



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1995

No. 24

Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, January 30, 1995)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman, of the Washington Hebrew Congregation.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Rock of Ages:

We whose lives are forever in motion, from moment to moment, from place to place, even from life to death, we turn to Thee, Creator of all, who alone remains eternally the same in this ever-changing world.

Though we be but specks of dust in this vast universe, not knowing why and for what purpose we were brought into life, we are still Thy creatures and Thou art the very source of our being. In this moment of prayer and in spiritual linkage with Thee, we partake of Thine eternity and glory in the faith that Thou hast set meaning and purpose for our existence. Amen.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HATCH. As the President pro tempore said, this morning time for the two leaders has been reserved and the Senate will immediately resume consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional balanced budget amendment.

For the information of all of my colleagues, according to the consent agreement entered last night, Senator DOLE or his designee will move to table the Daschle motion to commit at 12 o'clock noon tomorrow. Therefore, there will be debate only today on the pending amendments, so there will be no rollcall votes during today's session.

Also, the Senate will recess between the hours of 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly policy luncheons to meet.

I notice my friend and colleague from Wisconsin is here and would desire to speak, so I yield the floor.

Mr. KOHL. I thank the Senator.

Mr. President, I ask to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JEFFORDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REDUCING GUNS IN AMERICA

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, last week was Schools Without Violence week in the Milwaukee public schools. However, last Monday, at the same time that students in my alma mater, Washington High School, were preparing essays on a theme of "Peace Begins with Me," gunshots shattered that peace. In the first shooting ever in a Milwaukee classroom, a 19-year-old former student shot a high school senior in the arm and leg. He was fortunate that he was not killed.

In the aftermath, one concerned mother stated:

Washington High School is a place of learning for kids. They should feel safe

enough to learn. For this to happen here is unfair.

Mr. President, this is not just unfair. It is unacceptable. Young people should be able to concentrate on their biology and math classes and not on avoiding bullets.

Of course, there is no easy cure for the violence that is riddling our streets and ravaging our schools. We need more police, more prisons, and better family structure. However, I do believe that in the last Congress we passed three measures which can begin to make a difference: The Brady Act, the Youth Handgun Safety Act, and the assault weapons ban. I do not believe that any of these bills infringe on anyone's second amendment rights, and I am a strong supporter of these rights.

First, the evidence strongly supports the fact that during the 11 months that it has been in effect, the Brady law has helped save lives. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Brady law has resulted in approximately 2 percent of all applicants being turned down from purchasing firearms because they were ineligible. Fugitives, rapists, murderers, and convicted felons have been arrested while trying to purchase guns.

In my own State of Wisconsin, which has a 2-day waiting period and a background check on handguns, more than 800 convicted felons have been prevented from buying handguns in the past 3 years.

Second, as we all know, homicides involving firearms, especially among our Nation's young, are on the increase. The risk of being murdered by a firearm in the United States has more than doubled since 1966. But for young people aged 15 to 19, it is much worse. The rate has increased nearly seven times. In our America of 1995, far too many of our young people are being killed and far too many of our young people are killing each other.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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