

will be others. We have asked other Senators to come forward tonight to offer their amendments. The Senator from Maryland is doing that and explained it. I appreciate his explanation of the amendment. I am sure we will try to get that in the queue. I know Senator CRAPO has an interest on this issue as well.

It is 8:45, and we have requested colleagues if they had amendments to bring those to the floor. I am concerned about having a vote-arama or having so many people saying: Wait a minute, I didn't have a chance to offer my amendment.

We have been saying all along that we would be in session very late tonight to receive amendments. We will be in session very late tomorrow tonight to dispose of amendments. I would like to see if we can't work out some amendments, accept some amendments, voice vote some amendments, and work toward completing this bill and avoid the crash at the end, the vote-arama where we have votes on amendments without having the slightest idea what is in them. We have done that in the past. That is not a good way to legislate. I would like to avoid that if possible.

I thank my colleague from Maryland for coming late tonight and offering the amendment. I wish more Senators would have. I look forward to working with him tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time be charged equally.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 4 p.m. on Thursday, the Senate proceed to a series of votes in relation to the following amendments: Kyl amendment No. 288; Dorgan amendment No. 294; Rockefeller-Collins amendment No. 275. I further ask unanimous consent that no second-degree amendments be in order to any of the preceding amendments prior to the vote, and that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask if the Senator will modify his unanimous consent request that there be 10 minutes between the second and third votes.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to limit the time on the last two amendments to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred on September 12, 2001, in New York, NY. Five teenagers attacked an Arab-American candy store owner. The teenagers stopped in front of the small store and asked the owner, who stood in the doorway, "Do you feel sorry for America?" Without waiting for a response, one teen punched the owner, sending him reeling backwards onto the floor, bleeding heavily. The assailants were able to flee from the scene before witnesses could catch them.

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 is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ZORAN DJINDJIC

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the cold-blooded assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic is a tragedy not only for Serbia, but for the other former Yugoslav republics whose futures are so closely linked. I knew and admired Prime Minister Djindjic from our meetings in Washington, and I want to express my deepest sympathy to his family and to the Serbian people.

Zoran Djindjic was a charismatic and courageous leader who recognized that Serbia's best hope, after years of nationalist-inspired ethnic hatred and war destroyed Yugoslavia and caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent people, was to follow the path of democracy and the rule of law. This was not an easy choice, as it required confronting the forces of corruption and evil which, despite the overthrow of Slobodan Milosevic, have sought to preserve the status quo.

It was Prime Minister Djindjic who, at considerable personal risk, obtained Milosevic's arrest, after President Kostunica refused to cooperate with the Hague tribunal. Turning over Milosevic was a key step, but Mr. Djindjic understood that it was only the first step toward a formal break with the failed policies of the past.

For the past 3 years, the Congress has provided substantial aid to support economic and political reform in Serbia. However, we have also made clear in legislation and in discussions with Serb officials, that continued cooperation with the Hague prosecutor is essential for continued United States aid to Serbia. There were times in our discussions when Serb officials complained bitterly that the United States and the Hague prosecutor were pressuring them too hard to apprehend and transfer suspected war criminals. In fact, they did so even before the arrest of Milosevic. We responded that while we did not expect them to apprehend all the indictees in Serbia overnight, the United States cannot provide millions of dollars in aid unconditionally to a government that harbors indicted war criminals.

Since the arrest of Milosevic, the Serb Government's cooperation with the Hague tribunal has been sporadic. Mr. Djindjic wanted to move faster, while Mr. Kostunica stood in the way. While some indictees have been turned over, 18 remain at liberty and access to witnesses and documents necessary to the prosecution of these cases has been unsatisfactory. Moreover, there has often been no cooperation until just weeks or days before the deadline in U.S. law for the cutoff of aid.

I mention this because immediately after Prime Minister Djindjic was gunned down some Serb officials blamed his assassination on the pressure exerted on Serbia by the United States and the war crimes prosecutor. I understand that reaction. It is convenient to blame others rather than to acknowledge the difficult but essential task at hand—to remove from the security forces those Milosevic loyalists involved with and protecting organized crime figures and war crimes suspects. But I believe that had the Serb Government moved faster, and more aggressively—as Prime Minister Djindjic urged for the benefit of the Serbian people and the survival of democracy—to arrest those who made no secret of their efforts to thwart reform, this tragedy might have been avoided.

Zoran Djindjic's death has kindled an outpouring of sympathy. Millions of Serbs have taken to the streets to express their support for the policies he fought for. Let us hope that just as millions of Serbs joined together three years ago to oust Milosevic from power, Zoran Djindjic's death will be the catalyst for a renewed and unrelenting effort to destroy the remaining vestiges of the Milosevic era. The United States stands ready to strongly support that effort. There is no alternative, if Serbia is to take its place in today's democratic Europe.

HONORING AMERICAN SOLDIERS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise to honor our brave soldiers fighting in the global war on terrorism. We recently passed the first anniversary of Operation Anaconda, a critical seven-day

military effort within Operation Enduring Freedom that helped break the back of the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan. It is fitting to take time to remember the sacrifice of the participants in that noble undertaking in the mountains of Afghanistan, and to ask Americans to pray for those who gave their lives. Let us also pause to recall the continuing efforts of our armed forces and civilian national security employees in Operation Enduring Freedom, and in the global war on terrorism. We are profoundly grateful for the sacrifices of all, and offer our prayers and deep gratitude to them and to their families.

