

SIMON WIESENTHAL HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act, which I recently introduced. This important legislation would provide competitive grants for educational organizations to make Holocaust education more accessible and available throughout the Nation.

Last Tuesday, people from all corners of the Earth, representing all faiths stood together to solemnly commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, in memorial of perhaps the greatest crime ever perpetrated against humanity. As we reflect upon the tragedies of the events surrounding the Holocaust—the lives lost, the families destroyed, the potential unfulfilled—we must renew our commitment to never forget, so this dark chapter in history will never be repeated.

We must never forget the approximately six million Jewish men, women and children, as well as the millions of others who faced persecution, displacement, and death at the hands of the Nazis. We must remember their stories not just to honor their lives, but more importantly, to educate the next generation about the dangers of intolerance, ignorance, and bigotry.

Some may question the necessity of studying an event that—while horrific—happened over half a century ago and an ocean away. Other skeptics will argue that anti-Semitism—while terrible—is a relic of the past that simply doesn't exist in modern society. Unfortunately, we ignore history at our peril, and not recognizing and taking seriously the seeds of bigotry and anti-Semitism that have again begun to take root around the world only serves to promulgate it.

Recently, anti-Semitism has surfaced disguised in the form of anti-Israel rhetoric. The two have morphed into a virulent attack against all Jews resulting in a provocative and dangerous escalation of physical attacks against Jewish individuals, synagogues and other Jewish institutions around the world. Symbols of Nazi Germany have been used in this form of anti-Semitism as a cudgel against Jews, insulting the honor of millions of Jewish people—a people still emerging from the dark shadow cast by the Holocaust. Some have sought to rewrite history to minimize and spin the facts surrounding the Holocaust. The leadership of Iran has waged campaigns not just to alter, but to simply erase an inconvenient history. Holocaust deniers—authors and others who have the bully pulpit have smeared the truth of history—something that is regrettably so much easier to do as the Holocaust recedes in time and as those who can bear witness are dwindling in numbers.

Unfortunately, we need not look half way around the globe for examples of anti-Semitism, intolerance and hate; but rather we can look to our own neighborhoods and communities. In

Fort Lauderdale earlier this year at an anti-Israel rally, a demonstrator was heard to say “Go back to the oven. You need a big oven,” a horrific reference to the crematoria of Nazi Germany. And it saddens me to note that in my home State of New Jersey, a State of immense diversity, tolerance and understanding, we have seen a number of recent troubling anti-Semitic incidents that tear away at the decency and civility that we should expect in this great Nation.

Last December, three Glen Rock teenagers were charged with painting a swastika and the word “Jew” on the property of Jewish residents.

This past January, a Kenilworth family awoke one morning to find a Star of David and the word “Die” carved into their garage door.

Last month, Northvale public school students had to endure anti-Semitic graffiti scrawled throughout the walls of their school.

A New Jersey family made national headlines by naming their three young children Aryan Nation, Hinler, and Adolf Hitler.

As recently as last week, in Union City, where I grew up, authorities were investigating an act of arson in a classroom of a Jewish school that is being reported as a hate crime.

These troubling events do not occur in a vacuum. They are a reflection of an ever-present current of hate. We cannot sit idly and hope that time alone will heal the wounds of genocide or solve our issues of continued intolerance. We must take proactive steps to ensure that our society remembers and learns from the painful experiences of the Holocaust. Holocaust education is essential to the enlightenment, understanding, and empathy of our youngest generations and their role in history to come.

The Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Act is an important step toward this goal. While some States, like New Jersey, currently require the Holocaust to be taught in public schools, this act goes further and makes grants available to organizations that instruct students, teachers, and communities about the dangers of hate and the importance of tolerance in our society. This legislation would give educators the appropriate resources and training to teach accurate historical information about the Holocaust and convey the lessons that the Holocaust can teach us today. I certainly cannot think of a better namesake for this bill, for Simon Wiesenthal honored the memories of those lost by dedicating his life to bringing those responsible for these horrific acts to justice.

Only by proper acknowledgement of the incredible loss of life during the Holocaust, will we ever be able to ensure that such an event never happens again.

