

death rate by gunshot. There are certainly ways we could achieve this: by establishing stricter requirements for gun ownership, by restricting access to the guns used most often to commit crimes, by making guns themselves safer, and by teaching people to use them safely. However, I propose that we can best reduce the incidence of firearm-related deaths not by restricting the supply of guns, but by restricting the supply of ammunition, particularly those rounds used disproportionately in violent crime. Even if we were able to resolve the intense conflicts surrounding the gun control debate, we would still have enough guns on the street to last us more than a century. Our current supply of ammunition, on the other hand, might well last only 3 or 4 years.

We must heed the lessons of the past. Clearly we cannot change the behavior of criminals overnight, as we could not change the behavior of drivers. But there are other ways to control the escalating death rates. I believe that ammunition control is the best way, and I hope my colleagues will agree.

FUNDING FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today we find ourselves in the midst of an information services technological revolution. At no time in our history has access to information and information services been more important. In light of this, I am concerned about recent proposals to reduce drastically or to eliminate Federal support for public broadcasting, a primary source of information for millions.

As we consider the future of public broadcasting, let us not forget that cable television, which many have suggested can fill the gap, currently reaches only 60 percent of U.S. households. Forty percent of American households do not have cable television primarily because it is cost prohibitive or because cable service is simply unavailable in their communities. While cable television has given millions of Americans remarkable access to information and entertainment, it is not an adequate substitute for public broadcasting. Mr. President, currently on no other network can you find the variety of programming which public broadcasting offers.

Children's programming on public broadcasting provides parents with a guaranty of quality without violence. Programs such as "Ghostwriter," "Reading Rainbow," "Bill Nye the Science Guy," "Sesame Street," and "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego" educate and entertain our children without bombarding them with commercials. In addition, from "Wall Street Week With Louis Rukeyser" to "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour," from "Austin City Limits" to "Live From Lincoln Center," millions of adult Americans turn to public broadcasting for exposure to cultural

events, news and commentary, documentaries, and instructional programming. Public broadcasting has brought our Nation unparalleled historical and political documentaries such as "Eyes on the Prize" and "The Civil War." For a little less than \$1 per American annually, we make an investment in our children and in the preservation and dissemination of our culture and our history.

I am proud that my own State of Maryland has a State public broadcasting network, Maryland Public Television [MPT], with an unequalled commitment to State historical and educational programming. Maryland Public Television produces more local documentaries than any other local station in the State. Marylanders can study for their GED or earn college credit through MPT. MPT has also been one of the leaders on the information superhighway. Through its electronic classroom, MPT has made it possible for students to see and talk to scientists at the South Pole. MPT is just one example of the many superb public broadcasting networks across the Nation which, on very limited budgets, manage to serve viewer needs while keeping up with the technological advancements currently sweeping the telecommunications industry.

We have recently heard claims that public broadcasting is elitist. I would suggest, Mr. President, that it is in fact anything but elitist. Public broadcasting is the one network available to Americans regardless of where they live or how much money they earn. There are communities in my State, both rural and urban, in which a public broadcasting station is one of perhaps two or three stations accessible without cable. In fact I grew up in one of those towns, Salisbury, MD, and my mother still resides there. Corporation for Public Broadcasting [CPB] statistics show that 48 percent of Americans who listen to National Public Radio [NPR] have household incomes of \$40,000 or less annually. Public broadcasting is often one of the tools used by rural America to attract businesses and residents. The presence of a public broadcasting radio or television station assures prospective businesses and residents that they will not be cut off from cultural events and access to news and information.

Often when we discuss the future of public broadcasting we talk only about television. We forget the importance of public radio. How will cable compensate for the loss of public radio? Nearly 90 percent of all Americans have access to a public radio signal. Public radio provides its listeners with local community-oriented programming while also linking them to the Nation and the world. Public Radio International [PRI] and National Public Radio [NPR] are the two major distribution services for public radio. PRI's mission of operation is to engage listeners with distinctive radio programs that provide information, in-

sights, and cultural experiences essential to understanding a diverse, interdependent world. PRI distributes to public radio stations across the Nation such widely popular shows as Garrison Keillor's—"A Prairie Home Companion" and the "Baltimore Symphony Orchestra," jointly produced by WJHU of Baltimore and WETA in Washington, DC. NPR is known nationwide for producing outstanding programs such as "All Things Considered" and "Morning Edition." Individual public radio stations can be affiliates of both PRI and NPR. This assures public radio stations of access to the broadest possible range of programming regardless of their location.

Many public radio stations serve rural communities which would otherwise be entirely without radio service. Over 90 percent of public radio's share of public broadcasting funds goes directly to local stations serving local communities. These radio stations respond directly to the needs and wants of their communities. Many of these communities and ethnically disparate, therefore requiring a commitment to diverse programming. Commercial radio has declared many of these areas commercially inviable. These communities are often too small and too far flung to support stations on their own. In my own State of Maryland, public radio stations such as WESM on the Eastern Shore play an important role in supporting the goals of education, literacy, volunteerism, and in working to combat youth violence. Are we now prepared to tell these communities that at a cost of 29 cents per taxpayer, the Federal Government is also declaring them unworthy of radio access to news, information, and entertainment?

Mr. President, throughout its history public broadcasting has set the standard against which we have measured the quality of commercial programming, and with the advent of the information superhighway public broadcasting is needed now more than ever. Millions of Americans will find themselves on byroads instead of the superhighway without public broadcasting. In my view, we should protect the access of all Americans to reliable educational programming and quality entertainment. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in affirming the contributions of public broadcasting to our society and in ensuring that public broadcasting continues to enhance our lives and enlighten our minds.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK E. RODGERS

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor Frank E. Rodgers, who may well have set a record that will stand forever as the longest serving mayor in the history of the United States.

Mayor Rodgers has 58 years of experience in public service. He served for 48 years as the mayor of Harrison, NJ.