

suspension bills and no last minute surprises are added, I support this rule; and I encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, assuring the gentleman that there are no surprises, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2000, TO MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2000

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Thursday, March 2, 2000, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2000.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2000, TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2000

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 6, 2000, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2000.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday Rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

WELCOMING THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS TO INDIANAPOLIS

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

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the National Federation of State High School Associations to their new home in Indianapolis.

The federation was started in 1920 by educators dedicated to the development of young people, and it promotes

participation in sportsmanship with the goal of developing good citizens through interscholastic activities.

Through participation in these activities, young people gain the skills necessary to succeed in life. Skills like teamwork, respect for themselves and others, dedication to their communities, and pride in a job well done.

I am very privileged to have the National Federation of State High School Associations in their new home in my Congressional District in Indianapolis.

The Federation writes playing rules and coordinates the administration of high school sports and activities in the United States. Their mission is to provide the necessary leadership to enhance the educational experiences of high school students and reduce the risks of their participation.

The Federation was started in 1920 by educators dedicated to the development of young people as productive citizens in our nation through the medium of activities. It provides essential services to the nation's 18,000 high schools.

Each year, more than 6,500,000 young people participate in high school sports, and another 4,000,000 participate in the fine arts programs of speech, debate and music. The Federation publishes playing rules in 16 sports for boys and girls competition and provides programs and services that its member state associations can and do utilize in all 50 states.

The Federation seeks to provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals. After school programs also go a long way in the physical and emotional development of our nation's youth.

Through their annual sponsorship of National Student-Athlete Day, the Federation has helped to recognize more than 500,000 students nationwide not only for excellence in athletic achievement but academic achievement excellence and community service as well.

The Department of Health and Human Services has documented that participation in extracurricular activities reduces dropout rates, diminishes the rates of drug abuse and teen pregnancy, and enhances academic performance. Time and time again we hear about the increase in teenage crime between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. I strongly support the goals of the Federation in their attempts to provide an alternative for our nation's youth to work at something productive rather than something destructive.

Interscholastic activities are a part of the educational curriculum and experience in our schools and must always remain as such. The responsibility of retaining their place as an integral part of the educational process of young people rests with the Federation. I am proud that the National High School Federation, like the NCAA before it, has chosen Indianapolis as its new home. I look forward to working closely with them to increase the extra-curricular opportunities for our nation's high school students.

Indianapolis is a great city for amateur and professional sports, and we will help the Federation continue its fine work on behalf of our nation's young people.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to move up on the list and insert my name in the place of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

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

There was no objection.

DEALING WITH DRUG PROBLEMS

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I read with concern this week that we have had another incident on our southern border in Tijuana with Mexico and their inability to get control of the drug problem. The attorney general of Mexico was quoted, who has been a crusader in trying to establish law and order in Mexico on the drug issue, that one of our primary needs is to get control of consumption in this country.

I want to suggest two different things: in addition, Mexico needs to continue to work to control the borders, because in San Diego, I will be at a hearing next week that the gentleman from California (Mr. MICA) is chairing in the district of the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY). There is only so much they can do in San Diego, across from Tijuana if we do not get some control of our borders.

There is also only so much we can do in northeast Indiana, as I have talked with Sheriff Dukes in Noble County and Sheriff Jackson in Huntington County and Sheriff Herman in Allen County. There is only so much they can do in my district if the drugs keep coming across in California and Arizona and New Mexico and Texas that pour then into Indiana.

So we need Mexico's continued help, and we need even more aggressive efforts to try to crack down on the drug problem.

But I would suggest there are two other things that we will be addressing in this House before too long: one is the Colombia Plan, or better referred to as the Andes Region Plan. Clearly Colombia is in deep trouble. Clearly the cocaine and heroin that is pouring into our country through Mexico and corrupting Mexico is coming originally out of Colombia for the most part.

We need to do whatever we can to help the brave people on the ground in Colombia who are fighting the narco-traffic thugs, whether they be FARC or whether they be others, in Colombia;

and we need to be able to pass that passage through this House and through this Senate and get it signed by the President as soon as possible, because we cannot get control in the demand reduction side if the price keeps going down, if the purity goes up, and the supply is coming in the way it is.

Secondly, as we address the Safe and Drugfree Schools Act and as we look at other acts in Congress, we need to make sure that we do not so water down our prevention programs in this country that they no longer have the antidrug bite in them. If we water these things down so much it becomes kind of a feel-good type of program rather than an accountability program, such as making sure we push drug testing and other methods of accountability. Rather than just talk, countries like Mexico and Colombia have a somewhat legitimate gripe, that we are always pointing the finger at them while we are consuming all this and not doing anything domestically.

