

Engineers Society saying that if we had properly funded the levees in New Orleans, they would have survived Katrina.

Let's talk about our highways. According to the Federal Highway Administration 2002 Conditions and Performance Report, \$106.9 billion through 2020 is needed to maintain and improve our highways and bridges. We are just not getting the job done.

Community development block grants, which was spoken to by Senator MURRAY earlier, is another example. These grants support State and local government-directed neighborhood revitalization, housing rehabilitation, and economic development activities. I know in my time being mayor of the city of Cleveland how important CDBG is in terms of providing funds to local government officials so they can do housing rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, and economic development. I refer to it as the yeast that raises the dough. It is probably the best leveraged Federal program we have for our cities in the United States of America.

By the way, it is a program that was put in place by Richard Nixon when he was President of the United States.

When we fail to recognize our country's needs, it is at the expense of our seed corn programs that are essential to the future of our country. We must not be pennywise and pound foolish while we consider this budget. While cuts and reforms need to be made, it should not be made at the expense of programs that our country relies on, such as these.

It is too bad that we don't have to balance our budget. That would be beautiful. The thing that drives me crazy about this place, after being mayor for 10 years and doing 10 budgets, and being Governor and having to do four budgets when we had to balance our budget, is that we are irresponsible when it comes to budgeting.

I recall as Governor, as I mentioned earlier, we had to raise taxes at the margin to balance the budget and respond to critical needs of Ohio. It was through cuts in spending and making very difficult choices that we balanced the budget and accumulated over \$1 billion in our rainy day fund. It was through these efforts—in other words, we tried to do everything, and at the end, through what I call the strong-management, good-economy bonus, we reduced our State income tax 3 years in a row, including almost 10 percent in 1998.

It is difficult for this Senator to believe that we have the ability to fund the war on terror, respond to homeland security needs, pay for emergencies such as Hurricane Katrina, deal with explosions in entitlement costs, guarantee our country will have the infrastructure of competitiveness to battle the global marketplace, balance budgets, pay down the debt by focusing our attention solely on the discretionary, nondefense, nonhomeland security part

of the budget—it doesn't make sense, and it is not fair. It is not fair, and I think the American people understand what I am talking about.

The problem is that Congress has not told the truth about what we can and cannot afford. We want to have it all but don't want to pay for it. America's families don't live like that, nor should we. I learned this difficult lesson while serving as mayor of Cleveland for 10 years and Governor of Ohio for 8 years. It is time that we in Congress learned that lesson as well.

Yesterday, I sat in the Presiding Officer's chair listening to Chairman GREGG and Senator CONRAD debate. I was heartened to hear these two budgeteers agree that we have to take on the debt on a bipartisan basis, and sooner rather than later. I wish to be associated with those sentiments, and I hope both sides of the aisle will promptly realize the dilemma and heed the words of Senators GREGG and CONRAD. We can get the job done. We can be responsible, but we have to do it on a bipartisan basis.

When I had my problems when I was Governor of Ohio, I had the strongest leader we ever had, a Democrat, in the House of Representatives. He had been there for 24 years. We named a building after him while he was alive. In fact, I had to genuflect to his statue every day when I went to my office at the State House. He was a very powerful guy. We had problems. I went to him and said: Vern, we have to do something about this. He said: Partner, OK, but you have to give a little, we will have to give a little. We spent 3 weeks and came up with a program to get the job done.

The President recognized this. One of the things I felt very bad about last year is we spent all this time on dealing with Social Security when I knew right from the beginning if it wasn't going to be on a bipartisan basis, it would go nowhere, and it went nowhere. The President wasted a lot of time—I give him credit for pointing out the fact that we had a problem with Social Security, but it had to start out on a bipartisan basis.

I was so delighted, I got up and clapped when the President said: We have to put together a commission of the best and brightest to tackle the problem of entitlements so we can move toward fiscal sanity.

We have to do that. The American people are looking at what we are doing here and they are saying: Put aside your partisan differences; come together for the benefit of our country, for our children, for our grandchildren.

I am concerned about this budget, but I am more concerned about the direction we are going. Our problem is that we are unwilling to pay for things or do without them. Unless we wake up to that fact, we are in very deep trouble.

## MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

## MAGGIE INOUE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, we join our dear friend and colleague, Senator INOUE, in remembering his wonderful wife and life-long companion, Margaret Inouye.

She faced her cancer as she lived her life—with dignity, grace, a ready smile, and a firm resolve.

I read DAN INOUE's own words about her passing. He said,

It was a most special blessing to have had Maggie in my life for 58 years. She was my inspiration, and all that I have accomplished could not have been done without her at my side. We were a team.

Senator INOUE and Maggie came to the Senate just months after I did. It has been one of my greatest pleasures to serve with DAN over these many years. He is our rock, our steady hand, our wise counselor. And we know that in no small measure, Maggie made that possible.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with DAN and his son Kenny as they face this great loss. DAN, we love you, we care for you, and we look forward to your return as you continue to serve the people of the State you love.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. I thank the Chair. I share Senator KENNEDY's thoughts of prayer and peace for Senator INOUE. My thoughts are with the Inouye family.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I came to the floor today to talk about our budget deficit and a couple things we ought to be doing to turn it around to begin reducing it. Before I do that, I want to extend my sympathy and the sympathy of the people of Delaware to Senator INOUE and his family on the death of Maggie Inouye yesterday.

For those who have lost loved ones recently, those who have lost parents, those who have lost spouses, they may have just the beginning of a feeling for the tough time that our colleague is going through. To those of us who were privileged to know his wife, she was a wonderful, vibrant, and valiant woman and a great partner for him right to the end.

So to DAN INOUE, our deepest sympathy. It was a privilege to know your wife.

