

inconvenience would be worth it. I know my constituents who lost their son feel that way, and I would venture to guess that many other families would feel that way too.

Mr. President, I want to thank Senator SPECTER, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, for his good faith efforts to address this issue. His commitment to continue working with me was a major reason for my decision not to proceed my amendment on the Supplemental Appropriations bill. I look forward to working with the Senator from Pennsylvania and other concerned Senators in the months ahead.●

HONOR VICTIMS OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE BY ENACTING THE SAFE SCHOOL SECURITY ACT

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to state that today marks the first anniversary since the tragic school shooting in Jonesboro, Arkansas. We all remember hearing about the gun shots fired by two young boys hiding in the woods—shots that led to the tragic death of four of their classmates and a Jonesboro teacher. March 24th will forever be ingrained in our memories as the day our children's safety at school was threatened in a way we could hardly imagine.

One of the bills I introduced recently was aimed at keeping our kids in school. But solving the truancy problem is only one of the issues we must work together to tackle. Not only do we need to keep our kids in school, we need to keep our kids in school safe! The Safe School Security Act I introduced last week is intended to do just that.

Children should not have to fear for their safety while attending our public schools. At a time when violent crime in the nation is decreasing, ten percent of our public schools reported at least one serious violent crime during the 1996-97 school year. Because of this level of violence, 29 percent of elementary, 34 percent of junior high and 20 percent of high school students fear that they will be a victim of crime while at school. The school yard fist fight is no longer a child's worst fear: 71 percent of children ages 7 to 10 say they worry about being shot or stabbed. In fact, 13.2% of high school seniors reported being threatened by a weapon between 1995 and 1996. We all know that a violent environment is not a good learning environment.

Educators and law enforcement know that technology is the key to preventing and reducing crime in our schools. Most of us understand the importance of protecting our assets, yet we have neglected to protect our biggest investment of all: our school children. The Safe School Security Act would establish the School Security Technology Center at Sandia National Laboratory and provide grant money for local school districts to access the

technology developed and tested by the lab. Because Sandia is one of our nation's premier labs when it comes to providing physical security for our nation's most important assets, it is fitting that Sandia would be chosen to provide security to our school districts throughout our nation.

Increased school security not only reduces violent crime, it reduces truancy and property crime. The latest technology was recently tested in a pilot project involving Sandia Labs and Belen High School in Belen, New Mexico and the results were astounding. After two years, Belen High School experienced a 75 percent reduction in school violence, a 30 percent reduction in truancy, an 80 percent reduction in vehicle break-ins and a 75 percent reduction in vandalism. More important, Belen realized a 100% reduction in the presence of unauthorized people on the school grounds. Also, Belen saw insurance claims due to theft or vandalism at the high school drop from \$50,000 to \$5,000 after the pilot project went into effect. Clearly, the cost of making our schools safer and more secure is a good investment for our nation.

The School Security Technology Center will partner with the Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center in Georgia to facilitate the transfer of available security technology to schools that could benefit the most from such technology. The School Security Technology Center will also provide security assessments for schools so they do not spend limited school resources on security tools that do not work. This bill will authorize \$10,000,000 for schools to access the technical assistance from Sandia and to purchase security tools that fit their needs.

This one year anniversary of the horrible tragedy in Jonesboro should make it clear to everyone that it is time to focus on making our kids feel safe in school and ultimately putting kids first.●

SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY'S REMARKS AT THE AMERICAN IRELAND FUND NATIONAL GALA

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, last week, on the eve of Saint Patrick's Day, the American Ireland Fund recognized Senator KENNEDY for his life-long commitment to the Irish people and to peace in Northern Ireland. Senator HATCH and myself had the honor of introducing Senator KENNEDY that night. Today, I rise to recognize Senator KENNEDY for his work on behalf of peace and justice here in the United States and around the world, particularly in Ireland.

Before Ireland was in fashion, Senator KENNEDY was its loyal friend. Throughout the adult lives of most of the members of this body, Senator KENNEDY, his sister United States Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith, and members of their family have worked tirelessly, day in and day

out, to better the lot of the least fortunate of their fellow men and women. Senator KENNEDY's efforts regularly reach across the borders of nation, race and religion.

It was only natural, then, that the conflict and injustice in Northern Ireland would make a claim on Senator KENNEDY's conscience. His unceasing interest in achieving peace in Northern Ireland was, and is, the one constant over the many ups and downs on the still bumpy road to resolving that conflict. He labors both as a distinguished representative of the United States, and as a loyal son of Ireland.

Reflecting on the way Senator KENNEDY has led so many of his colleagues down the tortured path that must inevitably lead to peace, I am reminded of the figure of the great Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, standing amidst the portraits of his contemporaries in the Dublin municipal gallery of art, and urging history to judge him not on this or that isolated deed but to:

Think where man's glory most begins and ends;

And say my glory was I had such friends.

Mr. President, I, and many others, are most grateful to be able to call Senator KENNEDY both a colleague and a friend.

In recognition of the honor he received last week from the American Ireland Fund, Mr. President, I ask that the remarks he gave that evening be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

Thank you, Chris Dodd and Orrin Hatch, for those kind words. Bertie Ahern, Kingsley Aikens, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Father Gerry Creedon, friends, family—and fellow immigrants!

I just wish my parents could have been here. Mother would have loved everything you said—and Dad wouldn't have believed a word of it!

There's an old Irish saying that half the lies your opponents tell about you are not true.

But when your friends tell lies like that—it's beautiful.

It is an especially great honor to accept this award in the presence of so many of those who were essential to the success of the Good Friday Agreement.

The shamrock has three leaves, and I'm convinced that the peace agreement would never have been possible without the strong support at all the critical moments of the three greatest friends of Ireland in America—President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and our truly indispensable peacemaker, Senator George Mitchell.

I welcome Bertie Ahern back to Washington. He deserves great credit for his own leadership during the peace negotiations and in the succeeding months.

I also pay tribute to the leaders of the Northern Ireland political parties who are here—John Hume and Seamus Mallon, Gerry Adams, David Trimble, Lord Alderdice, and Monica McWilliams. And I especially congratulate John Hume and David Trimble for the well-deserved Nobel Peace Prize.

I also welcome Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Mo Mowlam. And I salute Prime Minister Tony Blair, and many other Irish and British officials for their courage and determination not only in reaching the peace agreement, but in moving it forward, inch by inch, day by day.