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No. 110

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

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

We recognize, O God, that as we focus on our communities and our world there are voices of anger and acts of violence. Yet, we know too that there are voices of singing and acts of kindness and love. We know there is pain and we know there is joy, there is enmity and there is reconciliation.

Teach us, gracious God, so to number our days that our mouths will speak of wisdom and faith and our deeds will be of justice and righteousness.

Bless all Your people, O God, this day and every day, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAHOOD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 819, an act to authorize appropriations for the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 1-minute requests at the end of today's business.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for 5 minutes.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess for 5 minutes.

□ 0910

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 9 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1501, JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 1999

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1501) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders; to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to provide quality prevention programs and accountability programs relating to juvenile delinquency, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Conyers moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1501, be instructed to insist that—

(I) the committee of conference recommend a conference substitute which—

(A) includes a requirement that background checks be conducted on all firearms sales at gun shows so as to effectively preclude criminals and other prohibited purchasers (e.g. murderers, rapists, child molesters, fugitives from justice, illegal aliens, stalkers, and batterers) from obtaining firearms from non-licensed persons and federally licensed firearms dealers at gun shows;

(B) does not include any measure that would weaken the effectiveness of background checks currently conducted on individuals seeking to purchase a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer;

(C) does not include any measure that would otherwise weaken or eliminate any other provision of Federal firearms law or regulation; and

(D) includes provisions which would authorize funding for school resource officers and school violence prevention programs, including school counselors;

(2) all meetings of the committee of conference—

(A) be open to the public and to the print and electronic media;

(B) be held in venues selected to maximize the capacity for attendance of the public and the media; and

(C) be held during reasonable hours;

(3) the committee of conference allow sufficient opportunity for all members of the committee of conference to offer and debate amendments at all meetings of the committee of conference; and

(4) the committee of conference recommend a conference substitute before Congress adjourns for the August recess so that Congress can pass reasonable gun safety measures before children return to school.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

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

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that I have no objection to the instructions proposed by the gentleman from Michigan and we will accept them.

I just have one caveat, and that is putting time constraints on this may make it more difficult to resolve. We will do our best. It would be in an ideal world that we could finish this next week.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I say to the chairman, it is not binding, that we are going to do our best to accomplish that.

Mr. Speaker, as disappointed as I have been about the senseless delays that have prevented this Congress from sending to the President's desk reasonable and moderate gun safety measures, I am pleased that we are finally ready to appoint conferees.

□ 0915

On August 16, in just a few weeks, the children who attended Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, will be returning to school. It has been over 3 months since the tragedy in Columbine occurred. But because of the delaying tactics by the National Rifle Association and its allies, we have only 1 week to settle the gun safety issues before we adjourn for the summer recess.

We should not delay longer. How can we do nothing when 13 children are killed as a result of gun violence in this Nation every single day?

Nine people were shot to death in Atlanta, Georgia, yesterday, and 12 were wounded. We do not know all the facts, but this was clearly a disturbed man who should not own a gun. We need a comprehensive system of background checks to keep this kind of person from buying a gun. We need to plug the loopholes.

We still have time to make this back-to-school season free from worries about gun violence for our Nation's children and their parents.

Kids should not have unsupervised access to guns. Teachers and parents should know that their children are carrying books, pencils and paper in their backpacks, not guns.

No dangerous criminal should be allowed to buy a gun at a gun show.

That is all that we are asking for.

My motion to instruct conferees is simple:

Number one, it says that a conference report should include measures that prevent criminals from getting guns at gun shows. A murderer, rapist or batterer should not be able to buy a gun at a gun show. It should not matter whether a murderer tries to buy the gun from a licensed or an unlicensed dealer. The murderer should not get the gun. This is common sense.

Number two, it says that a conference report should not weaken cur-

rent gun laws. After the tragedies in Littleton, Colorado, and Conyers, Georgia, American parents cried out for measures that do more to protect their kids from gun violence. How can we as a Congress do less?

Number three, it says that a conference report should provide more school resource officers and counselors for our schools. We need to prevent gun violence in schools before it happens. We need to give teachers, school administrators, and parents the tools they need to make schools safer.

Number four, it says that we need to have a fair and open conference. This House should be ashamed that so much of the House debate on gun safety took place in the dead of night while American families were sleeping and unaware that new loopholes that would give more criminals access to guns were being written. The NRA and its allies should not be allowed to hide any longer.