## 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.

On May 3, 2005, Galo Garcia was walking on the Harvard University campus in Cambridge, MA, when a passing driver began yelling sexually derogatory terms at him and his companion. Garcia confronted the driver, who then allegedly beat Garcia. Garcia received cuts, bruises, and a severe concussion during the attack.

According to reports, Garcia claims he was verbally and then physically assaulted because he was walking with his arm around another man.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that are born 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.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I was necessarily absent on Monday March 13, 2006, for rollcall vote No. 37, the confirmation of the nomination of Leo Maury Gordon, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. Unfortunately, my flight from South Dakota to Washington, DC was delayed due to bad weather. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted in favor of the nomination.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for yesterday's vote on the confirmation of the nomination of Leo Maury Gordon, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. I would have voted "aye."

#### PORT SECURITY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to address the Dubai Ports World acquisition and the subsequent announcement to transfer operation of U.S. port terminals to a U.S. entity. Last week, my colleague from New York offered an amendment to S. 2349, the Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2006. While the security of our ports is my foremost concern, especially as a Senator representing a State where one of the ports in question is located, I do not believe the time or the vehicle was appropriate for a vote on Senator SCHUMER's amendment. I have been a vocal critic of this transaction for weeks, but when my colleague's amendment was offered, Dubai Ports World had already resubmitted its application to the Committee on Foreign Investment, CFIUS. A second review of the trans-

action was pending. Furthermore, I had signed onto a bipartisan letter with Senator SCHUMER and eight other Members just the week before to the majority and minority leaders. In that letter, we expressed our desire to closely examine the facts that would be presented, and we retained our right to pursue legislative action after the review was completed should the outcome prove unsatisfactory.

Then, just last Friday, DP World announced their decision to transfer the U.S. port terminals acquired from Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company to a U.S. entity. While we are still seeking clarification of exactly what that means, my hope is that this decision will allay our concerns about this particular transaction. I expect a thorough review of this proposal by the appropriate agencies, and Congress assuredly has the will to act if concerns remain.

Should the immediate need for action disappear, Congress cannot ignore the underlying problems this acquisition has brought to light. First, we need to remain diligent in securing ports both domestically and abroad. Significant investments at foreign ports are critical. We cannot allow hazardous materials or weapons of mass destruction to enter our ports in the first place. By then, it could be too late. Second, Congress must undertake a comprehensive review of the CFIUS process. Chairman SHELBY has already begun that process in the Banking Committee. I look forward to working with him and my colleagues to aggressively execute our oversight authority and expeditiously enact any reforms that may be necessary to ensure the safety and economic vitality of my State and this great Nation.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the above mentioned letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
Washington, DC, March 3, 2006.

Senator WILLIAM H. FRIST,  
U.S. Capitol,  
Washington, DC.

Senator HARRY REID  
U.S. Capitol,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADERS FRIST AND REID: As you know, we recently joined together to introduce S. 2333, The Foreign Investment Security Act of 2006, a bill to require a 45-day CFIUS investigation and a Presidential determination regarding the national security implications of Dubai Port World's takeover of Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Navigation Company. This bill stemmed from our joint concern that allowing the takeover of U.S. terminal operations after only a cursory review raised serious national security concerns.

The President and the companies have now moved voluntarily to provide for such a 45-day investigation, and we are encouraged by that decision. Though some of us remain troubled about how this new review will proceed given the Administration's continued support of the deal, we have decided not to press for a vote on our bill at this time in

the hope that this new investigation will be thorough, fair, and independent.

Nevertheless, several key components of our legislation have yet to be addressed namely, the notification to Congress and the ability of Congress to disapprove the deal within thirty days if security concerns are not met.

As a result, we write to ask for your assistance in guaranteeing that:

(a) the Congress is kept fully informed as the 45-day review progresses, and notified how security concerns are being investigated and addressed;

(b) the Congress is provided 30 days to review the results of the report including reasoning for the decision to either approve or disapprove of the deal; and

(c) once this 45-day review period is over, Congress reserves the ability to vote to disapprove the deal if the security concerns have not been adequately addressed.

We hope you will work with us and with the Administration to ensure that this review is a thorough, effective look at whether this deal truly poses a threat to our national security. If we need to press for a vote on our legislation or to introduce further legislation to achieve the goals outlined above, we hope you will work with us in the coming weeks. The Administration must know that we stand united to examine and review this deal independently, and that Congress must have a role in determining whether it should go forward or be stopped as a result of national security concerns.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez,  
Hillary Rodham Clinton, Jack Reed,  
Frank Lautenberg, Norm Coleman,  
Olympia Snowe, Susan Collins, Dr.  
Tom Coburn, M.D., Rick Santorum,  
Members of Congress.

#### VISIT OF LIBERIAN PRESIDENT ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, tomorrow, we will convene for a Joint Session of Congress to hear comments by the new Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

I hope that we will give her a warm welcome and send her home to the 3.3 million people of Liberia with a simple and strong message: We will stand by you as you work day-by-day to build a safer, more prosperous country.

It is an exciting and hopeful time for the people of Liberia. Civil conflict has been replaced by civil discourse. Free and fair Presidential elections have taken place, with dozens of candidates and three-fourths of voters turning out to shape the country's future.

Looking back, it is clear what the Liberian people were voting for when they elected President Sirleaf: honest government, economic growth, an expansion of infrastructure, and greater opportunity for all Liberians, regardless of gender.

They also chose a leader with three decades of experience. President Sirleaf has served as Finance Minister in Liberia, and she has also held high-level positions at the United Nations and World Bank.

It is no surprise that in just 8 weeks in her new job, President Sirleaf is already making progress. She has taken bold steps to reduce corruption, and she has rightly emphasized the need to