

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I say to the Senator from North Dakota that if we are going to prepare ourselves for the future, we have to prepare for the possibility of a reduction. I don't think that is wild-eyed thinking.

The Republican plan makes no contingency plan that suggests we might have a downturn in the economy. We should be reducing the debt and pledging our surplus, whatever it may be, to reducing that debt and making certain Social Security and Medicare are there for years to come.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Maine is recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The distinguished Senator is recognized.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. President.

I further ask unanimous consent that the time reserved for the Senator from Ohio, Mr. VOINOVICH, be given to the Senator from Ohio, Mr. DEWINE.

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

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS and Mr. DEWINE pertaining to the introduction of S. 1412 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceed to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1217, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 1217) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Gregg amendment No. 1272, to extend the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund through fiscal year 2005.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business is amendment No. 1272, on which there will be 1 hour of debate equally divided.

The distinguished Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, under the unanimous consent agreement from last night, we were going to reserve 30 minutes of the time for two Democratic Members of the Senate, Senator LEAHY and Senator BIDEN. Senator BIDEN and Senator LEAHY had 30 minutes of this time. I now ask unanimous consent that the final 10 minutes of the time be reserved for myself, and prior to that, the 10 minutes prior to that, be reserved for the Senator from South Carolina.

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

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask the time be allocated to the underlying amendment and charged equally against both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senator from Delaware, Mr. BIDEN, I ask that Andrew Kline be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of this measure.

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

Mr. HOLLINGS. I suggest the absence of a quorum under the same arrangement, the time charged to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. HARKIN. First of all, I take this time because I want to talk a little bit about the plight of American agriculture and our Nation's farmers and to talk about a bill that I will be introducing shortly.

U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, like so many of my fellow Senators, I just came from the memorial service that took place in Statuary Hall for the two police officers, Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut, who gave their lives 1 year ago defending the Capitol and

those of us who work in these hallowed Halls.

I just got to thinking, when I was there watching all of the uniformed police officers standing so gallantly up on the platform, what a tough job these policemen have, what a terribly tough job they have.

On the one hand, because of the very nature of our jobs, we have to be accessible; we have to expose ourselves to the public on a daily basis, whether it is out in the front of the Capitol or over in the grass or walking between offices. We have to be available and accessible to the public. The police officers have to let us be accessible. We cannot put a shield around us.

On the other hand, it is the police officers' sworn duty to protect us and to keep us safe from harm.

All police officers have a tough job in this country. I think, above all, the police officers who work in and around the Capitol have the toughest job of all because they have these two conflicting responsibilities—to make us accessible, to not put shields around us, to keep this an open, public place, to be the shrine of freedom, and, on the other hand, to protect us and defend us from harm.

I just must say, I am as guilty as anyone; I never take the time to thank the police officers who protect us. We pass by them every day. We go in and out of the doors. We see them on the subway. We exchange pleasantries.

I am going to make an extra special effort from now on just to say thank you to these police officers, the men and women who protect us daily in the Capitol and who, as Officers Chestnut and Gibson showed a year ago, are willing to lay down their lives for us. We should thank them every day. I do so now and will make a special effort to do so in the future.

(The remarks of Mr. HARKIN pertaining to the introduction of legislation is located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR., CAROLYN BESETTE KENNEDY, AND LAUREN BESETTE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise with great sadness today to pay tribute to the lives of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette. My thoughts and prayers are with these families, for at this very moment, as we know, they are at sea to bring these wonderful, outstanding young Americans to a final rest.

We in the Senate, of course, feel very close to this tragedy because of our affection for our own colleague, Senator TED KENNEDY. We in Maryland feel very close to this family because we are the home to Eunice and Sarge Shriver, to Mark Shriver, who has taken his place in the House of Delegates, and our own Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, who lost a brother just a few months ago. As the eldest of

the Kennedy cousins, she has endured much. She is living a life of service that certainly would make her father as proud as those of us in Maryland.

