, ensure Jewish continuity, pursue social justice, and provide for the health, education, and well-being of individuals both in Israel and in America.

Over its 90 years of existence, Hadassah has touched the lives of millions of individuals in a tangible manner. In a time when the Middle East remains embroiled in controversy and violence, it is comforting to find a group whose commitment has not changed over time. Even today, Hadassah provides lessons that we can all learn from. I am proud my home state of California boasts more than 25,000 members, people devoted to improving the world around them. As a lifetime member, I would like to thank Hadassah for its efforts, and look forward to celebrating future milestones with them.

RETIREMENT OF MARIE E. MULLIS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics, it is my privilege to give public notice and honorable mention to the outstanding service that Marie Mullis has provided the committee and the Senate for the past 31 years.

Marie began her Senate career in 1971 as an employee of the predecessor to the Select Committee on Ethics. In 1977 she joined the staff of the Ethics Committee where she advanced from support staff, to executive assistant, to professional staff member. As a professional staff member for the past 14 years she has drawn from a reserve of institutional knowledge, experience, and wisdom to advise Senate staff about the Senate Code of Official Conduct. The committee commends her commitment to its work and is honored to have been the beneficiary of her loyal service over the years.

Despite the impact of her resignation, we—the committee members and committee staff who regard her highly—are pleased to see Marie move forward into retirement and receive reward for her faithful service to the United States Senate.

Thank you, Marie, for your hard work.

READ ACROSS AMERICA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, since 1998, Americans have celebrated "Read Across America" in March to honor Dr. Seuss' birthday. Millions of Americans take part in this nationwide effort to promote reading among our children while paying tribute to Dr. Seuss' great legacy.

It is hard to imagine our childhoods without the delightful books of Dr. Seuss. Such classics as "The Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham" taught us life lessons we will never forget. My personal favorite is "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" because it encourages children to reach for their dreams. I loved reading the book to my children, and now read it to my grandson. I also enjoy reading it to students while visiting schools in California.

Schools throughout the Nation hold special events to celebrate "Read Across America." This year, schools plan to have breakfasts of green eggs and ham, reading relays, birthday parties for Dr. Seuss, choral readings and museum exhibits. Celebrities and elected officials will join in the fun by reading books to children.

"Read Across America" is a day to celebrate the joy of reading and a return to our childhood, but it also provides an opportunity to address a very important issue: children's literacy in the United States. It has been proven that if children read more at home, they will do better at school. "Read Across America" can help prepare our children for success.

I take great pride in celebrating the fifth anniversary of the National Edu-

cation Association's "Read Across America." Books introduce children to a wealth of knowledge and a world of imagination. Last year, celebrations took place in every State in the Nation, involving more than 35 million people. This year, NEA expects an even bigger turnout.

I extend my best wishes to participating schools, and encourage all Americans to get involved in this wonderful celebration of reading.

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 last 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 October 28, 1993 in Watsonville, CA. Four men with a rifle threatened a gay man and kicked in his apartment door. The attackers, Miguel Lopez, 23, Israel Lopez, 18, Cesar Fuentes, 18, and a 16-year-old were arrested in connection with the incident.

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.

SUPPORT FOR U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS SERVING IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the greatest source of strength of our military forces engaged in the war on terrorism—the support they receive from the American people. Over Thanksgiving, Senator WARNER and I traveled to Central Asia to visit with our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. Nothing lifted our spirits more than sharing Thanksgiving with these wonderful troops. Nothing lifted their spirits more than our message that the American people totally support their mission and are deeply grateful for their service.

We have seen that support on display in countless ways in recent months. Americans from every corner of our country have reached into their hearts and reached out to our men and women in uniform, especially over the holidays. One particular story came to my attention that I think captures the American spirit at this time in history.

Just before Thanksgiving, Kasi Brannan of Covington, LA, decided to send a simple holiday card to her son, AT3 Eric Lepkowski, who was serving on the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt* in the Arabian Sea. When