

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), are necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE), are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) would vote "no."

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Abraham	Fitzgerald	Murkowski
Allard	Frist	Nickles
Ashcroft	Gorton	Roberts
Bennett	Gramm	Roth
Bond	Grams	Santorum
Brownback	Grassley	Sessions
Bunning	Gregg	Smith (NH)
Burns	Hagel	Smith (OR)
Byrd	Hatch	Snowe
Campbell	Helms	Specter
Cochran	Hutchinson	Stevens
Collins	Hutchison	Thomas
Conrad	Inhofe	Thompson
Coverdell	Kyl	Thurmond
Craig	Lott	Voinovich
DeWine	Lugar	Warner
Domenici	Mack	
Enzi	McConnell	

NAYS—39

Akaka	Feinstein	Lincoln
Baucus	Graham	Mikulski
Bayh	Harkin	Moynihan
Biden	Hollings	Murray
Bingaman	Jeffords	Reed
Boxer	Johnson	Reid
Bryan	Kerrey	Robb
Cleland	Kohl	Rockefeller
Dodd	Landrieu	Sarbanes
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Schumer
Durbin	Leahy	Shelby
Edwards	Levin	Torricelli
Feingold	Lieberman	Wyden

NOT VOTING—9

Breaux	Daschle	Kerry
Chafee	Inouye	McCain
Crapo	Kennedy	Wellstone

The conference report was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for this vote. I think it is important that we fund the District at a responsible level. I hope the President will look at the merits of this bill and let the District have the additional funding that is included. I think the vast majority of the people in the leadership of the District realize this is a giant step forward not only for the people of the District but for every American whose capital this is.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business for

the remainder of the today's session, with Members permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

UPDATE ON CRIME CONFERENCE AND THE RELEASE OF REPORT "CRIME COMMITTED WITH FIREARMS"

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I want to comment briefly on the status of the youth violence bill conference. Conferees from the House and Senate had planned to meet later today to complete consideration of the conference report. Last night, conference staff met jointly with Administration officials. And discussions on firearms and culture related issues are moving forward. Chairman HYDE felt that his talks with Mr. CONYERS are going very well. Accordingly, I felt we should keep working, however, my hope and plan is to meet next week so we can complete action on this bill this month.

I also want to comment briefly on why this bill is so important. Too many violent crimes involve juveniles. According to the Justice Department, the number of juvenile arrests for violent crime, including crimes committed with a firearm, exceeds 1988 levels by 48 percent. Our youth violence problem is a compel problems that demand comprehensive solution. Our legislation makes our schools safer; it empowers parents; it recognizes the importance of prevention; and it emphasize the need for enforcement and getting tough on violent criminals. Part of any comprehensive solution to deal with crime must be a commitment to enforcing the laws on the books. Actions speak louder than words, whether we're talking about how the government deals with gun offenders or how it deals with terrorists.

I am deeply saddened by the news out of Texas concerning a crazed gunman's senseless, hate-for-religion rampage at a Forth Worth church which left seven innocent people dead and many others wounded. My prayers go out to the victims and their families and my energies will be all the more dedicated towards trying to reach a consensus on the youth violence bill. This event—and others like it in recent months—have energized a well-deserved and beneficial debate about the criminal use of firearms. Limiting criminal access to firearms, beefing up prosecutions, and responding to a popular culture which glamorizes firearms violence should all be parts of our response. But as I just noted, violent crime—violent juvenile crime, in particular—is a complex problem which deserves a comprehensive response.

