

we hope it is and it is the hope of American innovators who work to ease the misfortunes for our children and grandchildren.

One of those innovators is a 101-year-old woman from Sioux City, IA. Louise Humphrey was a leading light in the battle against polio, one of the most terrifying illnesses of our century. Because of her work and the work of others devoted to finding a cure, polio is almost nonexistent in our country.

It is hard for anyone who did not live through the forties and fifties to understand fully the fear and hysteria which accompanied the polio epidemic during any particular summer. The disease was highly contagious and sometimes fatal. It attacked the lungs and limbs. It immobilized its victims. It made them struggle for breath and often forced them to breathe through mechanical iron lungs. Parents would not allow their children to go swimming or to drink out of public fountains for fear of contagion.

Those children fortunate enough to escape the illness saw their classmates return to school in the fall in leg braces and watched newsreels of people in iron lungs.

At the height of the epidemic in the 1940s and early 1950s, polio struck between 20,000 to 50,000 Americans each year. In 1 year, 1952, 58,000 people caught the disease. Most of these people were children.

Mrs. Humphrey of Sioux City became interested in polio before the height of the epidemic. In the 1930s, according to the Sioux City Journal, she saw firsthand the ravaging effects of polio after meeting a man who had been disabled by the disease.

She and her husband, the late J. Hubert Humphrey, a Sioux City dentist, became leaders in the fight against polio. They headed the Woodbury County chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Mrs. Humphrey was elected State chairman of the women's division of that foundation.

The Humphreys raised thousands of dollars for equipment and therapy to battle the disease. They enlisted entertainers and circus performers in the cause, hosting these individuals at fundraising parties. Their guests included Bob Hope, clown Emmett Kelly, and even an elephant that loved ham sandwiches.

Their work contributed to a climate in which Jonas Salk developed the first polio vaccine. His vaccine, and another developed by Dr. Albert Sabin, soon became widely available. Thus, polio is virtually nonexistent in our country, although it remains a Third World threat.

Mrs. Humphrey has said she has no secret for living such a long life. She advises people to, in her words, "just be happy and be well." She has never had an ache or pain. What she did have in abundance was empathy, kindness, generosity, and devotion. Because of her contributions, millions of Amer-

ican children will live without a debilitating disease, polio.

On June 3, Mrs. Humphrey will be 102. In advance of her birthday, during Older Americans Month, I thank Mrs. Humphrey for helping to make our country strong. Mrs. Humphrey, with her clear vision and compassionate concern for America's children, perfectly illustrates the theme of Older Americans Month, which is: "Honor the Past, Imagine the Future: Toward a Society for All Ages."

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Minnesota, Mr. GRAMS.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, what business is before the Senate? Are we still in morning business?

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### Y2K ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 96, a bill 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 JUVENILE JUSTICE BILL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, at the end of my remarks I am going to make a unanimous consent request—I see the Senator from Idaho is here; I want him to know that—that I be permitted to send an amendment to the desk regarding the age people have to be before they can buy a weapon or gain access to a weapon. But I will not do that now; I will wait until the end of my remarks, and then I will make that unanimous consent request. I wanted to make sure my colleagues knew I was going to do that.

I think it is really important, as we move forward on this juvenile justice bill, to debate all the issues surrounding juvenile justice as fully and as completely as we can. After all, there isn't a politician I know who does not say our future is our children. That is what our future is about. And as healthy as our children are, that is as healthy as our country will be. As stable as our children are, that is how stable our country will be. As productive as our children are, that is how productive our country will be.

As we all attempt in various capacities in our lives—as parents, and as grandparents—to ensure that our children understand that in a society that is worthy there should be as little vio-

lence as possible, if we can just transmit that to our children, this will be a better world.

In the course of the debate, we have talked about many areas in our society that need attention. There isn't one of us who could truly stand up here and say, well, I do everything I can; there is nothing wrong with me. And there is no industry that can stand up and say it. We all have to look inside ourselves to make sure our kids understand that violence is wrong, it is a black and white situation, and it isn't the way to resolve our problems, et cetera. So this debate surrounding this bill is very relevant to the lives of our people.

In my home State—and I have said this often on the floor, but it is worth repeating to some of my friends—the No. 1 cause of death among children happens to be gunshots. In other words, for children, from as soon as they are born to age 18, that is the No. 1 cause of death—that they are going to be killed by a gun.

Somebody could say, well, that is just the price you pay to live in America. That is ridiculous. That is ridiculous. In our Constitution we have the right to pursue happiness; we have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. So when we see gunshots causing so much death and mutilation in our society, we have to take a look at, Where have we gone wrong? What is wrong? Can we do something?

We have taken a couple steps in this bill to try to fix this problem of guns, but we have a long way to go. I want to show a chart here which indicates why this is such an important issue in America.

In the 11 years of the Vietnam war, we lost 58,168 of our precious people, and this country—this country—was torn apart. Every one of those deaths was mourned by family and by the greater American family.

In the last 11 years, we have lost 396,572 people to guns.

Yes, it might be time to spend a few more days on this bill when you find yourself in this kind of situation. You cannot turn away from facts. You may want to turn away from facts, but you cannot turn away from facts.

As I look around and see these numbers and I see what is happening in the news—in the last few days we had about four or five other schoolkids who, it was found, thank goodness, were going to perpetrate a massacre with guns at their schools—something rings out in my mind, and that is, angry kids and guns do not mix. Angry people and guns do not mix.

It seems to me that since we know you have to be 18 years of age to buy wine, to buy beer, to buy cigarettes, you ought to have to be 18 years old before you can buy a gun.

Some people might say, well, haven't we fixed that? Well, for handguns, 21; that is, if you go to a dealer. I believe Senator ASHCROFT said you have to be 18 to buy a semiautomatic at a gun