The entire Kennedy family has suffered so much. They have also given so much. It is a family of war heroes, Senators, Congressmen, and a President of the United States. They are also defenders of the poor, environmentalists, educators, and artists. They fight to give every American an opportunity to build better lives for themselves and to build stronger communities.

Many of us in this Senate were inspired to lives of public service because of John F. Kennedy. As a young social worker, I thought he was talking to me when he called our generation to service. When he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you—but what you can do for your country," I believed it. I wanted to do something. That is why I committed myself even more forcefully to my own career in social work.

He practiced passionate, active idealism that was different from anything we had seen before in politics. That is why we hoped his son would continue that legacy. In many ways he had already begun to do that.

John Kennedy, Jr., could have lived the life of the idle rich, but he did not. He worked several years as a D.A. in New York, and recently he created a magazine to bring young people into politics who were indifferent to it. He endured intense press interest with grace and good humor. It seemed as if he understood his family was a part of the lives of all Americans.

While we all know the Kennedys, we cannot forget the Bessette family. They are suffering unimaginable pain with the death of two of their daughters. Carolyn Bessette Kennedy also lived in the spotlight. She, too, handled the attention with grace and charm. She had the same passion for life as her husband. Her sister Lauren was also making her own career in investment banking.

Wherever we turn, the Kennedys have touched America. We have been there for their hopes, their dreams, and their good days. We want our dear friend, Senator KENNEDY, the entire Kennedy family, and the Bessettes to know they are not alone today. We mourn with them, and we thank them for their contributions to America and for their own call to duty and to public service.

God bless them and God bless America that we have in our midst a great legacy.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing grief over the passing of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and Lauren Bessette; as well as extending condolences to the Kennedy and Bessette families over their losses.

It is difficult to express the sense of tragedy and loss that all of us feel over the passing of these three young, dynamic, and charismatic individuals.

Clearly, John F. Kennedy, Jr. captured the hearts and imagination of millions of Americans, and his untimely and violent end has saddened all those who felt some sort of connection to this promising and handsome young man. Certainly the tremendous outpouring of sympathetic gestures we are witnessing in Massachusetts, New York, and here in Washington stand as testament to the high regard in which he was held.

To be frank, I did not know John F. Kennedy, Jr. all that well, though I have certainly been well acquainted with his family through the years. Here in the United States Senate, I have had the distinct pleasure and honor of serving with his father and both his uncles; and in years past, I worked closely with Representative JOE KENNEDY on an issue of great mutual concern. Clearly this is a family that values public service and has sought to make a contribution to the nation through policy, politics, and activism. The passion and intensity which the Kennedys—particularly John, Bobby, and TED—brought to Washington and directed toward their policy goals are commendable and enviable. Few people have approached their careers in government with the same vigor and enthusiasm than have the members of the Kennedy family.

Though John F. Kennedy, Jr. had not entered politics, he was someone who shared his family's desire to make a difference. He was involved in any number of philanthropic and charitable undertakings, and typical of a family that seeks to help others, he was personally involved in these endeavors. His reputation was of a sincere, kind, and high minded man. There is little doubt that had John F. Kennedy, Jr. decided to follow the path that his father, uncle, and cousins had taken and sought elected office, he would have had a bright political future and would have made an even greater mark on society and history.

There is great sadness in the fact that this tragedy not only snuffed out the promising light of John F. Kennedy, Jr., but took the lives of his wife and sister-in-law as well. It is impossible to comprehend how fate could be so cruel to these families, for these young individuals deserved to enjoy long and rich lives. Certainly, this tragedy is only intensified for the Bessettes who lost two daughters suddenly and unexpectedly, and it is impossible for any of us to truly know the grief they are feeling. Hopefully with time, they will come to some sort of peace and understanding with this inexplicable event.

Earlier today, the ashes of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife, and sister-in-law were committed to the sea and a sad chapter of American history is drawn to a close. To our friend and colleague, Senator TED KENNEDY, we extend our deepest condolences on the loss of your nephew and we commend you on your stoicism in exercising

your responsibilities as the patriarch of your family. This was an unenviable task, yet one you carried out with dignity, strength, and reserve.

