

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, for the information of all our colleagues who have been watching the debate on the farm bill today, and the amendments that have been offered, we are making significant progress based upon the unanimous consent agreement that was reached last week. We now have moved to a point where the 20 Republican amendments have been filed on the bill, there are five Democratic amendments that have been filed on the bill, and what we will do, starting in just a few seconds and moving on into tomorrow, is move forward trying to get to a final point on this farm bill.

We are hopeful and optimistic we are going to get this done. I think there is good bipartisan agreement. And I think this legislation, which Senator HARKIN has championed as chairman of the Agriculture Committee, along with the assistance of Ranking Member CHAMBLISS, will in fact move its way forward to a conclusion in the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, December 11, when the Senate resumes H.R. 2419, it then return to the Lugar-Lautenberg amendment, No. 3711, and that there be 3 hours of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form, prior to a vote in relation to the amendment; that no amendment be in order to the amendment prior to the vote; that at 12:30 Tuesday, the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. for the respective party conference meetings; that upon reconvening at 2:15 p.m. the Senate resume the debate with respect to amendment No. 3711; and that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to amendment No. 3711.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

COLORADO SHOOTINGS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart, saddened and angered by the violence that shook my State of Colorado yesterday. On a day that many Americans devote to family and faith, we awoke to news that two of our young people had been shot dead early Sunday morning on the grounds of Faith Bible Church in Arvada, CO.

Tiffany Johnson was only 26 years old. Philip Crouse was 24 years old. They were killed, and two of their colleagues were injured as they worked at Youth With a Mission dormitory, waiting to welcome back kids who were returning from a late night youth bowling trip.

A few hours later, 70 miles to the south, in Colorado Springs, violence again dared to enter a place of worship on Sunday. A gunman armed with a high-powered rifle, stormed into New Life Church, killing two sisters, Stephanie Works, age 18, and Rachael Works, age 16, and injuring four others, including their father.

Only the quick thinking and bravery of a security guard was able to stop the rampage. Law enforcement officials throughout the day yesterday, last night and today, are working at top speed to get to the bottom of what happened. They have the full support of Governor Ritter of Colorado, Federal agencies, and numerous State and local law enforcement agencies that are working in this investigation.

As a former attorney general of Colorado, I know firsthand the extraordinary capabilities of our local and State law officials. I have full and complete confidence in their abilities. But having overseen investigations, including the investigation of the shooting at Columbine High School, I know that however successful we may be in uncovering what happened and bringing justice to those responsible, the transgressions the Nation witnessed yesterday defy reason and comprehension.

Sunday's violence has no place in our society. That five people were shot is a terrible tragedy, no matter in what city, neighborhood or street that kind of violence occurs. But that this barbarity invaded two places of worship, where young people were serving their community and where families were attending a Sunday service, stirs a particular outrage in all of us.

There are certain sanctuaries we share, and they should never, ever see bloodshed. Schools are sanctuaries. Our homes are sanctuaries. Churches, mosques, synagogues, and other houses of worship are sanctuaries. When these places come under attack, for whatever reason, we all suffer, for our right to pray in peace should be inviolate.

When someone undermines this right, we are compelled to respond. We are compelled to respond not just with the force of law but by mobilizing the force of our shared values and of our community. We must rebuild that sense of security that should envelop every house of worship in this country. Americans should never feel fear in a place of faith.

Our thoughts and prayers today are with the victims of yesterday's attacks, with their families and friends. To those who lost a son, a daughter or a friend, I know no words can assuage the pain you feel. I can only hope that in time your memories of the service, faith, and love of those you lost will overcome the senselessness of this terrible tragedy.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to express, on behalf of myself and my wife Joan, our devastation and heartfelt sadness for both the families and communities that are suffering as a result of the senseless shootings yesterday in Colorado.

Every shooting, and every loss of an innocent life, is a terrible blow. But, shootings at schools or churches hit an especially weak spot in our public armor. They hurt our Nation in a deeper and more profound way and we mourn for the families and communities of those who have been affected by the tragedies this weekend.

The first attack on Sunday occurred at 12:30 a.m. and left two victims dead and two other wounded at the Youth with a Mission center in metro Denver. The second, 12 hours later in Colorado Springs, left two dead and three others wounded.

The two killed at the Youth with a Mission center were a young woman from Minnesota and a young man from Alaska. They were at the center to learn how to better spread the message of their faith. The two wounded at the center are in the hospital, one in critical condition and one in fair condition. The two victims who lost their lives at the New Life Church were teenage sisters, shot in the parking lot as they left a worship service. Three others, including the father of the two teenage victims, were also wounded at the church and are recovering from injuries.

There were 7,000 people at the New Life Church yesterday when the shooting took place. A volunteer security guard stopped this murderer just inside the building, saving an unknown—but certainly large number of those from being attacked as well. The name and background of the security guard who stopped the gunman are still being withheld, but she bravely acted on her instincts and training. With quick and decisive action, she returned fire with the gunman, fatally wounding him. This real-life hero has been widely credited today for saving hundreds of lives inside the church. I join with the people of Colorado in praising her actions.

Mr. President, I hope we can find the time to consider the church members lost in Colorado yesterday, the heartache of those left behind, and the valiant action of those who stopped the tragedy from spreading and helped those in need.

HATE CRIMES

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, earlier this year this Nation marked the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1957. That landmark legislation was Congress's first civil rights bill since the end of Reconstruction. It established the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department and empowered Federal prosecutors to obtain court injunctions against interference with the right to vote. It also established a Federal Commission on Civil Rights with authority to investigate discriminatory conditions and recommend corrective measures.

