

start. The danger does not lie in having a showdown with the President, if that is required, and possibly having government shut down for 12 hours or 24 hours." They said, "The real danger in the market lies in us continuing to throw away money like we have thrown away for the past 40 years."

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN].

Mr. DORNAN. I just wanted to make an observation while the distinguished gentleman from New York, BILL PAXON, is in the Chamber, what a great piece of work he helped to form on November 8 of last year, a year ago this coming week.

I know a fully matured lion, like the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS] will not mind an aging lion who came here out of the bicentennial election of 1976, to notice that we have Pennsylvania, we have Arizona, we have Iowa, a very important State, at least until Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, we have Minnesota, we have Georgia, we have the beautiful panhandle of Florida, the most beautiful beaches in America. And I am telling you, if this freshman class had not come along, there were some of us who would have turned in our spurs by now and said that there were other things to do, like enjoy our grandchildren.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I have to say that one of the unsung heroes in this Congress is the gentleman from New York [Mr. PAXON], because he has made all the difference in our having a Republican majority and the opportunity to save this country and to turn it from the direction it has headed. I would applaud, if I was allowed to.

Mr. DORNAN. He has made you a chairman, he has made me a chairman, but here is the point, if I may mention the House of Lords, the other body.

I just did a radio show in San Diego and a questioner of no known ideology said, "What are you people accomplishing? Suppose you have a great freshman class. So what? It is all dying in the Senate, is it not? You are not going to get anything done." I think what we have to keep reminding our worthy colleague, including some old long-in-the-tooth lions over there, is that they enjoyed chairmanships and the chance to creatively write American history for 6 years, thanks to Ronald Reagan and the great election victory in 1980.

But in this Chamber, the people's House, the money House, the appropriations bill House, the first among equals by the writers of our Constitution, the Framers said that we were to be first among equals over the Senate, over the Supreme Court, and over the White House, and we have not had a

chairmanship in this place for 40 years in the political desert.

So not only did all of you give me a chance over the last 10 months to sit on a Committee on Armed Services, a subcommittee chairmanship, and one on the Permanent Select on Intelligence, but you gave back to the U.S. Senate all of those chairmanships that they are enjoying, and they had better remember the gift that you have given them for some fulfillment in life, this opportunity to craft American history, and that you are going to keep the promises you made, and it is promises that the whole Republican Party is going to be held accountable for on November 5, in 1 year and 4 days from All Saints Day, today.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] obviously talked from a Republican standpoint, but what is exciting to me when I go home is that it is not a Republican issue, it is an issue that all Americans have united on, and it is something that I am extremely proud of. I am in a district that is 60 percent Democrat, and they love what we are doing up here.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman talked about promises made, promises kept, and a Governor from Minnesota once observed that politics is a promising profession. In the last several years we have heard a lot of campaign promises.

I want to remind the gentleman of some which were made by a gentleman who was elected to the Presidency several years ago. He was elected promising to downsize the Federal Government, to end welfare as we know it, to reform welfare, to save the Medicare system, and to give a tax break to the middle class while balancing the budget within 5 years.

Those are the same kind of promises that we made, and the difference is that we kept our promises; he broke his. What makes me so angry is that now he is trying to keep us from keeping our promises to the American people. We are not going to stand for it, and neither are the American people.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. I thank my colleagues.

JIMMY RYCE AND MISSING CHILDREN IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AL-LARD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you, this Congress, and those watching at home, about an endangered innocent, a constituent of mine, Jimmy Ryce. Jimmy is a 10-year-old boy from Miami, FL, who was abducted 51 days ago, on September 11, 1995. He was last seen getting off the

school bus less than four blocks from his home in the Redlands, an agricultural, quite spacious community just southwest of Miami.

Jimmy is an A student enrolled in an honors-gifted program at his school. Everyone who knows him is attracted to his goodness, sweetness, and intelligence. He is a very trusting child. Jimmy loves to read. He has a habit of reading a couple of books at the same time, leaving the books scattered throughout the house with bookmarks in each of them.

Jimmy loves baseball and football. Some of the family's happiest memories are going together to Dolphins and Marlins games at Joe Robbie Stadium. If I may ask the cameras to just focus in on Jimmy, and I will talk about the picture in a couple of seconds, but if they can leave the focus on him. Since learning of Jimmy's kidnapping, the reaction in south Florida is one of outrage, anger, and shock. The response from authorities has been swift and professional. The media in south Florida have been exceptional. But where is Jimmy?

The television coverage has been extensive, over and above the magnitude of other such kidnapping incidents. Newsrooms and reporters have taken the Ryce case to heart and have made it their station's commitment to cover the case down to the latest findings. As we all know, when faced with adversity good things do tend to happen. People have volunteered tirelessly their time, services, and assistance, unconditionally. Wal-Mart is displaying Jimmy's posters in their 2,000 stores nationwide, as is Albertson's grocery outlet, and the list is endless.

