Sandy Berger, National Security Ad-
viser, was told in April 1996. The Presi-
dent was informed July 1997. The Presi-
dent was informed again in November 1998, and then in January this year. And yet, as late as March, he was deny-
ing it and saying nothing happened on his watch.

There are two big issues here: Num-
ber one, what happened? Which should scare the death out of any American. And number two is, why did the admin-
istration deny this? This is not a par-
tisan debate. This is a scary debate. And I was glad when Democrat liberal Senator Torricelli called for the res-
ignation of Janet Reno.

It is time for bipartisan support, and I hope the Democrats will join us on this one because America and Amer-
ica’s children depend on it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Sununu). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 6, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further pro-
ceedings today on each motion to sus-
pend the rules on which a recorded vote or
the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such roll call votes, if postponed, will be taken later today.

MISSING, EXPLOITED, AND RUN-
AWAY CHILDREN PROTECTION
ACT

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 249) to provide funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk reads as follows:

S. 249

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 402 of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and currently averages 700 calls per day;” and

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(A) handled 1,203,974 calls through its 24-
hour toll-free Children’s Assistance Hotline (1-800-THE-LOST) and currently averages 700 calls per day;

“(B) trained 146,284 law enforcement, criminal and juvenile justice, and healthcare professionals in child sexual exploitation and missing child case detection, identification, investigation, and prevention;

“(C) disseminated 15,491,544 free publica-
tions to the citizens and professionals; and

“(D) worked with law enforcement on the cases of 59,481 missing children, resulting in the recovery of 40,180 children;

“(E) provided technical assistance and infor-
mation to law enforcement, judicial, and healthcare personnel, and thereby helped to reduce infant abductions in partnership with the healthcare industry, during which the Center has performed 668 onsite hospital walk-throughs and inspections, and trained 45,095 hospital administrators, nurses, and security personnel, and thus helped to re-
duce infant abductions in the United States by 82 percent;

“(F) the Center is now playing a signifi-
cant role in international child abduction cases, serving as a representative of the Depart-
ment of State at cases under The Hague Convention, and successfully resolving the cases of international child abductions, and providing greater support to parents in the United States;

“(G) the Center has established a national and increasingly worldwide network, linking the Center online with each of the missing children clearinghouses operated by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as with Scotland Yard in the United Kingdom, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon, France, and other countries which has enabled the Center to transmit images and information regarding missing children to law enforce-
ment across the United States and around the world instantly;

“(H) from its inception in 1984 through March 31, 1998, the Center has—

“(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

“(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

“(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) free or low-cost legal, restaurant, lodg-
ing, and transportation services that are
available for the benefit of missing and ex-
ploded children;

“(ii) the existence and nature of programs
that locate, recover, or reunite missing children and their families;

“(iii) the availability of programs being carried out by Federal agencies to as-
sist missing and exploited children and their families;

“(iv) the location and information relating to innovative and model programs, services, and legislation that ben-
efit missing and exploited children;

“(v) the provision of technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies, State and local governments, elements of the
criminal justice system, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases involving missing and exploited children; and

“(2) provide assistance to families and law enforcement agencies in locating and recovering missing and exploited children, both nationally and internationally.

“SEC. 3. RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH.

“(a) FINDINGS.—Section 302 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701) is amended—

“(1) in the section heading, by inserting “including on-street supervision by appropriately trained staff’’;

“(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.—

“1. IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to public and nonprofit private entities (and combinations of such entities) to establish and operate (including renovation) local centers to provide services for runaway and homeless youth and for the families of such youth.

“2. SERVICES PROVIDED.—Services provided under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be provided as an alternative to involving runaway and homeless youth in the law enforcement system, child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice systems;

“(B) shall include—

“(i) safe and appropriate shelter; and

“(ii) mental health counseling, as appropriate; and

“(C) may include—

“(i) street-based services;

“(ii) counseling, as appropriate, for families with youth at risk of separation from the family; and

“(iii) drug abuse education and prevention services; and

“(B) for grants under section 311(a), the Secretary may be eligible to use assistance under section 311(a)(2)(C)(iii) to provide drug abuse education and prevention services, an applicant shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that includes, with respect to the year for which the report is submitted—

“(1) a description of

“(A) the types of such services that the applicant proposes to provide;

“(B) the objectives of such services; and

“(C) the types of information and training to be provided to individuals providing such services to runaway and homeless youth; and

“(2) an assurance that in providing such services the applicant shall conduct outreach activities for runaway and homeless youth.

