

least two occasions, in 1980 and 1994, and that the longer one goes into the campaign season while we are still in session, the more it requires that Senators remain present here in Washington and not available for the demands of a rigorous campaign.

That was all I said. I made no reference to our desire to stall anything. In fact, it is not. The reason I have come to the floor is to emphasize our strong hope that we do not see any stalling whatsoever; that we move on with the remaining appropriations bills. Eleven of them have yet to be signed into law. I note for the record that two have not even left subcommittee. The District of Columbia appropriations bill and the HUD-VA bill are still pending in the subcommittee.

We finished our work on the energy and water appropriations bill this week. It would be my hope that we could go to the only other pending appropriations bill on the calendar, which is the Commerce-State-Justice bill, next week. I do not know that is the intention of the majority leader, but clearly it is a bill that must be considered and completed at the earliest possible date.

Our hope is that as we work through these appropriations bills, we will have the opportunity to work through other pieces of unfinished business. We are hopeful we can make real progress, maybe as early as next week, on the minimum wage bill. Our hope is that we can finish our work next week on the legislation granting permanent normal trade relations to China. Our hope is that we can actually finish a Patients' Bill of Rights bill and maybe gun safety legislation. Our hope is that we can deal with the prescription drug benefit bill. There is an array of pieces of the unfinished agenda that we would love to be able to address—education issues having to do with reducing the number of students in every class, hiring teachers, afterschool programs, school construction. Those issues have to be addressed at some point.

Whether it is authorizing or appropriating, we remain ready and willing to work with our colleagues to accomplish as much as possible. I do not know whether or not it is conducive to that goal not to have votes on Fridays or Mondays. It seems to me, with all the work that remains, Senators should be here casting their votes and participating fully in debates that will be required ultimately if we are going to complete our work on time.

I come to the floor this afternoon only to clarify the record and ensure that if anybody has any doubt, let me address that doubt forthrightly. We want to finish our work. We want to work with our Republican colleagues. We have no desire to stall anything. Our hope is that we can finish on time and complete all 13 appropriations bills no later than the first of October. There is no need for a continuing resolution. We can complete our work in

the next 3 weeks. That is our desire, and that certainly will be our intent as we make decisions with regard to what agreements we can reach on schedule, as well as on substance, in the coming days.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under consideration is H.R. 4444 and the Smith amendment No. 4129.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business.

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

#### BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 2000

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I again ask why the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000 is being held up. Senator CAMPBELL and I, and others, both Republicans and Democrats, introduced this bulletproof vest bill to help our police officers. We introduced it last April. It was stuck in the Judiciary Committee for a time despite my requests that it be brought forth. It finally was allowed on the agenda and was passed out of there unanimously in June.

I find it hard to think that anybody who would be opposed to using some of our Federal crime-fighting money for bulletproof vests for our police officers. In fact, most Senators with whom I have talked, Republican and Democrat, tell me they are very much in favor of it. They saw how this worked in its first 2 years of operation. The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program under the original Campbell-Leahy bill funded more than 180,000 new bulletproof vests for police officers across the Nation.

We have a bill, though, that has been stalled, unfortunately, by an anonymous hold on the Republican side. This is a bipartisan bill that is being held up in a partisan fashion.

I am continually being asked by police officers who know how well the original Campbell-Leahy bill worked on bulletproof vests why we cannot pass this continuation of it. It is strongly supported by police officers all over the country. The President has made it very clear he would sign such a bill into law, as he did the last one. It is something that, if it were brought to a rollcall vote in the Senate, I am willing to guess 98, maybe all 100 Senators, would vote for it. Certainly no fewer than 95 Senators would vote for it.

When we could not pass it by unanimous consent before our summer recess because there was a hold, I wanted to make sure I could tell these police officers that there was no hold on this side. We actually checked with all 46 Democratic Senators. All 46 told us they would support it. All 46 said they would consent to having it passed any-

time we want to bring it up by a voice vote.