Most of these efforts were something solicited from volunteers, unbeknownst to the Ryces. Not only have State officials, including Governor Chiles, been involved, but Federal officials, too, including the FBI and Attorney General Janet Reno. What we are hoping is that the more people who see Jimmy's face, the more likely it is someone who has seen him will recognize his face from these posters. This is not a city problem or a State problem, not the abduction of a child in a custodial battle or a runaway, but who, taken from his family by a stranger, is a national problem. As I said, let me ask the camera again to focus on the picture.

What I have learned in the last several weeks with the FBI missing persons, Missing Children Division, is that of the cases that have been solved, they are really solved by people in the community seeing these pictures, seeing the pictures on "America's Most Wanted," seeing the pictures on milk cartons or on postcards.

The case that very recently got national publicity, I just found out today the way it was solved. Two young boys who were kidnapped in Minnesota and found in Louisiana, in New Orleans, it was just a chance sighting by someone in a restaurant, calling the FBI through the 800 number that I will give

in a second, and actually, several times, just a chance sighting.

The woman who saw the young boys was not sure, she thought she saw him, she did not remember where she had seen a picture, she was not sure, and even to this day she is not sure, but the FBI followed up on it and went to the location where the sighting occurred, interviewed the woman, and those two boys are back with their family today.

That clearly is what we are hoping will happen, and will happen very soon. As I said, this is a recent photo of Jimmy Ryce, and for people who are watching, hopefully they are watching, and hopefully, again, someone will have an opportunity to call maybe even this evening with the chance that maybe they have seen him in some location.

It seems so impossible that even with all the communication of media involved that a child could vanish without a trace. As a parent myself, I cannot imagine what kind of fear and pain Don and Claudine Ryce are going through today; in fact, right now. It is a parent's worst nightmare. The Ryces have had their own nightmares. No matter what is taking place, from the moment they finally fall asleep at night until the moment they wake up, the first thought that enters their minds is that their little boy, Jimmy, is not sleeping in his own bed.

Today is a good day for the Ryces. They are feeling optimistic. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the FBI, and Metro Dade police met today and released information that a witness has possibly seen Jimmy. If you have any information leading to the disappearance of Jimmy Ryce, please call the number on the poster, 1-800-361-9526.

According to the Department of Justice fact sheet on missing children, every year there are between 1,600 and 2,300 stranger abductions of children under the age of 12 in the United States of America. These children are the endangered innocents. Only 300 of these kidnappings last more than 24 hours, and the FBI has told me that you can extend the radius of the circle where they may be 300 miles from point of abduction for every day they are missing.

These missing children could have been deported or crossed borders, and may not even be in the United States. Jimmy Ryce is an endangered innocent. Typically the only way law enforcement ever finds these children is through information and leads called in by the police. On Monday, October 30, 1995, ADVO distributed over 50 million cards throughout the country with Jimmy's picture on it.

You have probably seen pictures before of missing children in the space contributed by ADVO on the left side front of postcards, which carry on the back advertisements for various services and products. Please look at these cards and etch Jimmy's fact in your memory. Be on the lookout for these warning signs: a new child in your neighborhood, a child acting strangely

next door, has a child suddenly been enrolled in a class. As small as the chance is, it may be the only chance Jimmy has of getting home safely.

Jimmy's parents, Don and Claudine Ryce, have reached a celebrity status they never sought. Compassionate people embraced them and let them know that Jimmy is in their prayers. The more people know about Jimmy's disappearance, the better chance the Ryces have of getting him back. Mr. Speaker, I ask you, the members of Congress, and the American public to give this family a happy ending. Bring Jimmy Ryce home safely to his parents.

A few weeks from now we will celebrate Thanksgiving, a time of love, sharing, and counting one's blessings. I want this Thanksgiving to be the best one the Ryce family has ever had, as the family is all together with Jimmy. I know several of my colleagues have been with me this evening, and I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN.]

□ 2100

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH] for having this very touching special order, and thank him for stopping me in Cloakroom and asking me if I would join you. I have spoken so many times this afternoon, I do not want people to think that I do not have grandchildren at home that I would like to spend some time with, but this is important.

I would just like to give the gentleman a few thoughts from last night which was a very Halloween eve of today, All Saints Day, with children.

We went out last night, after we adjourned, after it was dark for about an hour and half, and I raced to a neighborhood out in Springfield, VA to be with five of our nine grandchildren. The youngest one, Robert K. Dornan, III, was dressed as Pooh, and it made me grit my teeth, he was so cute. Excuse me, it is our newest, Leam Dornan Penn, who was Winnie The Pooh. Last year it was Robert, III, and he was dressed as a phantom with a dark face.