“SEC. 313. APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.

“(a) ELIGIBILITY.—An application by a public or private entity for a grant under section 311(a) may be approved by the Secretary only if the entity demonstrates to the State in which such entity proposes to provide services under this part—

“(1) the geographical distribution in such State of the programs and services provided under this part for which all grant applicants request approval; and

“(2) which areas of such State have the greatest need for such services.

“(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting applications for grants under section 311(a), the Secretary shall give priority to—

“(1) eligible applicants who have demonstrated experience in providing services to runaway and homeless youth; and

“(2) eligible applicants that request grants of less than $200,000.

“SEC. 314. COORDINATION.

“With respect to matters relating to the health, education, employment, and housing of runaway and homeless youth, the Secretary—

“(1) in conjunction with the Attorney General, shall coordinate the activities of agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services with the activities of other Federal agencies devoted to the prevention of juvenile crime control, prevention, and juvenile offender accountability program and with the activities of other Federal entities and agencies.

“(h) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS FOR RESEARCH, EVALUATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND SERVICE PROJECTS.—Section 363 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–23) is amended—

“(1) in the section heading, by inserting “EVALUATION,” after “RESEARCH,”; and
(3) in subsection (b)—
(A) by striking paragraph (2); and
(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (10) as paragraphs (2) through (9), respectively.
(4) The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 334 the following:

"SEC. 345. STUDY."

The Secretary shall conduct a study of a representative sample of runaways to determine the percent who leave home because of sexual abuse. The report on the study shall include—

"(1) in the case of sexual abuse, the relationship of the assaulter to the runaway; and
"(2) recommendations on how Federal laws may be changed to reduce sexual assaults on children.

The study shall be completed to enable the Secretary to make a report to the committees of Congress with jurisdiction over this Act, and shall be made available to the public, within one year of the date of the enactment of this section."

"(j) ASSISTANCE TO POTENTIAL GRANTEES.—Section 335 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5721a) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(k) REPORTS.—Section 381 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5715) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 381. REPORTS."

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2002, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, a report on the status, activities, and accomplishments of entities that receive grants under parts A, B, C, D, and E, with particular attention to—

"(1) in the case of centers funded under part A, the ability or effectiveness of such centers in—

"(A) alleviating the problems of runaway and homeless youth;
"(B) amenable or appropriate, reuniting such youth with their families and encouraging the resolution of intrafamily problems through counseling and other services;
"(C) family relationships and encouraging stable living conditions for such youth; and
"(D) assisting such youth to decide upon a future course of action; and

"(2) in the case of projects funded under part B—

"(A) the number and characteristics of homeless youth served by such projects;
"(B) the types of activities carried out by such projects;
"(C) the effectiveness of such projects in alleviating the problems of homeless youth;
"(D) the effectiveness of such projects in preparing homeless youth for self-sufficiency;
"(E) the effectiveness of such programs in assisting homeless youth to decide upon future education, employment, and independent living;
"(F) the mobility of such projects to encourage the resolution of intrafamily problems through counseling and development of self-sufficient living skills; and
"(G) activities and programs planned by such projects for the following fiscal year.

"(b) CONTENTS OF REPORTS.—The Secretary shall include in each report submitted under subsection (a) of this section—

"(1) the evaluations performed by the Secretary under section 336; and

"(2) descriptions of the qualifications of, and training received by, individuals involved in carrying out such evaluations.".

(1) EVALUATION.—Section 384 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 384. EVALUATION AND INFORMATION."

"(a) IN GENERAL.—If a grantee receives grants for 3 consecutive fiscal years under part A, B, C, D, or E (in the alternative), then the Secretary shall evaluate such grantee on-site, not less frequently than once in the period of such 3 consecutive fiscal years, for purposes of—

"(1) determining whether such grants are being used for the purposes for which such grants are made by the Secretary;
"(2) collecting additional information for the report required by section 334; and

"(3) providing such information and assistance to such grantee as will enable such grantee to improve the operation of the centers, projects, and activities for which such grants are made.

"(b) COOPERATION.—Recipients of grants under this title shall cooperate with the Secretary's efforts to evaluate and to collect information, under this title.

"(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 385 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5721) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 385. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS."

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2001, and 2003, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title (other than part E) such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

"(2) ALLOCATION.—

"(A) Parts A and B.—From the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not less than 90 percent to carry out parts A and B.

"(B) Part B.—Of the amount reserved under subparagraph (A), not less than 20 percent, and not more than 30 percent, shall be reserved to carry out part B.