In today's Washington Post, which appropriately reports on the Texas shooting on its front page, is buried an article about how a Maryland juvenile

court judge released from custody—over the objections of prosecutors—a 16-year-old, confessed violent sex offender who had been sent to Maryland's maximum security prison. He was released because the he was not receiving "individualized counseling."—Washington Post, Sept. 16, 1999, B-7. According to the article, the judge's view is that the purpose of the juvenile justice system is to "rehabilitate rather than punish young offenders." The teenager in question—whose identity has been protected, by the way—was one of six teenagers who, in March of last year, lured a 15-year-old girl from a bus stop to a vacant apartment where they took turns raping, sodomizing, and beating her for three hours. Three teenagers who participated in the rape were sentenced to life but this offender has been set free by a soft-headed juvenile justice system. According to the article, this violent sex-offender (whose fellow offenders are serving life-terms) will live with his relatives in near-by Prince George's County and will be enrolling in High Point High School.

Where's the greatest threat to the public? Ask the parents of High Point High School this question. The greatest threat to the public is from criminals who are set free by a soft-headed justice system, be they rapists or terrorists. And criminals who commit crimes but are not prosecuted are left free to commit more crimes. yesterday, I released a report reported entitled "*Crimes Committed With Firearms—A report for Parent, Prosecutors, and Policy Makers.*" Our report found that over 90% of criminals age 18 to 24 who had a substantial arrest record prior to being imprisoned are rearrested within three years for a felony or serious misdemeanor.

I mention this article and our report to illustrate, as I have said repeatedly, that this is a complex problem which demands a comprehensive solution. Simply passing more laws which get printed in DOJ's law books but which go unenforced will not nothing to fight violent crime, let alone violent juvenile crime. And legislation which fails to make meaningful reforms which promotes juvenile accountability and juvenile record disclosure—as the Hatch-Sessions bill does—will prove to be a hollow accomplishment.

In closing, we must do all we can to come together and resolve our differences and reach consensus. When I hear members drawing lines in the sand over specific provisions in the youth violence bill, I get concerned because it tells me that the politics of party are trumping the obligation to lead and do what's right.

That is what I intend to do in this juvenile justice conference. I hope we have the cooperation of everybody on both sides. I hope the rumors that some want to play this as a political matter are not true. I think we need to pass a juvenile justice bill this year, and we need to do the very best we can do in doing that. I intend to get that

done, and I thank all those who cooperated in helping to get it done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FITZGERALD). The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you, Mr. President. For the benefit of my colleagues, I will be finished in 5 minutes.

FIT GUN CONTROL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I seek recognition because my comments follow on the same topic as the Senator from Utah, who I know wants very much to have a juvenile justice bill. But as I listened to his comments, I fear that perhaps we are not headed in the right direction with that legislation.

Yesterday, I know that all of us were shocked, as all Americans were, to hear about a gunman walking into the back of a church in Ft. Worth, TX, killing six people, wounding seven, and then killing himself.

I have a very simple message for my colleagues. If you can't feel safe from gun violence in the sanctuary of your church, where can you feel safe?

On Tuesday, in a story in my home State, not even widely reported, a man walked into the West Anaheim Medical Center and killed three hospital workers because he was grief stricken that his mother died in that hospital. He went on the hunt for particular nurses. If you can't feel safe from gun violence in a hospital in America, where can you feel safe?

What seems like yesterday is actually a couple of months now when in the Los Angeles region of California a crazed man walked into a Jewish center where there was a child care operation and shot his weapon. I will never forget the picture of the police holding the hands of that tiny little toddler as they tried to escape from the situation.

These are memories that are imprinted in our minds. If we don't do anything about it in this Senate, we do not deserve to call ourselves the Senate, let alone the greatest deliberative body in the world.

I feared, as I listened to the comments of the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, he seems to be saying that if we insist on modest gun control measures that are already in the Senate version, somehow we are playing politics.

I want to say right here in the most straightforward way I can that it is not playing politics to say we should keep guns out of the hands of criminals and people who are mentally disturbed and out of the hands of children. That is not playing politics. That is doing what needs to be done in America in 1999 going into the next century.

The modest gun control measures that we passed on this floor of the Senate—those modest measures that the Vice President cast the tie breaking vote for—are common sense and close the gun show loophole that allows criminals and mentally unbalanced

people to walk into a gun show and immediately get a weapon. It is common sense to stop that.