I went around and looked at all of the princesses and all of these little children, and for some reason I thought how carefully the parents were shepherding them and the grandparents, that there was a little extra fear for the last 10 or so Halloweens not be let them get too far out of sight.

I remember I gave T-shirts with my grandchildren's first names on them to one of my daughters, and she said well, Dad, these will make nice pajamas. I said no, no, they are T-shirts for outside, and she said, Dad, you do not put a child's name on a T-shirt. If you are in a mall and some evil person comes up and says Kevin, come here, quickly, your mother has just been hit by a car outside, they run following the person instantly.

I never thought that we had to live in fear of any name a child identifying

them to make kidnapping that much easier.

What I thought about as the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH] was speaking, is my older son who is in his middle 30's. The other day I got one of these cards in the mail that has missing children's names on them, and I turned it over and I said to my son, this breaks my heart. I do not like to look at these faces, as you have made this large color blowup of this beautiful young boy, Jimmy.

And he said dad, you should not say that. I study these pictures. That is why they are here. That is why they are on milk cartons. You should study them for more than a few seconds, and it may be God's will that you cross the path of one of these children, and something you saw in that photograph earlier in the day will be sparked in your mind.

Well, when you raise a child to give you words of wisdom, albeit the wisdom of being 30-some years old, it makes you proud of your child, and I felt ashamed that I had averted my gaze from a lot of these missing posters because it hurts me so much as a grandparent to see this beautiful face of a child this age or younger, a beautiful little daughter this age or younger or a grandchild, and think of the heart-gripping pain that this brings to parents and grandparents, how they will never, ever be able to enjoy the birthday of that child ever again, a Thanksgiving, a Valentine's Day, a Christmas, an Easter, when they see all of the other children in the neighborhood or have a particularly enjoyable moment with a sibling, an older brother, a younger sister, and the pain that this must bring back.

As I was sitting here I was thinking, what kind of an original idea could I contribute to your special order tonight, and I did think one.

We see now with murdered children the agony of parents looking at a videotape and they show the videotape on the evening news, and again, your heart breaks for the parent that all they have left are these videotape images of this beautiful child. And then I thought in the case of missing persons and maybe one of your color pictures here, well, the bottom one looks like a portrait, but the one looks like he is in a baseball game, may have than excerpted from a video, a still color photograph worked up from a video.

And I thought every parent who has a small child today should take a videotape, and at some point when they are filming their child or a grandparent their grandchild, they should go in for a close-up and slowly pan around the child from every angle, film this child as an identification video tape and put it on a shelf somewhere. If you are a struggling parent, as I was in my early years, just worrying about grocery money, and you do not have a video camera, borrow one from a parent or grandparent and take a videotape of your child and put it on a closet shelf.

It will have great value years later for showing the child.

I tell parents to do what I never did. Take a videotape of their child on every single birthday with the same videotape and put it away on a shelf. I learned this from ANDY JACOBS, our colleague from Indiana, and then bring it down and you can run that very same videotape without editing and watch a child quickly grow up in 20 years. It will go by so quickly it will tear your heart out. But I think parents who have a videotape camera should film their child and when that child was missing, particularly when I just listened to carefully about what you said, Peter, about each day, and repeat it, each day the child is missing is another how many miles added to the circle?

Mr. DEUTSCH. Three hundred miles.

Mr. DORNAN. Three hundred miles per day. So if you could get a videotape and give it to the television station instantly, and I am not talking about all of those terrible cases where parents get into custody fights, which mercifully is not a huge number, but the hundreds of gut-wrenching cases of pure kidnapping by evil strangers. Think of how a videotape of a child that is fairly current would assist law enforcement and great shows like John Walsh's show. He is from your State, is he not?

Mr. DEUTSCH. Actually, he is from my own community.

Mr. DORNAN. Every time I see John I shudder that all he had, as gruesome as it sounds, is the child's head, to remember him by. My wife was looking at him just this week and said, is he not a remarkable man? Look at the burden God gave him and now how it has turned out for him.

I said, Sally, he is an absolute hero of our time, that he took the pain of little Adam's disappearance and then murder and has turned it into a crime series of shows where it is not just missing children he helps with. He has broken some cases in this country that have lingered on for two decades, and brought people to justice.

So I really appreciate the gentleman taking this beautiful special order for our missing children in this beautiful country of ours on All Saints Day.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, If I could again follow up, because it really was in some ways a good sign today when I spoke with several people from the FBI, from the missing and exploited children's branch, that the case which got a lot of publicity was two young boys, I think a 3-year-old and 11-year-old brother who got kidnapped in Minnesota, a guy in a stolen car. It really was luck, God's providence, whatever, that this woman who did not even remember where she saw their picture, based on the day she saw it, she might have seen it on America's Most Wanted. They specifically said that, because she kind of remembered seeing it on Saturday or

Monday or whatever, but it does happen, and he is somewhere, and the question is hopefully someone is seeing him and is going to be able to call that 800 number.

