

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Acting in my capacity as a Senator from Kansas, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Acting in my capacity as a Senator from Kansas, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 1 p.m.

There being no objection, at 12:17 p.m., the Senate recessed until 1:08 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CHAFEE).

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### Y2K ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 96, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 96) to regulate commerce between and among the several States by providing for the orderly resolution of disputes arising out of computer-based problems related to processing data that includes a 2-digit expression of that year's date.

The Senate resumed consideration of the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I ask the Y2K bill be set aside and we return to the—

Mr. WELLSTONE. I object.

Mr. HATCH. It is my understanding—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, notwithstanding the pendency of the current bill, I ask unanimous consent that the distinguished Senator from Minnesota be permitted to offer an amendment to the juvenile justice bill, after my opening remarks.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Utah for his graciousness.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

I ask unanimous consent that Rachel Gragg and Ben Highton be permitted privilege of the floor during the discussion of the juvenile justice bill.

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

#### VIOLENT AND REPEAT JUVENILE OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY AND REHABILITATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the Senate today resumes consideration of the youth violence bill. As we resume debate on this measure let me quote from a recent New York Times editorial:

In the past it was not hard to be struck by the way time seemed to roll over a tragedy like a school shooting, by the disparity between the enduring grief of parents who lost children in places like Paducah and Jonesboro and the swift distraction of the rest of us. This time, perhaps, things may be different. The Littleton shootings have forced upon the nation a feeling that many parents know all too well—that of inhabiting the very culture they are trying to protect their children from. \* \* \* The urge to do something about youth violence is very strong \* \* \* but it will require an urge to do many things, and to do them with considerable ingenuity and dedication, before symptomatic violence of the kind that occurred at Littleton begins to seem truly improbable, not just as unlikely as the last shooting.

While I may not agree with the New York Times on everything, I doubt that I could have described our task any better. I commend them for this editorial. This issue is a complex problem which requires dedication, a spirit of cooperation, and an agreed-upon set of objectives.

When I assumed chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee, one of my first actions was the creation of the Youth Violence Subcommittee. The subcommittee made dealing with the problem of youth violence a priority, and our efforts on this front were paid greater attention in the wake of juvenile crime tragedies. Yet, as the editorial in the New York Times notes, the Nation's attention always seemed to be swiftly distracted. Still, we pushed forward with our legislative efforts.

Senator SESSIONS held hearings in nearly empty hearing rooms. We spent more than 6 weeks in committee marking up the predecessor to the bill we have before us today. Some questioned our political equilibrium. After all, juvenile justice is fundamentally a State matter, and our economy is robust. Why bother? That is what some felt. Well, we have worked on this bill and pushed for this bill because we think it is the right thing to do and because it will improve juvenile justice and deter youth violence.

Some of us have invested substantial time, effort and political capital in this bill. I have invested even more in this bill in these last few days by supporting measures which, at an earlier time, I may not have supported. I have put the goal of changing our culture of violence and helping our young people first. The question for us now, however, is: Do we have the political strength as an institution to come together and pass this bill promptly?

I firmly believe the work we have undertaken these last several days demonstrates that we, on this side of the

aisle, are dedicated to addressing the problems of youth violence and that we are willing to put our children first. We have made significant progress on this bill to date. We have voted on 14 amendments and I plan to accept even more in the managers' amendment. We have spent 4 legislative days on this measure. As a result, this is a better, more comprehensive bill than when we began the debate. If we focus our effort on where we can agree, as opposed to where we may differ, I believe we can pass this bill expeditiously.

Mr. President, the problem of school violence and juvenile crime is not going to go away because we have debated the issue and voted on some divisive amendments. In fact, the problem continued this weekend in Michigan where four juveniles, ages 12 through 14, were arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit murder for plotting a school shooting similar to the massacre at Columbine High School. These four juveniles allegedly planned to kill their classmates by opening fire in the middle school assembly and then detonating a bomb on school grounds. Michigan prosecutors reported that the juveniles planned to kill more students than were killed at Columbine High School. A bomb that was discovered near the middle school campus on Thursday led school officials to conduct school-by-school inspections and cancel school activities.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have filed our antibomb amendment. It is astounding to me—the hundreds of articles on the Internet that teach kids how to do violence and make bombs.

In addition, a 13-year-old boy was arrested in Indiana this weekend for planting seven pipe bombs in a car owned by one of his classmate's parents. One of the bombs exploded while the car was being driven. Reportedly, the juvenile stalked the family after their daughter told authorities that the boy had brought a gun to school.

Moreover, just days after the tragedy in Littleton, four junior high students in Wimberley, TX, were charged with plotting to kill students and teachers in a planned attack eerily similar to the one committed at Columbine High School. Gun powder, explosive devices, and bomb-making instructions downloaded from the Internet were found at the juveniles' homes. Incredibly, this was not a copycat plan. Rather, these 14-year-old boys had been planning the attack since the beginning of the year.

Mr. President, today, we believe and pray that the Columbine High School rampage will never be forgotten. Let's make sure that is the case. Let's pass this bill. Remember, we said the same about similar shootings in recent years in schools in Pearl, MS, which left two dead; West Paducah, KY, which left three dead; Jonesboro, AK, which left five dead; Edinboro, PA, which left one dead; and Springfield, OR, which left two dead.