

had hearings, they fail to acknowledge that Democrats have held hearings for more of President Bush's circuit court nominees, 20, than in any of the 6½ years in which the Republicans controlled the Committee before the change in majority last summer. This is more nominees than received hearings in either of the first 2 years of the Clinton administration when the White House and the Senate were controlled by the same party. The fact that Democrats have treated this Republican President just as fairly as Democrats treated a President of their own party with regard to hearings for circuit court nominees is remarkable. Republicans have utterly failed to acknowledge this fairness. The myth of Democratic obstruction of judicial nominees fits the partisan Republican political strategy better than the truth.

The years of Republican inaction on a number of circuit court vacancies has made it possible for Democrats to have several "firsts" in addressing judicial vacancies. For example, we held the first hearing for a nominee to the Sixth Circuit in almost 5 years, that is more than one full presidential term, and confirmed her, even though three of President Clinton's nominees to the Sixth Circuit never received a hearing or a vote. One of those Clinton nominees waited more than 1,500 days and never received a hearing or a vote, up or down, by the Committee.

We held the first hearing on a Fifth Circuit nominee in 7 years, including the entire period of Republican control of the Senate, and confirmed her last year, while three of President Clinton's Fifth Circuit nominees never received hearings or votes on their nominations. We also held the first hearing on a Tenth Circuit nominee in 6 years, and we have confirmed two of President Bush's nominees to the Tenth Circuit, while two of President Clinton's nominees to that circuit never received hearings or votes.

With last night's confirmation of Judge Gardner, the 12th judicial nominee from Pennsylvania to be confirmed in just 15 months, in addition to the other 79 judicial nominees confirmed in this short period, the Democratic-led Senate has had a record-breaking year of progress and fairness in the judicial confirmation process.

#### 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 December 10, 2000 in Jacksonville, FL. Three white men, all 20 years old, assaulted a black man.

The victim was walking down the street when the three allegedly said, "There's one, let's get him" before running toward him. The assailants, who sources say met at a white supremacist rally, knocked the victim to the ground, then punched and kicked him.

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 and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the actions taken by the administration to create a viable international regime that stops trade in conflict diamonds, and I encourage the administration to increase their efforts to further expand this regime so it attains an effective and comprehensive level of coordination, certification, monitoring, and enforcement.

The Kimberley process has its origins in a decision by African countries to end trade in diamonds that fuel regional conflict but sustain trade in diamonds that create economic stability. This effort has been supported by a number of countries, non-governmental organizations, and the diamond industry. In March 2002, the principals concluded their last full session, and it is now the responsibility of the countries involved in this process to enact implementing legislation.

A number of Senators and I are currently engaged in discussions with the administration as to what this legislation would look like and what an appropriate vehicle for the legislation would be. I would like the legislation to be more expansive than the administration wants at this time, and I would like the legislation to directly address the problems related to certification and accountability mentioned in a recent GAO report. But that said, I believe the administration is negotiating in good faith, and that they want the same outcome in the end that I do. Thus I fully expect that we will find common ground for action in the next few days. I also fully expect that discussions will continue so we can find appropriate remedies on all the outstanding issues.

I traveled to Africa in August, and I know from my briefings there that trade in conflict diamonds is a despicable practice that must end. It is incredibly disturbing and sad that one of the most promising means to attain real economic growth and political stability in certain areas of Africa—the natural wealth represented by diamonds and the diamond industry—has instead become a deadly tool by which rebel movements can purchase weapons, maim and massacre civilians, destroy communities, overthrow governments, and perpetuate uncertainty. Of equal significance, there is increasing and incontrovertible evidence that

funds from the illicit trade in conflict diamonds are being used by Al-Qaeda to finance terrorism. The problem of conflict diamonds must be confronted, it must be confronted now, and it must be confronted in a way that ends both the brutal violence that is pervasive in Africa and the possibility that conflict diamonds may fund terrorist activities in countries around the world.

In my view, it is incumbent on the United States to play an active and prominent role in creating a framework that ends trade in conflict diamonds. In my view, it is incumbent upon Congress to work with the administration to ensure that this effort occurs. I believe the Kimberley process should move more rapidly toward its stated goals and the more robust goals outlined by the United Nations. But I also understand that multilateral action will be essential for this regime to work, and that multilateral agreements take time to arrange. I am willing to be patient, but only with the understanding that people are dying in Africa at this time and we must help them soon. More delay means more suffering, and we all have to be cognizant of that as we contemplate solutions.

Thus I think it is essential to state on the floor of the Senate today that I stand solidly behind the ongoing effort to end trade in conflict diamonds, and I encourage the administration to continue its effort to create a strong international regime that will engender political stability and economic growth in Africa. I am ready to work intensively with my colleagues and the administration to this end.

I yield the floor.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF 4-H

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of 4-H in America. For 100 years in our great Nation, and since 1911 in New Mexico, 4-H has molded generations of involved citizens and leaders, providing an enduring contribution to the development of America's youth.

This organization, rooted in hands on learning, grew from the interest of seven boys from Doña Ana County in each planting a pound of seed corn they acquired from the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, now New Mexico State University. This 1911 experiment was the first of a growing number of activities of this kind in rural communities around the territory that led to the establishment of precursor 4-H clubs in schools, led by teachers. Local merchants, bankers and farmers began the organization's long history of community support by donating prize money, goods and expertise to the young peoples' activities. The 1912 State fair saw the first ever competition between 4-H club members, who earned premiums for prize-winning corn, kafir corn, milo, peanuts, bread and sewing.

