

20 years, TED STEVENS has truly given of his time and shared his great knowledge and expertise to help me to represent the citizens of our State. He has selflessly given guidance and counsel to help our delegation reach a common accord on what is best for Alaskans. And I can't personally thank him enough for his many kindness. We have truly worked together to help our small State, one that sports just three electoral votes, have a voice in the direction of our Nation. It has not always been easy.

We have had to battle those who have no knowledge of what life is truly like in Alaska, whether we are trying to save our timber industry in Southeast Alaska, or trying to protect our rights to access our natural resources—Alaska's main means of supporting our citizens and our State government. We are working together to win the right to produce oil, without environmental damage, from North America's last great storehouse of energy—the Arctic coastal plain.

While TED served eight years as assistant Republican leader (whip) handling key national issues, especially defense matters, he has been willing to put aside personal ambition for the good of his State. Many forget that TED sacrificed his seniority on the Commerce Committee to move to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee during the key fight over the Alaska lands act. He then moved back to Commerce to represent Alaska fishermen—proof positive that TED always puts Alaska first. During his years on the Appropriations Committee, he has battled hard to make sure Alaska receives its fair share of Federal funding—money needed to help Alaska provide basic services to its citizens—piped water and sanitary sewers, roads and schools that Americans elsewhere take for granted.

Today I, join with all Alaskans, to thank him for his skill, drive, and dedication and congratulate him on the honor he will justly receive this weekend. I also offer him a heart-felt wish for many, many more years of service to the State and the Nation. Nancy joins me in congratulations to both TED and Catherine on this honor. It's been a great privilege working with you my friend.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate my friend and colleague, TED STEVENS, on being named Alaskan of the Century. From his efforts to achieve Alaskan statehood to his work on behalf of the State of Alaska, TED STEVENS has dedicated his life to public service and proven his leadership both in his home state and in the United States Senate. I know of no one more deserving of this honor. I am proud to have the opportunity to know and work with him and I extend him my heartfelt congratulations on this momentous occasion.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the following exceptions: The first 60 minutes under the control of Senator DURBIN or his designee, the second 60 minutes under the control of Senator CRAIG or his designee.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Surely.

Mr. DURBIN. My intention is to speak for 10 minutes, and then I will be happy to exchange time, whatever is appropriate under the rules, so the Senator from Alaska can have his 15 minutes at that point.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that pending the statement by my good friend, Senator DURBIN, I be recognized for 15 minutes. I intend to enlighten my colleagues on the facts and fiction of ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an issue coming up in the budget and an issue coming up in a legislative package we are proposing. I thank my friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized to speak in morning business for 10 minutes.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, just in case there is a session tomorrow, I ask unanimous consent I be excused from any rollcalls until Monday, next Monday morning.

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

The Senator from Alaska.

#### GUNS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, hardly a day goes by that we do not hear of another tragic shooting across America. The latest news from Texas is still sketchy, but the results are horrible: Four people who apparently were injured by gunfire in a church and the assailant taking his own life with a gun. It is a constant reminder. Only 2 or 3 weeks ago, a Michigan first grader took a loaded handgun to school and killed his little classmate. That is America today, a nation of some 300 million weapons.

On Capitol Hill, the debate over guns and their future really gets pretty heated and inflammatory on both sides, and the parties are at it. Frankly, as I travel across the State of Illinois and I talk with people from other

States, I believe the families in this country get it. They understand what this is all about. They appreciate what we can and cannot do to make things better.

They do not believe for a second that we can pass a law that will end gun violence in America. That is beyond us. I wish we could. I do believe there are things we can do to make America a safer place.

Some want to argue between the possibilities of increased enforcement of current laws and closing loopholes which allow people to get guns who should not have them. That is a false choice. This Senator wants both. The people who misuse guns should be prosecuted and imprisoned, no questions asked. By the same token, we should do everything in our power to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, people with a history of violent mental illness, and children. I think we need both—zero tolerance and zero loopholes. I do not think it is a choice. We need both. If we go after both in an aggressive bipartisan approach, we can start to see the numbers come down on gun violence; we can have a little more peace of mind about our kids going to school and coming home safe and sound at the end of the day.

Last year, we had a bill on the floor of the Senate after the Columbine massacre which focused on two major points: If you buy a gun at a gun store in America, they do a background check. They will figure out whether or not you can legally own a gun. That is the Brady law. The Brady law has been successful.

It is hard to believe, but true, that people with a history of committing crimes and felonies, people who have outstanding arrest warrants—not very bright, I might add—show up at gun stores trying to buy guns. We do not want that to happen. We want to stop them.

There is a role there for the Federal Government in having this law. There is a bigger role for State and local law enforcement in making sure those people who have outstanding arrest warrants, for example, are prosecuted. That is what happens when you go to a gun store.

We also know in America one can buy guns at gun shows. There is a loophole there: There is no background check. If you happen to have a problem under the law—let's say a felony record or perhaps a history of mental illness or you are too young—you do not go to the gun store where they enforce the law, you go to the gun show where they do not. That is the loophole we want to close. That was in the law that was passed last year in the Senate. The vote was 49-49, incidentally. Vice President GORE cast the deciding vote. We sent the bill over to the House where it has languished for almost a year. Nothing has happened.

The second thing that was in that law, which I think most Americans would agree is common sense, was: Is

there a way for those who own guns to store them safely? The answer is obviously yes. It involves trigger locks. You may have heard that Smith & Wesson, the largest handgun manufacturer in the United States, suggested they will start selling trigger locks automatically with their handguns. It is common sense they will give to the gun owner the wherewithal to make their gun childproof.