I have told these police officers that while a significant number of both Republicans and Democrats support it or have cosponsored it, and while every single Democrat has said they support having it passed today, there is an anonymous hold on the Republican side. I hope that hold will go away. I urge these same police departments that have contacted me to contact the Republican leadership and say: Please ask whoever your anonymous Senator is to take the hold away and let the Campbell-Leahy bill pass.

That it has still not passed the full Senate is very disappointing to me, as I am sure that it is to our nation's law enforcement officers, who need life-saving bulletproof vests to protect themselves. Protecting and supporting our law enforcement community should not be a partisan issue.

Senator CAMPBELL and I worked together closely and successfully in the last Congress to pass the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 into law. This year's bill reauthorizes and extends the successful program that we helped create and that the Department of Justice has done such a good job implementing.

We have 19 cosponsors on the new bill, including a number of Democrats and some Republicans. This is a bipartisan bill that is not being treated in a bipartisan way. For some unknown reason a Republican Senator has a hold on this bill and has chosen to exercise that right anonymously.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, more than 40 percent of the 1,182 officers killed by a firearm in the line of duty since 1980 could have been saved if they had been wearing body armor. Indeed, the FBI estimates that the risk of fatality to officers while not wearing body armor is 14 times higher than for officers wearing it.

To better protect our Nation's law enforcement officers, Senator CAMPBELL and I introduced the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998. President Clinton signed our legislation into law on June 16, 1998. Our law created a \$25 million, 50 percent matching grant program within the Department of Justice to help state and local law enforcement agencies purchase body armor for fiscal years 1999–2001.

In its first two years of operation, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program has funded more than 180,000 new bulletproof vests for police officers across the country.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000 builds on the success of this program by doubling its annual funding to \$50 million for fiscal years 2002–2004. It also improves the program by guaranteeing jurisdictions with fewer than 100,000 residents receive the full 50–50 matching funds because of the tight budgets of these smaller communities and by making the purchase of stab-proof vests eligible for grant

awards to protect corrections officers in close quarters in local and county jails.

More than ever before, police officers in Vermont and around the country face deadly threats that can strike at any time, even during routine traffic stops. Bulletproof vests save lives. It is essential that we update this law so that many more of our officers who are risking their lives everyday are able to protect themselves.

I hope that the mysterious "hold" on the bill from the other side of the aisle will disappear. The Senate should pass without delay the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000 and send it to the President for his signature.

Before we recessed last July, I informed the Republican leadership that the House of Representatives had passed the companion bill, H.R. 4033, by an overwhelming vote of 413-3. I expressed my hope that the Senate would quickly follow suit and pass the House-passed bill and send it to the President. President Clinton has already endorsed this legislation to support our Nation's law enforcement officers and is eager to sign it into law.

Several more weeks have come and gone. Unfortunately, nothing has changed. Not knowing what the misunderstanding of our bill is, I find it is impossible to overcome an anonymous, unstated objection. I, again, ask whoever it is on the Republican side who has a concern about this program to please come talk to me and Senator CAMPBELL. I hope the Senate will do the right thing and pass this important legislation without further unnecessary delay.

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, talking about things that are being held up, I want to talk about the juvenile justice conference. Last year, in response to the terrible tragedy at Columbine, we passed a bipartisan juvenile justice bill through the Senate. Something like 73 Senators of both parties voted for this bill. We had weeks of debate. We had a number of amendments that improved it and a number of amendments that were rejected, but we had a full and open debate and a number of rollcall votes. As I said, it passed with 73 Senators voting for it.

That was last year. I urged before school started last year that we have a conference and work out the differences, if there are differences, between the House and the Senate; that we vote up or down. The conference is chaired by a Republican Senator, and we have not had anything other than a formal meeting to start the conference the day before the August recess in 1999. We have not met since then. We went off to our summer vacation and came back to schools starting all across the country. We just returned this week from this year's summer recess and we still have not had a meeting of the conferees.

I have been willing to accept votes up or down on matters of difference. I point out there are more Republicans on the conference than there are Democrats, Republicans chair both delegations from both Houses, so Republicans control the conference. If they do not like something that is in the conference, they can vote it down, they can vote it out. I know that we are in the minority. What I want to do is get this juvenile justice bill through so we can make the school year better, more productive, more educational, and a safer one.

