

show, go into a high school filled with other students, and open fire, killing 12 or 13 students and injuring many others. It shocked America's conscience.

As a result, the Senate began to consider gun control legislation—frankly, more gun safety legislation—to keep guns out of the hands of those who would misuse them. We are a nation of 200 million guns. Many of us believe guns should be kept out of the hands of criminals and children.

So we considered legislation on the floor of the Senate to do a background check at gun shows so kids and criminals would not have access to guns through these gun shows. We know the Brady law requires a background check at gun dealers. We think the same should apply to gun shows.

We also thought handguns should have a trigger lock so children who were looking around for something that was unusual and different or challenging would not find a loaded gun and hurt themselves or a playmate. We read about that almost every day. A trigger lock is a way to make sure that gun is securely stored away from children.

In another part of the bill, we dealt with the whole question of these high-capacity ammo clips, imported into the United States from overseas, that have absolutely no value whatsoever for any legitimate sportsman or hunter. They are people killers.

We considered that bill on the floor of the Senate. The vote on that bill was 49-49, a tie vote. As provided under the Constitution of the United States, the Vice President came and cast the tie-breaking vote. We sent that bill over to the House in the hopes we could reduce some of the gun violence in America after Columbine High School.

The National Rifle Association got its hands on that bill over in the House, and that was the end of it. They stripped from that bill virtually any of the provisions I described to you and sent it to a conference where it has languished for almost 8 months. During that period of time many more people have been killed by gun violence in America.

Just a few weeks ago, the Million Mom March across the United States brought out mothers on Mother's Day who gave up a celebration with their family to come out and talk about the need in America for gun safety, for gun control, sensible gun control. Yet this Congress has turned a deaf ear. We have refused even to acknowledge that this gun violence is rampant in America as in no other nation on Earth.

Every day now, for the last week, Members of the Senate have come to the floor to memorialize those who died a year ago today, after Columbine, after Littleton, CO, after Jonesboro, AR, and all of the other cities where we saw the gun violence that captured our imagination and basically stunned America. We come to the floor each day to read the names of some of the victims. These are victims whose

names were collected by the U.S. Conference of Mayors from cities large and small to remind us that a year ago today these people, whose names I am about to read, died because of gun violence—people who had otherwise normal lives and families and aspired to all the good things we do in life. They lost their lives because of gun violence.

Many times, issues on the floor of the Senate and the House really do not become very personal. They are statistics. We just refer to them in the abstract. This is not about statistics. It is not about abstract thought. It is about real human lives that have been lost to gun violence a year ago today and, sadly, will be lost to gun violence again today.

Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire 1 year ago, on May 24, 1999: Michael Calim, age 32, Houston, TX; Mark Raiffie, age 47, St. Louis, MO; Gary Ricks, age 51, Detroit, MI; Bobby L. Williams, age 40, Houston, TX; Ronald Williams, age 47, Miami-Dade County, FL; an unidentified female, San Francisco, CA.

Today in America there will be more gun deaths. We must remember that among those gun deaths will be 12 children who will die. The National Rifle Association at their recent convention said: We know who those 12 kids are; they are the gang bangers, drug gangs, and all the rest. You can expect that.

They are wrong. Included among those 12 children are those who commit suicide with guns, those who play with guns, little infants killing themselves or a playmate, certainly those who are victims of gang bangers and, believe me, I have seen innocent young men and women who have been maimed. I have talked with the parents of people who have been killed on the streets of one of my cities in Illinois, Chicago. These were children waiting for a schoolbus when somebody came by and sprayed bullets from one of these weapons and injured or killed students.

For the National Rifle Association to say we basically should ignore these 12 children who die every day in America because they are part of drug gangs is a sad commentary on this organization and a sad commentary that they are out of touch with the reality of gun violence as it affects every family in America today. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time from 10:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Wyoming, or his designee.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 10 minutes of the time allocated to the Senator from Wyoming.

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Chair.