"(3) Parts C and D.—In each fiscal year, after reserving the amounts required by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall maintain the remaining amount (if any) to carry out parts C and D.

"(b) SEPARATE IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED.—No funds appropriated under this title may be combined with funds appropriated under any other Act if the purpose of combining such funds is to make a single discretionary grant, or a single discretionary payment, unless such funds are separately identified in all grants and contracts and are used for the purposes specified in this title.

"(m) SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM.—

"(1) AUTHORITY FOR PROGRAM.—The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended—

"(A) by striking the heading for part F;
"(B) by redesignating part E as part F; and
"(C) by inserting after part D the following:

"PART E—SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

"SEC. 351. AUTHORIZED TO MAKE GRANTS."

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to nonprofit private agencies for the purpose of providing street-based services to runaway and homeless, and street youth, who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, prostitution, or sexual exploitation.

"(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting applicants to receive grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to nonprofit private agencies that have experience in providing services to runaway and homeless, and street youth.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 338a(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751), as amended by subsection (m) of this section, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) PART E.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out part E such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

"(o) CONSOLIDATED REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 383 the following:

"SEC. 385. CONSOLIDATED REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS."

"With respect to funds available to carry out parts A, B, C, D, and E, nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary from—

"(1) announcing, in a single announcement, the availability of funds for grants under 2 or more of such parts; and

"(2) reviewing applications for grants under 2 or more of such parts in a single, consolidated application review process.

"(p) DEFINITIONS.—The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 396, as amended by subsection (l) of this section, the following:

"SEC. 397. DEFINITIONS."

"In this title:

"(1) DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES.—The term 'drug abuse education and prevention services'—

"(A) means services to runaway and homeless youth to prevent or reduce the illicit use of drugs by such youth; and

"(B) may include—

"(i) individual, family, group, and peer counseling;

"(ii) drop-in services;

"(iii) assistance to runaway and homeless youth in rural areas (including the development of community support groups);

"(iv) information and training relating to the illicit use of drugs by runaway and homeless youth, to the extent involved in providing services to such youth; and

"(v) activities to improve the availability of local drug abuse prevention services to runaway and homeless youth;

"(2) HOME-BASED SERVICES.—The term 'home-based services'—

"(A) means services provided to youth and their families for the purpose of—

"(i) preventing such youth from running away, or otherwise becoming separated, from their families; and

"(ii) assisting runaway youth to return to their families; and

"(B) includes services that are provided in the residences of families (to the extent practicable), including—

"(i) intensive individual and family counseling; and

"(ii) training relating to life skills and parenting.

"(3) HOMELESS YOUTH.—The term 'homeless youth' means an individual—

"(A) who is—

"(i) not more than 21 years of age; and

"(ii) for the purposes of part B, not less than 16 years of age;

"(B) for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative; and

"(C) who has no other safe alternative living arrangement.

"(4) STREET-BASED SERVICES.—The term 'street-based services'—

"(A) means services provided to runaway and homeless youth, and street youth, in
areas where they congregate, designed to assist such youth in making healthy personal choices, including where they live and how they behave; and

(ii) may include—

(i) identification of and outreach to runaway and homeless youth; and street youth;

(ii) crisis intervention and counseling;

(iii) information and referral for housing;

(iv) education and referral for transitional living and health care services;

(v) advocacy, education, and prevention services related to—

(A) alcohol and drug abuse;

(B) sexual exploitation;

(C) sexually transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and

(D) physical and sexual assault.

(5) STREET YOUTH.—The term ‘street youth’ means an individual who—

(A) is—

(i) a runaway youth; or

(ii) indefinitely or intermittently a homeless youth; and

(B) spends a significant amount of time on the street or in other areas that increase the risk to such youth for sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution, or drug abuse.

(6) YOUTH AT RISK PROJEC.T.—The term ‘transitional living youth project’ means a project that provides shelter and services designed to promote a transition to self-sufficient living and to prevent long-term dependency on social services.

(7) YOUTH AT RISK OF SEPARATION FROM THE FAMILY.—The term ‘youth at risk of separation from the family’ means an individual—

(A) who is less than 18 years of age; and

(B) who has a history of running away from home or running away from care of such individual; or

(C) whose parent, guardian, or custodian is not willing to provide for the basic needs of such individual; or

(D) who is at risk of entering the child welfare system or juvenile justice system as a result of the lack of services available to the family to meet such needs.

SEC. 4. STUDY OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE.