It is in our common interest to raise our voices against anti-Semitism and against all hatred and discrimination. Funding accurate Holocaust edu-

cational programs is a step toward winning this battle.

So as America stands with Israel and all followers of the Jewish faith in condemning anti-Semitism, let us do everything in our power to end discrimination and educate future generations about the danger of hatred and bigotry.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

NATIONAL AMERICAN CITY
QUALITY MONTH

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to recognize April as the 21st Annual National American City Quality Month. Led by the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the American City Planning Directors' Council/American City Quality Foundation, this valuable program brings together a wide range of public and private partners. Their efforts demonstrate what it takes to build great communities, addressing vital issues to include land use, building design, transportation, parks and recreation, energy efficiency, and environmental protection.

City planners across my State of Maine and throughout the Nation are calling on public and private sector leaders to commit to efforts that will lead to better planning, redevelopment and development of our Nation's cities and surrounding regions. This is essential to accommodate U.S. Census projected population growth of 34.5 million by the year 2020 and 100 million within 20 to 30 years.

This public-private partnership is necessary to meet the growing need for higher quality, more energy efficient and sustainable housing, buildings, public transportation, infrastructure, agriculture, and industry. I applaud these collaborative efforts to improve urban and rural communities across our Nation.

This collaborative planning works. Just a few weeks ago, *Forbes* magazine named Portland, ME, my State's largest city, as the most livable city in America. In addition, Portland's busy Commercial Street was voted as one of the country's great streets by the American Planning Association. The transformation of Portland did not happen by accident. It is the result of citizens and organizations working together. And American City Quality Month celebrates this effort.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM TOBIN

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I wish to honor a pioneer of Alaska journalism who did much during his 62-year career to make his adopted State of Alaska what it is today. William J. “Bill” Tobin died earlier this month at age 81, following a year-long battle with cancer.

Bill served 2 years in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1943 to 1945. He started his journalism career in 1948 working for the Associated Press in Indianapolis, IN, while still in college at

Butler University. After Indianapolis, he worked for the Associated Press in New York City and Louisville, KY. In 1956, he was moved by the AP to cover Alaska news from Juneau, then the territorial capital, staying until after statehood in 1960. He was Alaska's first national resident newsman. He finished his 17-year AP career as the assistant bureau chief in Baltimore, MD, from 1960 to 1961 and as the bureau chief for the State of Montana from 1961 to 63. Bill and his wife missed the beauty and excitement of Alaska, and in 1963, he began a 45-year career with Anchorage's then largest newspaper, the Anchorage Times, and later with the Voice of the Times editorial and internet publication. He retired in 2008.

During his time Mr. Tobin covered or edited stories on every major event in Alaskan history. Stories of his efforts to publish the Times in the aftermath of the Good Friday earthquake of March 27, 1964—at a revised 9.2 on the Richter scale, the largest quake every measured in North America—are legendary. The paper was published even though downtown Anchorage was literally destroyed. He edited stories on the discovery of oil on Alaska's North Slope in 1968, covered and edited debate in Congress on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and edited stories on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act in 1974 that permitted construction of the 800-mile pipeline that to this day moves 13 percent of the Nation's domestic oil production to market.

Mr. Tobin's career spanned several legislative milestones including the passage of a law that created a 200-mile exclusive fishery management zone around Alaska, the passage of the Alaska lands bill that placed 131 million acres of Alaska—more than a third of the State—into parks and protected land status in 1980, and a career that saw Alaska become a major training and forward deployment base for the U.S. military.

His official obituary said it best when it noted that "he was an ardent supporter of the U.S. military and men and women in uniform" and that Bill was "a tireless champion of Alaska and its potential." His Saturday and later Sunday columns covered the personal side of life in Alaska for decades. The editorials that he and Anchorage Times Publisher Robert Atwood wrote and published did much to turn Anchorage, which at statehood had a population of several thousand, into the State's largest city with a population today of more than 275,000.

