

Specifically, I want to voice my support for legislation creating a hybrid vehicle tax credit. A hybrid vehicle combines an electric motor and battery pack with an internal combustion engine. The engine and the electric motor work in tandem, with either system providing primary or secondary power depending on driving conditions. For example, when stopped at a light, the vehicle shifts from an internal combustion engine to electric power and then back again upon acceleration. In addition, the batteries are re-charged during operation, eliminating the need for an external charger. This is new technology and the result of years of hard work.

I would like to see my colleagues join me in passing legislation to create a tax credit that would encourage consumers to purchase hybrid vehicles. I have known for years that this technology would become available and I have been looking for the right opportunity to draft legislation that would help put hybrid vehicles on our roads. I think that there are two components that must be addressed in a tax credit bill. To begin, I firmly believe that we must reward the integration of the technology into the vehicle with a base credit. In addition, however, I feel strongly that an important goal that must be achieved through legislation is to reward a vehicle that significantly decreases the amount of fuel consumed. I have proposed a plan that provides both a base credit of up to \$2000 for the use of the technology, as well as a bonus credit, up to \$1000, calculated based upon the lifetime fuel savings of the vehicle.

I think that this approach is a sound one. Placing the emphasis on gallons saved speaks directly to the importance of conservation and with our country facing an energy crisis is critical. And I also know that the biggest improvements in the reduction of fuel consumption will come from getting larger volumes of hybrid vehicles into the hands of consumers.

But in crafting this legislation, there are certain realities that we must accept. Today, there is a significant portion of the population that wants to drive a larger vehicle. This is America and people are entitled to personal choice. It is for this reason that I applaud the efforts of car manufacturers who have chosen to place hybrid technology in larger vehicles and SUV's. For example, DaimlerChrysler has committed to hybridizing the popular Dodge Durango with the vehicle scheduled to come on like in 2003 and this will bring a 20 percent improvement in fuel consumption.

I am also aware that others have advocated different approaches to crafting legislation that creates a tax credit for hybrid vehicles. My colleague Senator HATCH has introduced a bill, S. 760, that would provide a tax

credit for hybrid vehicles as well as other advanced motor vehicle technologies. While his bill provides a base credit, up to \$1,000, for the inclusion of hybrid technology, the bonus credit in this bill, up to \$3,000, is calculated depending upon the fuel economy performance of the vehicle.

In addition to the Hatch bill and the administration's general statements, members of the automobile industry as well as environmentalists are also engaged in discussions to draft language that will create an incentive for consumers to purchase a hybrid vehicle. In the next few weeks, we need to have a thorough discussion among members of the automobile industry and environmentalists so that we can reach consensus on the language of this important legislation and move forward to passage of a bill. There is not just one approach that solves the problem and I am prepared to listen to all views. I hope that the other stakeholders are also ready to work for a compromise. While we may differ on our approach to drafting the legislation, I am sure that we can all agree that the goal should be passage of legislation that creates a tax credit for hybrid vehicles and provides the necessary encouragement to bring this important technology into the marketplace.

#### 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 December 12, 1999 in Washington County, PA. Three men who went to an adult bookstore to rob a gay man now face charges of kidnapping, robbery, aggravated assault, murder, tampering with evidence, and one count of conspiring to commit those crimes in the disappearance of Ira Swearingen, 49, a medical consultant from Stout, NV. The gruesome details of the abduction, beating, and murder of Swearingen were revealed in court. After being abducted, Swearingen was stuffed inside the trunk of his rental car, during which time, one of the perpetrators said "Did ya hear it? I broke his jaw." Another perpetrator heard gurgling of blood and heard the victim screaming. They yelled "Shut up faggot! Shutup, pickle." Later, the victim was driven to an isolated area, forced to strip and marched into the woods as he pleaded for his life at which point, one perpetrator testified, he shot the victim between the eyes at close range.

I believe 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 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.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 15, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,651,674,551,618.32, five trillion, six hundred fifty-one billion, six hundred seventy-four million, five hundred fifty-one thousand, six hundred eighty-two dollars and thirty-two cents.

One year ago, May 15, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,665,245,000,000, five trillion, six hundred sixty-five billion, two hundred forty-five million.

Five years ago, May 15, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,115,694,000,000, five trillion, one hundred fifteen billion, six hundred ninety-four million.

Ten years ago, May 15, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,460,389,000,000, three trillion, four hundred sixty billion, three hundred eighty-nine million.