(a) CONTRACT FOR STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences for the purposes of conducting a study regarding the antecedents of school violence in urban, suburban, and rural schools, including the incidents of school violence that occurred in Pearl, Mississippi; Paducah, Kentucky; Jonesboro, Arkansas; Springfield, Oregon; Edison, Pennsylvania; Fayetteville, Tennessee; Littleton, Colorado; and Conyers, Georgia. Under the terms of such contract, the National Academy of Sciences shall appoint a panel that will—

(1) conduct research about adolescent violence in general and school violence in particular, including the existing longitudinal and cross-sectional studies on youth that are relevant to examining violent behavior;

(2) relate what can be learned from past and current research and surveys to specific incidents of school shootings;

(3) interview relevant individuals, if possible, such as the perpetrators of such incidents, their families, their friends, their teachers, mental health providers, and others;

(4) give particular attention to such issues as—

(A) the perpetrators’ early development, families, communities, school experiences, and utilization of mental health services;

(B) the relationship between perpetrators and their victims;

(C) how the perpetrators gained access to firearms;

(D) the impact of cultural influences and exposure to the media, video games, and the Internet;

(E) such other issues as the panel deems important or relevant to the purpose of the study.

(b) REPORT.—The National Academy of Sciences shall submit a report containing the results of the study required by subsection (a), to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Chair and ranking minority Member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, not later than January 1, 2001, or 18 months after entering into the contract required by such subsection, whichever is earlier.

(c) APPROPRIATION.—Of the funds made available under Public Law 105-277 for the Department of Education, $2.1 million shall be made available to carry out this section.

(d) SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Kildee) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Youth Act and the Missing Children’s Assistance Act. It provides assistance to the 0.5 million to 1.5 million youth who are at risk of separation from the family and it directs the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of the cultural influences on young people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children’s Assistance Act. This legislation authorizes the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It provides $10 million yearly appropriation for the Center. This authorization ensures that for the next 4 years the Center can focus on providing assistance to families without interruption. Some of my colleagues may remember that I have been working to get this legislation passed since the 105th Congress. I am pleased we are one step closer to completing this effort. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the Missing Children’s Assistance Act and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Youth provide much needed services for the 0.5 million to 1.5 million youth estimated to run away annually. The legislation continues the runaway and homeless youth programs found in current law, including the basic center grants and the transitional living grants.

These effective programs protect young people keeping them off the streets, away from criminal activities and out of desperate circumstances. These programs provide assistance to homeless and other youth who are without adult support so they learn to live independently and become productive adults.

This legislation also provides for the continuation of services under the Missing Children’s Assistance Act. For instance, this act authorizes grants for research, demonstration projects and service programs in areas such as abduction prevention education.

The provision of this bill that I particularly want to focus my colleagues’ attention on is its authorization of an appropriation for the Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children helps families who have a missing child locate that child. Since 1984, the Center has worked with law enforcement on the cases of 67,173 missing children, resulting in the recovery of 46,031 children. In 1998 alone, it assisted in finding 5,835 missing children.

The Center works with the families of 80 missing children in my own State of Delaware. The Center services, including its National Missing Child Hotline, are essential to all families of missing children.

Recognizing the Center’s substantial success rate in recovering missing children and its annual designation as the national clearinghouse for information on missing children, the legislation authorizes a $10 million yearly appropriation (fiscal year 2003) for the Center. This authorization ensures that for the next 4 years the Center can focus on providing assistance to families without interruption.

Some of my colleagues may remember that I have been working to get this legislation passed since the 105th Congress. I am pleased we are one step closer to completing this effort. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the Missing Children’s Assistance Act and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Youth provide much needed services for missing and runaway youth.

Finally, I would like to mention an important study contained in this legislation. As Members may know, my subcommittee has held hearings on the issue of school violence in response to the tragic shootings that have traumatized our Nation’s schools. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Greenwood), an active member of the subcommittee, has crafted legislation to help us obtain information on why students commit such violent acts.
A great deal of blame has been spread around, and I believe it is important that we really understand the causal factors that place youth at risk for school violence.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank several Members for their assistance on this legislation. I would like to thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Goodling), and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Kildee), who will be managing the bill on the opposite side of the aisle, as well as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Scott), for their hard work on the school violence study.

Mr. Speaker, this is good legislation and it deserves the support of the House on this Appropriations bill. The Senate has already passed comparable legislation. We would like to pass our legislation and proceed to conference as quickly as possible. It has been far too long that these important programs have been authorized without an authorization.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 249, the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children Protection Act makes vital improvements to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and deserves the strong support of all the Members here today.

