

give you every assurance that these efforts will remain a priority.

Nationally, with Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 1996 appropriation, we opened 208 Boys & Girls Clubs and served 180,000 new boys and girls. All told, Boys & Girls Clubs now serve some 2.6 million young people throughout America, including many in rural and semi-rural communities. Our planned growth for 1997, with the assistance of our current appropriation, will continue at this same pace.

Upon passage and successful implementation of S. 476, we plan on serving 1,000,000 new boys and girls throughout the United States. Many of the children in Vermont who are not currently being served—will be.

Senator Leahy, you have been a friend to Boys & Girls Clubs and to many youth organizations over the years. We hope that you can now help us pass S. 476 and help us reach 1,000,000 new boys and girls.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you on this and other issues that help America's children and families.

Sincerely,

ROBBIE CALLAWAY,
Senior Vice President.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, today I rise in strong support of S. 476, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Act of 1997, which I have cosponsored. This important legislation will give seed money to build 1,000 additional Boys and Girls Clubs across America, with special emphasis on establishing clubs in public housing projects and distressed areas.

In Alaska, and across the Nation, kids are reaping the benefits of Boys and Girls Clubs. They are safe places where kids can go after school to learn and have fun. Boys and Girls Clubs are places where they find role models, and where they can explore their own talents and skills. In 1995 there were 8,000 Alaskans participating in Boys and Girls Clubs; today more than 14,000 young Alaskans are Boys and Girls Club members. In fact many of my staff are alumni of these clubs in Alaska.

This seed money will insure that more than 1 million more young Americans will have a safe place to grow and learn by the year 2000. This is a model program supplying the construction cost for the clubs and giving youths in depressed communities a chance to succeed. Studies by Columbia University have shown that in areas of public housing where there are Boys and Girls Clubs Juvenile crime has dropped 13 percent.

I thank Senator HATCH and the other cosponsors of this important legislation for their hard work and dedication. I look forward to seeing more Boys and Girls Clubs across our great Nation.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am prepared to yield back the remainder of my time.

Would the Senator from Delaware yield back the remainder of his time?

Mr. BIDEN. I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. HATCH. I yield back the remainder of my time as well as Senator LEAHY's time. I am authorized to say,

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 476

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. 2,500 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS BEFORE 2000.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(a) of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide adequate resources in the form of seed money for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to establish 1,000 additional local clubs where needed, with particular emphasis placed on establishing clubs in public housing projects and distressed areas, and to ensure that there are a total of not less than 2,500 boys and girls Clubs of America facilities in operation not later than December 31, 1999.”

(b) ACCELERATED GRANTS.—Section 401 of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each of the fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the Department of Justice shall make a grant to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America for the purpose of establishing and extending Boys and Girls Clubs facilities where needed, with particular emphasis placed on establishing clubs in and extending services to public housing projects and distressed areas.

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—The Attorney General shall accept an application for a grant under this subsection if submitted by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and approve or deny the grant not later than 90 days after the date on which the application is submitted, if the application—

“(A) includes a long-term strategy to establish 1,000 additional Boys and Girls Clubs and detailed summary of those areas in which new facilities will be established, or in which existing facilities will be expanded to serve additional youths, during the next fiscal year;

“(B) includes a plan to ensure that there are a total of not less than 2,500 Boys and Girls Clubs of America facilities in operation before January 1, 2000;

“(C) certifies that there will be appropriate coordination with those communities where clubs will be located; and

“(D) explains the manner in which new facilities will operate without additional, direct Federal financial assistance to the Boys and Girls Clubs once assistance under this subsection is discontinued.”

(c) ROSE MODEL GRANTS.—Section 401 of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) ROLE MODEL GRANTS.—Of amounts made available under subsection (e) for any fiscal year—

“(1) not more than 5 percent may be used to provide a grant to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America for administrative, travel, and other costs associated with a national role-model speaking tour program; and

“(2) no amount may be used to compensate speakers other than to reimburse speakers for reasonable travel and accommodation costs associated with the program described in paragraph (1).”

Mr. HATCH. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BIDEN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each, except for the Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator SANTORUM.

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

ETHANOL TAX POLICY; PRESENT AND FUTURE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to clarify a statement I made last week with respect to the upcoming battle to protect and extend the ethanol tax incentives.

I want to make clear that I do not think there is any room to compromise on the existing tax incentives prior to the year 2000. Many ethanol plants have made investments based on the expectation that those incentives will be available in their current form until 2000. Congress should not change those incentives or jeopardize in any way those existing plant investments.

Having said that, I appreciate that some will argue that the ethanol incentives should be allowed to expire in 2000. My response to them is that the Nation will continue to benefit in some very significant ways in the 21st century from new entrants into the industry and expanded use of clean burning ethanol and its ether. By encouraging billions of dollars of investment in commercial scale plants, the tax credits have promoted major technology advances and many more improvements are on the brink of commercialization. These benefits justify some level of continuing support. On the other hand, to my fellow industry supporters, I suggest that we need to recognize that the tax incentives are nearly 20 years old and should be reviewed for possible constructive changes.

In extending the incentives beyond 2000, we should be willing to take a critical look at the incentives to determine if they should be modified to better achieve the objectives of the ethanol industry and the country. During this debate, my first priority will be to ensure the continued growth and development of small ethanol plants that have been responsible for diversification of the ethanol industry and rural economic development. Those plants represent the future for economic growth in rural America and will help keep the benefits of value-added agricultural processing in the rural communities from which those products originate.

Ethanol and its ether, ETBE, have never played as large a role as I believe they can and should play in cleaning up America's air or reducing its dependence on foreign energy through the reformulated gasoline program. We