On March 1, 2002, Americans went into battle near Gardez, Afghanistan, with Afghan and other allies, to attack al-Qaida and Taliban forces in eastern Afghanistan. Over the course of seven days, our forces engaged and defeated determined terrorist forces throughout mountains and rough terrain, at elevations as high as 12,000 feet, and in temperatures that dropped to 15 degrees Fahrenheit at night.

During Operation Anaconda, American Special Operations Forces combined with elements of the 101st Airborne Division, the 10th Mountain Division, and other aviation and ground units representing several allied nationalities to bring the war begun on September 11, 2001, directly to the terrorists and their supporters.

On March 4, 2002, a small American force came under night attack at a desolate mountain base at Takur Ghar. As a result of the ensuing engagement, seven Americans died. They gave their lives while trying to help each other, in a remote and forbidding place where their duty and their devotion to one another and their families had taken them. These seven Americans—like all Americans, civilian and uniformed, now engaged in the noble effort to end the terrorist threat to our Nation—were volunteers. They didn't have to be on Takur Ghar, but when called they did not hesitate to step forward and say "send me." As a testament to their heroism, at least eight Silver Stars, the Nation's second highest medal for valor, were awarded to participants in the battle along with almost thirty Bronze stars and numerous other awards.

Mr. President, Americans and their allies gave their lives during Operation Anaconda and elsewhere in Afghanistan. Americans and their allies have given their lives in other engagements in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Let us take a moment to reflect upon the sacrifices of those who died on Takur Ghar, and on other remote battlefields in the war on terrorism. Let us rededicate ourselves to ensuring the safety of home and hearth for their families, and for ours. Finally, let the Senate and all Americans show deep gratitude for their unselfish decisions to step forward and say "send me."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE POSTAL WORKERS

• Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, contrary to popular belief, this motto, which appears on a number of postal buildings, is not the official motto of the United States Postal Service. But it certainly could have been this past winter in the Granite State, where we suffered through some of the coldest temperatures and heaviest snowfalls in recent memory.

In spite of these challenges, Postal Services employees in New Hampshire have achieved record performance. On-time First-Class overnight mail service is at all-time record levels, and customer satisfaction is at 98 percent. In addition, New Hampshire's Postal employees are the safest in the Northeast and among the safest in the nation. Under ordinary working conditions, these achievements would be impressive. When you consider the bone chilling cold and seemingly relentless snows of these past few months, these achievements are even more remarkable and indicative of the dedication and commitment of New Hampshire's Postal employees.

While the New Hampshire District of the United States Postal Service has always been among the national leaders in serving and satisfying their customers, I want to publicly thank each of New Hampshire's 4,000 Postal employees for their tireless efforts, especially over these past few months: the employees are the processing and distribution plants who made sure that the mail was ready for timely dispatch despite the cancelled flights and closed roads caused by the inclement weather, the maintenance people who kept the sorting machines running efficiently as well as the employees who maintained the vehicles so that mail could be transported safely and on time; letter carriers that withstood the cold, brutal weather and traversed through mountains of snow to provide delivery to their customers; and the clerks in the post offices who cheerfully greeted customers and gladly handed over mail rendered undeliverable in areas with impassable roads.

I also would like to give a well-deserved thank you to the postal customers in our great state who worked so hard to maintain safe access to their mail receptacles. Clearly, mail service this past winter was a team effort requiring patience and cooperation among and between Postal employees and New Hampshire's Postal customers. Once again, New Hampshire's hardy residents and Postal employees delivered.●

HONORING THE LOUISVILLE BALLET

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I have the privilege and honor of rising today to recognize the Louisville Ballet, the

State Ballet of Kentucky. Last week, this organization celebrated its 50th anniversary in the performing arts. This occasion was marked by special performances and educational events throughout the week.

This company originally started as a civic ballet company, performing on a production-by-production basis. It was not until 1975, when eight dancers were hired as an ensemble company, that the company achieved professional recognition and status. Now, 50 years later, the Louisville Ballet employs over 30 dancers, occupies the award-winning Louisville Ballet Center, administers the Louisville Ballet School, and reaches over 100,000 people every year. Their reputation for excellence in the arts drew the world-famous dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov to perform with the company for two seasons during the late seventies.

In addition to bringing excellence in performing arts to thousands of ballet fans, the company takes immense pride in its educational outreach programs offered to students. Through in-school, in-theater, and in-studio programs, students gain a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the ballet world, from early production planning basics to viewing a live performance. More importantly, these programs emphasize the importance of physical activity and positive self-esteem.

I appreciate the tradition of excellence created by the Louisville Ballet Company and their efforts to reach out to communities. Please join me in congratulating artistic director Mr. Bruce Simpson and the Louisville Ballet Company and wishing them another wonderful 50 years and beyond.●

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW R. DUKSA, SR.

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Matthew R. Duksa, Sr., a Connecticut businessman who passed away on November 28, 2002. Mr. Duksa, known as "Mattie" to many of his friends, was born and raised on Oak Bluff Farm, his family's dairy farm in Southington, CT. He graduated from Lewis High School and then attended the Cheshire Academy and the Connecticut College of Commerce in New Haven. Later, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from the McAllister School of Embalming in New York.

In 1949, Mattie opened the Borawski-Duksa Funeral Home in New Britain, CT and began a career providing comfort to families in their darkest hours. In 1952, he established the Newington Memorial Funeral Home in Newington, CT. He served as president of both firms until his death this past November.

Too often we think of community service as some immediate, extraordinary act or some heroic event. But communities are shaped by the daily routines and simple acts of kindness and respect that citizens display each