

am never really inclined to praise The Washington Post. But The Washington Post, to their credit, ran a very fine story this past Sunday about gun control that surprised me quite a bit.

Apparently, my friends on the other side of the aisle missed that article or have decided to merely misrepresent this whole issue. The article points out that none of the gun control bills debated by Congress this year if passed into law would have stopped any of the recent shootings which have taken so many of our children's lives.

The reason is quite simple. All of the killers had either bought their guns legally or found an easy way to get around State and Federal laws. The article went through each shooting and each killer, the killers at Columbine; Mike Barton in Atlanta; Buford Furrow, Jr., in Los Angeles; Benjamin Nathaniel Smith in Illinois and Indiana; and Larry Geen Ashbrook in Fort Worth, Texas; and it traced the steps through which the purchase of the guns occurred before those shootings.

Again, no gun control laws so passionately advocated by those on the other side would have had any impact on these killers.

CAPTIVE ELEPHANT ACCIDENT PREVENTION ACT

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, first of all, to thank game show host Bob Barker for coming to Washington, D.C. in support of the bill I am introducing today and sorry that he had to have emergency surgery. We all wish him well as he recovers from this.

Today I am introducing the Captive Elephant Accident Prevention Act, H.R. 2929, to make circuses more humane for animals and safer for spectators. I am not interested in seeing the circus industry unduly hindered or encumbered. My bill is a practical, reasonable bill that addresses a fundamental wrong in the entertainment industry.

The problem is that we have to break the will of wild beasts, big beasts that are 10 feet tall, weigh several tons, in order for them to perform stunts at circuses. They use high-powered electric prods. They tie them up. And we can see that when an animal goes wild, as this one did in Honolulu, that the only way to stop them from injuring people is to shoot them. That is what happened in this case where an animal had 57 rounds shot into him before he was brought down.

Animals like elephants are not horses or dogs. They cannot be trained for those purposes. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 2929.

FALN TERRORISTS RELEASED FROM PRISON

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is the practice in our Nation that victims of crime and their families be consulted before criminals who have perpetrated the crimes against them are released from prison.

Well, it just so happens that the victims of the FALN terrorist attacks were never even consulted; they were never even notified that these terrorists were about to be set free from prison, another injustice against the American people and victims of crime by our President.

Yet, the Clinton-Gore Administration took months talking to the terrorists and their representatives as they made their decision. We know that the First Lady was consulted. She first agreed, and then she said she changed her mind. We are told that the Vice President is consulted about everything. I wonder what his response or his role was in granting the terrorists their freedom.

Why were not 139 bombings, 6 people killed, dozens maimed enough to keep terrorists off of our streets? The American people and the victims of crime deserve answers to these questions, not silence through executive privilege.

CONGRESS TURNS OTHER CHEEK

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, FBI agents testified that the Justice Department blocked their investigation of illegal campaign contributions to the Democrat National Committee in the last campaign.

FBI agents also said, under oath, Justice Department lawyers actually impeded and delayed and obstructed any investigation.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Whether we are a Republican or a Democrat or an Independent, this is wrong. This may in fact be criminal. And the Justice Department warrants a thorough investigation by an independent counsel, not one of their own peers.

The trouble is, Mr. Speaker, Congress turns the other cheek. Shame, Congress.

I yield back China Gate. I yield back Travel Gate. I yield back Ruby Ridge. I yield back Waco. And I yield back more to come.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO SPEND MORE—REPUBLICANS WANT TO SPEND LESS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as we move to the end of the closure for our budget this year, on almost every single bill, on almost every single amendment to every bill, this dispute between the Republicans and the Democrats comes down to the same thing. The Democrats want to spend more and more around here. Republicans want to spend less and provide accountability.

In fact, any attempt by Republicans to limit spending is met by outrage, accusations by the Democrats that Republicans are mean-spirited.

Yet, for 40 years while they were in the majority there was hardly a Government program they did not support, a Government program they did not expand, or a Government program they did not dream about building. Yet, now Democrats are actually trying to portray themselves as a party of fiscal responsibility.

Please spare us, the American people, this rhetoric. Republicans were elected in 1994, and they forced the President to sign a balanced budget despite loud protests from the left that it would require savage cuts. The Republicans believe in fiscal accountability, and they are trying hard to value the taxpayers' money.

REMEMBERING FIREFIGHTER STEPHEN MASTO

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the service and pay tribute to Stephen Joseph Masto. Stephen died in late August while helping to battle a wildfire in Los Padres National Forest in my district.

At the young age of 28, Stephen had already devoted his career to public safety. He spent his career fighting fires all over Southern California and the central coast. We can never repay Stephen or his family for his dedication, hard work, and ultimate sacrifice. Rather, we must honor him by being especially mindful of the brave men and women firefighters he has left behind.

These individuals have committed themselves to protecting the lives and safety of their neighbors in times of need. Like Stephen, they are true heroes in every sense of the word.

I know that I speak for my entire community when I extend my most heartfelt condolences to Stephen's families and loved ones who will miss him so terribly. We honor him when we honor the people he has left behind.

IT IS TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it seems that rarely does a day go by when we

do not learn of more allegations of mismanagement, stonewalling, and cover-ups at the Department of Justice.

Yesterday, during the testimony before the Senate committee, FBI agents assigned to investigate the Clinton White House's involvement in the widespread campaign financial scandal said that Justice Department officials blocked their efforts to carry out the investigation.

