

I want to close with some comments on relations with employees. A matter that held up final passage of this legislation when we created the new Department last month was really relations with employees, what kinds of rights they have under the collective bargaining laws and under the merit rules of the civil service rules of our country.

Recently, ADM James Loy, head of the Transportation Security Administration—I am told a very able person—used the authority Congress granted him under the airline security legislation we passed after September 11 to forbid airport screeners from joining unions. He cited his view that the screeners perform sensitive national security work as the reason for his decision.

The admiral's decision may or may not have been the right one. Whether it was or not, it has not done much to improve relations between the administration and thousands of unionized employees who are being transferred to this new Department, who perform work just as sensitive as—or in some cases even more sensitive than—that performed by the screeners.

As he works with the Office of Personnel Management to develop a human resources management system for this new Department, I urge Governor Ridge to work swiftly to repair the strained relationship between the administration and the public employees' union. He will benefit by doing that, the employees of that Department will benefit, and I believe our Nation will, too.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 2

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 9:20 a.m. on Wednesday, the Senate resume consideration of the Inhofe amendment No. 86, and it be modified in order to be a first-degree amendment; further, I ask unanimous consent that there be 10 minutes for debate equally divided between Senators INHOFE and EDWARDS; I further ask consent that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the Inhofe amendment, to be followed immediately by a vote in relation to the Edwards amendment No. 67, with no amendments in order to either amendment prior to that vote.

Mr. REID. I have no objection.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business and that Senators be permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred May 3, 2001 in Los Angeles, CA. An African-American man was shot by an Hispanic man, Carlos Garcia. Garcia shot and critically wounded the victim after telling him that he "did not like black men associating with Hispanic women," according to police. After the incident, the gunman hijacked a bus and caused a deadly crash as he was fleeing from police.

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 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.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER CHARTRAND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Jennifer Chartrand, who is leaving the Republican staff of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee.

Jennifer hails from Brooklyn and graduated from Fordham University. She began her career in the Senate with the Ethics Committee and went on to become a legislative assistant for Senator CONRAD BURNS. Jennifer's next move was to join the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, where my staff members got to know her well. She served both in the majority and the minority and was a valuable source of institutional knowledge on a range of issues.

While she was a tenacious fighter for Republican priorities, she always worked for good ideas, irrespective of which Senator came up with it. Perhaps most importantly, she always fought for the institutional prerogatives of both the Appropriations Committee and the Senate as a whole. Jennifer also recently staffed a congressional delegation to Europe which I was a part of. I truly appreciate all of her hard work in putting together that trip.

While I hate to see Jennifer leave, the good news is that she is only moving across the hall to the Defense Subcommittee. I hope that Senators STEVENS and INOUE will not mind if we borrow her from time to time.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO UCONN HUSKIES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL RECORD- BREAKING STREAK

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to rise in tribute to the University of Connecticut Huskies women's basketball team, which on Saturday, January 18th made Division I history by winning their 55th consecutive game. In doing so, they surpassed the 54-game streak set by Virginia Tech between 1980 and 1982 and delighted fans all across my state.

Fifty-five straight wins would be an incredible accomplishment in any sport at any time. But it's especially impressive in women's college basketball today because this is an era of true parity in the sport. There are so many strong teams able to compete with and, on any given night, beat a great team like the Huskies. But the Huskies keep on working, and they keep on winning, at home and on the road, in blowouts and in squeakers. Sometimes they win with defense. Sometimes with three-point shooting. Sometimes with pure hustle. But they always find a way.

It's no wonder the Huskies have an admirer in legendary UCLA coach John Wooden, whose UCLA men's basketball teams in the early 1970's set an all-time Division I record with 88 straight wins. Coach Wooden said of what the Huskies have accomplished, "It's a tremendous feat in any era. I think they play the pure game, more so than the men. The best college basketball in my opinion is played by the better women's teams."

Of course, last year the very best team in the nation was UConn, which racked up a perfect 39-0 season en route to the national championship. The players on that team—led by All-American seniors Sue Bird, Tamika Williams, Swin Cash and Asjha Jones—built the bulk of this record streak.

And this season, a team led by All-American junior Diana Taurasi and many terrific young players is in the hunt for the championship again. There will be tons of tough games to play. Just this Monday, January 20th, they matched up against Notre Dame and extended the streak to 56. And on February 1st, they will play Duke, now ranked first in the country.

Mr. President, competition isn't about perfection. It's about perseverance. I'm reminded of the words of Michael Jordan, who said, "I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game winning shot . . . and I missed. I have failed over and over and over