REBUTTAL ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, yesterday the Senator from California,

Mrs. BOXER, came to the Senate floor to discuss Social Security reform. In her discussion, she took on the issue of some of the Texas municipalities that had chosen to opt out of Social Security and attempted to show they were doing less well than anyone in the Social Security system today. I want to refute some of those remarks, especially the ones that referred to these counties in Texas, and give the other side of the story.

She attempted to show that municipal employees in Texas, particularly Galveston County, are not doing as well under their own retirement plan than if they were part of the Social Security system.

Just in the last few minutes, I talked to the county judge of Galveston County, Judge Yarborough, who is a very good Democrat, a very good person, and is doing a good job in Galveston County. He says in the 5½ years he has been county judge, he has never had one complaint from an employee in Galveston County and, in fact, has had many retirees come up to him and say how glad they are that they have their own retirement system rather than having been forced into the Social Security system back in the eighties when they were allowed to opt out.

First and foremost, because this is important, this was somehow linked to Governor Bush's Social Security plan. There is no linkage whatsoever. In fact, the opt-out was done in 1981 by Galveston and a few other municipalities around my State, and there were others around the country. There was a window during that time in which county and municipal employees were able to opt out of Social Security, and Galveston County did decide to opt out.

I hope as we go into the future and as we talk about Governor Bush's Social Security plan, we will not attempt to link that window when some municipalities opted out of Social Security to Governor Bush's plan. That is important because Governor Bush has said all along, from the very beginning when he put his plan forward, that, in fact, we would have a choice under his plan. Anyone wanting to stay in the present Social Security system would have that option.

That is a very important distinction to make because people might want to keep that option after they have looked at the alternative that will be available, but, in fact, millions of Americans will decide that they want to have a part in making some decisions on their own for the Social Security tax they pay.

Nearly 5 million municipal employees across the country are not part of the Social Security system. One such area is the city of San Diego. The rates of return on these pension programs are very good—so good, in fact, that the California Senators sent a letter to President Clinton in which they said:

Millions of our constituents, who will receive higher retirement benefits from their

current public pensions than they would under Social Security, are appealing to their elected representatives in Washington. We respectfully urge you to honor the original legislative intent underpinning the Social Security system, and exclude this provision from any reform plan you consider during the remainder of your term.

It is clear that if municipal employees are earning higher rates of return and want to stay in their own retirement plans, they should not be forced into a system of lower returns, and it should be a choice they have. I agree with the Senators from California in their goal.

I will now talk about the specifics of the Galveston plan. Many of these same Galveston employees have urged me to oppose their inclusion in Social Security.

Some of the information that was used on the floor yesterday was based on a GAO report, but if my colleagues read the report carefully, they can see the clear differences between Social Security and the plan in Galveston County.

First, it is important to remember that, in Galveston, they have a basic retirement plan that every employee puts money into and on which they have returns. That plan is separate. In 1981, they were allowed to opt out of Social Security so that their 7 percent they would have paid into Social Security would, in fact, go into a supplemental plan. In Galveston County, we are talking about a supplemental plan to their basic retirement plan, so everything they get with the 7 percent which they put into their own supplemental plan is over and above their basic retirement system.

The GAO said that "outcomes generally depend on individual circumstances and conditions." So each case is taken on an individual basis—it is hard to make broad statements about the plan. The annuity each retiree receives is based on the contributions and the time served in government; it is not a defined benefit formula, such as Social Security. Nevertheless, the plan is designed to provide a return similar to Social Security, which it does, and it has some features that are even better.

The GAO noted that "The Galveston plan also has a very conservative investment strategy that has precluded investing in common stocks." The Galveston supplemental plan only relies on Government bonds and very safe Treasury-type investments, and the average return has been approximately 8 percent per year. When one compares that to Social Security, however, it is very high.

The Heritage Foundation has estimated that some workers are getting a 1- to 2-percent return on their money from Social Security.

Also, comparing the Social Security plan to the Galveston plan, it is not accurate because the Galveston plan is a supplement, not the basic retirement system.

