

Members, in case someone was off the planet last week, that Columbine came to the Nation's capital last week here where the Congress sits.

At a traditional kids' fun day at the National Zoo, created by the Congress for kids, seven children were shot. One, an 11-year-old boy, lies at Children's Hospital with a bullet in his head. He was the quintessential innocent victim. Harris "Pappy" Bates is a big baby of a boy, the kind one would expect to find at the zoo on Easter Monday. Very much still a child, a rotund kid who was named Pappy because he looked like a papoose when he was born.

His family had their first access to the press on Sunday. They thanked people for their prayers and they thanked the President for calling. They said they were praying for the 16-year-old suspect who was being held for the shooting. This family, I must say, gives real meaning to Christianity at a time when so many profess Christianity and speak only of vengeance. Pappy's mother said to me that she had always intended to be at the Million Moms March coming up on Mother's Day. She also said she supported gun safety legislation and always has.

Pappy Bates is one of 700 children killed by gunfire in the Nation's capital, children under 19, during the 1990s. But there have been 80,000 children killed by gunfire since 1978. The gun safety bill pending before us is only part of a very complex puzzle. The networks are in the puzzle, cable is in the puzzle, sports is in the puzzle, violent computer games is in the puzzle, and above all parents, who have the primary responsibility for children, are in the puzzle. We have to work to get all pieces on the table, and I want to work with Members on all pieces of the puzzle. But would we leave guns out of this puzzle?

We are so very close, my colleagues.

1900

Who would, after seeing what happened right here under the nose of the Capitol on Easter Monday, even think of leaving a loophole in the gun bill now stalled before us?

For all Americans, the average Americans, indeed 90 percent of Americans, the instant check will work. But according to the data, the 10 percent that we need 24 hours to look at are 20 times more likely to be criminals or people with a mental defect or people who otherwise should not have a gun.

It has been more than a year since the Columbine youth massacre. Not one more week, Mr. Speaker, not one more week after this week should pass, and certainly not after an 11-year-old lies with a bullet in his brain at Children's Hospital right here in the Nation's capital. Not after Columbine, which itself should have been all we needed, if we needed even that. Not after what had happened at the zoo.

I ask Members to come back with a new resolve to do what we almost have done. We are almost there. It has been

difficult. Let us go the rest of the way. Do it for Pappy. But, above all, do it for the children in our districts.

U.S. NEEDS ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL DEAL WITH RUSSIA IN FAIR AND CONSISTENT MANNER ON ARMS CONTROL PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the recess period, I had the occasion of interacting with over 50 senior Russian leaders from the equivalent of our Congress, the State Duma and the Federation Council.

I had the pleasure of meeting them at Columbia University at a conference. I spoke to 25 new Duma deputies at Harvard University and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. And just today, on the other side, we met for an ongoing conference between Senators and House Members and members of the Russian leadership.

The underlying concern expressed by the Russians with America is a lack of confidence in what our real intentions are. They say that oftentimes we will lead them down a path and then undermine what they thought were our ultimate intentions.

That is happening again, Mr. Speaker. We are all happy that the Russian Duma just recently ratified START II, in fact over the break. But, unfortunately, again this administration has led the Russians down a negative road.

Three years ago the administration negotiated substantive changes to the ABM Treaty involving multilateralizing the Treaty and demarcation between theater national missile defense systems.

As required by our Constitution, the administration should have been brought those changes to the Senate for their advice and consent. Repeatedly members of the Senate said, bring them forward, let us look at them and debate them; and repeatedly the administration failed to do that because they knew they did not have the votes to get them passed. So then they convinced the Russians to put those two items on the back of START II so the Senate would have to consider them as a part of the START II protocol issues.

