

between. This is good for the economy, since it boosts productivity and keeps inflation down. The higher the productivity, even when you get less and less unemployment, you do not get inflation. Americans do not appreciate low inflation yet. Most all other things can be cured in the American economy if you keep inflation low.

Does the Senator have a further observation?

Mr. SESSIONS. I have remarks which I will give if the Senator is finished. I enjoyed so much hearing his analysis.

Mr. DOMENICI. I yield those 5 minutes to Senator SESSIONS. I yield the floor.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, to follow up on the marvelous remarks that have gone before, I remember the first hearings I attended of the Joint Economic Committee. I tell this story about who gets the credit for the economy. Alan Greenspan was the witness that day. I am not a trained economist. I have been interested in these issues, but I am not a trained economist.

We started the discussion, and the chairman made a joke about who deserved credit for the economy: Was it Mr. Greenspan or was it President Clinton? Members on both sides joked about that and laughed a little bit, and we went on with the hearing.

I had an article from USA Today, not a great economic journal, but it was an interesting article, and it interviewed businessmen from Germany, Japan and England, asking them why the U.S. economy was doing so much better than theirs. They had double-digit unemployment of 12 and 13 percent, higher inflation, and less growth than we were having. They asked them why. They all agreed. They said it was because the United States, even though our taxes are high, had less taxes, less regulation, and a greater commitment to the free market.

I asked Mr. Greenspan if he agreed with that. He looked up at me and said: "I absolutely agree with that." Less taxes, less regulation, and a greater commitment to the free market. "Absolutely," he said, that is the basis for the sound American economy.

I think our taxes are still too high, but they are less than Europe. Our regulations are less, and we are more committed to letting free market forces allocate our resources than having the Government do it as they do in the European countries. I believe that is the basis for being successful.

I thought later what I really should have said at that time was that Ronald Reagan deserves credit for this economy because that is what he fought for and that is the direction we moved.

We have had substantial increases in taxes that have burdened Americans substantially.

There is one thing that troubles me about this economy, and that is the

rising cost of fuel in America. If there is one thing that threatens our economic growth, it is the increase in energy prices. I have been talking with businessmen in my State. They tell me their concerns. Their profits are down.

I traveled with a truck driver from Birmingham to Clinton to Montgomery. He told me he is paying \$800 more a month for fuel. I talked to businesspeople about their fuel costs. Families that were paying \$100 a month this time last year for gasoline for their clunkers and all that they have their families driving around in, are now paying \$160 a month for that fuel. That is \$60 a month taken out of their family's budget that they could be spending for things in the marketplace. They will not be spending it in the marketplace because it is going to pay for energy costs. That is a threat to us. We need to break that cycle.

It occurred not so much because of economic forces but because of political actions by the OPEC nations when they got together and withheld supplies and drove up energy prices and sat there and collected billions of dollars from America. The OPEC politicians beat our politicians. They outsmarted us. They took advantage of our lack of production of American industry. We got even more and more indebted to them for our energy, and they drove up the price. We had no choice but to pay it.

We are paying 20 cents more, 60 cents more per gallon of gasoline and most of that is going straight to those countries. If we tax gasoline in America 50 cents a gallon, which is not too far from what we do, at least that money goes to the State of Alabama or to the Federal Government and is spent in the United States. In effect, OPEC has taxed us. Every time you go to the gas pump and pay for that gasoline, much of it is going straight out of our country. It is a huge transfer of American wealth. It has the potential to not only damage the family budget but to damage our economy. I think we have to do something about it.

The long-term solution is to get serious and start increasing production. We have the capacity to increase production in the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have 1 additional minute.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield to the majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Go ahead.

Mr. President, I will withhold.

Mr. SESSIONS. I will simply say this. In this election—since we are talking about elections here on the other side—the American people have a choice: Will they elect a President who, with his deepest core beliefs, would be a no-growth, no-production

kind of President or will we elect a President who understands America's critical need for energy and who will help create policies that are environmentally sound, that will allow us to remove ourselves from under this yoke of the OPEC cartel?

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION MODIFICATION AND CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, I wanted to take a moment to discuss H.R. 5239, the Export Administration Modification and Clarification Act. The Senate approved H.R. 5239 with a substitute amendment on October 11, and the House took up and passed the bill, as amended, earlier this afternoon.

