

across our State called the People Who Care About Kids collected 232,582 signatures on a petition to suspend the law and put it before the voters in 2002. One of those signatures was mine.

Now the issue is before the courts. Just last month, a State Appeals Court ruled unanimously that the referendum process should proceed. And this Wednesday the Michigan Supreme Court heard arguments on whether the Appeals Court ruling should stand. For the good of my State and for the safety of its citizens, I hope that the Supreme Court upholds the lower court ruling and lets the voters decide the issue. If voters are given the opportunity, I am confident that this wrongheaded effort to roll back Michigan's gun laws will be defeated.

BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, in this morning's Washington Post we finally hear the truth. President pro tempore ROBERT C. BYRD tells it like it is. Republican and Democrat, White House and Congress, and the people generally take heed.

I ask consent that an article from the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, June 14, 2001]

INHERITED MESS

(By Robert C. Byrd)

The president's budget director, Mitchell Daniels, has made an impassioned plea [opted, June 5] for Congress to achieve an "orderly and responsible budget and appropriations process" this year despite the sudden turn-about in the Senate from Republican to Democratic control.

While lauding the president's continuing efforts to civilize the tone of business in Washington, Daniels blamed Congress for routinely circumventing budget resolution ceilings to fund runaway appropriations. This year, he predicted, would have been different had the Republicans maintained control of the Senate, and he exhorted Democrats to withstand the siren song of "games and gimmicks" in the appropriations process so as to avoid upsetting the budget apple cart.

Unfortunately, the deck is stacked against the appropriators. The dice are loaded. The wheel is rigged. Regardless of whether a Democrat or a Republican chairs the Appropriations Committee, the unrealistically low budget targets and tax-cut combo will again perpetuate a yearly hoax on the American people.

Despite all the brave talk of fiscal restraint, the Appropriations committees will quietly be asked to spend more money than the budget allows. We know the president will ask us to spend billions more on defense. We know we will be asked to spend billions more on education. We know we have billions of dollars in both unmet and unanticipated needs that we will have a responsibility to fund.

We know this. The president knows this. The president's budget director well knows this. The American people should know this.

The American people are entitled to truth in budgeting. These programs are not just the priorities of a Democratic Senate. These are the priorities of the president. They are the priorities of the nation. They have to be addressed.

Here is the true state of affairs. The budget pays lip service to sizable funding increases for national security, but it doesn't back up its promises with the necessary resources. For non-defense programs, the budget falls \$5.5 billion below the level necessary just to keep pace with inflation. What this means is that the nation is fiscally frozen in time, unable to reduce massive backlogs in critical programs that have been piling up for years, and equally unable to anticipate emerging needs.

Simply put, the budget resolution and the tax cut combined deny the resources that Congress—regardless of which party is in power—needs to meet a growing nation's requirements. The scarce dollars that are needed for education, Social Security, Medicare, prescription drug benefits and the many other important priorities of the American people will have to come from somewhere.

Democrats do not want to resort to gimmicks or game. We were outraged when the Republicans resorted to them—when they hijacked the budget from the Budget Committee over the objections of the Democrats, and then added insult to injury by shutting Democrats out of the conference process. But when a budget resolution allows for a massive tax-cut proposal yet fails to allow for the increased funding for national defense and for education that we all know the president will request, the "evasions and gimmickry" have begun.

Appropriators welcome cooperation. We encourage flexibility. We seek good-faith dealings with the White House and with both sides of the aisle. We ask only that the administration reciprocate in kind. A good place to start would be to avoid preemptive finger pointing in the media.

To attempt to back the Senate Appropriations Committee into a corner by suggesting that Democrats are suddenly in a position to derail "the first orderly, responsible budget and appropriations process in many years" is to belie the facts. The budget process was anything but "orderly and responsible" this year. In fact, the budget process has been convenient political cover for "games and gimmickry" for several years. And we all know it.