In the Judiciary Committee, under the leadership of my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from

Vermont, we held a hearing to commemorate this milestone, to talk about our Nation's progress over the past half century, and how we must move forward if we are to live up to the ideals enumerated in the Constitution. My former colleague from the House and an American hero, Representative JOHN LEWIS, shared his recollections and his hopes for the future with us.

Today, however, it is with great sadness that I come to the Senate floor to talk about a rash of incidents involving the hanging of nooses in this country. These incidents are a painful reminder of just how far we have to go. I am introducing a Senate resolution that expresses the sense of the Senate that: the hanging of nooses is a horrible act when used for the purpose of intimidation, and which under certain circumstances can be a criminal act; that it should be thoroughly investigated by Federal, State, and local law enforcement authorities; and that any criminal violations should be vigorously prosecuted. The House of Representatives unanimously passed a similar resolution, H. Res. 826, on December 5, and I ask the Senate to take the same action.

American students are being targeted by this epidemic of hate crimes, many of which have occurred after the Jena Six incident arose. Just this year, nooses were discovered hung on the campuses of the University of Maryland, Indiana State University, the United States Coast Guard Academy, East Carolina University, North Carolina State, Columbia University, Louisiana State University, and Purdue.

Nooses are being found in elementary and high schools, in Illinois, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and New York. And so we have a new generation of children who are growing up with the same symbols of hate that proliferated more than 100 years ago.

Our Nation's first responders are targeted with these symbols of hate: fire-fighters in Jacksonville, FL, and police departments in Hempstead and Brooklyn, NY. Nooses have been displayed in hospitals in Pittsburgh, PA, and Orangeburg, NY. Finally, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed more than 30 lawsuits for hanging nooses in the workplace since 2001, and stated that it observed "a disturbing national trend of increased racial harassment cases involving hangman's nooses in the workplace."

Let us remember the chilling history of the United States on this subject. The hanging of nooses and lynching was first used to punish African slaves as early as the 17th century and was still commonplace in the United States until the 1960s civil rights movement. An estimated 5,000 people were lynched in the United States—roughly 70 percent of whom were African-Americans—between the 1880s and 1960s.

Mr. President, the situation is even more dire than most Americans imagine. The Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project counted 844

active hate groups in the United States in 2006.

Hate crimes' tentacles reach far beyond the intended targets. They bring a chill to entire neighborhoods and create a sense of fear, vulnerability, and insecurity in our communities. They poison the well of our democracy and strike at the very heart of the American spirit.

Hate crimes are un-American. They cannot be tolerated. When individuals are targeted and attacked because of who they are, entire communities suffer, we are all diminished by it. I call on the Senate today to condemn the recent spate of noose hangings and urge vigorous Federal, State, and local investigation and prosecution of criminal violations.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE REPORTS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to notify all Senators that the Committee on Rules and Administration adopted Regulations Governing the Public Availability of Conference Reports, effective December 7, 2007.

These regulations were promulgated pursuant to Public Law 110-81, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

I ask unanimous consent that the regulations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE REPORTS

(Adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration, United States Senate, Effective December 7, 2007)

1. Section 511 (b)(1) of Public Law 110-81, enacted on September 14, 2007, authorizes the Committee on Rules and Administration to promulgate regulations implementing the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. Under the direction of the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Government Printing Office shall create and maintain a publicly accessible website that shall make available conference committee reports.

3. The Government Printing Office shall affix a time stamp to each conference report noting the date and time the report was made available to the public on the website. The Government Printing Office shall also notify, in writing or by e-mail, designated staff of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of the date and time the report was posted on the website. The 48-hour period of public availability of a conference report prior to a vote on the adoption of the report, required by Section 511 (b)(1) of P.L. 110-81, shall commence on the date and time of the time stamp, unless there is an earlier public posting on a Congressionally authorized website.

4. The Government Printing Office shall provide public notification of this website through communications with the Library of Congress and the Federal Depository Library system.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

• Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, today is Human Rights Day. Fifty-nine years ago today, thanks in large measure to the tireless leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The principles encompassed in the declaration are uniquely rooted in the American tradition, beginning with our founding documents. Yet the declaration also wove together a remarkable variety of political, religious, and cultural perspectives and traditions. The United States and the United Kingdom championed civil liberties. The French representative on the committee helped devise the structure of the declaration. India added the prohibition on discrimination. China stressed the importance of family and reminded U.N. delegates that every right carried with it companion duties. Today should be a day of celebration, a day when we hail the universality of these core principles, which are both beacons to guide us and the foundations for building a more just and stable world.

The Universal Declaration was a radical document in its time, and its passage required courageous leadership from political leaders. Even though no country could have been said to be in full compliance with its provisions, including the United States where Jim Crow still prevailed, all U.N. member states committed themselves to promoting, protecting, and respecting fundamental human rights. Although Franklin Delano Roosevelt did not live to see the enactment of the historic declaration, it enshrined his "four freedoms"—freedom from want, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom from fear. Individuals in the United States and everywhere else were entitled, simply by virtue of being human, to physical and economic security. The declaration was born of the recognition, in the words of one human rights scholar, that "what is pain and humiliation for you is pain and humiliation for me."

Anniversaries are a good time to examine how faithful we have been to our own aspirations—to ask ourselves how well we are measuring up, to assess whether our practice lives up to our promise. We in the United States enjoy tremendous freedoms, but we also carry a special responsibility—the responsibility of being the country so many people in the world look to, just as they did in Mrs. Roosevelt's day, for human rights leadership.

Today, on this anniversary, we must acknowledge both bad news and good news. The bad news is that for nearly seven years, President Bush has ignored Franklin Roosevelt's wise counsel about the corrosive effects of fear. Indeed, instead of urging us to reject fear, he has stoked false fear and undermined our values.

Wounded by a horrific terrorist attack, we were warned that Saddam Hussein—a man who had nothing to do