Since 1994 our export control system has been maintained under a regulatory framework pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act based on the provisions of the Export Administration Act of 1979. The Bureau of Export Administration (BXA), which administers our export controls, recently has faced court challenges regarding the integrity of that framework. Specifically, the courts have questioned BXA's authority—known as 12(c) authority—to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information submitted by industry pursuant to our export control rules.

While comprehensive review and updating of the Export Administration Act will be early on the agenda of the Senate Banking Committee next year, we are undertaking a simple extension of the 1979 Act at this time to set the stage for that review. It is important to note, however, that replacing the 1994 expiration date with a 2001 expiration date will make clear that BXA's authority to apply the 12(c) confidentiality provision of the 1979 act is to be considered as covering any information regarding license applications obtained during that time period, as if there had been no interruption of authority.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

October 30, 1999:

Hichem Belhouchet, 31, Houston, TX;
Joel Cobrales, 21, Chicago, IL;
Gustavo Delgado, 81, Miami-Dade
County, FL;
Ollie T. Fisher, 34, Chicago, IL;
Jermaine Jones, 21, St. Louis, MO;
Woodrow Kelly, 51, Washington, DC;
Deshawn Powell, 28, Detroit, MI;
Paula Proper, 33, Rockford, IL;
Lewis Queen, Washington, DC;
Fidel Quiros, 41, Miami-Dade County,
FL;

Derrick Redd, 19, Chicago, IL;
Quinten Reed, 18, Nashville, TN;
Antonio Sanchez, 24, Charlotte, NC;
Tanisha Simmons, 17, Detroit, MI;
David Walterson, 36, Miami-Dade
County, FL; and
Unidentified Male, 26, Newark, NJ.

Following are the names of some of
the people who were killed by gunfire
one year ago Saturday and Sunday.

October 28, 1999:

Duane Brown, 17, Chicago, IL;
John Cardoza, 24, Denver, CO;
David Clemons, 35, Bridgeport, CT;
Melvin K. Owens, 28, Chicago, IL;
Victor Rijos, 25, Bridgeport, CT;
Tom Shields, 54, Detroit, MI;
Nelson J. Sullivan, 17, Chicago, IL;
Alicia Valladares, 30, Houston, TX;
Nyere Waller, 25, Oklahoma City, OK;
Cameron Wojaciechaski, 22, Detroit,
MI;

Michael Yslas, 54, Oakland, CA; and
Unidentified Male, 15, Chicago, IL.

October 29, 1999:

Tobey Antone, 18, Louisville, KY;
Richard Brumfield, 42, Louisville,
KY;
Kenyatta Evans, 28, Detroit, MI;
Troy Johnson, 38, Oakland, CA;
James Middleton, 40, Baltimore, MD;
Rasheed Mohammed, 22, Binghamton,
NY;

Jesus Rodriquez, 24, Dallas, TX;
Rene Wright, 38, Fort Worth, TX.

We cannot sit back and allow such
senseless gun violence to continue. The
deaths of these people are a reminder
to all of us that we need to enact sen-
sible gun legislation now.

HONORING OUR VETERANS ON VETERANS' DAY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on No-
vember 11th, people across the United
States will celebrate Veterans' Day—a
day in which we pause to remember
and to honor the brave men and women
who served their country in our armed
forces.

November 11th also marks the anni-
versary of the armistice that ended
World War I, a conflict that promised
to be the "war to end all wars." Unfor-
tunately, the peace that followed
World War I was short-lived. The world
soon was plunged into the cauldron of
World War II, followed by the terror of
the Cold War—played out on so many
fronts, most tragically in Korea and
Vietnam. Today we face continued

threats to our liberty, with outlaw
leaders of rogue states waging extrem-
ist campaigns against freedom and de-
mocracy, as well as the persistent dan-
ger of terrorist attacks—which we have
seen all too recently with the USS Cole
tragedy.

Indeed, the world is still a dangerous
place, and World War I's promise of a
lasting, worldwide peace has yet to be
realized. The conflicts of the last cen-
tury remind us that freedom con-
stantly requires great sacrifices and
often the lives of those who defend it.
It is these patriots, the men and
women of our armed forces, who an-
swered the call of service and protected
the freedoms we cherish. Although we
can never fully repay the debt we owe
these courageous Americans, we can
and must continue to recognize the
price they paid.

