

clinical research can be conducted that will speed the discovery of cures for the various forms of muscular dystrophy. This legislation would provide the Director of the NIH, and the Directors of the several institutes within the NIH where research into muscular dystrophy is being conducted, with authority and responsibility to concentrate and intensify that research effort, with the funds needed to conduct clinical trials. In short, it gives NIH the organization and the mandate to exploit recent advances in gene therapy. The goal is the swiftest possible rescue for children and adults whose lives will otherwise be lost or badly damaged by muscular dystrophy.

The Congress has responded generously and often to the demand for research funding aimed at other diseases that shorten or impair the lives of Americans. It is time to add muscular dystrophy to the list of those diseases. I commend my colleagues for introducing S. 805, and I ask that my name be added as a cosponsor of the bill.

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 August 11, 2000 in New York City. A 17-year-old, who announced to his parents he was gay earlier this year, was recovering after his parents severely beat him. Police say that Hendrick Paterson, 49, and Sharon Paterson, 36, allegedly repeatedly smashed their son with a lead pipe at a relative's home as they yelled anti-gay slurs. "God will punish you for your lifestyle!" "You can't be gay," the couple is quoted as saying. The son was rushed to the hospital where he was treated and released for multiple welts to his body.

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 MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, the latest round of violence in the Middle East has dealt more pain and suffering to the people of that region, as well as another blow to the peace process. And though I remain firmly convinced that a final status agreement—which pro-

vides firm and enforceable security guarantees for Israel—remains not only the most desirable way out of the cycle of violence but indeed the only way to achieve lasting peace and security for all of the people in the region, the fundamental problem at present is whether or not Yasir Arafat is capable of ever becoming a reliable partner in the peace process. The answer, as unfortunate for future generations of Palestinians as for Israelis and for all of those who crave peace in the Middle East, would seem to be an emphatic NO, as indicated by his dismissal of the historic compromise offered by then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak late last year. Unless and until Chairman Arafat, or a successor, can demonstrate the capacity to make peace as well as war, the outlook for the Middle East peace process will remain bleak.

Thomas Friedman makes this case effectively and forcefully in a May 22 editorial in the New York Times, entitled "It Only Gets Worse." I ask unanimous consent that the Friedman editorial be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Times, May 22, 2001]

IT ONLY GETS WORSE

(By Thomas L. Friedman)

The long-awaited Mitchell commission report about Israeli-Palestinian violence was released yesterday, and now there is a debate over what to do with its recommendations. I have a suggestion. It's kind of a two-for-one deal. Take all the Mitchell reports, make a big pile out of them, and set them ablaze into a gigantic bonfire. It would surely generate enough heat, and light, to make a small contribution to the Bush energy plan.

Am I being unfair? Yes, just a bit. George Mitchell is a good man, and the central argument of his report is right, in the narrowest sense: If you want to stop the latest Israeli-Palestinian slide into the abyss, first there must be a cessation of all violence, and then confidence-building steps, including a settlements freeze and Palestinian security measures.

My problem with the Mitchell report is that it fundamentally ignores how we got into this abyss and the only real way out. It is not because of Israeli settlements. The settlements are foolish, and their continued expansion is a shameful act of colonial coercion that will meet the fate of all other colonial enterprises in history. The inability of American Jewish leaders or U.S. governments to speak out against settlement expansion—which should be stopped under any conditions for Israel's sake—is a blot on all of them.

But the settlements are not the core problem. The core problem right now is Yasir Arafat—the Palestinian leader who cannot say "yes" and will not say "uncle."

President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Ehud Barak put on the table before Mr. Arafat a historic compromise proposal that would have given Palestinians control of 94 to 96 percent of the West Bank and Gaza—with all the settlements removed, virtually all of Arab East Jerusalem, a return to Israel of a symbolic number of Palestinian refugees and either the right of return to the West Bank and Gaza or compensation for all the others.

Not only would Mr. Arafat not take it, he would not even say: "Well, this was insufficient, but this is the most far-reaching and serious proposal Palestinians have ever seen. Now, I want to enter into a dialogue with the Israeli people and government to see if I can get them to 100 percent."

No, instead, Mr. Arafat launched this idiotic uprising. He did so because he is essentially a political coward and maneuverer, who apparently has not given up his long-term aim of eliminating Israel and who was afraid in the short run that if he took 99 percent, he would be killed for the 1 percent he left on the table. Mr. Arafat has never been willing to tell his people he got them most of what they wanted and now is the time to end the suffering of as many Palestinians as possible and move on.

This truth is what the Mitchell "investigation" should be telling the world and the Palestinians. There was an Israeli leader, and a slim Israeli majority, for a fair historic compromise. But there was no Palestinian equivalent, and unless there is a Palestinian partner, and a Palestinian leader, for a historic compromise roughly along the Clinton lines, no cease-fire is going to hold.

The best Hebrew biography of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is entitled "He Doesn't Stop at Red Lights." Mr. Arafat's biography should be entitled "He Doesn't Go at Green Lights."

Now Mr. Sharon—who was elected in the Israeli backlash against the failure of Camp David—is trying to pummel Mr. Arafat into submission. That won't work either. Because Mr. Arafat is as afraid to say "uncle" to Sharon as much as he was afraid to say "yes" to Clinton. He fears he would be killed for saying uncle as much as he would be killed for saying yes to 99 percent. The Palestinians will never be bombed into submission. One hundred years of Palestinian history tells you that.

The real problem is that the Palestinians are leaderless today, and that is what the U.S., the U.N. and the Arab world have to face up to. Deep down, they all know it and they admit it to each other in private. There is no Palestinian leader right now willing or able to say yes to a fair historic compromise, and we simply fool ourselves with commissions that don't acknowledge that. Unless the Arabs can stiffen Mr. Arafat by supporting him in any grand compromise, or by creating a context in which an alternative leadership can emerge, this bonfire will rage on and it will consume many, many others.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 4, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,668,781,838,668.70, five trillion, six hundred sixty-eight billion, seven hundred eighty-one million, eight hundred thirty-eight thousand, six hundred sixty-eight dollars and seventy cents.

Five years ago, June 4, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,139,964,000,000, five trillion, one hundred thirty-nine billion, nine hundred sixty-four million.

Ten years ago, June 4, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,489,526,000,000, three trillion, four hundred eighty-nine billion, five hundred twenty-six million.

Fifteen years ago, June 4, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,053,350,000,000,