The President of the United States was concerned enough about this that he invited the Republican leadership and Democratic leadership to meet with him at the White House. I recall that he spent nearly 2 hours with us going over the bill. He indicated that he wanted to work with us to get a good law enacted. All he wanted to do was to get us to at least meet on the Hatch-Leahy juvenile crime bill that passed the Senate by a 3-to-1 bipartisan majority vote back on May 20, 1999. This is the Hatch-Leahy bill. Even with the two chief sponsors, you span the political spectrum.

I urge again that the Congress not continue to stall this major piece of legislation. I remind Republicans, if they do not like anything Democrats have put in the bill, they can vote us down. There are more Republican Senate conferees than there are Democratic conferees. There are more Republican House conferees than there are Democratic conferees. If the Republicans do not like something in it, they can just vote to remove it. There is nothing we can do to stop that. But at least take what is a good piece of legislation that will protect our children in school and let it go forward.

It has been 17 months since the tragedy at Columbine High School. Fourteen students and a teacher lost their lives there. Surely we could do better than to just stall this bill and hold this bill up.

Every parent, every teacher, every student in this country is concerned about the school violence over the last few years. It does not make any difference which political affiliation it is. If you are a parent, you are worried about the safety of your children going to school. If you are a teacher, you are worried about your workplace. If you are a student, you worry when you go to school.

Now, many fear that there will be more tragedies. The list of places suffering incidents of school violence continues to grow to include Arkansas, Washington, Oregon, Tennessee, California, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Mississippi, Colorado, Georgia, Michigan, and Florida.

We all know there is no single cause. There is no single legislative solution to cure the ill of youth violence in our schools or on our streets. But we have had an opportunity for us to do our part. Frankly, I am disappointed in the

Republican majority because they are squandering this opportunity.

We passed this bill, with 73 Senators—Republicans and Democrats alike joining to pass this bill—by an overwhelming margin. The least we could do is not allow it to then languish without ever being brought up for final action so the President can either sign it or veto it.

We should have seized this opportunity to act on balanced, effective juvenile justice legislation. Instead, the Senate has been in recess more than in session since the single ceremonial meeting of the juvenile crime conference. Just think of that. That is wrong. Let us go forward and pass this.

In fact, the Republican chairman of the House-Senate conference, at our one and only conference meeting in August 1999, said:

Our Nation has been riveted by a series of horrific school shootings in recent years, which culminated this spring—

Remember, this was said last year—with the tragic death of 12 students and one teacher at Columbine High School in Colorado. Sadly, the killings at Columbine High School are not an isolated event. In 1997, juveniles accounted for nearly one-fifth of all criminal arrests in the United States. Juveniles committed 13.5 percent of all murders, more than 17 percent of all rapes, nearly 30 percent of all robberies, 50 percent of all arson. While juvenile crime has dipped slightly in the last 2 years, it remains at historically unprecedented levels. Such violence makes this legislation necessary.

I agree with the Republican chairman of that conference that such violence makes this legislation necessary. I absolutely agree with him. But I do not agree with him then leaving that conference well over a year ago and never coming back and never completing the work.

We have to finish this. We have to finish this bill. All we have to do is bring the conference together. Ninety-eight percent of the bill would be agreed to very quickly. If there is 2 percent remaining, then vote it up or vote on it.

During the course of Senate debate on the bill in May 1999 we were able to make to the bill better, stronger and better balanced. It became more comprehensive and more respectful of the core protections in federal juvenile justice legislation that have served us so well over the last three decades. At the same time we made it more respectful of the primary role of the States in prosecuting criminal matters.

I recognize, as we all do, that no legislation is perfect and that legislation alone is not enough to stop youth violence. We can pass an assortment of new laws and still turn on the news to find out that some child somewhere in the country has turned violent and turned on other children and teachers, with terrible results.

All of us—whether we are parents, grandparents, teachers, psychologists, or policy-makers—puzzle over the causes of kids turning violent in our country. The root causes are likely