This legislation will streamline and refocus the existing basic Center grants, the transitional living grants and the drug education program into one reauthorization, while maintaining the distinct nature of each program. I believe this is an essential improvement that will strengthen the ability of localities to provide services to the vulnerable populations of runaway and homeless children.

Mr. Speaker, S. 249 also requires a National Academy of Sciences study to examine which factors contribute to violence around and in our schools. This study will better enable us to understand what leads our young people to commit such tragic acts as those in Littleton, Colorado, and other places, but that have shared the unfortunate experience of having school violence touch its teachers, parents, students and communities.

This study, which has been a cooperative effort between the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. Castle), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Greenwood), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Scott), and myself, is necessary so we can gain a better understanding of the profile of those most likely to commit violence and provide them with appropriate interventions and supportive services.

But even if we have no clear answers to the core casual factors of school violence, this legislation includes a study to be performed by the National Academy of Science which will explore the causes of school violence. Information gathered through this study will help us to improve the effectiveness of our current violence prevention efforts.

I would like to thank members of the committee for their hard work and their staffs, particularly the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. Castle) for his leadership. Also, I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Greenwood), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Kildee) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Scott) for their guidance on the School Science Study. The result is a quality piece of legislation.

I encourage my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. Kildee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mrs. McCarthy).

Mrs. McCarthy. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the House amendments to the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children Protection Act. I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for their bipartisan work on this legislation.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. Castle) for his excellent work as a sponsor of this legislation and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Kildee), my dear colleague.

The bill before us today provides the resources for families to deal with the terrible issue of missing, exploited and runaway children. The National Center for Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children operates a National Resource Center and a toll-free hot line to provide assistance to state and local governments in finding missing children and preventing the exploitation of children.

I believe this is important, Mr. Speaker. This legislation utilizes all of our resources for families to provide tools once a child is missing, but the legislation also is designed to prevent the terrible occurrence of a missing, exploited or runaway child. I am glad that we are addressing this bill today.

In the last 6 weeks, I have had a personal experience. I got a call late one Saturday night and it was my girlfriend of over 30 years. She said, "Carolyn, I do not know what I am going to do. My daughter's two children have been kidnapped."

With that, I gave her the information, only because I have learned about this through Congress. I gave her the phone numbers to call. And within hours, the photos of the missing children were put out across this country. I am happy to say that one child has been recovered. The other one is still missing. But with all the resources coming together, I am grateful that we, hopefully, will find the other child.

Also, since being in Congress, one of the provisions of this bill is also helping with children that have nowhere else to go. I have been privileged to meet and work with a number of groups on Long Island; and I have to
Mr. Speaker, I think, for the most part, the short-term efforts to prevent school violence must be community based and they must be school based and they must be home based. But there are some things that the Congress can do and there are things that we need to do in terms of a long-run strategy.

This legislation will direct the National Academy of Sciences to do a study on the antecedents of school violence. Researchers, the best social scientists and child psychologists that we can find, will literally travel to Pearl, Mississippi, to Paducah, Kentucky, to Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Springfield, Oregon, to Edinboro, Pennsylvania, to Fayetteville, Tennessee, indeed to Littleton, Colorado, and most recently we have had to amend this language to include Conyers, Georgia.

The scientists will interview, when they can, the perpetrators, the actual shooters. They will interview their parents, their siblings, their neighbors, their classmates, their teachers, their guidance counselors, any professionals that have dealt with these young people, to try to find out what were the early childhood experiences of these kids, what were their school experiences, what were the relationships between the perpetrators and the victims, how did the perpetrators gain access to firearms, and what were the impact of cultural influences and exposure to the media, video games and the Internet.

They will report back to America about their findings. And, hopefully, in a sober and thoughtful and disciplined way, America will understand how some of our communities impacted some of our children in ways that made them so inexplicably violent.

Mr. Speaker, it is my experience that the left-most of our political spectrum tends to look at the cultural impacts. It is my belief that we need to look at the children. We need to understand how our children are affected by experiences in their schools and experiences in their communities and how we as a society can value our children more than we do so that all of our children are uplifted by our actions.

I would like to thank the chairman, the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), for his help and cooperation with this. I would like to thank the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the Speaker for his congratulations, his help as well.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK).

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I think a lot of good work has been done on this bill; and I would like to laud Members on both sides of the aisle for their work.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is a private, non-Federal corporation that was founded back in 1984; and they have helped over the last 15 years to recover over 40,000 missing children. I first worked with them back in 1985. They were one year in their infancy at that time. And I was a news reporter working back in Pennsylvania.

