

My proposal represents the first step towards this important goal—the next step is health coverage for all children.●

KIDS, GUNS, AND DEATH

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, last summer the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence asked kids how their lives had been affected by guns and gun violence. Over 200 school-age children wrote and submitted essays. Last Sunday, the Chicago Sun Times printed the three winning essays. The expression, out of the mouths of babes, has never been more true than when reading the three winning essays. These three winners, a second-grader, a seventh-grader, and an eleventh grader, get what far too many of their elders do not: bullets, guns, and violent death should not be an increasingly routine part of these children's lives. I ask that the three winning essays printed in the Chicago Sun Times be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 29, 1996]

KIDS, GUNS, AND DEATH

It is a sad fact of life: Children today are profoundly aware of the threat of gun violence. Last summer, the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence asked school-children how this omnipresent danger touches their lives, and what they thought should be done to end it. Asked to speak for themselves, more than 100 children from nearly two dozen schools submitted essays. It is powerful testimony. Many wrote of their personal brushes with gun violence; far too many told of losing family members and friends, and a few of actually witnessing fatal shootings. Here are the winning essays from three age categories. These young authors will read their entries Oct. 5, when the 14th Annual Walk Against Handgun Violence steps off from the Daley Center Plaza at 11 a.m.

ZACHERY JEFFERSON

Last week, when I layed down to rest for the night. I couldn't sleep because I heard the sound of gunshots in the air. My heart just pound and pound, until I heard the lock turn and the door slam. After I heard my mommy's voice. I was able to sleep.

I was worried about my mother walking to our building. I live in a tall building called Stateway Gardens. My mother Ms. Jefferson's work day begins in the afternoon and ends late night about 12:30 midnight. I know it isn't safe for my mom to walk the street in my neighborhood at night alone. She has to work to take care of my sister and I.

When I grow up I want to be a policeman, not just a policeman but the Chief of Police. I want to change things. It should be against the law for people to just shoot. Those bad people who are shooting guns like crazy mustn't realize how it feels to worry, or maybe they don't have a mother who works to take care of a family.

Well, my heart pounds and beats like a drum when I am upset or worried. For those who don't know what it feels like, I'll tell you. It's like losing something very special and that moment when you realize it's gone, your heart races real fast and sweat pops on your face and your knees shakes.

Please stop now. If you don't, watch out for me later! I will be coming with my badge on.

RHEA JACKSON

Guns are something very serious. Many people think that a gun is the answer to

solving their problems that won't go away. This isn't true. There are many other ways to solve your problems. People today don't care if a younger child gets injured, shot, killed or even paralyzed because all that really matters to them is to kill their problem that won't go away.

Today many boys are killing each other over some crazy things like money, drugs, shoes, name-brand clothes and even girls. That affects me a whole lot because that might be me one day. Instead of the boy getting shot I might get shot in his place.

I come from a very overprotective household with a father who is on me like white on rice. Sometimes I feel that he needs to give me a break and let me go to a friend's house. However, when I go I see people who don't have fathers they can turn to and I realize why my father is like that. He doesn't want me to get caught between gangs cross-firing at each other. Then I begin to see how lucky I am to have him around.

I feel that it must stop because many youngsters, like myself, want to live long, be able to live to see over the age of 21. I think that the gangs should come to a truce and live together in peace. If that doesn't work, then the police should be more aware of the gang activity going on. I'm saying these things because my cousin almost got in a crossfire between two gangs. They don't realize that bullets don't have names like they think. I think that the reason why kids join gangs is because of peer pressure, for attention and because they don't have anyone to turn to.

As you can see there are many things that scare me and other kids. The gangs have little kids, even kids at the age of 5, planning their funerals instead of dreaming about their weddings or Sweet 16 birthday parties.

If my essay gets published in a popular magazine or newspaper, please remember: "Bullets Don't Have Names."

CLAUDIA RUIZ

I personally experienced gun violence with the death of my cousin. I grew up with him and when he died from seven bullet wounds. I lost part of myself. Anyone who loves someone close to them knows that the pain is incurable, except with the dulling that time brings. It changes the lives of all those who knew the victim because part of their life is gone and there are no second chances.