Now we are going to again disappoint the Russians because the administration chose not to have a legitimate debate on those two protocols but rather have the Russians attach them to the START II treaty that they passed in Moscow just several weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, when are we going to learn? To deal with the Russians, we have to be up front, candid, and consistent. The more games that we play, the more underhanded tactics when we cannot get issues resolved according to our Constitution, the more consternation and frustration it causes in our relationship with Russia.

Unfortunately, once again, the Russians will feel that we have let them down and that our word is not good. How tragic it is and how sad it is. We need an administration, Mr. Speaker, who will deal with Russia in a consistent, fair, and uphanded manner, not one that plays games on the arms control process.

TRIBUTE TO JENARD AND GAIL GROSS AND JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jenard and Gail Gross and the Jewish Women International. This is an important evening and an important week as I honor the Jewish Women International organization and my good friends, great Houstonians, great Texans and great Americans, Jenard and Gail Gross.

The Jewish Women International strengthens the lives of women, children, and families through education, advocacy, and action. Jewish Women International focuses on family violence and the emotional health of children on the local, national, and global level.

Jewish Women International spearheads activities to educate the Jewish community about domestic violence. Currently, more than 3,000 rabbis from all branches of Judaism have been alerted to the growing tide of family abuse and have learned how to recognize the signs of abuse in their congregation by reading the Resource Guide for Rabbis on Domestic Violence.

In particular, I would like to honor Gail and Jenard Gross for their unwavering support for Jewish Women International and their efforts involving the Prejudice Awareness Summit.

As we move into the 21st century, clearly the challenge for Americans, with all of our diversity, is to learn to live together in peace, to accept our diversity, to appreciate it, to applaud it. And if there ever are two individuals who applaud and appreciate diversity and live it every day, it is Gail and Jenard Gross.

The Prejudice Awareness Summit is an unprecedented opportunity for teams of students to have a positive interactive learning experience with peers from a variety of ethnic, cultural, racial, and economic backgrounds through one-day workshops on prejudice.

The Prejudice Awareness Summit educates our youth about prejudice by providing a comfortable forum to discuss issues of prejudice. With a thorough knowledge of stereotypes, exposure to powerful speakers, and interactive learning exercises, these students can become leaders in the battle against prejudice.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity today to participate in the President

and Mrs. Clinton's teenage summit. One of the points that was made is that we always encourage young people that they are the leaders of tomorrow. And one very eloquent speaker said, our young people are the leaders of today because. Because they are the leaders of today, we need to teach them and educate them to the value of diversity in living the opposition of prejudice.

America's cultural diversity enables our country to achieve great accomplishments. However, our diversity also causes much friction borne of ignorance. The Prejudice Awareness Summit will prepare our Nation's youth to become leaders in a country where diversity can be considered a blessing and not a source of division. The work of Gail and Jenard Gross on behalf of the Prejudice Awareness Summit does not go unnoticed.

On May 4, Jewish Women International will bestow the Good Heart Humanitarian Award on Gail and Jenard Gross. The Good Heart Humanitarian Award honors a member or members of the Houston community contributing to the goals of this organization. This award is presented annually to annually to recognize and pay tribute to outstanding members of the Houston community who have contributed to the humanitarian needs of Houston.

Previously, honorees have included outstanding contributors in the fields of education, health care, politics, the legal profession, the media, and exemplary members of Jewish Women International.

Gail Gross is a very spiritual person, a very humble person. She attributes much of her success to her commitment to meditation, spirituality and her wonderful marriage to her husband Jenard Gross. She is a local, national, an international humanitarian, a savvy businesswoman, and a scholar in numerous areas. She also has just received her doctorate in education. She is now Dr. Gail Gross.

Gail once stated that to her life has three parts: the first part devoted to education, which she has evidenced in her own career and profession; the second part dedicated to raising her children; and the third part, the time she currently devotes to service.

As vice president of Gross Investment/Builders, a real estate company started by her husband, she satisfies her yearning for professional excellence. However, her joy is to serve the Houston community. She does it now every week with her own radio program encouraging, listening, and teaching the community about the value of education of our young people. Whether serving on 24 boards, fundraising, or advocating on behalf of the voiceless, Gail is a shining example of genuine concern and generosity.