At one point during the investigation, the special agent in charge of the Little Rock FBI office personally wrote to FBI Director Louis Freeh to express his concern about Justice's role in hampering the investigation, maintaining that the team leading the investigation, at best, simply was not up to the task.

Mr. Speaker, the Justice Department continues to lose confidence of the law enforcement community, confidence of the Congress, and confidence of the American people. It is time to restore that confidence. It is time to clean House at the Justice Department. It is time for Attorney General Janet Reno to step down.

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, while this Congress delays, while this Congress continues to look the other way, America's children are falling victim to gun violence at an alarming rate. The American people are demanding that this House take action to protect our young people from gun violence.

□ 1015

That is why I am so proud to stand here with my colleagues in reading the rollcall of children who have been victims of gun violence since Columbine. The child safety locks could have prevented many of these accidental deaths. This Congress should pass this legislation and stop delaying, delaying, delaying.

Richard Stanley, age 15, killed by gunfire on August 6, 1999, West Palm Beach, Florida; Erik Kraemer, age 17, killed by gunfire on August 7, 1999, Turtle Lake, Wisconsin; Halley Finch and many more that I will place in the RECORD.

LET US PASS THE INTERSTATE CLASS ACTION JURISDICTION ACT TODAY

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, this week of September 19 to 25 marks Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week. I commend members of the Western Maryland Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, WMCALA, for joining

thousands of Americans in informing the general public of the high price we all pay for frivolous lawsuits and excessive jury awards.

Today this House has the opportunity to reduce lawsuit abuse by passing the Interstate Class Action Jurisdiction Act. This bill will discourage frivolous class action claims.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote yes and pass this sensible and important legislation.

Frivolous lawsuits and excessive jury awards exact a heavy price from all Americans in the form of higher prices for goods and services, fewer jobs, loss of safety improvements and product innovations, and delays in compensation for citizens with legitimate claims. Please pass the Interstate Class Action Jurisdiction Act today.

LET US PASS REAL GUN SAFETY REFORM NOW

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stood here yesterday and I will stand here many more days, if it takes our presence on the floor to cause this Congress to pass real gun safety reform.

I stand here to continue the rollcall of dead children who have been killed by gunfire since Columbine. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we close the gun show loopholes that will disallow criminals and others who should not have guns from getting guns. It will disallow those who would kill our children or would put guns in the hands of our children that they might accidentally shoot each other.

Mr. Speaker, are my colleagues aware that unlike our movie theaters where one must be accompanied by an adult for certain type movies, that children can randomly go through gun shows with no supervision? Yes, Mr. Speaker, we need real gun safety reform, the elimination of automatic clips. We need to protect our children, and it is for that reason I stand here today to read the rollcall of our dead children who died by gunfire:

Timothy Rodriguez, age 16, killed by gunfire on August 7, 1999, Peoria, Arizona; Preston Posey, age 14, killed by gunfire on August 8, 1999, Louisville, Kentucky; Jaire Soler, age 15, killed by gunfire on August 8, 1999, Bronx, New York.

AMERICA HAS OVERPAID THE COST OF GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, imagine going to McDonald's and ordering a nine-piece chicken nuggets and a large drink. The cost is \$4.50. You give the clerk a \$5 bill. The clerk takes your

money, gives you the chicken and the drink but no change. So you ask, where is my fifty cents? And the clerk says, well, I could give you the fifty cents, but then I would have to trust you to spend it right.

Well, you would be appalled. You would be angry. It is your money. But, Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what will happen if the President vetoes the tax cut.

America has overpaid the cost of government. We locked up all Social Security. We have protected all of Medicare payments. We are even paying down the publicly held debt, and still we have money left over. We have overpaid the cost of government. The change is ours.

Well, the President does not trust us to spend it right. He has even publicly said so. But I trust you, the Republicans trust you, and I hope the President will change his mind and trust America and give us back our change and sign the tax relief law.

CHILDREN KILLED BY GUNFIRE

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue to read the names of children killed by gunfire since the April 20 Columbine massacre: Anthony Joseph Stroud, age 12, killed by gunfire in July 1999, Houston, Texas; Reginald McClaine, age 16, killed by gunfire on August 4, 1999, Bronx, New York; Aaron Thomas, age 16, killed by gunfire on August 5, 1999, St. Louis, Missouri; Erik Kraemer, age 17, killed by gunfire on August 7, 1999, Turtle Lake, Wisconsin; Halley Finch, age 5, killed by gunfire on August 7, 1999, Gary, Indiana; Jeremy Lee Gearon, age 16, killed by gunfire on August 7, 1999, Gary, Indiana; DeJuan Williams, age 17, killed by gunfire on August 9, 1999, St. Louis, Missouri; Alexandre Durrieve, age 14, killed by gunfire on August 10, 1999, Miami, Dade County, Florida.

EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA IS NOW SADLY A TARGET OF CHINESE MISSILES, COURTESY OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I note with interest the recitation of names by my colleagues on the left. I think it is a tragedy when any child dies. I think it is likewise a tragedy when we can add to the rollcall the names of the living, Nicole Irene Hayworth, Scottsdale, Arizona; Hannah Lynn Hayworth, Scottsdale, Arizona; John Mica Hayworth, Scottsdale, Arizona; and every child in America now sadly a target of Chinese missiles, courtesy of transfers of technology, curiously supported by campaign donations from