

NATIONAL BOXING SAFETY ACT
OF 2001

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Nevada, Senator REID, as a cosponsor to the National Boxing Safety Act of 2001. Because professional boxing is the only major sport in the United States that is not governed by a strong, centralized association or league to enforce uniform rules and practices, there is no consistent level of state regulation overseeing the practices of those participating in the industry. As the scandals, controversies, and unethical practices continue to persist, the need for a centralized governing body to regulate the sport has become evident.

While I have certain differences with the legislation, I look forward to working with Senator REID to address these, and together work toward passage of this bill.

THE CUBAN SOLIDARITY ACT OF
2001

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I am honored to lend my support as an original cosponsor to the Cuban Solidarity Act of 2001. As many of us here know, the Cuban Solidarity Act of 2001 goes beyond what the original Helms-Burton Act of 1996 sought to accomplish. Not only does it send a clear signal to the Castro regime that there are consequences to violating political and religious freedoms and human rights, but that we are going to work fervently to bring about a change in his regime.

Four years ago, I spoke here on the Senate floor in condemnation of the cowardly acts of the Cuban government in the shooting down of two civilian aircraft. I also expressed my concerns about the unauthorized use of confiscated United States-citizen-owned property. This bill contains a number of provisions that seek compensation from the Cuban government on both matters.

In Castro's Cuba, dissidents are routinely subjugated to random arrests, exile, imprisonment and beatings for openly opposing the government. During the first two months of 2000, over 350 peaceful human rights activists were arrested. One of the most notable cases included that of Dr. Oscar Biscet of the Lawton Human Rights Foundation, who received three years in prison for protests against abortion and the death penalty.

These violations of human rights taking place only ninety miles from the United States, are a threat to international peace.

Furthermore, many observers are concerned that a successor to Castro is currently being groomed to maintain authoritarian control over the island.

This bill will authorize the President to pursue a more pro-active policy towards changing the regime in Cuba from within. It does so by amending

trade sanctions, which will give the President enhanced tools in supporting pro-democracy and human rights groups. Such new tools include authorizing the export of religious, educational and journalistic materials to individuals and independent groups, as well as office supplies, telephones and fax machines. These individuals and groups may include victims of religious persecution, farm cooperatives, political prisoners, and worker's rights groups just to name a few. The bill will also increase humanitarian aid in the form of food and medicine to children and the elderly.

Another large component of this bill, is the support it gives to micro-enterprise efforts in Cuba. By helping self-employed Cubans start their own businesses, we will help to plant the seeds of independent thinking, democracy and entrepreneurialism which will ensure a more peaceful transition to democracy.

Because Castro will not hold power in Cuba forever, we need to take the necessary steps to make sure a transition to democracy is possible and likely.

It is time for a reinvigorated approach towards Cuba, one that includes bipartisan support. Therefore I am pleased to support the Cuba Solidarity Act of 2001, and I would urge others to do the same.

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 October 31, 1999 in Inverness, Florida. After shouting anti-gay epithets, a teenager allegedly drove into a group of young people dressed in drag on Halloween night, killing 17-year-old Allison Decratel and injuring another person. The teenager, Richard Burzynski Jr., 17, and passenger Thomas Alan Bonneville, 16, drove past the cross-dressed group several times shouting "faggots" at the boys in the group before steering the car into the group of teens. The perpetrators fled the scene but were apprehended 50 miles north of the incident. On November 19, Burzynski was indicted on six counts, including first-degree murder.

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.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 16, 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 eighteen dollars and thirty-two cents.

One year ago, May 16, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,669,366,000,000, Five trillion, six hundred sixty-nine billion, three hundred sixty-six million.

Five years ago, May 16, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,113,662,000,000, Five trillion, one hundred thirteen billion, six hundred sixty-two million.

Ten years ago, May 16, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,460,706,000,000, Three trillion, four hundred sixty billion, seven hundred six million.

Fifteen years ago, May 16, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,030,755,000,000, Two trillion, thirty billion, seven hundred fifty-five million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,620,919,551,618.32, Three trillion, six hundred twenty billion, nine hundred nineteen million, five hundred fifty-one thousand, six hundred eighteen dollars and thirty-two cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TAIWANESE AMERICAN HERITAGE
WEEK

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, last week, Taiwanese Americans and all Americans celebrated Taiwanese American Heritage Week. I commend our many citizens of Taiwanese background for the contributions they have made to America.

More than 500,000 Americans are of Taiwanese heritage, and they have achieved impressive successes in business, in science and the arts, in the academic world, and in many other aspects of our national life. They are a vital part of our society and an important part of the strong fabric of American life.

All Americans continue to watch with great interest and support as Taiwan continues to become a stronger nation and a stronger democracy. I share the hope of Taiwanese Americans that Taiwan will continue to prosper in peace and growing economic strength.●

TRIBUTE TO STONEWALL JACKSON
HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of Stonewall Jackson High School, in Manassas, VA. Stonewall Jackson has been named Time magazine's High School of the Year and is featured in the May 21, 2001 issue.