

has said there is no entitlement for Social Security benefits; that there is no relationship between the taxes we pay in and our right to receive any Social Security check when we retire. That means that the young generations, those under 55 years old, are completely dependent on future politicians deciding how much they might cut their benefits.

And just one last word, Madam Speaker. The longer we put this off, the more drastic the solution. Let us do it, let us get at it, and let us deal with it.

**CONGRESS OWES AMERICAN PUBLIC LEGISLATION ON GUN SAFETY PRIOR TO MEMORIAL DAY RECESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAUR) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAUR. Madam Speaker, I listened to the Speaker of the House this morning tell us that we cannot pass gun safety legislation in this body before we leave for the Memorial Day break for vacation. We owe it to the American people, to American families, to move on this legislation before we go home. We need to work on the people's timetable and not on the congressional timetable.

To delay this issue is politics. That is what this is about.

We have 13 children in the United States who die every single day because of gun violence. If this is not an emergency, I do not know what is an emergency. This House of Representatives has risen to occasions where there have been crises in this country. We can move on a dime. We can pass legislation in 24 hours or less if we have the will to do it.

The juvenile justice bill has been sitting in committee for the last 3 to 4 weeks. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation. It can be passed in a heartbeat if we have the will to do it. We have to pass gun safety legislation in our country if we are going to meet the pleas and the cries of American families today.

I saw a grandmother yesterday in my district in Connecticut. She lives in Connecticut, her family is in Indiana. And she said to me, "Ms. DELAUR, when you go back, please pass gun safety legislation. My two grandchildren were evacuated from their schools just last week." And I am not the only one who is hearing the plea of the American public. Let us do what is responsible, let us respond to American families.

Last week the other Chamber did the right thing. They passed common-sense gun safety legislation. The House of Representatives this week has that opportunity. Let us take up this legislation and pass fair and sensible measures that we, in fact, know will save lives.

There are some who want to wait until mid-June. I say we have waited too long. We have done nothing despite repeated tragedies in our schools, and we sit idly by while, as I said, 13 children are killed by guns every single day.

Youth violence is a complex problem. It requires several answers. We need parental involvement, safe schools, guidance counselors, mental health services, and less violence in our media. But gun safety laws that protect children are part of a sensible response to a crisis that is killing our kids in the United States.

I call upon the Republican leadership, I call upon the Speaker of the House, to schedule that vote this week. Like the other Chamber, we must ensure that firearms are sold with child safety locks, that we have background checks at gun shows, and that a person is 21 years old before he or she buys a gun.

Let us take these steps. Our families, our children are relying on us, those of us who have been sent here to do the people's business. Let us take the people's House and let us be responsive to the American public this week, when they are in need of knowing that, in fact, we can represent them and their families and their children in this body. That is what our responsibility is this week.

My God, I hope that we are up to the task in this body.

**HOUSE SHOULD VOTE ON THREE ELEMENTS OF SENATE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION PRIOR TO MEMORIAL DAY RECESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I too rise out of a note of optimism and, frankly, a little sadness, having listened to the Speaker's comments on the floor of this House.

I have been in Congress only 3 years, but over the course of those 3 years we have been attempting repeatedly to have the Republican leadership allow us the opportunity to vote on simple, common-sense approaches that will make a difference for the epidemic of gun violence in this country. We, in fact, know that it will make a difference.

There are about six times that I have taken to the well of this Chamber after tragic shootings, not to try to take advantage of them, but thinking that for a moment there might be an opportunity that this would touch the conscience of the people who control what the Members of this body will be able to vote upon.

Nine times since I have been in Congress there have been multiple shooting deaths on school campuses around this country. One of them, tragically,

was in my State of Oregon. I do not know how anybody who looks in the eyes of the families who have suffered this tragedy, who have looked in their souls to realize that we have taken steps in this Congress to deal with things like auto safety, yet we will not take the same simple approach to try and make a difference to reduce the carnage from gun violence for young people.

The concept of a livable community, from where I sit, is what the Federal Government is about. It ought to be a partnership with State governments, local governments, with the local communities, school districts, to try to make sure that when children go out the door in the morning that they are safe, that the family is economically secure and they are healthy.

Gun violence has a wrenching impact on all three of those factors. The economic costs are staggering, costing billions of dollars each year for the thousands who are dead and maimed, victimized directly and indirectly. It has a significant impact in terms of public safety and crime, and it certainly makes a difference in terms of people's sense of security.

In the last Congress we pleaded just to act on the child access protection legislation. Give us a chance to vote on it. Fifteen States have enacted it, including the State of Florida, the home State of the Chair of the Subcommittee on Violence, and it has made a difference in terms of making children safer.

I would think that, at a minimum, the Members of this body ought to come forward and demand that we vote at least on the three elements that are in the Senate legislation, pass those things out today, make that progress real; then we can come back after the recess and deal with the Speaker's more deliberative approach on a longer-range term.