Mr. DORNAN. Just one thought. As television channels expand and we are now going to these 18-inch dishes, as there are more and more and more channels, I think we ought to write Ted Turner and ask him on one of his outlets if he could have a designated point in each day where people as thoughtful as my son, Bob, Jr., who will take the time to study these faces, that they could run the current-most 10 agonizing disappearance cases. And people who are thoughtful will spend a few times to, as my son put it, study, those faces, and where there will be some videotapes you can study it in three dimension around the child and say, all right, I will study that, and we are going to end up with more happy endings and more children saved from a horrible fate.

Mr. DEUTSCH. They really are happy endings. In a little bit I will show the statistics of that. What they really have said to me, I have spent some time trying to understand, unfortunately, this tragedy, the more you learn about it, the more sickening it is, that the more publicity and the more people that know, the better it is.

I am really happy that my colleague from Florida joins us here today. I know it has been a long day for my colleague as well, but Congresswoman THURMAN.

Mrs. THURMAN. I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH].

Mr. Speaker, I just would like to add a little bit about Jimmy Ryce at this point, and as a parent, to tell his parents that I do not think anybody will ever understand what it is like to go through what they must be going through. And for the American public to offer any kind of help is just imperative that we do that for our future and for what is our most and best resource that we have to offer to this country.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it is a good idea, and I agree with Mr. DORNAN and some of the things that he brought up, maybe we should talk about some of the things that we can remind people. You know, it has been a while, I think, that we have been reminded. Sometimes, you know, things get lost and forgotten and we forget that there are things that we can be doing to try to have these kinds of things not happen in our society.

I particularly think that there is another issue that is coming to this country, that I am somewhat very concerned about, in the fact that we now have what we call the information superhighway, a situation that for many, many folks with computers in their homes and information crossing, there are some things that I think parents and children need to understand that they need to be very, very careful with.

It is a new society out there, it is a new world, it is a new technology, and

while there are exciting possibilities, and we want our children to be technologically advanced and ready to move into the 21st century. I think we also have to be aware of the access it gives to strangers to our children.

And I think we have to teach our children not to share personal information, like home phone numbers and addresses, with unknown and potentially threatening strangers. They do it all the time without really thinking much about it. I think kids need to be reminded that those computers do provide a lot of information and access from people all across this world that we need to be careful of.

I also would like to reiterate, and I think that the photo that you have up there of Jimmy reminds us all of some of the kinds of things and guidelines that help and assist police in their efforts to locate missing children. The national center actually has advised parents to take color photos. Without that photo there tonight, we might not have a picture that could be displayed, that could be used to go across this country, that is up-to-date picture. I think they recommend that this should be done about every six months to make sure that we have up-to-date.

I think Mr. DORNAN's idea of a video is an excellent idea. It is a quick replay, gives us characteristics that we cannot necessarily capture here in a picture. But if that is not available, at least we do have an opportunity to have an up-to-date photo of the child. They ask for us to keep recent dental records at our fingertips so that we can make sure that we have that available, as well.

There have been some national programs across this country in malls. Law enforcement agencies go into malls all the time, setting up fingerprinting so that we have fingerprints actually at the sheriff's office for identification purposes. These records will provide to police and investigators, will help expedite the process of locating missing children in the future.

I think we must be vigilant in our efforts to locate them, and we have to get involved and stay involved.

I actually have a number here that I would like to give tonight for people who have seen missing children and what they can do, because there is a national hotline. The hotline is for the Center for Missing Children. It is 800-843-5678, and I think that if anybody did not catch that number and calls any one of us, we certainly, or any of your officers, police officers, sheriffs, anybody locally can also provide you with these numbers.

We have to be that voice for missing children. When information is available to the public and the public is alert and concerned, we have a much, much better chance of helping our missing children find their way home.

The national tragedy of children being abducted from homes, schools and playgrounds demands a national

response. We will continue our efforts through the National Center for Missing Children and the FBI to encourage preventive measures, and to demand that all available resources are used to locate and recover missing children.

Mr. DEUTSCH, I do want to say to you tonight, and to all of our colleagues, that while we may not have been touched with it personally in our lives, unfortunately probably every one of us have at some time had a constituent who has had to face this kind of a situation.

□ 2115

I know in my own district, I remember a woman several years ago that had a grandchild that was abducted in Orlando in a parking lot. The child's face was, we actually did it at toll booths in Florida. We were able to do milk cartons and the kinds of things that we have tried to do to get these faces out there. The child has never been returned to my knowledge. It was heart-breaking. I cannot even begin to tell you the pain that she was going through in this.