One afternoon after getting off the school bus near the town of Cabot, Pennsylvania, 8-year-old Cherrie Mahan disappeared, never to be seen or heard from again. That family was upended. This 8-year-old girl had just gotten off the bus on her way home, never to be seen, never to be heard from again. Where do they look? Where do they turn to?

And finally, the people from that community found the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. People in the community worked together. They searched. They looked for clues. They put out every kind of feeling they could trying to find out who knew about this young girl's abduction. And they collected money for a reward. All told, they collected from their hard-earned dollars $58,000.

Last October, when it was determined that Cherrie was not going to come back and she was declared legally dead, that $58,000 was presented by me along with those people, the friends and neighbors of Cherrie Mahan, a $58,000 check, to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children so that that money could be used as a resource to help establish computer networks and to run away kids, to find kids who have been abducted, and to help fight against violence in our schools.

In return, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children gave an $8,000 TRAC system, called Technology to Recover Abducted Kids, back to the Butler State Police Barracks in Butler, Pennsylvania. And they hoped that if they ever have to see another sad situation like the tragic disappearance of Cherrie Mahan, that the community will be better prepared, that they will be better armed with this new technology, and that we in the Federal Government can be a partner in that, making sure that the resources are there so that the sadness that the Mahan family has had to live with will never be felt by other families across this Nation.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.
Mr. Speaker, this measure, S. 249, focuses on the terrible problem confronting all too many American families: missing, exploited, and runaway children. I commend the sponsors of the House and Senate resolution, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the distinguished senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), for their diligence in bringing this issue to the Congress.

As a parent, few things can be more painful than the uncertainty and anxiety that arises when a child becomes missing. The void of not having a loved one present, plus the fear and anxiety of what that loved one may be undergoing, are cruel hardships that no one should ever have to endure.

Although this measure focuses primarily upon the domestic aspect of this problem and improves the way our Government addresses the problems that may be associated with missing or exploited children, I want to highlight an issue that I have become increasingly involved with, the problem of internationally abducted children.

In an interdependent world, we are finding American citizens often marrying and having children with foreign nationals and a corresponding increase in the number of children that are taken to or illegally retained in another country.

This measure highlights the excellent work of our National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. I join in commending that organization and add my voice to those who feel that the role of NCMEC should be strengthened in the cases of international parental abductions. Our citizens deserve an advocate for their rights as parents, and I am confident that NCMEC is the appropriate organization to serve this vital function.

The measure is underway in some parts of our Government to curtail NCMEC's role in assisting our citizens recover their illegally abducted or wrongfully retained children from other countries. I urge that all supporters of this measure exercise their vigilance to make certain that does not occur. Our citizens who are victims of child abduction deserve to have an organization such as the NCMEC to support them.

I thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) for his courtesy in yielding, and I urge our colleagues to fully approve S. 249 on behalf of our missing, exploited, and runaway children.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON).

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding to me this time.

First, I would like to associate my remarks with those of the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) regarding his work with the international effort to return children who are taken from our country, and I look forward to working with the gentleman from New York on that issue.

I rise today to encourage all of my colleagues to cast their votes in favor of S. 249, the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act. Two years ago when I first joined all of you in Congress, I wanted to address all of the problems that we face here, education, Social Security and health care. But unfortunately in April, right after my first swearing-in, all of my plans drastically changed when a 12-year-old little girl, Laura Kate Smither from Friendswood, Texas, was abducted and savagely murdered. After seeing the faces of the Smither family and the outpouring of support from the community, I knew I wanted to work on behalf of our children and their families.

After meeting Ernie Allen, the President of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and his dedicated staff, I felt compelled to establish the first-ever Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus with my colleagues the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANK) to provide a unified and loud voice for missing and exploited children here in Congress.

I am pleased to report, as of today, this bipartisan caucus now has 126 members. We work on legislation to impose tougher penalties on those who commit sexual offenses against children and to make sure our communities are notified when convicted sex offenders move into their neighborhoods.

The caucus would not be nearly as effective in producing innovative legislation and helpful district safety workshops without the advice and programs offered at the National Center. The Center's outreach programs help chiefs of police and sheriffs to develop fast response plans through the Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Program, to comb neighborhoods and streets for our children who have been reported as missing. The Center also focuses its educational outreach programs toward children who can learn how to protect themselves from the dangers that they face in today's world. I am proud to have helped the Center unveil a nationwide program called "Know the Rules." It was a public service campaign that was started here in Washington just a couple of years ago.