Fifteen years ago, May 15, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,030,072,000,000, two trillion, thirty billion, seventy-two million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,621,602,551,618.32, three trillion, six hundred twenty-one billion, six hundred two million, five hundred fifty-one thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and thirty-two cents during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO S. ROBERT LEVINE

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to S. Robert Levine of Stratham, NH for being honored as a significant contributor to New Hampshire's growth and development.

Robert co-founded Cabletron Systems, Inc., in 1983, expanding the computer networking company into a \$1.5 billion corporation employing more than 6,000 people in 110 offices throughout the world. He was the recipient of the "Entrepreneur of the Year" award by Inc. Magazine in 1991, and was included among the Nation's wealthiest people on the "Forbes 400" list for several years.

Robert also has operated his own business, Robert Associates, in Natick, MA, selling cable products. He earned a B.S. in Business Management from the University of Miami, FL.

Robert Levine has been a generous supporter whose personal gifts include millions of dollars for police departments, schools and hospitals. One of his largest gifts funds cancer research at a teaching hospital in Worcester, MA.

Robert Levine has served the people of the State of New Hampshire with dedication and generosity. His contributions to the business and charitable communities of our State have been exemplary. I commend him for his philanthropy to our State and country. It is an honor and a privilege to represent him in the United States Senate.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF NEIGHBOR DAY

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the endeavors of the citizens and Town Council of Westerly, RI, in establishing and promoting Neighbor Day. Neighbor Day is an opportunity to learn more about others in our communities. It is also a celebration of friendship, civility, peace and cooperation. Since 1993, when a dispute between two teenagers left one youth dead and another charged with murder, Westerly has celebrated Neighbor Day in an effort to prevent similar tragedies at home and throughout the world.

Westerly's tradition has been adopted throughout my state. The Rhode Island General Assembly in 1999 designated the Sunday before Memorial Day as Neighbor Day for annual statewide observance. It is the hope of the citizens of Westerly that Neighbor Day will gain nationwide and worldwide recognition, and that its ideals—community, tolerance, and nonviolence—will one day become a reality for all.

I hope my colleagues will join with me in recognizing Westerly's achievement in encouraging friendship and respect among all people.

I ask that following this statement the resolution of the Rhode Island General Assembly, declaring statewide recognition of Neighbor Day, be printed in the RECORD.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 19, 1996 TO BE NEIGHBOR DAY IN RHODE ISLAND

Whereas, Go out of your way to get in touch with your neighbors. Ring doorbells and say "Hello." These are but some of the things we each can do to learn more about the people in our communities; and

Whereas, In 1993, Westerly became the first town in the Ocean State to declare the Sunday before Memorial Day to be Neighbor Day, and the State of Rhode Island swiftly followed its splendid example. Hopefully national and international recognition of this special day will make its ideals a reality for all; and

Whereas, While respect and justice for all is often upon our lips, it will take a strong personal commitment by each and every one of us to actualize this dream; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby declares May 19, 1996 to be Neighbor Day in Rhode Island. It is so important that all Rhode Islanders learn that the most important moral obligation we all share is to "Love Thy Neighbor"; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to

transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mary Jane DiMaio, MJD Enterprises.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 586. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the exclusion from gross income for foster care payments shall also apply to payments by qualified placement agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1696. An act to expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 1727. An act to amend the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 to provide for consistent treatment of survivor benefits for public safety officers killed in the line of duty.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 428) concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431), as amended by Public Law 106-55, the Speaker reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a term of 2 years: Ms. Nina Shea of Washington, DC.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 803), the Majority Leader appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

At 4:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1836. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 104 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1836. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 104 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1860. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report relative to the Department's enforcement activities under statute during calendar year 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1861. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense, Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Chief Information Officer Annual Information Assurance Report for Fiscal Year 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1862. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to Interim Approval Requirements" (FRL6980-6) received on May 10, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1863. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disaster Assistance; Public Assistance Program Community Disaster Loan Program" (RIN3067-AD20) received on May 14, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1864. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Office of Health Standards Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Occupational Exposure to Cotton Dust—Amendment; Partial Exemption for Batch-Kier Washed Cotton" (RIN1218-AB90) received on May 14, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1865. A communication from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Secondary Direct Food Additives Permitted in Food for Human Consumption" (Doc. No. 00F-1487) received on May 14, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1866. A communication from the General Counsel of the Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy, nomination, and a change in the previously submitted report information for the position of Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1867. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Program Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.