I think there are some other things that we ought to be conscious of within America. We know the kind of things that are happening with abductions. We need to try to teach people as well, please do not do this to our children. Do not take our natural resource. Just think about all of this as you go through a working day and help any of us in trying to prevent this kind of a happening. I just think it is awful and I would hope that our conscience in America makes us understand how just heart wrenching this is and to the child.

I want Jimmy to know, if he is out there listening to us, we are looking for him, too, and do not give up hope and know that people do care about him and love him and we are going to try to get him back to his parents just as quickly as we can.

So, Mr. DEUTSCH, I really do appreciate what you have done tonight.

Mr. DEUTSCH. I thank you. You actually brought up an unfortunate sort of new avenue. When I spoke with, again, unfortunate people who are in the business of helping to find these children, the FBI officials involved, they actually have cases today of children in a sort of talk site on the Internet, where a child that could be not necessarily 5 but an 8-year-old, a 9-year-old, and a 10-year-old was on a talk site who thinks they are talking to another child somewhere but is talking to a very sick person who is asking them over the Internet about themselves. And they have actually, in saying why do you not meet me somewhere, something like that, there have actually been abductions that have occurred through cyberspace. It is sort of the ultimate sort of strange sickness, the technology being used that way.

One of the things they pointed out, at some point this evening we will go through a list, the list is not long enough, but what they specifically said

is parents ought to know what their kids are doing on their computers. It sounds like a crazy request. It is a 1990s request in America, but if your kid is out there on the Internet and talking to people on a site, you better know who they are talking to because it really has happened.

I mean, what kind of mind does that, but unfortunately, there are some minds that do that. I think we need to do everything we can to stop it from happening, but I think that is a really unfortunate new point for parents to be worried about.

Mrs. THURMAN. I would say that we also have to move into that 21st century as parents to understand the new dangers that face our children. I think there were some great programs that started when we first all got involved in these issues and we all remember them. I have taught my children, I mean, how many times did I say to them, do not take candy from a stranger or do not talk to strangers or do not get into cars with strangers or if you are in a mall and somebody says something to you or takes your hand, what do you do. They knew the response to that. They understand that. They do not necessarily see the danger when they do not see somebody standing in front of them, somebody who can, is visual to them, who actually can do harm to them as they are there. But they, all they have to do is say, I go to this elementary school, I have blond hair, blue eyes, and I am going to be wearing such-and-such. I have got a new dress today or I got, whatever, somehow identifying that child and separating them out. They do not understand it because it is not something they can grab onto. It is not something they can really feel.

So I think as parents and as grandparents, as we do move in, we always need to continue to update our own files as to the kinds of things that can happen and be aware of those so that we can teach our children better ways of not getting themselves into these kinds of situations because not all old remedies are going to work for what new dangers are out there for these children.

Mr. DEUTSCH. I used a sort of example of a happy ending for these two boys in Minnesota, but obviously they have arrested the gentleman. Hopefully, I assume he will be convicted, he will spend a long time, the rest of his life in jail. But he told the young boys that he was a policeman. And I guess it is hard to put myself in the mind of a 10-year-old, but it was not unusual to get in a car with a policeman and drive for several days. How does he know what policemen do?

Mrs. THURMAN. And particularly because a child has been taught that that is supposed to be his friend. That is the person that they can go to most often if they are in trouble. But there are some very sick people out there that play on these very kinds of things. We need to be careful. I know the gentleman from Connecticut is here.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. SHAYS wanted to join us.

Mr. SHAYS. I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me.

I was here at another special order, and I knew that you were going to talk about Jimmy Ryce. I think of that precious young man and his precious parents who are wrestling with where he is now. And I just felt inclined, wanted to hear what you had to say and to pay respect for Jimmy Ryce and the thousands of other young children that have been taken away from their parents. And then when I mentioned that to you, you asked me to read a statement from another of your colleagues from Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, who I would like at this time to read her statement. She cannot be here tonight, but I think it is important that her feelings about this case and others like it be put in the RECORD.

So I would just read her statement at this time.

It begins:

Mr. Speaker, one of the silent and most devastating crimes to which some in our society remain oblivious to is the large number of children and young adult persons who are kidnapped and reported as missing within our local communities every year.

Most recently in my local community is the case of ten year old little Jimmy Ryce, who, upon walking from his school bus stop to his home in the Redlands neighborhood of South Florida, was kidnapped and has yet to be found.

Another case which to some may tragically and foolishly believe is yesterday's news, is the case of Shannon Melendi, a young resident of my Congressional district, who while attending Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, was kidnapped over a year and eight months ago and has yet to be found. All of us want answers to Shannon's mysterious and sad disappearance.