Senator LAUTENBERG's amendment would do so.

Senator FEINSTEIN's amendment on banning the importation of high-capacity ammunition clips which are used in semiautomatic weapons—common sense.

Senator KOHL's amendment requiring that child safety devices be sold with every handgun—common sense.

My own amendment asking the FTC and the Attorney General to study the extent to which the gun industry markets to children—common sense.

The Ashcroft amendment making it illegal to sell or give a semiautomatic weapon to anyone under the age of 18—that is all we did in that bill.

Yet we have the chairman of the Judiciary Committee out here talking as if, my goodness, those measures were political.

Listen. I don't think the American people can stand this anymore.

In closing my remarks, I am going to mention some of the shootings that took place in 1999.

January 14, office building, Salt Lake City, Utah, one dead, one injured;

March 18, law office, Johnson City, Tennessee, two dead;

April 15, Mormon Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, three dead, including gunman (who was shot by police), four injured;

April 20, Columbine High School, Littleton, Colorado, 15 dead, including the two teenage gunmen, 23 injured;

May 20, Heritage High School, Conyers, Georgia, six injured;

June 3, grocery store, Las Vegas, Nevada, four dead;

June 11, psychiatrist's clinic, Southfield, Michigan, three dead, including the gunman, four injured;

July 12, private home, Atlanta, Georgia, seven dead, including the gunman;

July 29, two brokerage firms, Atlanta, Georgia, 10 dead, including the gunman, 13 injured;

August 5, two office buildings, Pelham, Alabama, three dead;

August 10, North Valley Jewish Community Center, Los Angeles, California, five injured (Postal worker killed later);

September 14, West Anaheim Medical Center, Anaheim, California, three dead; and, just last night,

September 15, Wedgwood Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, seven dead, including gunman, seven injured.

That is a partial list.

We have to do something. We have the opportunity. What are we waiting for? I have to say that if we cannot vote out these modest gun control proposals which are common sense, and if we cannot pick up some votes from the other side of the aisle, including the President who is sitting in the Chair, if we can't do that, we should be ashamed to go home and say we did the people's business.

Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Thank you.

THE CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to speak on issues that are of importance to us. I will take the next 5 minutes to speak about a subject that is important to many Members of this body—something that over 20 of us have been working on now very diligently on both the House side, as well as the Senate, Republican and Democrat, to bring closure to this year in this Congress.

I come to the floor very appropriately today as this terrible storm, Floyd, actually rages outside of this building. The wind and the rain have battered this building as we have worked through the day. Of course, we feel relatively blessed in that the storm damage has been kept to a minimum. It is quite a deadly storm and quite a tremendous threat.

There are schoolchildren and families at home throughout the entire eastern portion of our Nation because they have been unable to get to work, or to school, or to other places because of the storm.

I want to speak for a few minutes about the Conservation and Reinvestment Act and how it will help us deal not with the emergency of the storm, not necessarily with the specific preparation for a particular storm, but how this particular bill by rededicating a portion of our offshore oil and gas revenues could be used by States and counties and coastal areas throughout the United States to help repair damages from these particular storms.

I want to take a minute to thank some Governors and Senators and to read a few statements into the RECORD about some of their thoughts regarding this bill.

As this storm moves through the eastern part of our Nation today, and hopefully will dissipate over the next few hours, we have experienced tremendous damage. Since 1960, the United States has sustained over \$50 billion in damage. From Florida to Louisiana, to Texas, to South and North Carolina and Virginia, many coastal States have been battered over and over by hurricanes just since 1960.

In a major publication last week, one of the headlines was reminding us of the deadly storm that literally wiped out Galveston, TX, in the year 1900. It is now the 99th anniversary of one of the deadliest storms to ever hit the United States.

While some on this floor might argue, what is the reason for setting aside a specific amount of money to help coastal States, I suggest what we see on television now says it better than I could say it on the floor of the Senate. We see storms of this magnitude pounding the coast, we see them