Nothing is worth dying for, especially when the decision is not yours. No one has the right to make that decision for anyone. The anger that accompanies the pain is also destructive. Often when a gang member is killed, his brothers seek revenge. This brings further violence and loss of life. No one gains, and the cycle of violence keeps turning.

The cause of gun violence is that teenagers are joining gangs at an early age. Some of them join gangs because of the lure of money from selling drugs. Perhaps their family is poor and they need the money to support themselves and their family. Selling drugs offers them an easy solution. More often gang members come from families where they were neglected. They are looking for somewhere to belong, somewhere safe.

I believe in each case that the blame lies largely on the parents who do not give their children the support they needed while they were young. However, that is not to say that the parents are not facing tremendous odds trying to raise their children in an environment where gun violence and gang membership is prevalent. In large families, the older children are neglected as the parents are busy looking after the young. Unfortunately, the older children still need their guidance. Often, elder children become lonely and depressed. For these reasons, they may join a

gang to find friendship and belonging. Although the gang may feel like their salvation, their only salvation is to be able to talk to their parents instead of fighting against them. These youth need someone to show them that their families are where they may find safety. They need counseling so that they may talk about their fears and the problems in their family and on the street.

In addition, violence prevention counseling would educate the youth to find other solutions to violence in resolving their anger. They need someone to point them in the right direction and to show them they have choices in the future if they make the right decisions now. They need guidance to learn how to be themselves.●

THE VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC RESERVE

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to express my sincere pleasure that the Vancouver National Historic Reserve will be established as a result of the enactment of legislation by this Congress.

We have worked for several years in a bipartisan fashion to establish this important historic site in Vancouver, WA. This vision for cooperative management of the historic resources at Fort Vancouver began with the city of Vancouver and former Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld. Congresswoman Unsoeld had the vision, leadership, and determination to develop a broadly supported plan to preserve and promote several chapters in the colorful history of the Pacific Northwest.

This proposal has been 10 years in the making. Throughout these years, the vision has been for a collaborative effort between the city of Vancouver, the Army, and the National Park Service. In recognition of the opportunity to coordinate the management and interpretation of the historic areas around Fort Vancouver, Congress in 1990 established the Vancouver Historic Study Commission to develop a plan for the area and make a recommendation to Congress. In 1993, the five members of the commission—representing the National Park Service, City of Vancouver, Army, State Historic Preservation Office, and the public-at-large—unanimously approved a strategy for the area. The commission's report called for the establishment of a Vancouver National Historic Reserve. The reserve would be cooperatively managed by the various public owners of the area through the Vancouver partnership. Key controversies such as the continued operation of Pearson Airpark were addressed and thoughtfully resolved.

Legislation to implement the commission's recommendations was introduced in 1994 by former Congresswoman Unsoeld but was unable to pass in the closing days of the 103d Congress. In an effort to maintain progress on the historic area, the city entered into a memorandum of agreement with the National Park Service regarding the operation of the area on November 4, 1995. Nevertheless, legislation was still needed to implement the MOA and the commission's recommendations.

During this Congress, we have worked with the city and the Park Service in a bipartisan fashion to address outstanding concerns and develop legislation to effectively establish the reserve. Senator GORTON and I, and Congresswoman SMITH, introduced bills to establish the reserve. When the committee began to develop an omnibus parks bill, Senator GORTON and I worked to include the Vancouver Historic Reserve and were successful. The simplified version of our bill included in the omnibus measure raised concerns for the Park Service and was improved during the conference with the House.

As last-minute negotiations on this omnibus parks bill progressed, there was some miscommunication regarding the administration's support for the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. As is now clear, the administration fully supports the establishment of the reserve and supports its inclusion in this omnibus measure. And so do I. I look forward to the development of the Vancouver partnership and the coordinated management it will bring to the historic treasures of Vancouver, WA. Treasures of the entire Pacific Northwest that must be preserved for future generations.