And as all of us in the local South Florida community presently suffer the pain and anguish of little Jimmy Ryce's parents, whose son was kidnapped 51 long days ago, and we join them in their search for Jimmy, I am more sure than ever that someone must be held accountable for the loss and uncertainty that they feel today.

As the extensive manhunt continues within South Florida for Jimmy, I feel that all of us, as parents and as legislators, must become aware of this inhuman and horrible act that today afflicts my local community, but tomorrow, could very well affect yours.

As I stated, another victim of this heinous crime is Miami resident Shannon Melendi, who, in spite of a national manhunt, has yet to have been found, a year and eight months later after she was seen at her place of work, the Softball Club, in Atlanta.

Shannon was not only an outstanding student and a presidential scholarship recipient while attending Miami Southwest High School, my alma mater, but also a dedicated member of her school community, who did her best to represent the junior and senior classes of which she was president.

Even though a suspect is now in prison, he has yet to confess to a crime, and Shannon remains missing.

Her family, from her grandparents to her younger sister, remain distraught and afflicted with a heavy emotional burden as they wait for Shannon to come home to them once again.

Is the FBI doing enough? Is the local police? I strongly believe that more must be done. As the mother of two young girls and a Florida certified teacher, I am very worried about any cases of abducted children.

Worse still is the fact that as the number of kidnappings increase, there are even more missing children who were yesterday's news and who perhaps will never be accounted for.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, has our society become so evil that our children cannot even venture from their homes in order to attend school, without the fear of being kidnapped?

Have our communities become so unsafe and insecure that parents, such as those of Jimmy Ryce, cannot even allow their children to walk home after school from their bus stop? Have we come to the point when well meaning parents, such as the Melendi's, cannot send their child to a prominent university for fear that their children will be kidnapped?

Are the abductions of little Jimmy Ryce and Shannon Melendi rare occurrences? Or are they some of the ever increasing number of children who are kidnapped throughout the nation.

Something must be done so other children and their families do not suffer in the same manner.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what are we as legislators and the representatives of our local communities to do in order to deter this abhorrent crime?

We cannot merely sit back and wait for Jimmy or Shannon, and all other abducted children, to turn up.

We must take action and form a strong stance against this atrocious act so that your children, my children and our children's children, do not suffer the gut wrenching loss and uncertainty that the families of Jimmy Ryce and Shannon Melendi feel, as they search for leads and wait for a precious missing child.

I would just like to thank the gentleman from Florida and to let him know that your purpose, I think, is well-intended and I think serves a tremendous effort in helping Jimmy Ryce and others be found. I want to thank you for your special order and to just let you know that someone from Connecticut has taken a good look at that young man and I just hope there are so many others that we can be alert and make sure that Jimmy Ryce is returned to his parents well and safe and that they can hug him and caress him and just welcome him back into their family. I hope that day comes.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for preparing her statement and also I know that Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART spoke earlier under 5 minutes about Jimmy Ryce and his hope for his safe return to his parents.

I want to shift gears a little bit and just talk about missing children in this country in general. As Jimmy Ryce's abduction has really heightened the community in south Florida, I educated myself a little bit about what I have said just has to be one of the most disturbing statistics in this country, if not the most disturbing statistic in this country.

This chart shows from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children numbers, numbers that are staggering. Nonfamily abductions, 1,524. And then some very unfortunate sober-

ing statistics, I guess optimistic but sobering as well, of those 385 were located alive and close to 200 were located deceased. So there is reason for hope. But a number that is staggering, 1 would be depressing, but I cannot express in any way what 1,500 families in this country have gone through in this period of time.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at least tries to advise parents and there has been, obviously, a national media campaign about things to do. And there is a national computer network that is linked via computer with 45 States, allowing the instant transmission of images and information on missing children.

There is Project ALERT, America's Law Enforcement Retiree Team uses retired police to provide free on-site assistance to local police in difficult missing or exploited child cases, photos and posters with private sector partners, imaging/identification, case management, leads. The 800 number, which has been mentioned by other Members as well, is 1-800-843-5678. Specifically for Jimmy Ryce, the number is 1-800-362-9526.

Let me also follow up, as several Members have mentioned, sort of what can parents do and some of it unfortunately cannot do enough. Tens of millions of children in America left their buses today after school, tens of millions walked home, maybe a block, maybe several blocks. And I hope all of them made it back home. But unfortunately I know that on occasion some do not, like Jimmy Ryce did not.