Mr. Speaker, the young people are going back to school. It is time for this Congress to get back to work and pass modest and reasonable gun safety legislation. With nearly 5,000 of our children being killed by gun violence this year, we certainly cannot afford to put this legislation on hold any longer.

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

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

(Mr. HYDE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion to instruct conferees. The gentleman from Michigan's motion makes several points that I know we all agree with, and hence we need no instruction to do. But I am concerned that the motion would also, or might also constrain the work of the conferees in such a way that might well be counterproductive.

The first instruction in the motion is that conferees craft the conference report in such a way that no criminal will be able to buy a gun, at a gun show or anywhere else. I know of no dispute on this point.

The second instruction in the motion is that the conferees not weaken any existing gun laws. I can assure you this side intends for that to happen. In fact, a cursory review of H.R. 1501 as passed by the House shows that the intent of this body is to strengthen the laws that punish the illegal possession and use of a gun. We do not need to be instructed to avoid doing the opposite.

The third point raised by the motion, to ensure that the conference report addresses the issue of school resource officers, is one that can be raised at conference certainly, and I am not aware of any controversy on this point that requires a vote of the full House at this time. I am certain we can address it at the conference itself satisfactorily.

Mr. Speaker, if this motion instructed us to do only that which we

intend to do anyway, it would be superfluous and not needed. But I am troubled by one aspect of it, and that is, the time constraints. We all want to move with expedition. There have been inordinate delays in getting this to this point. But we all know the reasons for that. This is a very contentious and volatile issue and there are diverse interests tugging and pulling us in different directions. And so I expect this to be a difficult but certainly not impossible conference. But I am fully hopeful that we can emerge with a conference report that can command the support of the majority of this House and a majority of the other body.

I also note that next week is going to involve a number of important measures that will be brought to the floor of this House and that of the other body, all seeking to be reconciled and resolved before the August recess. The interruptions that votes on these measures would cause to a conference, were one to be held, might be enough to prevent us from finishing within a week. Simply put, next week is not the wisest deadline for the work of this conference to be completed. But we are going to try. We are going to give it our very best effort.

And so I support the motion to instruct conferees, and I ask my colleagues to support it. I give you in return my assurance that I intend to complete the work of the conference as quickly and as effectively as possible, while still doing all the work expected of us, in as thoughtful and thorough a manner as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 305, nays 84, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 354]

YEAS—305

Abercrombie	Baldwin	Bentsen
Ackerman	Ballenger	Bereuter
Allen	Barcia	Berkley
Andrews	Barrett (NE)	Berman
Baird	Barrett (WI)	Berry
Baker	Bateman	Biggart
Baldacci	Becerra	Bliley

Bishop	Hobson
Bliley	Hoeffel
Blumenauer	Hoekstra
Blunt	Holden
Boehlert	Holt
Boehner	Hooley
Bonior	Horn
Bono	Houghton
Borski	Hoyer
Boswell	Hyde
Boyd	Inslee
Brady (PA)	Isakson
Brown (OH)	Istook
Bryant	Jackson (IL)
Buyer	Jackson-Lee
Calvert	(TX)
Camp	Jefferson
Campbell	John
Canady	Johnson, E. B.
Capps	Jones (OH)
Capuano	Kanjorski
Cardin	Kaptur
Carson	Kasich
Castle	Kelly
Chambliss	Kennedy
Clay	Kildee
Clayton	Kilpatrick
Clement	Kind (WI)
Clyburn	King (NY)
Combest	Klink
Condit	Knollenberg
Conyers	Kolbe
Cook	Kucinich
Cooksey	Kuykendall
Costello	LaFalce
Coyne	LaHood
Cramer	Lampson
Crowley	Larson
Cunningham	Latham
Danner	LaTourette
Davis (IL)	Lazio
Davis (VA)	Leach
DeFazio	Lee
DeGette	Levin
Delahunt	Lewis (CA)
DeLauro	Lewis (GA)
DeMint	Linder
Diaz-Balart	Lipinski
Dickey	LoBiondo
Dingell	Lofgren
Dixon	Lowey
Doggett	Maloney (CT)
Dooley	Maloney (NY)
Doyle	Martinez
Dreier	Mascara
Duncan	Matsui
Dunn	McCarthy (MO)
Edwards	McCarthy (NY)
Ehrlich	McCullum
Eshoo	McGovern
Etheridge	McHugh
Evans	McInnis
Ewing	McKeon
Farr	McKinney
Fattah	McNulty
Filner	Meehan
Foley	Meek (FL)
Forbes	Meeks (NY)
Ford	Menendez
Fossella	Metcalf
Franks (NJ)	Mica
Frelinghuysen	Millender-McDonald
Frost	Miller (FL)
Ganske	Miller, Gary
Gejdenson	Miller, George
Gephardt	Minge
Gilchrest	Mink
Gillmor	Moakley
Gilman	Moore
Gonzalez	Moran (KS)
Goodling	Moran (VA)
Gordon	Morella
Goss	Myrick
Granger	Napolitano
Green (TX)	Neal
Green (WI)	Nethercutt
Greenwood	Northup
Gutknecht	Norwood
Hastings (FL)	Nussle
Hastings (WA)	Oberstar
Hefley	Obey
Herger	Olver
Hill (IN)	Ose
Hilliard	Oxley
Hinchey	Packard

Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Phelps
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rangel
Reyes
Reynolds
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Roukema
Royal-Allard
Rogan
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Schakowsky
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shuster
Simpson
Skeen
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Spratt
Stabenow
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Walden
Walsh
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Weygand
Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NAYS—84

Aderholt
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Barr
Bartlett
Bass
Bilirakis
Bonilla
Boucher
Brady (TX)
Callahan
Cannon
Chabot
Chenoweth
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Deal
DeLay
Doolittle
Emerson
Everett
Fletcher
Gibbons
Goode
Goodlatte
Graham
Barton
Blagojevich
Brown (FL)
Burr
Burton
Cox
Crane
Cubin
Cummings
Davis (FL)
Deutsch
Dicks
Ehlers
Engel
English
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Gallegly
Gekas
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Hutchinson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Kleczka
Lantos
Luther
Manzullo
Markey
McCrary
Rogers
Ryun (KS)
Salmon
Sanford
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hulshof
Hunter
Jenkins
Shows
Jones (NC)
Souder
Spence
Stump
Sununu
Talent
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
McIntyre
Mollohan
Thornberry
Murtha
Ney
Tiabrt
Paul
Vitter
Wamp
Watkins
Watts (OK)
Whitfield
Rahall
Wicker
Wise

NOT VOTING—44

□ 0954

Messrs. COBURN, COLLINS, STUMP, HAYES, PICKERING, PICKETT, HILLEARY, WHITFIELD, BACHUS, WAMP, CALLAHAN, ROGERS, HALL of Texas, TAYLOR of Mississippi, HULSHOF, MCINTYRE, PITTS, SISISKY, WISE, RAHALL, BILIRAKIS, DEAL of Georgia, SPENCE, COBLE, RYUN of Kansas, SUNUNU, ARCHER, ARMEY, MOLLOHAN, TALENT, DELAY, SOUDER, MURTHA, GRAHAM, and BARTLETT of Maryland changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. ROEMER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to instruct was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 354, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 354, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber today during rollcall vote No. 354. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. HYDE, MCCOLLUM, GEKAS, COBLE, SMITH of Texas, CANADY of Florida, BARR of Georgia, CONYERS, FRANK of Massachusetts, SCOTT, BERMAN and Ms. LOFGREN.

Provided, that Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas is appointed in lieu of Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts for consideration of sections 741, 1501, 1505, 1534-35, and titles V, VI, and IX of the Senate amendment.

Provided, that Mr. MEEHAN is appointed in lieu of Mr. BERMAN for consideration of sections 741, 1501, 1505, 1534-35, and titles V, VI, and IX of the Senate amendment.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of the House bill, and the Senate amendment (except sections 741, 1501, 1505, 1534-35, and titles V, VI and IX), and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GOODLING, PETRI, CASTLE, GREENWOOD, DEMINT, CLAY, KILDEE, and Mrs. McCARTHY of New York.

From the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of sections 1365 and 1401-03 of the House bill, and sections 1504, 1515, and 1523 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BLILEY and Mr. DINGELL.

Provided, that Mr. BILIRAKIS is appointed for consideration of section 1365 of the House bill and section 1523 of the Senate amendment.

Provided, that Mr. TAUZIN is appointed for consideration of sections 1401-03 of the House bill and sections 1504 and 1515 of the Senate amendment.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 5(b) of Public Law 93-642 (20 U.S.C. 2004(b)), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House as members of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation:

Mrs. EMERSON, Missouri and Mr. SKELTON, Missouri.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain 1 minutes until approximately 10:45 this morning.

WELCOME HOME TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RED HORSE SQUADRON

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, on June 8, the Secretary of Defense, Bill Cohen, ordered three U.S. Air Force Red Horse Squadron combat engineer teams from Nellis Air Force Base to Albania.