Some say this bill on the floor today makes it more flexible because you can buy equipment, but we already have programs to buy equipment for police departments. Indeed what the police departments need most right now are more police.

Somerset Maugham once wrote that he ''conducted his actions in regard to the police officer standing on the corner.'' These officers are getting on our streets and our corners now. One hundred and seventy new officers in West Virginia alone testified to the fact that we want to keep that intact and not vote for this bill today.

GEORGIA POLICE WELCOME BLOCK GRANT FUNDS TO FIGHT CRIME

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute).

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of giving local law enforcement the power to do what they think is best. That is what my sheriff, Charlie Webster of Richmond County, GA, wants.

The bill we are debating gives State and local governments the funds to fight crime as they see fit. That is what all 19 of my sheriffs want. The other side will argue for strings to be attached. They will argue that we here in Washington truly know best how to fight crime. What a laugh. Look at the District of Columbia.

I ask the people back home to listen closely to these arguments. One side wants to give you the power to fight crime; one side will tell you that they know what is best for you. It is as if they did not hear you at all last November. Local law enforcement officers know what they need to do to fight crime, and they absolutely do not need bureaucrats here in Washington telling them how to do their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support local law enforcement by supporting our crime bill.

IN AMERICA THE PEOPLE RULE, NOT THE IRS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, after hard knocks on their door, a Chicago woman really smelled the coffee. Three IRS agents demanded—yes, demanded to see her daughter. She said, ''My daughter is not home.''

They demanded to see her daughter. She was frightened, she called her husband, her husband called the accountant, and the accountant called the IRS. They said she did not report her interest on her savings. The IRS said it was a gift. They said, ''We don't believe you. Prove it.'' They said, ''I want to see your daughter.''

Their daughter was in second grade at the local elementary school.

The IRS demanded: They did not ask. They said, ''Prove it. We don't believe you.'' They demanded.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members to cosponsor H.R. 390. The taxpayer is innocent until proven guilty, and it is time that Congress started making some demands on the IRS. The people are boss in America, not the IRS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER). The Chair wishes to admonish the people watching our proceedings from the gallery that no demonstration is appropriate.

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR CRIME LEGISLATION

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Academy Award nominations were announced.

And it made me think, we need a new category for the so-called anticrime proposals we're debating.

We could call it, best performance by Members of Congress in pretending to make our communities safer.

Sure, nominees would be hard to choose.

It could be trampling on the fourth amendment to make illegal searches easier.

Or greatly increasing the chances of executing an innocent person.

Or talking of repealing the Brady bill and assault weapons ban.

And finally, this week, passing legislation that will very likely take police officers off the streets of America.

In fact, too many of our colleagues could win an award for saying yes to the gun lobby, but saying no to our Constitution.

So, we might have to wait until March 27 to see who wins an Oscar.

But we know today who loses because of these fake, ineffective crime proposals.

Our children lose. Our families lose. Our constituents lose. Every American who wants a safer neighborhood loses—in a category that is far more important than favorite movies.

CRIME LEGISLATION IS FOR THE PEOPLE, NOT FOR CRIMINALS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, last year the guardians of the old order rammed through the criminal's crime bill. It was a piece of legislation more concerned about the rights of violent criminals than the rights of law-abiding Americans. It was a bill that offered violent criminals and repeat offenders endless appeals and technical loopholes. It was a bill full of phony prevention programs and wasteful pork. It was a bill that said violent criminals are not bad people; instead they are really just misunderstood, and if we all give them a group hug, maybe they will mend their evil ways.

Mr. Speaker, criminals do not need a crime bill. The American people do. Crime has taken over America's streets, and Americans want to take those streets back. So we in the new majority offer a citizens crime bill, a bill that actually makes criminals pay for their crimes. We want to put a stop to endless appeals for death row inmates. We have had enough of repeat criminals going free due to legal technicalities.

Mr. Speaker, the American people demand a real crime bill, and in this Contract With America they will get it.

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THE REPUBLICAN CRIME PACKAGE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Crime and punishment, it is all the rage here in Washington. But if we are going to build a strong foundation to defeat crime in America and turn back this tide, it is going to take a little site prep like any other building of a foundation.

This grand new monument to the Republican crime control effort will be a tower of concrete on a foundation of sand if we pass this section of the crime bill. It is a single-minded rush. It ignores other needs.

Drugs in the schools? Build prisons. At-risk and abused kids? Build prisons. Slow response time? Not enough cops? Build prisons.

Let us not rush to build symbolic monuments. It will take more to turn back the tide of crime in America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER). The Chair advises Members that the leadership has indicated we will have 10 Members on each side for 1-minute speeches this morning.

MORE ON THE CRIME PACKAGE

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today we are continuing debate on the crime control package, one of the items in our Contract With America. This package is unique because it actively will work to prevent, catch, and convict violent criminals that roam our neighborhoods. No more hug-a-thug bills or phony prevention programs like midnight basketball. No more endless appeals or technical loopholes in the courtroom.