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So, I do not think it is realistic to hope that every child, or we are at that point in our society, needs to be walked home from the bus station at school, but we can try to do some things, just knowing and just sort of a list of things: knowing where your children are at all times, being familiar with their friends and daily activities, being sensitive to changes in the child's behavior, that you should sit down and talk to your children about what causes changes, be alert to a teenager, be alert to a teenager who is paying an unusual amount of attention to the children or giving them inappropriate or expensive gifts, teach your children to trust their own feelings and assure them they have a right to say no to what they sense in wrong, listen carefully to your children's fears, support them in all your discussions with them, teach your children that no one should approach them or touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable, and if someone does, they should tell the parents immediately, be careful about baby-sitters and other individuals who have custody of your children.

Now some people have also made suggestions and actually the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children talks about things, passwords that parents can use with their kids if someone does say that their parent is sick,

or that they are a police officer, that there be a password that the child will know that that person would say. It is one of the techniques that has been suggested or that stop points. When a child is leaving a bus station, at a certain point they should be there by then, and if they are not, then someone needs to know about it, whether it is an older sibling, an older friend, or a trusted neighbor.

Let me talk about some children, and that happened unfortunately on some other children mentioned from Florida that are missing. Obviously I have talked about Jimmy Ryce, but I want to show another, the picture there, but it is just a picture. If the camera could try to focus in on it, I will try to hold it as steady as I can, and, as you can read, the child has a birthmark on his shoulder blade, was last seen wearing a white shirt and blue jean shorts. His nickname is Jimmy. And, as the circumstance, child was last seen getting off his school bus at his bus stop, which is three blocks from his home.

As I mentioned, all these are children from Florida. That was in Homestead, FL, my district. Walter Morales left his home in Miami, FL, with three males on October 27, 1993, and has not been heard from since. Child has a small scar near his right eye. He has two top teeth that are gold. He has a "W" on his left shoulder, and again, if the camera can focus in on that?

This is a picture of Andrea Gail Parsons, who was last seen July 11, 1993, in Port Salerno, FL. She was 10 when she disappeared. The child was last seen wearing blue jean shorts, a dark-colored shirt, clear plastic sandals. Child was last seen at 6 p.m. near Commerce and Seward Ave. in Port Salerno, FL.

As has been mentioned, those are cases of abductions, of nonfamily abductions. There are family abductions unfortunately, and I just—again these are in Florida. This is Malik Mike Tourbah, kidnapped by his father in Miami Lakes, FL, on June 22, 1990. Child has a scar on his right eye.

And this is Kaylee Nicole Lopez, kidnapped by her noncustodian grandparents on August 12, 1989, in Miami, and child has a birthmark on the right side of her chest and her upper right thigh. Her eyes are hazel green. Child's photo is shown age-progressed to 8 years.

And Andrea Durham from Fort Walton Beach, FL, she left her family's new home on February 1, 1990, and it is an age-progressed photo, actually to 18 years at this point.

Mr. Speaker, we have discussed something tonight that I wish I did not have to discuss. I think everyone in this country wishes we did not have to discuss this, but it does take place, and as a community of Americans, society, we clearly can do better in this area. We need to be vigilant as individuals, as parents, but as a society as well.

I mean there is no limit to the amount of resources we need to put in

to make sure that this does not happen to one child in this country. And law enforcement has resources, and they are doing everything they can, and are interviewing every person they possibly can, and following up thousands of leads as they come up in this case, and I know I appreciate it, and I know the Ryce family appreciates that as well, and hopefully for those people that are watching, because that is really what this special order is for, as I have learned more about this, the cases that are solved are solved because of people like the people watching an incident, a flash, a child in a restaurant, a face in a car passing, a child anywhere, and there are resources in this country, the 800 numbers we are talking. They follow up, they do follow up. The resources are there. We have put resources into it, and I am asking people, and I am praying and hoping people—I know the Ryce family is watching, too—that we will get a lead and that we will find Jimmy very, very shortly, and he will be with you and with our community again.

Let me just ask one last time if we can just ask the camera to focus in on Jimmy Ryce.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss the heartbreaking and devastating issue of missing children. As a mother of two beautiful children, I can think of few things as frightening for a parent than learning that your child is missing. Thus, it saddens me deeply to know that every day in this country parents, and families, are forced to face this fear.

In 1994, more than 800,000 children were reported missing to the police and the FBI's national crime information computer [NCIC]—more than 2,000 children every day. The largest number were runaways; followed by lost children; family abductions; and short-term sexually motivated non-family abductions. There are approximately 300 serious child kidnapping cases each year—five or six children each week—cases in which the child is abducted by a stranger and murdered, ransom, or taken with the intent to be kept.