Another problem that I will be soon meeting with the Department of Education about is an amendment that former Congressman Solomon and I passed on the student loans that said if you are convicted of a drug offense, you lose your loan for 1 year. If you are convicted a second time after you come back in, you lose it for 2 years, and a third time and you are out.

The Department of Education has put out a form that over 100,000, probably 150,000 students, did not even check.

We need to take aggressive action to make sure that those students who did not check that cannot get their loan if they do not check that box. Furthermore, we need a random sampling procedure to make sure that they are actually telling the truth, that the Department of Education partly in my opinion as a gutting process said this applied to everybody in all their years prior to going to college.

This was an accountability provision, not before you went to college. But once you take a student loan, we expect you to be clean, because you cannot be learning if you are on drugs. You cannot be exercising your responsibility if we give you a subsidized loan and then you are on drugs.

I also had an amendment that said if you test clean twice during that process of your first suspension, you can get your loan back. I believe education is critical. But if we are really committed in this country, forget about just talking about Mexico or Colombia or Panama or Peru or Bolivia, if we are committed in this country and we really care about our kids and we care about the violence in the streets and violence in the families, we need to take some serious steps in this Congress to put some accountability at the high school level, at the elementary school level, at the college level and at the adult level, and put some dollars as well as some restrictions behind it.

TRAGEDY IN MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I speak today about the devastating tragedy in Mount Morris Township, Michigan, at Buell Elementary School, where a 6-year-old girl was shot and killed by a 6-year-old schoolmate. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families and to the schools and to the communities in this very devastating period of their lives.

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Gun violence is an invasive problem within our society, with children often becoming the victims, perpetuated, unfortunately, by children. Unfortunately, the tragedy in Michigan is not the first. We have all too often witnessed horrific school violence throughout the Nation, tragic stories of children being killed in schools in West Paducah, Kentucky; Jonesboro, Arkansas; Littleton, Colorado; and now in Mount Morris township, Michigan.

We have been shown that Americans are devastated by the impact that gun violence has on our children. Nearly 12 children die each day from gunfire in America, approximately one every two hours. That is equivalent to a classroom of children every 2 days. Gun violence is an equal opportunity disaster. Of the nearly 80,000 children killed by gunfire since 1979, 61 percent were white and 36 percent were black.

The National School Boards Association estimates that more than 135 guns are brought into the U.S. schools each day. Ten percent of all public schools experienced one or more serious crimes such as murder, rape, suicide, physical attack with a weapon, or robbery during the 1996-1997 school year that were reported to law enforcement.

Within my district, Indianapolis, Indiana's Tenth Congressional District, guns were confiscated on the Indianapolis public school property in 14 separate incidents. In December in Indianapolis, a 7th grader shot an eighth grader while riding a bus home from school.

I am outraged and saddened by the school violence that invades our schools, our communities, and our homes. Schools should be a safe haven for children to learn and to thrive and grow, where violence is not a fear for our children.

The bill that I introduced, H.R. 515, the Child Handgun Injury Prevention Act, which is a bill to prevent children from injuring themselves with handguns, requires child safety devices on handguns, and establishes standards and testing procedures for those devices. It does not describe specifically what kind of safety device, but it does, indeed, ask for a safety device.

At present it has only 66 cosponsors, not nearly enough. I would encourage my colleagues to rise to the challenge,

avoid the resistance from anti-gun control lobbying advocates, take a strong stance against violence in our schools, and stand up for our children.

Promoting strong child handgun prevention legislation is not only the right thing to do; indeed, it is the moral thing to do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks)

GUN SAFETY AND THE CONSTITUTION

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the gentlewoman from Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on the floor of the House today to offer my sympathies for those who are now in danger in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, held hostage, at least as of the last notice that we received, by someone holding innocent individuals hostage with a gun. Several of these individuals have been shot, and that area is in crisis.

Additionally, of course, yesterday I think America got either a wake-up call or one of the most shocking exposures to gun violence that we have had. I would say in the last 20 years, even as we watched the little, small children run to safety in California with a crazed gunman at the Jewish Community Center, a hateful act with a gun.

But here we find in Michigan that it was not an adult, it was not a 15-year-old, it was not a teenager, an adolescent, but it was a 6-year-old little boy that shot a little girl in the neck with a gun that apparently he secured from his home, a home that, as news reports have indicated, was not the best and most supportive situation for a child.

Without commenting on the support system that that family needs and the crisis and the ultimate criminal procedures that will follow, or whether or not there will be indictments of those parents, and what will happen in this situation in Pittsburgh, the question has to come, what now, America? What will this Congress do? What have we delayed in doing?

I can tell the Members that as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and a member of the conference