

Conservation Act. This act resulted in the creation of over 100 million acres of parks, wildlife refuges and national forests and tripled the amount of land designated as wilderness.

During this debate, the Alaska delegation asked for a stipulation to allow the coastal plain of ANWR to remain open for oil and gas exploration and development, as it was when the Arctic Range was created.

As in the pipeline debate, many Members raised concerns about the environmental impact such development would have on the region. However, even those Members acknowledged that oil and gas exploration and development would occur if necessary for our national security.

Even Congressman Udall stated:

[N]othing stops some future Congress from allowing the exploration for these uses if they are of sufficient national importance.

He went on to say that a:

sizable find in the Arctic Range [would be] economically feasible by the year 2000.

Thus, even a staunch environmentalist acknowledged that the coastal plain of ANWR would be developed in the future.

To ensure that the oil and gas rich coastal plain remained open for exploration and development, I worked closely with Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson and Senator Paul Tsongas. They promised that oil and gas activity would take place in ANWR subject to an environmental impact statement.

In the spirit of compromise, Senators Jackson and Tsongas created Section 1002 of ANILCA, which set aside 1.5 million acres along the coastal plain of ANWR for oil and gas exploration and development.

But in the years that followed, the promise made by Senators Jackson and Tsongas has not been upheld. I have now fought for 24 years to see that promise fulfilled and to bring to the United States the energy resources it so desperately needs. I have been thwarted because this body no longer respects the promises made by its predecessors.

There is a new climate in Congress. With the retirement and passing of the old bull World War II types like myself, a Member's word doesn't carry the meaning it used to. Even President Jimmy Carter, who signed the 1980 act, has failed to honor the legislation he helped create. I recently received a letter from President Carter which said that "Congress may try to subvert parts of ANILCA" by utilizing the budget process.

Congress has not gone back on its commitments, nor is it taking a "back door approach" to legislating this important issue. Section 1002 specifically authorizes exploratory oil and gas activities on the coastal plain and mandates an environmental study. That environmental impact study was completed and submitted to Congress in 1987!

Section 1003 of the 1980 act states that no development in ANWR can

take placement without Congressional authorization. We have tried for years to open ANWR pursuant to that section, and have been thwarted by the threat of a filibuster.

President Carter also stated that we are trying to "circumvent normal legislative procedures" by inserting ANWR into the budget process. I ask my colleagues, since when have filibusters become "normal legislative procedure?" Isn't the will of the people served by a simple majority vote? That is all we are asking for when we put this in the Budget Resolution, a simple majority vote, and not subjecting ANWR to a filibuster, which was unheard of in the 1970's in matters concerning national security, and the availability of this oil from our Arctic is surely a matter of national security.

This year is my 37th year in the Senate; I can remember a time when the filibuster was used sparingly, and I don't recall it ever being used when an issue of national security importance was before the Senate.

ANWR is a national security issue. When the Nation depends on 60 percent of our energy needs from unstable or unfriendly regimes, that involves a national security issue. When U.S. companies move their operations offshore because of high energy prices, this is a national security issue. When Americans can no longer afford to heat their homes, this is a national security issue. And when our military, which is the largest consumer of energy resources, is forced to rely on oil from the Middle East, this is a national security issue.

This Congress has failed to balance conservation with development and now we are—literally—paying the price.

We have not seized opportunities to increase domestic production of oil and natural gas. And, higher gasoline prices, dependence on foreign oil, and a fragile economy—issues that many Members have expressed concern about—are the signs that another energy crisis looms over us.

It is my hope that my colleagues will heed the lessons of history and act now. We cannot wait for another national crisis. The provisions in the budget resolution starting the process of approval of ANWR by majority vote must be supported.

Further, Congress must make good on its promise and open ANWR to exploration and development and begin the projects our country needs to meet our energy demands now.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

A 45-year-old transgender woman was found beaten to death by San Francisco authorities last August. The woman, Toni Green, was born a male but lived as a woman. Police investigating the case believe this may have been the motivation behind the attack.

I believe that the 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 is 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.

PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to join with Senator GREGG in championing this important legislation to give fire fighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel, and other first responders the basic right at long last to fair representation in the workplace.

Every year, tens of thousands of police officers and fire fighters are injured on the job. Even apart from the extraordinary tragedy of the loss of over 400 fire fighters and police officers on a single day on 9/11, hundreds of fire fighters and police officers lose their lives in the line of duty each year. This bill is a needed bipartisan effort to protect our Nation's public safety officers and the communities they serve. Providing such protections is the least we can do for them in light of the sacrifices they make every day for our country.

For more than 60 years, the Federal Government has recognized the right of employees to bargain collectively with their employers. It encourages labor and management to work together to improve wages and working conditions and increase productivity. Collective bargaining has led the way on many important changes in today's workplace, such as health and pension benefits, paid holidays and sick leave, and workplace safety. Our legislation will

ensure that first responders will also have this fundamental right.

Granting this right to first responders also benefits the public in essential ways. It creates safer working conditions for public safety employees and increases public safety. It saves money for states and local communities by providing more cost-efficient public safety services. And it gives a voice on the job to the courageous public servants who put their lives on the line each day to protect and serve us.

First responders are well aware what it takes to create safe working conditions, and they know what it takes to enhance public safety. This legislation gives first responders the opportunity to discuss on-the-job safety issues with management, and a meaningful role in establishing policies and practices to protect the public.