Some people say: It is the middle of the night and a burglar comes to the door; I am fumbling around trying to find the key—you can decide what you do at night. When you go off to work and leave the gun behind with children in the house or when other kids visit, don't you want to lock it up so a kid cannot get his hands on it and shoot himself or a playmate?

That is what trigger locks are all about. That was the second major part of the bill that passed the Senate last year and still languishes in the House of Representatives.

What is so radical about those two suggestions: That a gun show will try to find out whether or not you are legally eligible to own a gun before they sell it to you; that if you are going to sell a gun in America, it is with a trigger lock so it can be safer?

It is time for us to cool down the political rhetoric around here—and let me be the first to volunteer because I feel very strongly about this—and try to see if maybe there is some common ground. If the people on one side want more enforcement, such as Operation Exile, which is working in some cities across America, I will support it, I will vote for it.

I want more enforcement, too. In fact, I am going to offer an amendment in the Budget Committee which is going to say to my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans: Let's put some money into this. Let's show that we believe in enforcement and prosecution on a bipartisan basis. This is not a partisan issue. I do not want criminals roaming the streets, gang bangers shooting up the streets of Chicago or my hometown of Springfield. I am ready to push for more prosecution and enforcement, without question. Let's put the money into more ATF agents and more prosecutors to get that job done.

I will concede to the other side that prosecution and enforcement are important. Let's do it. This Democrat will stand with Republicans to get that done.

I ask in return that Republican Senators take a look at what we passed last year. Some, including the Presiding Officer, voted for it, and I am very proud that he did. We need more. We need to have Senators on both sides of the aisle to come forward and say, yes, trigger locks make sense; let's make them part of America's landscape to protect children; and those who will also say that gun shows should not be exempt from the basic laws of this country.

There are other things we can talk about in terms of sensible, common-sense gun control. I do not know if we will get them accomplished this year, but certainly I hope that before the first anniversary of the Columbine tragedy, this Congress will end its gridlock on the gun control issue. The people of this country expect more. They do not want to see this historic Chamber grind to a halt because of a special interest group in this town. They want to see goodwill on both sides of the aisle.

I will say this: If we fail, if we do nothing, if another day, another week, and another month go by with the tragic headlines we see so often about killings in churches and schools and day-care centers, if that happens, the American people will be justifiably angry in this election. They should hold all candidates accountable.

Members of the House of Representatives, Members of the Senate, and the two men who are likely to be the leading candidates for President of the United States—all of us, I should say—should be held accountable to answer the basic question: When you had the chance serving in the U.S. Congress, what did you do? Did you try to do anything to make this country safer, to make certain that when I walk out on the streets of my town or send my little boy or girl to school, I have a little more peace of mind?

We have the ability; we have the opportunity. The question is whether we can summon the political will. One cannot turn on the television in this town, and probably in others, without seeing ads from one special interest group or the other that wants to get us tangled up in some theoretical debate about the second amendment and the future of gun control.

I hope this Congress, and particularly this Senate, can get beyond the theory into the reality. The reality is: Over 40 percent of Americans own guns; there are over 300 million guns now in our Nation of some 275 million people; and even the gun owners believe intensely in sensible and responsible gun control. They believe guns should be stored safely, that those who own them should know how to use them, and they should be kept out of the hands of the wrong people. That is a consensus among gun owners, not to mention those who do not own guns who feel even more strongly about the same issues.

I hope this Congress, which tends to lurch back and forth from minor but somewhat important issues, will focus on a major and very important issue: Making America a safer place.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### ANWR

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to address an issue that is very close to Alaska, Senator STEVENS, our Representative YOUNG, and myself. It represents the myth associated with ANWR and the realization that Alaska has been producing almost 25 percent of the total crude oil that has been produced in this Nation for the last 23 years or thereabouts.

I have here a map of Alaska that shows the pipeline and gives you a dimension of the magnitude of this particular area of our State. It is necessary that you recognize, as we address the disposition of allowing exploration in ANWR, that this was established as a responsibility that only Congress could address in releasing this particular area for exploration.

I am going to give you an opportunity to view a map of Alaska. Alaska is a pretty big piece of real estate. On a map, if you overlaid Alaska on the United States, it would extend from Canada to Mexico and from Florida to California. We have the Aleutian Islands that go out almost 2,000 miles. The breadth of the State from the pipeline alone at Prudhoe Bay to where the pipeline ends at Valdez is 800 miles. It is a big piece of real estate.

Until a few years ago, we had four time zones in the State alone. When Senator STEVENS or I go back to the State, we just begin our travel. We have a very small segment of the State that has a road system. This entire western area is without any roads, with the exception of a few miles in Nome and Kotzebue, and the villages.

We are not connected to the continental United States, as you can see. Our neighbor to the right, Canada, constitutes a barrier—a foreign country; a good friend—from the rest of the United States. We have our southeastern part where our State capital is in Juneau, roughly 700 miles from our largest city, Anchorage. Our second largest city, Fairbanks, is 400 miles to the north of Anchorage.

I go into this detail because it is important, as we look at the issue of ANWR, to keep it in perspective. I am going to refer to the chart behind me because I think it represents an appropriate comparison.

Let me advise my colleagues of a couple facts.

One, ANWR is going to be in the budget. We are going to be addressing the budget in the coming weeks. It is going to be in there at an anticipated revenue forecast of about \$1.5 billion to the Federal Treasury. You can evaluate the pros and cons of that. It is also going to be in the Republican package that we are preparing to try to do something meaningful about the energy crisis in this country, which the current administration has not done.