This year, Veterans' Day falls just
four days after Election Day. I find this
particularly fitting, as there is no
greater symbol of American liberty
than our ability to participate in free
and fair elections. Above all else, we
owe this freedom to our veterans. Time
and again, our democracy has been pre-
served by these brave men and women.

This Veterans' Day marks another
special occasion; the groundbreaking
ceremony for the World War II Memo-
rial, to be located on the National Mall
in our nation's capital. This monument
will stand in recognition of a genera-
tion of Americans who served their
country so ably in resisting the forces
of Nazism and oppression. This was a
defining moment in our nation's his-
tory, and one to which almost every
American feels some connection. My
own father is a World War II veteran,
and Purple Heart recipient.

Unlike my father, however, many
Americans did not return home from
this noble campaign. They were the
duty-bound sons and daughters of our
nation, who made the ultimate sac-
rifice for their country and for free-
dom. In the words of President LIN-
COLN, they "gave the last full measure
of devotion," and we must uphold the
memory of their heroism with respect,
with reverence, and with our heartfelt
admiration.

This is the purpose of Veterans' Day.
Although mere words do not pay ade-
quate tribute to the sacrifices our vet-
erans have laid upon the altar of free-
dom, the knowledge of their noble
deeds lives in the hearts and minds of
those who are free—and shall not be
forgotten.

HOUSE PASSAGE OF S. 3164

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would
like to commend Senator BAYH for his
efforts on S. 3164, the Protecting Sen-
iors from Fraud Act, which the House
passed today. This bill, which I cospon-
sored along with Senators GRAMS and
CLELAND, will greatly assist federal,

state, and local efforts to crack down
on crime committed against older
Americans. Although I wish the Con-
gress had also acted on additional pro-
posals to protect elderly Americans, in-
cluding S. 751, the Seniors Safety Act,
I am glad that we were at least able to
pass this legislation.

I have been concerned for some time
that even as the general crime rate has
been declining steadily over the past
eight years, the rate of crime against
the elderly has remained unchanged.
That is why I introduced the Seniors
Safety Act with Senators DASCHLE,
KENNEDY, and TORRICELLI over a year
ago. The Judiciary Committee refused
to hold hearings on this bill, which pro-
vides a comprehensive approach to a
variety of problems affecting seniors
today.

Thankfully, the Republican majority
was less hostile to S. 3164, which in-
cludes one of the titles from the Sen-
iors Safety Act. This title does two
things. First, it instructs the Attorney
General to conduct a study relating to
crimes against seniors, so that we can
develop a coherent strategy to prevent
and properly punish such crimes. Sec-
ond, it mandates the inclusion of sen-
iors in the National Crime Victimization
Study. Both of these are impor-
tant steps.

The Protecting Seniors from Fraud
Act includes important proposals for
addressing the problem of crimes
against the elderly, especially fraud
crimes. In addition to the provisions
described above, this bill authorizes
the Secretary of Health and Human
Services to make grants to establish
local programs to prevent fraud
against seniors and educate them
about the risk of fraud, as well as to
provide information about tele-
marketing and sweepstakes fraud to
seniors, both directly and through
State Attorneys General. These are
two common-sense provisions that will
help seniors protect themselves against
crime.

I hope that when Congress recon-
venes in January, we will consider the
rest of the Seniors Safety Act, and
enact even more comprehensive protec-
tions for our seniors. The Seniors Safe-
ty Act offers a comprehensive approach
that would increase law enforcement's
ability to battle telemarketing, pen-
sion, and health care fraud, as well as
to police nursing homes with a record
of mistreating their residents. The Jus-
tice Department has said that the Sen-
iors Safety Act would "be of assistance
in a number of ways." I have urged the
Senate Judiciary Committee to hold
hearings on the Seniors Safety Act as
long ago as October 1999, and again this
past February, but my requests have
not been granted. Now, as the session is
coming to a close, we are out of time
for hearings on this important and
comprehensive proposal and significant
parts of the Seniors Safety Act remain