

section 5 enforcement actions undertaken by the Department of Justice in covered jurisdictions since 1982 that prevented election practices, such as annexation, at-large voting, and the use of multi-member districts, from being enacted to dilute minority voting strength; . . . the number of requests for declaratory judgments denied by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; . . . the continued filing of section 2 cases that originated in covered jurisdictions; and . . . the litigation pursued by the Department of Justice since 1982 to enforce sections 4(e), 4(f)(4), and 203 of such Act to ensure that all language minority citizens have full access to the political process." In addition, those findings include, "[t]he continued evidence of racially polarized voting in each of the jurisdictions covered by the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 demonstrates that racial and language minorities remain politically vulnerable, warranting the continued protection of the Voting Rights Act of 1965."

These findings the Senate adopted in its unanimous vote for H.R. 9 and as a reauthorization measure also incorporated the statutory findings within the following provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965: section 203(a); section 4(f)(1); section 10(a); and section 202(a).

By passing the legislation, Congress has adopted and reaffirmed the detailed findings in H.R. 9. The Senate unanimously adopted these findings. Nothing inserted in the RECORD thereafter can diminish the force of those findings contained within the enacted legislation itself. As several courts have properly recognized, postpassage "legislative history" is a contradiction in terms.

Earlier today, we celebrated the reauthorization and revitalization of the Voting Rights Act when President Bush signed that bill into law. I know that many in his party are unhappy with him, but I think he did the right thing. The Voting Rights Act is one of the most important laws Congress has ever passed. I am proud to say that our democracy and our Nation have been better and richer for it.

The Voting Rights Act is the keystone in the foundation of civil rights laws and is one of the most important methods of protecting all Americans' foundational right to vote. Several generations have kept the chain of support for the Voting Rights Act unbroken, and now our generation has done its part to continue that legacy and revitalize the act.

Keeping the Voting Rights Act intact is important, but enforcing it is equally important. Now that Congress has passed this bill—and the President has signed it—it is up to the President to ensure that this law and all of its provisions are enforced fully and faithfully. I was pleased today to hear the President commit to aggressive enforcement and to defend the act from legal attacks. Article I of the Constitution provides for the Congress to write the laws, and article II provides for the President to enforce them. Congress has done its part, and now the President must do his. I commend him for

saying that he will. That was the most important thing the President said today.

The President has not always been a supporter of this important civil rights law. While Governor of Texas, President Bush fought against some of the key antidiscrimination provisions Congress just reauthorized, as noted in a front page story in today's Washington Times. Today the President acted on behalf of all Americans and did the right thing despite the backbiting and criticism within his party. I commend him.

Now his responsibility is to faithfully execute the law and aggressively enforce its provisions. I trust we will not see another after-the-fact Presidential signing statement undercutting the commitment he made today in his public statement and by signing the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

The enactment of this law is a triumph for all Americans and a testament to efforts of its supporters in the House and Senate. On several occasions there were attempts by some to derail this bill. Those efforts continue. Fortunately, the findings in the act itself and the record we have built supports this important measure. We know that effective enforcement of these provisions is vital in stamping out discrimination that, unfortunately, still exists in this Nation today. As the President has acknowledged, the wound is not healed and there is more to do to protect the rights of all Americans to vote and have their votes count.

I ask unanimous consent that the signature page to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

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

Arlen Specter
Orrin Hatch
Chuck Grassley
Jon Kyl
Jeff Sessions
Lindsey Graham
John Cornyn
Sam Brownback
Tom Coburn

NOMINATION OF FREDERIC S. MISHKIN

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to speak briefly about the nomination of Dr. Frederic Mishkin to be a Federal Reserve Governor and why I voted against him.

I do not think Professor Mishkin is the right choice for the Federal Reserve. I am not convinced that he will be an independent voice.

I met with Professor Mishkin a few weeks ago and found Professor Mishkin to be a pleasant and intelligent man. I do not question his integrity or his qualifications for the job. He has spent his entire career studying and writing about monetary policy and economics. And his passion is evident.

To me, the question is not about Professor Mishkin's qualifications but about the kind of Fed we need. I do not hold Professor Mishkin's long friendship with Chairman Bernanke against him, nor do I think he will have problems speaking his mind to the chairman when they disagree. My concern is that those disagreements will be few and far between, and that the chairman hand picked him for that reason.

More than that, I am afraid the Fed has too many people with the same background. Many Fed members have spent a great deal of time studying central bank actions, but too few have experience dealing with the real-world consequences of those actions. Even Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke recently agreed that having people with different backgrounds on the Fed is healthy, and he stated his support for the next nominee to come from the financial services industry.

However, Professor Mishkin will only continue the trend toward an ivory-tower, academic Fed. Because of that, I voted "no".

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 January 23, 1981, in Chicago, IL, Stevie Lynch, a mentally retarded man, was attacked while walking to a friend's house. According to police, two men stopped Lynch on the street taunting him about his disability and trying to make him drink beer. They then pulled him into a passageway punching him and beating his head against the wall. Lynch suffered fractures to his skull and jaw. His disability appeared to be the sole motivation for 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.

THE PROBLEM WITH ILLEGAL GUNS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, over the last 10 years, there have been more than 3.7 million crimes committed with firearms in this country. That is an average of 100 violent gun crimes every day, with almost 60 percent of these violent gun crimes occurring in our Nation's major cities.

