

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT
OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I speak today about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement 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 in Newark, CA. On October 3, 2002, several men became enraged after learning that a young woman was actually a 17-year-old boy in their party. The men punched Eddie "Gwen" Araujo, dragged him into the garage and strangled him with a piece of rope. Eddie's body was then wrapped in a sheet and buried in a shallow grave near Placerville, about 150 miles from his family's home in Newark.

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.

AUNG SAN SUU KYI'S HUNGER
STRIKE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, this weekend we heard extremely troubling news from the State Department. Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the democratically elected National League for Democracy and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, is on a hunger strike to protest her detention by the military government in Burma.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been held in an unknown location without the ability to communicate with the outside world since May 30, 2003. Many of us in Congress have demanded her release. Sadly, her detention is simply the latest installment in the country's 40-year history of suffering and oppression. I have consistently criticized the government for its political repression and human rights violations. Reports of rape, forced labor, human trafficking, suppression of civil liberties, and torture of political dissidents have caused me and my constituents great concern. I supported the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, which imposes sanctions on the Burmese military junta, strengthens Burma's democratic forces and supports and recognizes the National League for Democracy as the legitimate representative of the Burmese people. I encourage other countries to join the United States in adopting similar measures toward Burma.

The Burmese Government must release Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners from detention. I also urge our administration, the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, and the inter-

national community to continue to exert pressure on the Burmese junta to respect human rights and political freedoms. I ask President Bush to make Burma a high priority as he travels to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Bangkok in early October. As recommended by the Council on Foreign Relations, we should press for a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Aung San Suu Kyi's detention, the junta's human rights violations and their refusal to engage in dialogue with the democratic opposition. We should also encourage the Security Council to hold an emergency session on Burma to discuss implementing targeted sanctions on the regime.

Aung San Suu Kyi's hunger strike adds urgency to the dire predicament of the Burmese people. The Burmese military junta must realize that their egregious offences against their own population can no longer stand.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk briefly about organic agriculture and to recognize the many thousands of organic farmers from around the Nation who have helped transform this once nascent industry into a thriving and innovative sector of our economy. Today, in particular, I extend my greetings to the many organic producers and retailers who have gathered in Washington, D.C. this week to participate in the annual organic conference.

Organic agriculture has come a long way over the past 20 years largely because of the determination and hard work of our Nation's many organic producers. To put this issue in perspective, the amount of organic cropland in the United States has more than doubled in the 1990s, and the annual growth rate of the organic industry in the United States has been greater than 20 percent for the past decade. Sales of organic food and beverages accounted for over \$9 billion in 2002 and are expected to exceed \$20 billion by 2005. The increase in organic production and sales is a reflection of the profitability and high consumer demand for organic food.

While the organic industry would not be where it is today without the efforts of its growers and retailers, Congress has an integral role in ensuring that consumers have confidence in the products they are buying. Many of my colleagues remember that the U.S. Department of Agriculture helped to usher in a new era for the organic industry with the implementation last November of the first ever national organic standards. With these new standards, farmers in my home State of Maine were able to sell their organic products to retailers in other States with confidence that the organic label will be recognized by consumers in those States. Consumers now know that when they buy an organically la-

beled product, it was produced in a healthy and environmentally friendly manner.

From what I heard from farmers in my State over the August recess, I can say that the organic rule has been a tremendous benefit to growers both small and large. In Maine, organic agriculture accounts for an important part of the State's \$673 million agriculture-related sales. Several blueberry growers in Downeast Maine have recognized the profitability of organic agriculture and have begun to add organic production. Consumer interest in organic milk has led many dairy farmers to switch to organic milk. Six years ago, only one dairy farmer in Maine produced organic milk—now, such milk accounts for over 10 percent of the State's entire dairy production. These are but a few examples of the success of organic agriculture from my State, demonstrating the enormous potential for growth in the organic sector.

Here in Congress, we must continue to help the organic agriculture sector grow. The organic community celebrated the implementation of the national organic rule; however, the continuing success of this rule will depend on Congress' commitment to fund the USDA's National Organic Program. The modest increase for the National Organic Program in the Senate Fiscal Year 2004 Agriculture appropriations bill is a step in the right direction. Likewise, investments in organic research and development through the Organic Production and Marketing Data Collection will help the organic industry move forward by leaps and bounds.

With organic producers visiting from nearly all 50 States, I hope many of my colleagues will have an opportunity to hear from an organic farmer, rancher, or retailer in their home State. Again, I extend my welcome to all those involved in the national organic conference.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INTERIOR'S INDIAN CRAFT SHOP

• Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam President, as a Native American, artist and craftsman, it is an honor for me to speak today in recognition of the 65th anniversary of the Indian Arts and Crafts Shop at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Established with the help of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, the Crafts Room first opened its doors in 1938 and has served as an outlet for Native American artists to market their excellent products to the world.

With the help of the Indian Crafts Shop, today's market for Indian-made goods is roughly \$1 billion, with thousands of Native American artists creating authentic arts and crafts conveying the beauty of the Native culture to the peoples of the world.