

quiet, but firm, determination to see that things are done properly. She stayed, as we were taught many years ago, until it was done right.

During her tenure in the Senate, Nancy helped guide her coworkers through the transition from 3-color carbon sets to the computer age, and she is a good manager of computers. It fell upon her to determine how to file the "yellows" in a post-carbon era and how to assure that documents were not "lost in space" due to haphazard filing and forgotten file names.

Her proofreading skills are not limited to catching typos. Rather, she brings to bear the full force of her early experience and training as a teacher. One of the most well thumbed cards in her Rolodex is that of the Grammarphone—a grammar hotline operated by Frostburg State University—to make sure our material goes out correctly. After all, a Senator ought to know how to punctuate correspondence.

Shortly after my election to the Senate in 1996, I had the good fortune of bringing Nancy onto my staff after Nancy Kassebaum retired. Her years of experience and her solid professionalism proved invaluable to me in putting together my office here in Washington.

Her effective management of the day-to-day operations of my office has made a real difference in my ability to serve the people of Alabama.

The work that Nancy has done in her 25 years of service in the Senate does not produce headlines in the newspaper or segments on TV talk shows. Indeed, this is the first time in her 25 years that she has come on to the floor of the Senate Chamber. Young staff members get to do that if they are working on legislation, but she has been doing her job managing the work product in our office.

In fact, the best mark of success for an office manager is that the smooth operation of an office is taken for granted. In that, Nancy has excelled.

The truth is that Nancy lives by the greatest American virtues. She is directly honest, she is exceedingly diligent in her work, always taking care to ensure that things are completed and done right. I have greatly admired her frugality, a trait that has fallen from favor but which is much needed today. She watches every penny of the taxpayers' money in a way I greatly admire.

In a host of ways, Nancy has lived by these great American values and has taught them to hundreds of young people who have worked with her as interns and young staffers over the years. Such richness of contribution simply cannot be replaced.

As Nancy leaves the Senate to start a new chapter in her life, she can take great pride and satisfaction in the accomplishments she has made and the respect she has earned.

Just today, staff people from all over this Senate were in our office express-

ing their admiration for her as she had a reception this afternoon. I am grateful for her efforts and the dedication as a member of my staff. I wish her and her husband, Vince, who retired a few years ago after a career with NASA—he was with NASA during the glory days of the space age—I wish Nancy and her husband, Vince, all the best in their future years. We look forward to seeing you both on a regular basis and thank you again for the great contributions you have made to the success of our office and to the people of the United States.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I call to the attention of the Senate the Veterans History Project that is currently being developed by the Library of Congress.

This is a project that is dear to the hearts of all Americans and a project to which the Congress gave our unanimous support when we passed Public Law 106-380 last fall. Just as a new memorial on the Mall will honor our WW II veterans, a living memorial to all our war veterans will be created by the Veterans History Project. This project, which is part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, will collect oral histories, along with letters, diaries, photographs, and other papers from veterans of World War I, World War II and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars, as well as from those who served in support of them. The Veterans History Project will create this national collection by creating partnerships and encouraging participation from a wide range of veterans' organizations, military installations, civic groups, museums, libraries, historical societies, students and teachers, colleges and universities, and citizens and the families of our veterans nationwide.

This is an important national project and one that we should continue to support. Of the 19 million war veterans living in our Nation today, nearly 1,500 of them die each day—1,100 of them having served in World War II. While their own monument is under construction, we can build a lasting national collection that will preserve their wartime memories, actions and experiences. Through this national project we have to encourage local projects and local archives that will collect oral histories of all our war veterans for our children and our children's children.

This is a project worthy of consideration by all Senators as they return home for Memorial Day. That is the reason I come to the Chamber.

I thank our colleagues in the Senate, Senator CHUCK HAGEL and Senator MAX CLELAND for bringing this opportunity to us and to the citizens of our great Nation—a lasting democracy due to the sacrifices of the men and women honored by the Veterans History Project.