Today, New Mexico 4-H boasts more than 50,000 members, part of the 6.4

million youth involved globally in what is the world's largest youth organization. Though 4-H maintains its rural and agricultural roots, its leadership development activities have shown even broader influence as the organization has adapted to changing times. I am proud of the unique and remarkable way New Mexico's 4-H clubs teach responsibility, decision-making, communication skills and citizenship, all key ingredients to purposeful lives and strong communities. Through hands-on experience, 4-Hers learn what it takes to follow a project through to completion, keep records, and make presentations to others about their work. Whether it is baking, showing or judging livestock at the fair, sewing or public speaking, club members are challenged to set and achieve goals, find creative solutions to problems, overcome obstacles along the way, and demonstrate their progress to others.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the parents and community leaders of 4-H. Those who donate time, expertise and assistance to 4-H are often alumni who appreciate the lessons they learned in their clubs, and this has created the legacy of involvement that makes the organization so strong after 100 years. The mentorship and wealth of experience these leaders provide produce the tangible results we see in exhibits at the fair and community projects. However, they also sow the seeds of confident leadership and citizenship that may not reach full bloom until later in a member's life. I am also extremely proud to continue supporting 4-H's Share/Care afterschool program and the Rio Arriba County Clover Club, which have proven invaluable in giving young people the chance to get involved in fun, educational activities instead of drugs.

The long, proud record of 4-H in New Mexico, the United States, and around the world is testimony to the enduring viability of this organization and its central values, firmly rooted in our hard-working rural and agricultural communities. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the valuable contribution of 4-H's "head, heart, health and hands," to New Mexico's youth and the very fabric of our society. It is a great pleasure to celebrate the national centennial of 4-H, and I congratulate this organization on beginning another century of "making the best better."

#### THE ELDER JUSTICE ACT OF 2002

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to support a bipartisan bill to end the longstanding and pervasive problem of elder abuse, the Elder Justice Act of 2002. To care for the aging population in this Nation has been pushed aside for too long. This comprehensive measure centralizes the oversight of elder justice in one Federal office; all while listening to the differing needs of States and localities.

To take proactive steps to prevent abuse from occurring, this bill calls for widespread training and maintenance of a national clearinghouse of information. This includes studies, statistics, and a broad review of State practices to ensure adequate protection of our aging population. This bill also deals with abuse after it has occurred, and significantly reforms the security, prosecution, and safe-havens available for seniors.

Most importantly, this bill sets an important precedent: the unspeakable and innumerable accounts of violence against seniors will finally have a long-overdue response from the U.S. Senate. Once again, I appreciate the work and leadership of Senators BREAUX and HATCH, and I am proud to join as a cosponsor of this legislation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CALDWELL COUNTY FFA

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Caldwell County High School Future Farmers of America, FFA, chapter.

The Caldwell chapter has been selected as one of 10 finalists in the country for student development and will compete to be one of three top Models of Innovation at the 75th National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY.

Across the Nation, FFA chapters are rated according to a star system. The Caldwell High School FFA chapter was one of only 103 FFA chapters across the entire United States to receive the highest rating of three stars. This was the first time this chapter ever achieved a three star rating.

All 122 FFA students at Caldwell County High School deserve special recognition for their hard work and innovative spirit. The agricultural industry today needs and deserves folks like the ones at Caldwell County High School. I am confident that this group of young men and women will help further transform the agricultural industry and take innovation to a new level.

##### RECOGNIZING SPORTSMEN'S IMPACT ON OUR ECONOMY

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, earlier this week I was proud to represent the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus in a press conference to announce the results of the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation. This report confirms something that many of us have believed for some time, that hunting and fishing are an integral part of the fabric of this Nation and an essential part of our economy.

I was joined in this announcement by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton; Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Steve Williams; Melinda Gable with the Congressional Sportsmen's

Foundation; Brent Manning with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Mike Nussman with the American Sportfishing Association; and Doug Painter with National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Hunting and fishing are an important part of people's lives in my home State of Arkansas and all around the country. It is an activity that brings friends and families together and the impressive statistics that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is releasing today are hard for those of us in Congress to ignore. As an avid sportswoman myself, I understand first-hand the importance that should be placed on promoting and preserving our ability to hunt, fish, and pursue outdoor activities. In fact, one of my fondest memories is of sitting with my father, brother, and sisters in a duck blind as the sun rose over the Arkansas Delta. And now, I get the joy of taking my boys outdoors to go fishing and hunting.

I first joined the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus because of my lifelong love of the outdoors and my commitment that as sportsmen, we have a duty to protect and provide for sustainable uses of America's renewable wildlife resources. And now as the cochair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I, along with my colleagues, am working to enact legislation to provide ample resources to conserve wildlife and America's rich tradition of outdoor recreation.

Wildlife and our Nation's lands and waters are the foundation for our outdoor recreation as well as the ecosystems in which we survive. A perfect example of this is Arkansas' RICE, Rice Industry Caring for the Environment, project, where farmers voluntarily set aside 171,000 acres of farmland to provide for waterfowl habitat which in turn provides enormous environmental benefits.

The survey shows that last year over 1.4 million Arkansans and 38 million Americans went hunting, fishing, or wildlife watching. And that translated into over \$1 billion to Arkansas' economy and a whopping \$108 billion impact on this Nation's economy. It also shows that over 20,000 Arkansans and well over 1 million nationally are employed directly in hunting and fishing related businesses.

Those numbers show that hunting and fishing are not just worthwhile pastimes, they're big business, too.

On top of that, in 2001 Arkansas' sportsmen paid over \$112 million in State and federal taxes. And nationwide, sportsmen paid in over \$11.4 billion. That's \$11.4 billion going to fund many of our most pressing national priorities such as our national defense, education, highway construction, and conservation programs.

We must continue to recognize the American sportsman's impact on this nation's economy and protect our outdoor legacy for future generations. And I look forward to continued work with