

Messrs. GOSS, LEWIS of California, MCCOLLUM, CASTLE, BOEHLERT, BASS, GIBBONS, LAHOOD, Mrs. WILSON, Mr. DIXON, Ms. PELOSI, and MESSRS. BISHOP, SISISKY, CONDIT, ROEMER and HASTINGS of Florida.

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of defense tactical intelligence and related activities:

Messrs. SPENCE, STUMP and ANDREWS. There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2506, HEALTH RESEARCH AND QUALITY ACT OF 1999

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-328) on the resolution (H. Res. 299) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2506) to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1501, JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 1999

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. LOFGREN moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1501, be instructed to insist that the committee of conference recommend a conference substitute that—

(1) includes a loophole-free system that assures that no criminals or other prohibited purchasers (e.g. murderers, rapists, child molesters, fugitives from justice, undocumented aliens, stalkers, and batterers) obtain firearms from non-licensed persons and federally licensed firearms dealers at gun shows;

(2) does not include provisions that weaken current gun safety law; and

(3) includes provisions that aid in the enforcement of current laws against criminals who use guns (e.g. murderers, rapists, child molesters, fugitives from justice, stalkers and batterers).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 7 of rule XX, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 13 children a day are being killed by gun violence. Perhaps we have repeated this statistic so frequently that we do not fully feel it anymore that these are children, and that is a shame.

I ask the Members here in this Chamber and listening to this discussion in their offices, how we can possibly ignore any legislative measure that could help protect these children?

I ask the Members on all sides of this issue to agree with me that, whatever

else we do, we agree we shall not pretend we are making children safer at the same time we are building into our legislation weasel worded modifiers and exceptions that make the promised protections meaningless.

After I gave notice of this motion to instruct the conferees last night, the Associated Press was told there was a compromise being circulated by the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. I wish to make that A.P. article a part of this RECORD.

Since the A.P. article was received in my office this afternoon, I have asked the chairman for a copy of his proposal so I can determine for myself whether it is, indeed, a compromise I could embrace; and I am hopeful that I can get a copy of the proposal. I have had members of the press call my office about this proposed compromise, and I am all the more concerned that we not offer some proposal that might have loopholes.

□ 1830

That is why I thought it was necessary to propose this motion to instruct.

Since there has been no joint meeting of the conference or staff since early August, and I have had to read the AP wire to learn what is going on, even as a conferee, I ask the Members of this body to instruct the conference:

One, not to include loopholes that favor the wrong people getting guns, those who have been arrested, those who have restraining orders, and those who have been adjudicated mentally ill;

Two, not to weaken current gun safety laws;

And, three, not to compromise the ability of law enforcement officers to find those criminals who use guns in the crimes that they commit.

First, my colleagues may ask what loopholes I am worried about. I am worried we are going to define gun shows or gun vendors in such a way to make the Lautenberg gun show provision ineffective, if not meaningless. I am worried that we are not going to define background checks in such a way as to exclude some persons we really should be concerned about.

Second, my colleagues may wonder how we could weaken current gun safety laws. Would anyone in this chamber want to permit the interstate shipment of firearms by mail again? Do we want to repeal the Lee Harvey Oswald gun provision?

Third, my colleagues may wonder what could compromise law enforcement's ability to fine those criminals who use guns in the crimes they commit. Well, suppose the records to run the gun check on the purchaser were destroyed immediately after the check was run. And suppose the gun show vendor did not have to retain the serial number of the gun? How would law enforcement follow the trail to the bad actor who bought that gun?

There are those in this House who prefer that we do nothing. The NRA's

chief lobbyist says, and I quote, "Nothing is better than anything." That is what this House did only a few months ago. The House majority whip made his position crystal clear when he was quoted in The Washington Post as saying that killing the gun safety bill was "a great personal victory." Does the majority whip really want this House to do nothing when it comes to the safety of our children? Does the majority prefer to release its proposal to the press rather than to the conferees? In other words, does the majority really prefer to have a news story rather than a legislative solution? I hope not, and I trust not.

I ask my colleagues to support this motion to instruct as a further guarantee that this Congress does something, that it does something meaningful, that it does something soon, and that it does it in a bipartisan way, in the best interests of the mothers and children of this country.

Mr. Speaker, the Associated Press article I referred to earlier is included for the RECORD herewith.

HYDE FLOATS COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON NEW GUN CONTROLS

(By David Espo)

WASHINGTON (AP).—The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee is circulating a proposal designed to break a months-long deadlock over the sale of weapons at gun shows, congressional officials said Tuesday night.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., is proposing a two-step system of background checks. Most gun show sales could be cleared within 24 hours but others could be delayed for up to three additional business days for additional investigation.

Republican and Democratic aides said Hyde's proposal includes a ban on importing certain large capacity ammunition clips as well as a requirement for the sale of safety devices with handguns.

It also includes a lifetime ban on the purchase of a handgun by anyone convicted of a gun-related felony as a juvenile. And minors would be prohibited from possessing assault weapons.

Separately, GOP aides said any compromise juvenile crime bill would likely include a House-passed provision allowing the posting of the Ten Commandments in schools. Supporters claim that would help promote morality; critics say it is unconstitutional.

Any compromise is also expected to toughen prosecution of juvenile gun-related crimes, and provide additional federal funding for anti-crime programs.

Hyde has outlined his gun proposal to Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, the senior Democrat on his committee, as well as to Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was not clear if any senior GOP leaders had yet turned their attention to the issue.

The gun control issue has been percolating in congress since last spring, when two students invaded their high school in Colorado and killed 12 fellow students and a teacher before taking their own lives.

The Senate passed a series of gun control provisions a few weeks later, but a slightly different set of proposals died in a House crossfire when Republicans complained the measures were too strong and some Democrats griped they were too weak.