I will support funding for this project and for the operations of the Library's

American Folklife Center, where the veteran's collections will be preserved and shared with all. Nearly all of us have worked closely with the American Folklife Center. Many of you will recall the recent Local Legacies Project, done for the Library of Congress bicentennial last year, and other programs it has undertaken over the years.

As we approach Memorial Day I ask the Senate to reaffirm our commitment to our veterans and show our support for the Veterans History Project. As a grateful nation, we must preserve and honor their memories for generations to come.

A VICTORY FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT KIDS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, at the beginning of this year, the State of Michigan enacted a "shall issue" law that makes it easier to obtain a concealed carry permit and will increase the number of guns on our streets. The law, which was scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2001, takes discretion away from local gun boards and requires authorities to issue a license to carry a concealed weapon to any applicant who meets basic eligibility requirements.

Most law enforcement groups in Michigan reject the proliferation of concealed weapons in our communities and warn that this law will move our State in a dangerous direction. Similarly, gun safety groups, including the Michigan Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence and the Michigan Million Mom March, have voiced their concerns that the expected ten-fold increase in the number of concealed weapons on Michigan's streets would jeopardize the safety of our children. These and other groups that oppose the "shall issue" law joined together to form the coalition of People Who Care About Kids and successfully collected more than 230,000 signatures on a petition calling for a referendum on the law.

Last week, the Michigan State Court of Appeals came down on the side the voters of the State, agreeing that they should be able to decide on the law in a referendum. The appeals panel stated that "the overarching right of the people to their 'direct legislative voice' overrides a constitutional prohibition against referenda for laws that include spending provisions. Unless the decision is overturned by the Michigan Supreme Court, the voters of Michigan will be able to voice their opinions on the "shall issue" law in a referendum in November 2002.

This unanimous decision by the State Court of Appeals panel is not only a victory for the voters of Michigan, but also for the safety of our children and the security of our communities. I am convinced the people of Michigan want to find ways to decrease the amount of gun violence in our communities, not remove discretion from local gun boards with the goal of increasing the number of guns on our

streets. I am pleased that they will have a say in this important issue that so directly impacts their lives.

FINAL PASSAGE OF THE TAX BILL

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this is a sad day for the U.S. Senate and America's economic future. Yesterday we rushed through an unbalanced, backloaded, overbloated tax-cut that we literally cannot afford, that runs a substantial risk of driving us back into the ditch of deficits and higher interest rates, and in the end could affect our long-term prosperity which we have worked so hard to build. And for what purpose? To meet the arbitrary deadline of passing a bill by Memorial Day.

This bill and the whole process for considering it is a case study in irresponsibility, not just fiscally but governmentally. By squandering the surplus this way, we are squandering an historic opportunity to meet a number of national needs and to strengthen our economic security in the coming years. We lost an opportunity to pass not just a tax plan but a prosperity plan, geared to long-term economic growth. We lost an opportunity to pay down the debt and keep interest rates low.

We may well have lost an opportunity to pass a strong prescription drug benefit and strengthen the long-term stability of Medicare and Social Security for the retirement of the baby boom generation. And we may have lost an opportunity to make strategic investments in education, job training, scientific research—all of which we know are critical to expanding the winners' circle in this innovation economy. In short, we lost an opportunity to make the surplus work for us. Instead, we have given it all away in a tax cut tilted to give the most help to those who need it least.

I support tax cuts, and have voted for tax cuts, but they should be cuts we can afford. Some of the tax reductions for which I have advocated were included in this bill as part of the manager's amendment. Specifically, this amendment makes the R&D tax credit permanent, an issue on which I have been working for many years, makes a start on college tuition deductibility, and accelerates the wage credits for Round II Enterprise Zones, a program I have supported from its inception. These provisions, however, do not make up for the fiscal irresponsibility and lack of vision this bill represents.