Lastly, the GAO noted one critical point that was left out of the Wash-

ington debate: The Galveston plan benefits are fully funded, GAO says, "while Social Security's promised benefits cannot be met without increasing revenues."

Thus, the Galveston plan is financially sound. It is not dependent on significantly increased contributions or massive tax increases to meet its promises.

Here, in Washington, we have promised benefits without developing a plan to pay for them. In Galveston, no retiree is subject to the mercy of the Congress that the benefits might change.

Here are some of the facts about the differences between the Galveston plan and Social Security.

For individual earners without a survivor benefit, the monthly annuity figures for retirees are nearly identical or better than Social Security. For low-wage workers, there is a \$1 difference. For workers with wages over \$25,000, they would earn nearly \$200 a month more under the Galveston plan than they would under Social Security.

A worker earning \$50,000 will earn nearly \$1,000 more every month.

If you have a 45-year work history, the numbers are higher across the board at every income level in the Galveston plan.

The Cato Institute also reviewed the Galveston retirement plan. For a worker who earns \$30,000 for 30 years, he or she will have a \$320,000 investment in retirement. This is based on a 4.5-percent return when, in fact, Galveston is getting 8 percent.

I should also note that the numbers in GAO are based on a 4-percent return each year. So the numbers in GAO are very low in their estimates, and most workers are going to receive a much higher benefit.

According to Cato, the employee with the \$320,000 in savings could earn a monthly annuity of \$2,494, compared to Social Security, which is \$1,077.

So according to Cato, the monthly annuity would be \$2,494 for a Galveston employee, compared to \$1,077 under Social Security.

The county of Galveston believes the average annuity is approximately 7.8 percent for every \$1,000 in retirement funds. The Social Security Administration thinks that is too high and made the GAO use a lower annuity figure. So the monthly annuity figures used by GAO are lower than for the Galveston workers.

I think it is very important that we take this debate out of the Bush plan or the Gore plan when we are dealing with the employees in cities such as San Diego, CA, or Galveston County, TX, because it is very clear that the Galveston County employees have a major benefit. As the county judge said this morning: Retirees come up to me every day and say thank goodness.

Another good feature of the Galveston plan is that if the retiree does not use up all of the retirement when that person dies, it is passed on to the

spouse or the children. That does not happen in Social Security.

I think it is very important, if we are going to build up a stability in our working people and their families, that we would have this kind of alternative with which the Galveston County employees are very pleased.

I think it is very important that we not put this in the political realm. If we are talking about the actual numbers, I think the municipal employees that were allowed to opt out in the early 1980s are mostly happy with their plans. They like the choices they have. Galveston was very conservative and did not go into the stock market.

But I think the bottom line is that we need to give people a choice, a choice to stay in the Social Security system as it is today and have the exact same returns that they would be entitled to under Social Security, or if they choose not to do that, and they do want to have some control over their own taxes they pay in—maybe 3 percent of the 12-plus percent they pay in Social Security—I think we ought to let them do that. Because even with the stock market fluctuating, the returns show that they will do better and they will be able to give their children something they have not been able to under the present Social Security plan.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I am very pleased today to rise in recognition of Small Business Week 2000. As chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I have participated in a number of activities this week. I urge all of my colleagues who may not have done so to consider working with, identifying with, and listening to the small businesses in their State. I think today it is appropriate that we recognize some of the small business trends of the future.

Most of us know that the prototypical entrepreneur of the last century—or of the 1900s; the manufacturing age—was a man, inventing something in his garage or basement, which became the basis for a Fortune 500 company. The prototypical entrepreneur of the 21st century—the information and service age—is a woman trying to run her household, keep her kids fed and cared for, who comes up with a good idea that she can turn into a business.

Women have started businesses in record numbers over the last 10 years. They are driving the economy. They are helping to expand opportunities and provide good payrolls for their workers. They are willing to use the new information technologies even more than men. The explosion of capabilities through information technologies certainly opens up a range for a whole new series of undertakings.