The Vancouver National Historic Reserve is truly "Once Place Across Time". From the Native American cultures and communities that lived and traded in the region for over 100 centuries to Lewis and Clark's expedition and the Hudson Bay Company's fur trade, the areas of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve are at the foundation of the history and the legacy of the Pacific Northwest and the great State of Washington. Our journey from these beginnings through the decades is also visible through Fort Vancouver, the Vancouver Army Barracks and Officer's Row, and Pearson Airfield.

The multiple layers of history tells us so much about our region and ourselves. I look forward to the sense of continuity the reserve will bring to the history of this place. The connection of people and places across the span of time will bring an improved sense of place to this wonderful area of our region and the Nation.●

CHILDHOOD HUNGER DAY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to commend the American Culinary Federation for its efforts to combat the problem of childhood hunger in the United States. Although we are the richest nation on Earth, each day 1 out of 12 children under the age of 12 goes to bed hungry. In my own State of New Jersey, 91,000 children must endure hunger as their constant companion. Children are our most valuable natural resource, and as a nation we cannot tolerate a situation where our youngest citizens are deprived the most basic necessity.

Mr. President, I know that we all agree that steps must be taken to end

the epidemic of childhood hunger. If we do not condemn this situation by our actions, then we condone it by our inaction.

Mr. President, in New Jersey, the Jersey Shore Chapter of the American Culinary Federation is dedicated to fighting this scourge. Among its many activities, on October 16, the federation will again be holding its Childhood Hunger Day Forum in Washington, DC. The event is designed to increase awareness of the problem of childhood hunger, and it will give voice to the millions of small children who suffer in silence.

Mr. President, I applaud the foundation's efforts, and I wish it every success on Childhood Hunger Day and for all of their future endeavors.●

STANISLAV REMBSKI

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, Stanislaw Rembski is one of America's greatest artists. On October 8, 1996 he celebrates his 100th birthday. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rembski on this special occasion, and in thanking him for creating so many national treasures.

As a Polish-American Senator from Baltimore, I am very proud of Stanislaw Rembski. He was born in Sochaczew, Poland in 1896. He immigrated to the United States in 1923. Since 1940, he has lived and worked in Baltimore. He taught himself to draw—and he teaches us all how to enjoy and appreciate art through his writings and lectures.

Stanislaw Rembski is one of America's premier portrait painters. He has painted over 1,000 commissions—including well-known portraits of President Woodrow Wilson and President Franklin Roosevelt. He has painted five of Maryland's first ladies and these paintings hang in Government House in Annapolis.

Stanislaw Rembski is known for capturing the spirit and personality of his subjects. That is why so many of his portraits are used in history books—they tell us more about the subject than any photograph ever could. I encourage everyone to see this for themselves. A retrospective of his work is now on display in the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore.

Mr. President, Stanislaw Rembski honors his Polish heritage and his adopted American homeland. His paintings are a gift that will grace our museums and public buildings forever.●

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thought the parks bill was ready for conclusion, and perhaps a colloquy is needed.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. If I may respond to the majority leader, it is my understanding that an agreement can be reached and a colloquy is in the process of being reviewed and completed. I personally do not have it at this time. I expect it momentarily.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we have some work we can do. The minute that the final agreement and colloquy enters the Chamber, please let us know. We would like to interrupt whatever we are doing to get this agreement reached.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. If I may respond to the majority leader to concur with his agreement. I have never had the obvious honor of giving birth to anything, but this is about the closest.

Mr. LOTT. Senator DASCHLE and I will have the pleasure in a moment of notifying the President of our intent to conclude our work, and the adjournment resolution has been adopted.

PROVIDING FOR THE SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 230 regarding adjournment of the 104th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H.Con. Res. 230) providing for the sine die adjournment of the second session of the 104th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

AMENDMENT NO. 5426

Mr. LOTT. I send an amendment to the desk providing for adjournment of the Senate Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of this week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] proposes an amendment numbered 5426.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause, and substitute the following in lieu thereof:

"That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, October 2, 1996, Thursday, October 3, 1996, or Friday, October 4, 1996, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by the Majority Leader, or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, and that when the Senate adjourns on Wednesday, October 2, 1996, Thursday, October 3, 1996, or Friday, October 4, 1996, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by the Majority Leader, or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.