I cautioned earlier this year that ten years from now, we will be judged by the decisions we make today. People will ask, did we fully understand the awesome changes taking place in our economy and in our society? Did we create a plan to assure our ongoing prosperity? Did we direct our unprecedented surpluses into investments with the greatest returns? Did we give our workers the tools they needed to seize the opportunities an innovation economy offers? And, were we guided by the fiscal discipline and values that had

brought us so far in the past decade? Much to my chagrin, I am no longer confident that these questions will be answered affirmatively.

Indeed, we have passed a bill that relies heavily on a surplus whose size six months down the road is unclear, to say nothing of its dimensions ten years from now. The inflated size of this tax cut may well force us to set discretionary spending at levels that don't keep pace with inflation. We may be forced to return to the fiscally-destructive practice of deficit spending by borrowing from the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. Additionally, this tax cut pays nothing but lip service to reducing the national debt, the very step that has proven to be so valuable to the health of our economy in recent years by keeping the cost of capital and interest rates low. In fact, this bill crowds our ability to devote a single dollar, aside from funds already committed to the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds, toward debt reduction.

I am especially concerned that the idea of an immediate economic stimulus has been abandoned. During the debate on the budget resolution last month, we Democrats argued that the economy needed a jump-start and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle agreed to adopt a stimulus package. Our plan was fair. It was fast. And it was fiscally responsible. It was fair because it was directed at every American who paid any taxes—payroll or income. It was fast because it would go into effect immediately, with rebate checks being cut within weeks. And not least of all, it was fiscally responsible because it fit into a balanced budget that did not spend money we do not have. Unfortunately, the so-called stimulus included in the tax bill we just passed does none of those things.

This bill may prove to be nothing but a one trick pony, and, if so, it's a bad trick to play on the American people. No matter the well-intentioned claims of my colleagues, this bill promises something we cannot deliver. It abandons fiscal discipline, fails to invest the wealth our Nation has earned over the past eight years, and may send us back down the road to debt, higher interest rates, and higher unemployment. It is not what the American people deserve, nor is it what they expected it to be.

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 last month. 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 heinous crime that occurred July 25, 2000 in Barron, Wisconsin, Raymond C.

Welton, 33, was charged with a hate crime in the murder of Michael Hatch, a 22-year-old hearing-impaired, disabled man on October 20. Prosecutors contend that Hatch was robbed and beaten to death with a tire iron in part because his assailants thought he was gay. Three perpetrators allegedly lured Hatch from a bar because one of them had gone to school with him and thought he was gay. They allegedly shouted gay slurs during the beating.

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.

ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman from Iowa, and the Ranking Member from Montana for their distinguished leadership on the tax cut bill. Their support of the adoption tax credit amendment made the crucial difference in its being accepted as part of the manager's package. Both are true friends to children and families and should be commended for their willingness to ensure that this bill reflects the needs of adoptive parents. I would also like to thank Senators LINCOLN, LIEBERMAN, JOHNSON, MIKULSKI, BOXER, DASCHLE, DEWINE, HARKIN, SANTORUM, SHELBY, STEVENS, COCHRAN, DAYTON, DURBIN, HUTCHINSON, KOHL, SESSIONS, SMITH of New Hampshire, and FITZGERALD.

This is not the first time that I have come to this floor to urge my colleagues to support efforts to strengthen and extend the adoption tax credit. In fact, each and every time that this body considered the issue of tax relief, the senior Senator from Idaho and I have come before the Senate to argue that the adoption tax credit should be included. And while this is not the first time that this important measure has been successfully adopted as part of a tax bill, I am hopeful that it will be the last.

Because of our action here, 60,000 plus children will find their "forever families" in the year to come. Parents who have long dreamed about adopting will finally have the help necessary to make those dreams a reality. I could be wrong, but I would guess that few parts of the tax code can compare to the impact had by the adoption tax credit. Each time a child finds a loving home, we have not only saved children and strengthened a family, but we have also saved billions of taxpayer's dollars.

I believe that there is no such thing as an unwanted child, merely unfound families. This tax credit will help to find more families for more children. I would like to commend my colleagues for their support in passing this important amendment. With it, we will be