Jenard Gross has been in the building and real estate investment field since 1954. During this period he has built and owned more than 14,000 apartment units throughout Texas. He has built several small strip centers, developed a residential subdivision, and invested in

land and mini-warehouses. Moreover, he is past president of the Houston Apartment Association and the National Apartment Association.

But he is also a builder for humanity. He has worked as a member of the Board of Regents of Texas Southern University Historically Black College, and he believes in housing those who need to be housed.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, Jeanard's business accomplishments are many, but his involvement in a number of civic and philanthropic organizations in the city of Houston are legendary.

Jenard and his wife Gail have always advocated for the voiceless. Many Houstonians have improved their lives due to the generosity and service of Gail and Jenard Gross. They are mighty and great, and I salute them and congratulate them for their great leadership.

I am reminded of a quote by Theodore Roosevelt, who stated:

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checked with failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.

Gail and Jenard are persons of action and have dared mighty things for Houston. For their love of Houston and its people we will be eternally grateful. I can think of no other best suited to receive the Good Heart Humanitarian Award and the respect of the American people.

WORLD BANK AIDS MARSHALL PLAN TRUST FUND ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank my colleagues for allowing tonight's special order to be held to increase awareness of the AIDS epidemic which is really scourging Africa and many other developing nations throughout the world.

Sixty percent of the 16 million deaths, however, have been in sub-Saharan Africa as a result of AIDS.

I would also like to applaud the leadership and commitment of the gentleman from Iowa (Chairman LEACH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the ranking member, of the House Committee on Banking, and also the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), our minority leader, for addressing this huge crises in Africa and throughout the world.

I believe that the diligence of the hearings and the markup held in March of this year on H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Prevention Trust Fund Act, represents a necessary response to the urgency of the AIDS crisis in Africa.

The World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act represents the most effective bipartisan strategy to date possible to push this issue to the national forefront.

As we work to establish partnerships and relationships with African countries whether as health care experts, business persons, activists or policy-makers, it is critical that we unite to focus both attention and resources on the global emergence of HIV and AIDS which wreaks havoc in developing countries, most tragically in sub-Saharan Africa.

I have worked very closely with my colleague and dear friend, Congressman RON DELLUMS, who served with distinction in this body for over 27 years. Congressman DELLUMS has been instrumental on focusing on this initiative and building constituent and congressional support to address the AIDS pandemic.

With his position as chair of the White House Council on AIDS and as president of the Constituency for Africa, he has engaged in consistent dialogue regarding this pandemic both here and within the United States. And I want to thank him for his remarkable contributions.

Tonight we have Members who will talk about this huge pandemic. We appreciate being allowed the hour of time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from San Francisco, California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. But more importantly, I thank her for her tremendous leadership and encouragement on calling to the attention of Congress and the country the global HIV/AIDS issue and working with our former colleague, Congressman RON DELLUMS, on this.

Mr. Speaker, it is really exasperating. For years we have known about the spread of global HIV and AIDS. For years Members of Congress have appealed to both Democratic and Republican administrations to put this issue on the agenda of the G-7.

What do they have to talk about that is more important than the health, or lack thereof, of millions of people in Africa and throughout the world? What has more of an impact on the economies of the developing world than the health of its people?

Now it is being considered a national security issue at long last. I commend the Clinton administration for making this very bold statement. Frankly, it is long overdue.

The extent of the global AIDS epidemic is staggering. Over 23 million people are infected with HIV in Africa, and nearly 14 million Africans have already died from AIDS. The social, economic, and human cost of the crisis is devastating entire nations. And this is just the beginning.

In Asia and India, India already has more infected people than any other nation. When I talk about Africa, I am talking about the continent. In terms of India, one nation, 3½ million infected people.