"Know the Rules" is a set of simple rules all children, but especially teenage girls between the ages of 12 and 17, should use in their everyday lives to build their own personal safety, and help them escape potentially dangerous situations. I have two daughters and will become a grandfather for the first time in November. I am convinced that funding the National Center is as good an investment of taxpayer dollars as can be made to ensure the safety of our Nation's children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of our colleagues from Oregon to Ohio and California to Connecticut to support the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children on this National Missing Children's Day by voting for S. 249.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) who is not only from Colorado, but has been through a difficult 5 weeks living in the shadow of Columbine High School.

Mr. TANCREDO. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise today to talk about the provision of this bill, the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children's Act, but more specifically in support of the school violence study that has been referred to here several times.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that we have now had to deal with for quite some time, but it has been brought home to us more dramatically in the last few weeks than perhaps anytime in the recent past. That fact is that we are a violent country.

The character of the American people, unfortunately, we have a violent character. The history of this Nation is replete with violence. It is not a good thing, but I say it is unfortunately a true thing.

What is completely unusual, what is not at all to be explained by our history, however, is the violence we see now in schools and with children. Because, although we have always had a violent society, the fact is we have never in the history of this country had a situation where children were participants to the extent that they are today in that violent nature.

Something has happened. Something has changed. This is one thing we know for sure, that this is a brand new phenomenon. We have to figure out why this is occurring.

There was a recent study that was a fascinating study I commend to my colleagues. It was done by an individual who works for the armed forces. His task really is to desensitize members of the armed forces to the actual act of killing another human being because, as he says, this is a very difficult thing. People do not do it naturally.

Taking the life of another member of your own species is not natural and you do it in the armed forces under controlled circumstances, you use technology to desensitize members of the armed forces to actually taking a life. But that is in a very controlled environment.

What has happened is that some of the same technology that is used by the armed forces, in particular a computerized game called Doom, is a game
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that is now available to everyone, to youngsters in our society, over the Internet. As a matter of fact, the two shooters in Columbine, Mr. Klebold and Mr. Harris, were compulsive about this game, Doom, were into it to a very great extent.

I do not know whether or not that one thing had everything to do with what happened in Columbine. I do not know how much of an impact it had on what they decided to do. All I do know is this, that something has changed in our society, and we are turning children into killers. We are turning children into individuals without a conscience.

This is new, Mr. Speaker, and this is frightening. We have to find out why this is happening. Therefore, I commend my colleagues on the committee for their dedication, for their work on this critical issue. However, I must oppose this legislation as it is outside the proper Constitutional role for the federal government to spend money in this way; such spending is not an appropriate use of the tax dollar.

Unfortunately, that happens in literally thousands of homes in America today. In fact, if you are the parent of an 11-year-old girl, you will be sad to know that that group is the most at risk for murder and abduction in this country today.

Unfortunately, there are so many of the colleagues that could speak today who will name the name of a child who is missing in their community. In my case, her name is Opal Jennings. She is a darling little girl who is missing from our community. Unfortunately, a number have been missing from our community. That is what we are talking about today.

The Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act would do something to help those parents. It would authorize $10 million a year for a period of 5 years for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Among other things, this money would help operate a 24-hour toll free telephone line to report those children and public and private programs to locate, recover and hopefully reunite them with their family. This is something that needs to be done, it should have wonderful bipartisan support in this Congress, and it is the least we can do for our children.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would just point out a couple of things. One, we have spoken to various parts of this legislation, but I think we all in this House of Representatives need to understand the importance and the components of what we are dealing with here. It first authorizes, as I said in my opening, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and Missing Children's Assistance Act. It also provides an authorization, which we heard about very eloquently from several speakers for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; and it does, as we also heard from the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Gravely), direct the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of the cultural influences on youth violence.

These things, in and of themselves, may not prevent all the problems of youth in this country, it will not; but it may in some small way start the mending process which we consider to be so important.

I would just like to thank all of those who took the time to come to the floor to speak to this today and all the Members of the House, who I believe will be supportive of what we consider to be very significant legislation to help with these problems.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, organizations like the Center for Missing and Exploited Children should be commended and supported for their work on this critical issue. However, I must oppose this legislation as it is outside the proper Constitutional role for the federal government to spend money in this way; such spending is not an appropriate use of the tax dollar.