America's major cities have been flooded with illegal guns. The underground market for guns is largely a product of the diversion of massive numbers of guns from licensed gun shops into the hands of criminals. A variety of sources supply the illegal market, including theft, unlicensed sellers who buy guns for the purpose of reselling them, corrupt Federal firearms licensees, and straw purchasers who buy guns for other unlicensed sellers, criminal users, and juveniles. Based on its own gun trafficking investigations, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF, has concluded that corrupt gun dealers are the source of the largest number of firearms diverted to the illegal market. In 1998, the ATF found that 56 percent of dealers and 30 percent of pawnbrokers who sold 50 or more guns, had Federal firearms violations. In addition, 18 percent of the dealers and 45 percent of the pawnbrokers had guns missing from their inventory.

Despite the fact that the ATF inspections often reveal multiple illegal acts by gun dealers, the revocation of a dealer's license is a rare and difficult event. In 2003, the ATF conducted 1,812 inspections that uncovered regulatory violations with an average of over 80 violations per dealer. Despite this large number of dealers with multiple violations, the ATF issued only 54 notices of license revocation that year.

I have consistently supported commonsense legislation to help stop the flow of guns to the black market. Unfortunately, the failure of Congress to act on several commonsense bills has allowed criminals and terrorists continued easy access to guns. In addition to endangering our families and communities here in the United States, congressional inaction may also be helping to fuel international trafficking of powerful firearms.

If we make it harder for criminals to get guns, there will be fewer gun violence victims. By helping to keep guns out of the wrong hands, we can save lives.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to support S. 3549, the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2006, because it makes great strides in modernizing the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, CFIUS, process. I firmly believe that national security is paramount, and confidence must be restored in the CFIUS screening process. CFIUS creates a careful balance between national security and the economic benefits of foreign investment. As such, we must protect our national security while not inadvertently and unnecessarily hurting this job-creating investment.

Over 5 million Americans work for insourcing companies with a payroll of nearly \$318 billion. In my State of Pennsylvania, 227,700 people owe their

jobs to a foreign-based company. Pennsylvania is a State that has worked hard to attract international companies like Mack Trucks Inc., SAP America, and Sony. That effort has yielded positive results.

With regard to S. 3549, there are a few unresolved issues that were raised in the Banking Committee process that could raise barriers to beneficial foreign investment. While the bill passed the committee unanimously, with my support, it was understood that a couple of outstanding concerns would be addressed before the bill would be signed into law. At this time, these concerns remain.

Two provisions in particular that could have a negative impact on positive foreign direct investment that creates jobs, fosters innovation and sustains U.S. manufacturing are: (1) the extension of the initial 30-day review period to allow an additional 30-day review and (2) the creation of a congressional reporting requirement for individual regulatory filings for each stage of the review process.

Mr. President, I hope that these concerns will be addressed in conference. While I support CFIUS reform, I believe there are issues that need to be addressed prior to passing a final bill to ensure that Congress takes a reasonable approach to reforming this process. I look forward to working with Chairman SHELBY to resolve these issues.

HONORING BOB FELLER

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 110, sponsored by my friend, the senior Senator from Ohio, which honors an American hero, Iowa's own Bob Feller.

Robert William Andrew Feller, better known to baseball fans as "Bullet Bob" or "Rapid Robert," will forever be recognized for his talent, courage, and heart. Throughout his life, Feller has achieved tremendous success. Born on a farm in Van Meter, Iowa, in 1918, Feller began his baseball career playing American Legion, amateur and semi-pro baseball on fields across the State.

He signed a contract to pitch for the Cleveland Indians in 1935 at the age 16. In his first major league start in 1936 he struck out 15 batters, showing the entire league that he was not just a kid but a true talent that could play with the big names. As anticipated by fellow coaches, players, and fans, Feller only progressed. He was the first pitcher to win 20 or more games by the age of 21 and pitched the only opening day no-hitter in major league baseball history. At the height of his astounding career, Feller put his loyalty to his country above all and enlisted in the U.S. Navy 2 days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. While putting his big-time baseball career on hold and valiantly serving in the Armed Forces for nearly 4 years, Feller earned eight bat-

tle stars working primarily aboard the USS *Alabama* in the gunnery department.

After being discharged, Feller was ready to go back to the game he loved. Having not played for 4 years, there was much speculation that he would not be the recordbreaking pitcher he once was. That year, he proved they were wrong. His 1946 season was the most successful of Feller's career. Throwing pitches clocked as fast as 109 miles per hour, Feller completed 36 of the 42 games he started while compiling a 2.18 earned run average. He also pitched his second career no-hitter against the New York Yankees, pitched a shutout victory for the American League in the All Star Game, and, for good measure, saved four out of six games in relief for the Indians. Feller overwhelmingly led the American League that year in wins, shutouts, strikeouts, games pitched, and innings. In 1962, 6 years after his last season, Bob Feller was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in recognition for his extraordinary abilities, on and off the field.

It is my honor today to stand in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 110, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the 1946 season of Iowa's native son, Bob Feller and his heroic military service to the United States.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I am honored to join Senator DURBIN in introducing the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Act which focuses on the important issue of preparing future generations to live and work in an increasingly interconnected and complicated world. My colleague and I strongly believe that in order for the United States to effectively confront global challenges, to compete successfully in a global economy, and to lead responsibly in the world, we must dramatically increase the number of Americans gaining international experience through study abroad.

In 2004, Congress recognized the value of study abroad when it formed the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program. The Commission issued a report in November 2005 calling for a national study abroad program to greatly increase and diversify the number of U.S. students participating in study abroad while at the same time addressing the institutional barriers which hinder many students from studying abroad. Again, the Senate recognized the significance of the study abroad experience when it declared 2006 as the "Year of Study Abroad," and encouraged initiatives to promote and expand study abroad opportunities.

With this legislation, my colleague and I move this important agenda one step further by sponsoring a bill that will change the country. It will enable our students to graduate with skills