This crime package is anticrime and fat free. Not propork.

Mr. Speaker, after the crime package is complete, we will move on to welfare reform and regulatory reform and one of the passions of mine, legal reform, that we will also be pursuing. We will not stop until our Contract With America is complete.

The 104th Congress is all about change and returning this place back to the people and to the States where it rightfully belongs.

PARTY POLITICS

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, the debate on the crime bill is a choice between the President's 100,000 cops program and the Republican's pork ''do whatever you want with the money'' program for the States. Republicans are putting politics over public safety. They want to dismantle the community police program that our cities and small towns and our police officers need to fight crime.

They want to deny the President the credit he deserves for a program that has great support among America's police officers, has already provided 17,000 new police officers in 4 months, has benefited small towns. Just last week the Justice Department announced that 6,500 small towns have gotten 7,100 new police officers, no matter how small the town.

Mr. Speaker, it takes one page to fill out an application for a police officer and a decision can be made in less than 4 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, let us put cops over pork.

BLOCK GRANTS

(Mr. DAVIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, today we will continue to consider the most critical element in the contract's anticrime bill regarding block grants. The choice before us is a simple one. Who are the most effective crime fighters? The Washington politicians or our local police officers?

Some House Democrats believe they are the best crime fighters. That is why in last year's alleged crime bill, they mandated that billions of dollars go to social welfare programs under the guise of prevention. House Republicans have a different view. We believe that local police officials know their own communities better than we do and they know how to fight crime better in these communities and in the most effective manner. That is why we have designed a block grant proposal that gives these police officers the best chance to fight crime.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle will claim that our proposal will mean fewer cops on the beat. Nothing could be further from the truth. I believe that our program will probably mean more funds go for more police officers on the front lines fighting crime.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of our local police forces by voting for the crime bill on the floor today.

COMMUNITY POLICING

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am sure everybody is confused. They have to be. Who is the best crime fighter in America today? None of us know. But there are a couple things that I know from experience that I had in chairing a public safety committee in the county legislature.

One of the things that happened when the pressure really got on the local budgets, they cut back on the police force and decided to patrol neighborhoods in police cars with windows up driving down the streets. We know that that has not worked. And one of the things that the crime bill that we passed here last year is trying to do is to readdress that.

There is one way to fight crime. It requires the people who live in the neighborhood to be involved. It requires that there be police in the neighborhood, on the street, in their shops, a policeman that they know, a person they go to, someone who pays attention, looks after heir children, the kind of community policing we used to do in this country.

If we revert all the money and put it into prisons, it is not going to make us one wit safer on the street. We have been in an absolute orgy of jail and prison building which has not helped. Someone has got to be on the street to police it, to prevent the crime and to catch the perpetrators. I hope that we will maintain the 100,000 policemen on the street.

TRIBUTE AND THANK YOU TO VETERANS

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, last week the Paralyzed Veterans of America were in town, and I attended the reception they hosted. I hope many of my colleagues did as well. The reception room was filled with paralyzed veterans confined to wheelchairs. But as I spoke with North Carolinian Cater Cornwell and the other paralyzed vets, I heard not one veteran who was griping, not one who was complaining. All were smiling and pleasantly welcoming us to their reception.

As I was leaving the reception, a veteran said to me from his wheelchair, ''You Congressmen deserve praise for what you do.''

I looked around the reception room and the paralyzed veterans therein and with a tear in my eye, I replied, ''No, sir, it is you and your fellow members of the PVA who are most deserving of praise.''

Let us not casually dismiss the sacrifices made for us by the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

MORE PRISONS

(Mr. HILLIARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and ask the American people to take a look at what has been done today in Congress. We want to make sure that we will continue to put cops on the street where they belong, where they can be of use.

Our dear friends on the Republican side have decided to change the bill that we passed last year. For some reason they do not like the idea of 100,000 cops on the street, patrolling, being where they are supposed to be.

They intend to warehouse people for the next 100 years. So what they are going to do? They are going to build prisons. They are going to build prisons and build prisons. In fact, they are going to create a new industry just to build prisons. Building prisons, building prisons.

And what is going to happen? We are going to have to have guards. In Alabama, we built three prisons in 5 years. It took us 7 years to get enough money to open the last two, because we did not have the money for the guards and for the food.

I submit to my colleagues that the Republican bill is off track. It will cost more money than the bill we passed last year, and it is bad.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER). The Chair announces that under the order of the day, only two more Members will be recognized on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE U.S.S. ''SANTA FE''

(Mr. FLANAGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the captain of the ship, Comdr. James Fordice, and the officers and crew of the U.S.S. *Santa Fe* a *Los Angeles*-class, fast attack submarine. Ten days ago I had the opportunity to develop an understanding and respect for this Nation's ''silent service'' by spending time aboard