In addition to improving public safety, this bill will save money. Experience has shown that when first responders are able to discuss workplace conditions with management their departments can provide more cost-effective services. Extending collective bargaining rights to all public safety employees will encourage innovation, efficiency and partnership in public safety departments, and produce lower costs for the States and local communities they serve.

Our legislation accomplishes its goals in reasonable and moderate ways. Most states would not be affected, because their laws already permit collective bargaining between public safety employees and employers.

Under this bill, states that do not do so may choose to establish their own collective bargaining system, or they may ask the assistance of the Federal Labor Relations Authority in establishing bargaining procedures and regulations. This approach respects existing state laws and gives each state the authority to decide how it will comply with this legislation.

The benefits of this bill are clear and compelling. Public safety workers are one of the largest sectors of the workplace that do not yet have the basic right to form a union and bargain with their employers over wages, hours, and working conditions. It is a matter of basic fairness to give these courageous men and women the same rights that have long benefited so many other Americans. They deserve a voice in the life and death discussions about their work. They have earned that right, and I urge Congress to act quickly to guarantee it.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize the week of March 13 through 19, 2005, as National Safe Place Week. As my colleagues know, the Senate adopted a resolution last week providing for this designation. I thank my colleague, Senator FEINSTEIN, for her work on this issue, and I

also thank the other cosponsors of this resolution: Senator BOXER, Senator COCHRAN, Senator CRAPO, Senator DEWINE, Senator DODD, Senator DURBIN, Senator FEINGOLD, Senator HATCH, Senator INHOFE, Senator INOUYE, Senator ISAKSON, Senator JOHNSON, Senator KOHL, Senator LANDRIEU, Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator LINCOLN, Senator LUGAR, Senator MIKULSKI, and Senator MURKOWSKI. The Senate's action recognizes the importance of Project Safe Place and sends a message that we will keep working to protect our children. In countless ours of selfless work, volunteers truly do make a difference every day, and in passing this resolution, the Senate applauds the tireless efforts of the thousands of dedicated volunteers across the nation for their many contributions to the youth of our Nation through Project Safe Place.

Events of the day may turn our attention overseas, but it is essential to remember those who are fighting an ongoing battle right here at home to protect this Nation's most valuable resource: our children. Young people are the future of this Nation; they need to be both valued and protected. Sadly, however, as my colleagues know, this precious resource is threatened daily.

There is a tremendous initiative between the public and private sector that has been reaching out to youth for over 20 years. Project Safe Place is a program that was developed to assist our Nation's youth and families in crisis. This partnership creates a network of private businesses trained to refer youth in need to the local service providers who can help them. Those businesses display a Safe Place sign so that young people can easily recognize a "safe place" for them to go to receive help.

The goal of National Safe Place Week is to recognize the thousands of individuals who work to make Project Safe Place a reality. From trained volunteers to seasoned professionals, these dedicated individuals are working together with the resources in their local communities and through their ties across the Nation to serve young people. Because of Project Safe Place, this all happens under a well-known symbol of safety for in-crisis youth.

Project Safe Place is a simple program to implement in any local community, and it works. Young people are more likely to seek help in locations that are familiar and nonthreatening to them. By creating a network of Safe Places across the Nation, all youth will have access to needed help, counseling, or a safe place to stay. However, though the program has already been established in 42 States, there are still too many communities that do not know about this valuable youth resource.

If your State does not already have a Safe Place organization, please consider facilitating this worthwhile resource so that young people who are abused, neglected, or whose futures are jeopardized by physical or emotional

trauma will have access to immediate help and safety in your community. To create more Project Safe Place sites in Idaho, the staff in several of my State offices have completed the training to make them Safe Place sites, and now have the skills and ability to assist troubled youth. In the coming years, Project Safe Place hopes that every child in America will have the opportunity to connect with someone who can provide immediate help by easily recognizing the Safe Place sign.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I also rise today to recognize National Safe Place Week, which begins on March 13, 2005.

I am proud to join Senator CRAIG as an original cosponsor of S. Res. 71, which designates the week of March 13-19, 2005 as National Safe Place Week. This resolution recognizes the participating businesses, community organizations, youth service agencies and volunteers that are part of the YMCA National Safe Place program and work for the safety and well-being of at-risk youth.

Youth today face an ever-growing amount of pressure in their daily lives at school, at home, and in the community. For some youth, problems include abuse or neglect at home, drug or alcohol addictions of family members and friends, trouble at school or dangerous situations on a date. Young people who face these situations should not feel left alone, but should have a place in their community to which to turn.

Over the past 22 years, the National Safe Place program has connected over 79,000 youth in crisis to immediate help at Safe Place locations and has provided over 78,000 youth with counseling by phone. Present in 41 States and serving 714 communities, the National Safe Place program brings together the private and public sector to reach out and help at-risk youth who are lost, scared, threatened or in unsafe situations. In my home State of California, there are nine designated Safe Place programs with over 1,667 Safe Place sites located in 65 communities.

National Safe Place sites include fast food restaurants, convenience stores, fire stations, libraries and other public buildings and are marked by large, yellow Safe Place signs displayed prominently in front windows. Any youth can walk into a Safe Place site and receive immediate help from a trained volunteer, and further help from a Safe Place staff person who can provide counseling, residential assistance or professional referrals, as needed.

The National Safe Place Week recognizes the time, resources and energy of thousands of businesses, community organizations and volunteers who make this effective, growing network of support for youth possible. In addition, it seeks to increase awareness of the crises that youth face today.

I am encouraged by the National Safe Place Program's positive impact on communities throughout the Nation, and I hope that more communities will