Coming to terms with death is never an easy or pleasant task, but I have always found that it is best to remember a person for the things he or she did during their life, keep that person in your heart and mind, and to try and honor their memory in your actions. If people follow this course with John F. Kennedy, Jr., I think that they will remember a man who tried to make a difference with his life, and hopefully they will be inspired to emulate his commitment to public service.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for several days, we have waited anxiously for evidence of news I did not want to believe. I did not want to believe that tragedy could come again to the Kennedy family. I did not want to believe that the Bessette family could lose two beautiful daughters in one tragic accident. But as of yesterday afternoon, I was confronted with reality. I am profoundly saddened by the tragic death of John F. Kennedy, Jr. and his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister, Lauren.

My relationship with President Kennedy goes back almost 40 years. In 1960, I formed the first Young Democrats organization at Utah State University and worked hard as a young college student for the election of President John F. Kennedy. On the wall in my Senate office, I have a letter from Senator Kennedy written a few weeks written a few weeks before his inauguration as President in 1961. That letter is a thoughtful and considerate note thanking me for my efforts as a campus organizer.

As a young law student in Washington, I worked at night as a Capitol Police Officer. On more than one occasion, I remember President Kennedy's visit to the Capitol. In fact, in my capacity as a police officer, I walked past President Kennedy's casket while it laid in state in the Capitol Rotunda.

For three generations, the Kennedy family has contributed much to the political and cultural life of our Nation. Three members of the Kennedy family have served the Nation as U.S. Senators, and other members have served in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Ambassadorial Corp and other important positions of state. They also serve as leaders, in business and in the world of cultural affairs.

Historians will one day write that the Kennedy family is the most remarkable family in our Nation's history. They have endured tragedy after tragedy. But despite adversity, this family has persevered and found the will and strength to make our nation a better place. Since the presidency of John F. Kennedy, the Kennedy family has become part of the American family. For us in government, the Kennedy family is synonymous with the finest in American politics. They inspire us to dream; they teach us to enjoy life; they make us feel noble.

John F. Kennedy, Jr. had large shoes to fill as the son of a great President and a beautiful, elegant and strong mother. While John F. Kennedy, Jr. was born into the privilege and the fame of his family, he handled it better than anyone I know. His dignity, his sense of style, his connection to ordinary people was unsurpassed.

Finally, I admire the strength and courage of my friend and colleague, Senator TED KENNEDY. Senator KENNEDY is the patriarch of this great family. He has served the Nation and the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the U.S. Senate for almost four decades and the people of Massachusetts have repeatedly shown their gratitude for his service. Senator KENNEDY has given much to this country and yet he has never forgotten the legacy of his distinguished family. To Senator KENNEDY, to the entire Kennedy family, and to the Bessette family, I extend my condolences.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, our State of New York has lost three of its finest citizens. I want to add my voice to the condolences to John Kennedy's sister Caroline, to his entire family, and to his wife's family, as well, for their double loss. Anyone who knew these three people knew they were the finest of New Yorkers and the finest of Americans. They were decent people; they were concerned people; they were people who cared about average folks.

As was noted, John, in particular, would never go by somebody and make them feel they were less significant than he was, despite his enormous wealth, attractiveness, good looks, his grace, and everything else about him. He and his wife were a man and woman of grace. I am told that her sister was as well, although I did not know her.

So we in New York particularly mourn our loss. John had become a real New Yorker, and the Bessette girls always were. There is nothing we can do but pray that they have met their final reward, and that the wounds that are so deep in their families, with God's help, heal quickly.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 1217

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. What is the business of the Senate now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The regular order is the Gregg amendment No. 1217.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I understand I have a few minutes to speak, and I will take only a few minutes right now and reserve the remainder of the time when I have completed.

I want to be very brief at this point. Mr. President, I want to separate out two aspects of the Gregg amendment:

One I wish to compliment him on, and one I am going to remain silent on. The one part I want to compliment him on is that I think the reauthorization of the violent crime trust fund for another 5 years is the single-most significant thing we could do to continue the war on crime.