In 1994, 99 percent of the reported missing children cases were resolved by local and state police. We have made progress since the Missing Children Act was signed into law in 1982. New resources and technology have been crucial in assisting searches and investigations. A national network exists with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children [NCMEC] at the hub, transmitting images and information instantly around the country. The FBI's new Child Abduction and Serial Killers Unit ensures rapid, priority response in the most serious cases. And in 1994, Congress created the Morgan P. Hardiman Task Force on Missing and Exploited Children, with agents from seven Federal law enforcement agencies, headed by the FBI, working with the NCMEC in difficult cases.

The legacy of America's missing children can be seen in the new laws, heightened public awareness, improved response from law enforcement and unprecedented national attention to prevention and education which exist today. Progress has been made to better protect our Nation's children, but much remains to be done.

Most missing children do return home safely, but this face is of little comfort to the families of those children who are never found or who are found dead. We, in Congress, must work to reduce the numbers of missing, abducted, runaway, and thrown away—children who are thrown out of their homes—children.

There are a number of things which remain to be done to improve outcomes for missing and exploited children. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has suggested that:

Uniform reporting procedures should be implemented to improve monitoring of reports of crimes against children.

Each State should create a missing and exploited children clearinghouse.

States would establish policies and procedures to be followed in conducting missing child investigations to address initial response, information gathering, required NCIC and other database entries, interviews with family members, search procedures, supervisory responsibilities, and post-recovery interviews.

The States should also establish procedures for law enforcement agencies for taking missing child reports that include immediate acceptance of a missing child report without a waiting period, and the immediate entry of all descriptive information into the NCIC and other relevant databases.

States should require specialized training in missing and exploited child issues as part of their basic law enforcement training programs.

States should establish policies and procedures to ensure the immediate coordination of information exchange on unidentified persons with missing child information on the NCIC.

Each State should mandate that healthcare facilities establish policies and procedures to promote the protection of infants and the reduction of infant abduction.

States should implement records-flagging procedures and require that new-school enrollment records be submitted to the State missing children clearinghouse to determine whether abducted or missing children are enrolled in schools.

States should adopt comprehensive policies and procedures to address family abduction issues including modifying existing criminal custodial interference statutes to make them uniformly state the potential criminal liability of abductors who conceal or remove a child in violation of the custody rights of the other parent.

It is also important that a parent's lack of resources do not hinder the reunification of the parent and the missing child. National, State, and local bar associations should encourage members to take family abduction and disputed custody cases pro bono or on a sliding fee scale.

Policies and laws on family abduction, domestic violence, and child abuse should be coordinated so that the focus is always on the best interest of the child. Similarly, encouraging resolution of custody disputes outside of the adversarial process will reduce the likelihood that abduction will occur.

States should adopt and implement a comprehensive criminal justice system response to the problem of sex offenders.

Every State should make the possession of child pornography a felony criminal offense.

State policies and procedures in dealing with juvenile prostitution should treat the issue as a form of child sexual victimization and

focus criminal justice, legal, and social service resources on treating the child victim.

States should enact a child victim's bill of rights to incorporate basic protections into State law.

Each State should provide for, or support, research-based, comprehensive, age-appropriate personal safety curricula in its elementary and secondary schools.

Parents can also help prevent child abduction and exploitation. I urge parents to be sensitive to changes in your children's behavior, be alert to a teenager or adult who is paying an unusual amount of attention to your children or giving them inappropriate or expensive gifts, teach your children to trust their own feelings, and assure them that they have the right to say no to what they sense is wrong and tell your children that no one should approach them or touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable.

The problem of child abduction and exploitation transcends politics, race and socioeconomic status. To Californians, it takes the face of Polly Klaas, in Florida, it is that of Adam Walsh, and in the country's heartland it comes as Jacob Wetterling. In the Northeast, it is seen in the pictures of Sara Anne Wood and Etan Patz. In the South, it is in the photographs of Yusef Bell and the 28 other children from Atlanta who were reported missing and found murdered from 1979 to 1980. To our Nation's seniors, the image of Charles and Anne Lindbergh pleading for their kidnapped baby is forever imprinted in our memories.

We must work together to protect our Nation's children so that they can grow up to become happy, healthy and productive adults. We owe it to the families of missing and exploited children and we owe it to the children of this Nation. Thank you.

FAITH AND POLITICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AL-LARD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. POSHARD] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY].

DEBT CEILING

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, we keep hearing the debt ceiling and the need to extend it to prevent default. We also keep hearing about the need to balance the budget and the need to finish appropriations bills. I think all of this is very confusing to the American people.

Let's be clear. Appropriations, reconciliation and the debt are three separate issues although they are often thrown about together.

Appropriations is about keeping the Government open. The President has signed only 2 of the 13 appropriation bills despite the fact that the fiscal year started October 1. In the absence of 13 full year appropriation bills, we have been operating under a continuing resolution. This is a temporary stop-gap measure designed to keep the Government open until we can complete