This is the scenario that the Democratic Senate has inherited, and this is the reality that Congress and the administration face in the coming months as we work our way through the appropriations process.

The Senate Appropriations Committee will review the details of the president's budget and we will, on a bipartisan basis, do our best to produce 13 responsible and disciplined appropriations bills. It is my hope that we can address this daunting challenge in a spirit of cooperation, and work together to replace partisan rhetoric with responsible solutions.

And if OMB Director Daniels really wants to help his president change the climate in Washington, he can work to stop the blame game in its very tired tracks.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the exceptional achievement of 8 schools in

Portland, OR: Humboldt, Marysville, Chief Joseph, Woodmere, Clark, Grout, Kenton and Vestal Elementary Schools.

We have spent 8 weeks in this Chamber talking about education. We have debated the best ways to educate America's children, to raise academic achievement of disadvantaged students, and change failing schools into successes. While we have been busy talking, schools in my home State have been working hard to educate our children.

I want to make special mention of eight schools in the Portland Public School District. Over the past 3 years, these remarkable schools—where more than half of the students come from low income families—made greater strides in raising student test scores than all others in the school district. Due to the hard work of students, parents, teachers, and principals, reading and math scores have significantly improved, the achievement gap between poor and minority students and white students narrowed, and parents, including those new to our country, became part of the fabric of the school community.

Today, I commend the principals and teachers of these great schools. These educators represent an ideal. They are dedicated; they are creative; and they transform children into scholars. They will do anything for their students, even work extra jobs to earn money to buy books for their students. Their hard work has helped their students achieve record academic improvement today and it has set the stage for these children's success for years to come. I thank them for their efforts.

I also thank the parents of these children. They have made a real difference in their children's education by volunteering at school, reading with their children, and encouraging their students to devote their best efforts to their studies.

Above all, I salute the students of these outstanding schools. The countless hours they have spent inside and outside the classroom practicing their reading and writing, working math problems, and conducting science experiments have not been in vain. They have paid off in a remarkable way. Many of these students don't speak English as their first language; many come from low income families; and all are from areas of the city which had never expected to see such success. Yet these very students have realized this extraordinary accomplishment.

The improvements in the test scores of these children are incredible. The Oregonian newspaper reports the following: At Humboldt [Elementary], 71 percent of fifth graders in 2000 met or exceeded math benchmarks. Only 31 percent of those students met math standards as third graders in 1998. At Marysville Elementary in Southeast

Portland, 78 percent of fifth-graders met math benchmarks in 2000. Thirty-two percent of those students passed the State math test as third graders.

But even more important than these significant gains in test scores, these dedicated students have cultivated a love of learning that will last the rest of their lives. This thirst for knowledge guarantees that this is just the first of many successes to come.

A study by the Portland Public Schools Foundation attributed the advances of these schools to the same principles we have been discussing here: strong principals, high parent involvement, and professional development opportunities for teachers.

I share the achievement of these students with my colleagues because it reminds every member of the U.S. Senate that better education is becoming a reality across America. Our work here is important, but the true source of academic achievement is the dedication, the dreams, and the hard work of students, teachers, and principals like these in Portland. The best we can do is to give them the tools they need to succeed.

In closing, allow me to commend, once again, the students, parents, and educators in these schools for this great accomplishment, for the hope they give us, and for the high standard they set for all of us.

REMEMBERING THE MIA'S OF SULTAN YAQUB

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the Israeli soldiers captured by the Syrians during the 1982 Israeli war in Lebanon.

On June 11, 1982, an Israeli unit battled with a Syrian armored unit in the Bekaa Valley in northeastern Lebanon. Sergeant Zachary Baumel, First Sergeant Zvi Feldman, and Corporal Yehudah Katz were captured by the Syrians that day. They were identified as an Israeli tank crew, and reported missing in Damascus. The Israeli tank, flying the Syrian and Palestinian flag, was greeted with cheers from bystanders.