In 1994, when we introduced the Biden crime bill, which eventually became the crime bill of 1994 which had the 100,000 cops in it, the Violence Against Women Act, and many other things, toward the end of that debate, with the significant help of the senior Senator from Texas, Mr. GRAMM, who didn't like many aspects of my bill, and the senior Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, who did like the bill, we all agreed on what was viewed as sort of a revolutionary idea—that crime control was the single-most undisputable responsibility of the Federal Government domestically. We can argue about whether there should be welfare. We can argue about whether we should be involved in education. But no one can argue about the requirement of the Government of the United States to make the streets safe. That is the starting point for all ordered society.

So we had an idea, and the three of us joined together to set up a violent crime trust fund. The way we did that was not to raise taxes for America because everybody kept saying: BIDEN, your bill, over the next 5 years, is going to cost over \$30 billion. They were right. Putting 100,000 cops on the street costs a lot. Building thousands of new prison cells costs a lot. Spending money on prevention costs a lot. The total of the Biden crime bill was about \$30 billion over 5 years in 1994 when I introduced it.

They said: How are we going to pay for it? None of us likes telling the citizens the truth. We all like lying to you, telling you we are going to find a magic way to do this that is not going to cost you any money. The American public wants safer streets, and they have gotten them, I might add. Crime has gone down significantly every year since the crime bill was introduced. I am not claiming it is only because of that, but it is in large part because of that.

So the way we reached this accord was Senator GRAMM, who wanted to see the size of the Federal Government cut even more urgently than—I will speak for myself—even more urgently than I did—we codified, as part of this deal, the agreement that we would let 250,000 Federal employees go. We would shrink the size of the Federal Government. And we did.

The second part of the agreement I wanted was that the paycheck we used to pay the person working in the Justice Department or in the Defense Department or at IRS, who was not going to be rehired, we take John Jones' paycheck and put it into a trust fund to do nothing but deal with violent crime in America. Not an innovative notion—

that concept of a trust fund—but it is fairly radical in terms of applying a Social Security-type trust fund—only this does have a lockbox—a trust fund of dedicated revenues to deal with nothing but crime.

The good news about that and the reason I felt so strongly about that at the time I wrote the bill was it is the one place no one can compete. If it is in general funds—and to people who don't share my view about the single-most important responsibility of Government is to maintain order—it is in competition. If it is general revenues, the COPS Program or the prevention programs or building prisons is in competition with money for education, money for the space program, money for the Defense Department, and money for every other function of the Government. By having this trust fund, though, it is not in competition with anything. It is there. It is set aside. It is similar to a savings account to fight crime.

I respectfully suggest that it worked. Now, under the Biden crime bill, which is due to expire this year, the trust fund will end. This special, dedicated pot of money that nobody can compete for, which is not paid for by raising taxes, is paid for by not lowering taxes because it is legitimate to say: BIDEN, if you eliminate the trust funds, you can take John Jones' paycheck, the guy who left the Treasury Department in 1997, and you can give it back to the taxpayers as a tax cut.

That is true. But I choose safe streets over tax cuts. The tax cut would be minuscule, I might add.

So when I heard that my friend from New Hampshire was taking language essentially the same as the Hatch-Biden bill that passed out of here in juvenile justice, the same as the language I have been reintroducing everywhere I can and in every bill I can in the last 4 years, I thought not only is he an enlightened fellow but there has been a bit of an epiphany, that, my Lord, the powerful chairman of the subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee has seen the Lord, has seen the light, and I was overjoyed.

So I said to my staff: I am going to go up there and compliment him. Literally, I said this this morning. They said: Don't be so quick. I said: Why? They said: There is a little kicker here. The kicker is once this amendment that you, BIDEN, have fought so hard for over the last 12 years, even before the crime bill was passed—once it is adopted, there will be a little amendment attached to it that has to do with the way this place functions procedurally, affecting how we can move substantively.

I will not speak to that. I will only say and plead with my friend from New Hampshire, if and when the second issue is resolved, however it is resolved, that he not walk away from the substantive beauty of his amendment as it relates to the trust fund. I don't want to get into a fight with him about