Mr. Smiley expresses my concern very eloquently. The legislation in this bill, Mr. Speaker, is a constitutional horror story.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to the colleagues that could speak today. In fact, if you are the parent of an 11-year-old girl, you will be sad to know that that group is the most at risk for murder and abduction in this country today.

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The Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act would do something to help those parents. It would authorize $10 million a year for a period of 5 years for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Among other things, this money would help operate a 24-hour toll free telephone line to report those children and public and private programs to locate, recover and hopefully reunite them with their family. This is something
for Missing and Exploited Children. Since 1984, the Center has proven to be an invaluable resource for state and local governments who struggle each day to recover missing children and to prevent the exploitation of children.

Through its toll-free hotline, its training programs for state and local professionals, and its coordination of recovery programs, the Center is a focal point mobilizing citizens and communities in the pursuit of safety for all of America’s children. The convergence of public and private resources in pursuit of this common goal has resulted in the recovery of more than 40,000 children—40,000 children who could have been lost without the contributions of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The Center is particularly important to South Florida because one of its affiliated programs, the Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Center, was established by Congress in 1996 in memory of my constituent, Jimmy Ryce, the son of Don and Claudine Ryce. In 1995, at 9 years of age, Jimmy was abducted and brutally murdered while walking home from school. The Ryce Center, a joint project of the Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Justice Department’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, trains Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs in the most up-to-date methods of searching for missing children. The Ryce Center promotes swift, effective investigative response to missing and exploited children cases, provides comprehensive training in case investigations, ensures the consistent and meaningful use of reporting systems and promotes the use of important national resources to assist in these cases.

The Ryce Center is an invaluable resource to law enforcement officials throughout the country, and in just a few short years has made enormous strides in changing the way America deals with cases of missing and exploited children. In the face of a problem which none of us should have to face, Don and Claudine have turned their personal tragedy in to a positive effort to help ensure the safety of millions of American children just like Jimmy. I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 249.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 249, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TRADE AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS, DRUG FREE CHILDREN, AND PROHIBITION OF ON-LINE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ACT OF 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1833) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the United States Customs Service for drug interdiction and other operations, for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, for the United States International Trade Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk reads as follows:

H.R. 1833

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Trade Agency Authorizations, Drug Free Children, and Prevention of On-Line Child Pornography Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

Subtitle A—Drug Enforcement and Other Noncommercial and Commercial Operations

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations for noncommercial operations, commercial operations, and air and marine interdiction.

Sec. 102. Illicit narcotics detection equipment for the United States-Mexico border, United States-Canada border, and Florida and the Gulf Coast seaports.

Sec. 103. Peak hours and investigative resource enhancement for the United States-Mexico and United States-Canada borders.

Sec. 104. Compliance with performance plan requirements.

Subtitle B—Child Cyber-Smuggling Center of the Customs Service

Sec. 111. Authorization of appropriations for program to prevent child pornography/child sexual exploitation.

Subtitle C—Personnel Provisions

Chapter 1—OVERTIME AND PREMIUM PAY OF OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE

Sec. 121. Correction relating to fiscal year cap.

Sec. 122. Correction relating to overtime cap.

Sec. 123. Correction relating to premium pay.

Sec. 124. Use of savings from payment of overtime, premium, and other expenses associated with implementation and deployment of illicit narcotics detection equipment for the United States-Mexico border, United States-Canada border, and Florida and the Gulf Coast seaports.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2000.—Of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2000 under section 301(b)(3) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(3)),—

(1) in subparagraph (A) to read as follows:—

“(A) $109,413,000 for fiscal year 2000;”;

(2) in subparagraph (B) to read as follows:—

“(B) $11,83,000 for fiscal year 2001.”;

(b) COOPERATIVE OPERATIONS.—Section 301(b)(2)(A) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i) to read as follows:—

“(i) $1,154,359,000 for fiscal year 2000;”;

(2) in clause (ii) to read as follows:—

“(ii) $1,194,534,000 for fiscal year 2001.”;

(c) AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION.—Section 301(b)(3) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) to read as follows:—

“(A) $109,413,000 for fiscal year 2000;”;

(2) in subparagraph (B) to read as follows:—

“(B) $11,83,000 for fiscal year 2001.”;

(d) S UMISSION OF OUT-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTIONS.— Section 301(a) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) By no later than the date on which the President submits to the Congress the budget for the fiscal year, the Commissioner of Customs shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report demonstrating that the development and establishment of the automated commercial environment computer system is being carried out in a cost-effective manner and meets the modernization requirements of title VI of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementing Act.

TITLE II—OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.