Bill was an active civic leader, serving over time as a board member or president of nearly 40 community organizations in Anchorage. At his death, he was active as associate publisher of the Roman Catholic diocese newspaper, the Catholic Anchor, based in Anchorage. He was vice chairman of the Atwood Foundation, a member of the Alaskan Command Civilian Advisory Board, a member of the University of

Alaska School of Nursing advisory board, a member of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Snedden Professor advisory board, and a member of the University of Alaska Anchorage Atwood Journalism Chair selection board. He was named Alaskan of the Year in 1988, the 1990 Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Gold Pan Award Winner for Distinguished Individual Community Service, the 2000 Outstanding Civilian of the Year by the Armed Services YMCA, the 2002 Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Alaskan of the Year, the 2004 Junior Achievement of Alaska Business Hall of Fame Laureate, and was a 2006 Honorary Doctor of Laws recipient by Gonzaga University.

Born on July 28, 1927, in southwest Missouri in the City of Joplin, Bill grew up in Tulsa, OK, Fort Worth, TX, and South Bend, IN, but he grew wise in Alaska. He knew more about Alaska's history and politics than most any other Alaskan journalist. As a person who got my start in elected office as a State representative from north Anchorage, I have firsthand knowledge that Bill was an old-school journalist who religiously checked his copy for factual accuracy and was always polite and fair to his sources on stories he covered. While he had clear and strong editorial opinions, he was always courageous in support of his newspaper's and city's goals. Bill was a wonderful family man, a devoted member of his church, and a pillar of the Alaska Republican Party, and always a true gentleman.

All of Alaska joins in offering condolences to his wife of nearly 57 years, Marjorie, and his three sons, Mike, David, and Jim, and their families. Alaska journalism and the State's political establishment are certainly poorer for his passing.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heart-breaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

Thank you for letting me email my thoughts and feelings regarding today's gas prices. This may not be what you expected but I am writing this email from the heart.

I am angry with our government with respect to rising gas prices. I find it so hard to believe why they want to put our country in to this situation. Everybody and every business suffers. Going places and doing things as a family has been taken from us since the first hit is putting gas in the vehicle. The hotels, restaurants, grocery stores have been forced to increase their prices. Small businesses cannot survive. We own our own business (recycling center) and the fuel costs to run our fleet is astronomical. This is outrageous and needs to stop immediately. It is only going to cause increased homeless people and poverty. Do something now before it gets any worse. Please stop this insanity and get our country back whole again. Remove speculation and reduce gas prices immediately. Thank you for letting me speak out.

ANITA, *Lewiston.*

Not so much a story as a plea . . . I wish I could grab every Congressman by the shoulders, look them in the eye, and say: "Either you, or your replacement, will allow us to get the energy we need!"

Right now we are heading toward environmental communism. Yet it is a fact that CO2 levels follow higher temperatures, not the other way around! That is, the Earth warms and cools on it is own, and will continue to do so, whether we use fuels or not.

CLIFF, *Pocatello.*

I am disgusted with [partisan behavior] and the do-nothing attitude [of so many elected officials] towards our impending energy disaster. I realize that there are pockets of trustworthy individuals who still listen to their constituents rather than special interest groups. There are those that would like nothing better than to put this nation into such a drastic depression that communism would look like heaven. I am in the agricultural business and energy prices have drastically increased my costs on every single input. It has affected the costs of diesel, gas, pvc, plastics, metal (shipping and production of), labor (have to pay more to get them out to work), fertilizers, chemicals, tires and other rubber compounds. I have seen diesel for my tractors go from \$1.50 per gallon to over \$4 per gallon in less than three years. The rest of our fleet is now having to burn \$4.70 per gallon diesel and because of the EPA and [increased regulation], these large trucks get half the fuel economy that they did in the late 1970s. Please help us before this nation comes to a grinding halt and our enemies seize the opportunity to attack.

UNSIGNED.

I am angry at oil companies for stealing from consumers and angry at Congress for [not addressing the problem].

Alternatives which should rapidly be developed are:

1. Hydro electric: clean, cheap renewable.
2. Off shore and ANWR drilling: more competition means less monopoly.
3. Nuclear: free up our private enterprise from stifling regulations and we would have an abundance of inexpensive power.
4. Biomass (slash and trash incinerators) for producing electricity or hydrogen.
5. Stop burning our forests down and allow Americans to harvest trees and build houses.

P.C.

The Governor of Alaska wants drilling to begin in Alaska. Why does Congress insist on