We have legislation introduced by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. McCARTHY) that a number of people on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, people of conscience, have signed that could be the vehicle that would deal comprehensively with these concerns.

I have legislation that I will be advancing that deals with making sure that the Product Safety Commission spends as much attention with real guns as it does with toy guns; that we would extend the prohibition against criminals having access to weapons under the Brady bill to others who have demonstrated a consistent pattern of violent behavior. This is overwhelmingly supported by the American public.

And last, but not least, that the Federal Government become a leader in personalizing guns to make sure that, for example, they cannot be used, the law enforcement service revolvers cannot be used against that man or woman in uniform. The Federal Government has a chance to make a huge difference in advancing this technology.

I find it a little ironic that the Speaker takes to the well of this Chamber urging caution and arguing against extraneous riders when we just passed an absolute abomination of a spending bill that was supposedly for the defense of our troops in Kosovo and, instead, included everything from reindeer to mining regulations. When it comes to special interests, we are willing to make exceptions, but not when it comes to our children.

I think our children ought to be the special interests. We ought to come forward with comprehensive legislation and we ought to do it now.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU) at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of Psalm 147.

*"Praise the Lord!"*

*"How good it is to sing praises to our God; for He is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting."*

*"The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel."*

*"He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds."*

*"He determines the numbers of the stars; He gives to all of them their names."*

*"Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure."*

*"The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; He casts the wicked to the ground."*

*"The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love."* Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FOLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minute speeches on each side.

#### NUCLEAR SECRETS STOLEN UNDER OUR NOSES WHILE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOTHING

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today we will release the Cox report on Chinese spying activities and the impact on national security. But I say today, rather than blame the Chinese, we should reflect on our own lax standards and security.

Do the initials "CIA" ring a bell? We spend billions on similar activities around the world, but we should be more concerned with protecting our own vital national security.

If I were the White House today reading some of the headlines, "China Stole Nuclear Secrets for Bombs, White House Seeks to Minimize that Type of Problem," then I would want to change the subject, too. I would want to talk about campaign finance reform. I would want to talk about gun control in America. I would want to do anything to change the tone and tenor of what has occurred in the United States under this administration.

We have given up valuable secrets, valuable technology, right under our noses. We were informed about it. Yet, the President denied anybody even told him anything relative to these secrets being stolen. Wake up, America. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.

#### BRING JUVENILE JUSTICE BILL TO THE FLOOR NOW

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, sending one's child to school should not take an act of courage. When children have died, when students have been shot sitting in class or studying at the library, when schools and communities have been torn apart, and when every American parent now worries when they send their children off to school, it is time for us to act. Not tomorrow. Not next week. Not next month. Now. Today.

There is a juvenile justice bill ready for us to consider that at least begins to address the school violence issue. Why will the Speaker not take up this bill? Is it because the NRA does not want him to? Is it because the far right in his party will not let him?

Whatever the reason, Mr. Speaker, it is not good enough. With 13 children

dying each day from guns and with that gun violence spilling into our schools, his reasons are not good enough.

Let us protect our children and bring up the juvenile justice bill today. Not tomorrow. Not next month. Not another day. Not another life. But today.

#### SUPPORT MISSING, EXPLOITED AND RUNAWAY CHILDREN'S ACT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in this National Missing Children's Week, I urge my colleagues to support S. 249, the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children's Act.

In my own district, Jimmy Ryce and Shannon Melendi were preyed upon by monsters.

Jimmy was abducted, raped, killed, and dismembered as he walked home from his school bus stop. Jimmy's parents channeled their grief into the establishment of the Jimmy Ryce Center.

Shannon disappeared from a softball field and was never seen again. Shannon's parents have taken their daughter's case to the public, pushing for stronger laws to keep sexual predators off the streets.

Shannon's father, Luis, said, "What happened to us cannot be changed, but because of what happened to us, changes can be made."

Passage of this bill will help protect our children from the predators who prey on our most innocent victims.

#### AMERICANS INSIST ON PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS, NOT CONTINUED BOMBING

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, NATO's deliberate bombing and knocking out of electric systems and water systems throughout Serbia takes the war to a new low.

NATO is assigning collective guilt to the entire population of Serbia. NATO is then exacting retribution against that civilian population. Violence cannot be redemptive.

NATO, whoever NATO is, does not represent this Congress, which voted against the bombing. The American people are opposed to this bombing. People want to know what they can do.

On Sunday night in Cleveland, 400 people marched in a driving rain along the city's largest bridge, a mile and a half procession for peace, to protest the bombing, to protest the ethnic cleansing, and to make a strong statement that we believe that the only way to resolve this is through peaceful negotiations. I say it is time to continue to insist that that is the way that we resolve this war.