Since that terrible day in 1982, the governments of Israel and the United States have been doing their utmost by working with the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations, and other international bodies to obtain any possible information about the fate of the missing soldiers. According to the Geneva Convention, Syria is responsible for the fates of the Israeli soldiers because the area in Lebanon where the soldiers disappeared was continually controlled by Syria. To this day, despite promises made by the government of Syria and by the Palestinians, very little information has been released about the condition of Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz.

Monday marked the anniversary of the day that these soldiers were reported missing in action. Nineteen pain-filled years have passed since their families have seen their sons, and still Syria has not revealed their whereabouts nor provided any information as to their condition.

One of these missing soldiers, Zachary Baumel is an American citizen, from my home of Brooklyn, NY. An ardent basketball fan, Zachary began his studies at the Hebrew School in Boro Park. In 1979, he moved to Israel with other family members and continued his education at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies are integrated with army service. When the war with Lebanon began, Zachary was completing his military service and was looking forward to attending Hebrew University, where he had been accepted to study psychology. But fate decreed otherwise and on June 11, 1982, he disappeared with Zvi Feldman and Yehudah Katz.

Zachary's parents Yonah and Miriam Baumel have been relentless in their pursuit of information about Zachary and his compatriots. I have worked closely with the Baumels, as well as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the American Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, and the MIA Task Force of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. These groups have been at the forefront of this pursuit of justice. I want to recognize their good work and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts. For nineteen years, these families have been without their children. Answers are long overdue.

I am not only saddened by the plight of Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz, but I am disheartened and angered by the fact that even as we continue to search for answers about their welfare, we must add more names to the list of those for whom we have no knowledge of their location, health, or safety.

In a clear-cut violation of international law, three Israeli soldiers were abducted by Hezbollah on October 7, 2000 while on operational duty along the border fence in the Dov Mountain range along Israel's border with Lebanon. The soldiers—Sergeant Adi Avitan of Tiberias, Staff Sergeant Binyamin Avraham of Bnei Brak, and Staff Sergeant Omar Souad of Salma—are believed to have been wounded during the incident.

According to an investigation by the IDF Northern Command, Hezbollah terrorists set two roadside bombs, then crossed through a gate near the fence, pulled the three soldiers out of their jeep and fired anti-armor missiles at the empty vehicle. The soldiers were then taken by the terrorists to the Lebanese side of the border. Although the United States has called on Syria

to assist in the timely release of these three soldiers, no information has been given as to their conditions or whereabouts. The International Red Cross has also been requested to intervene by attempting to arrange for a visit with the three kidnapped IDF soldiers in order to ascertain their status.

The agony of the families of these kidnapped Israeli soldiers is extreme. They have not heard a word regarding the fate of their sons who are being held captive for political ransom. We must pledge to do our utmost to bring these soldiers home, for the sake of peace, decency and humanity.

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 want to describe a terrible crime that occurred June 20, 1993 in Everett, Washington. A gay man was stabbed to death by a hitchhiker who allegedly told friends he committed the crime because he hated homosexuals. Isaiah Clarence Enault, 24, was charged with murder and is a suspect in a stabbing assault of another gay man.

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.

HONORING CLAY COUNTY LEGACY MEMORIAL AND FOUNTAIN

Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the residents of Clay County, MO for their vision, harmony, and unity. At a time when some communities are engaged in divisive debates regarding our Nation's past, Clay County residents have chosen to dedicate a monument and water fountain on the county courthouse lawn honoring the unsung black heroes and heroines who survived slavery and helped make Clay County a successful and thriving community in the heartland.

Tomorrow, Friday, June 15, the Clay County Commission and the Clay County African-American Legacy Consortium will dedicate the Legacy Memorial and Fountain honoring Clay County African-American pioneers and their contributions to this county, first in slavery, and then in freedom. The location of the memorial and fountain is especially significant since slaves were