DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/GUNS BILL

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, given the understanding that we had with the leadership, this news came as something as a shock to me. Earlier this morning, there was a suggestion that somehow I was not respecting an agreement we had on this matter. And now this.

Mr. President, this is not how we should be doing business in this body. Mr. President, I continue to be amazed at just how far the NRA and their supporters are willing to go to let wife beaters and child abusers get guns. And I think the American people would share my outrage at this. Every year, thousands of women and children die at the hands of family members. And 65 percent of the time, these murderers use a gun.

There is no reason why wife beaters and child abusers should have guns. Only the most progun extremists could possibly disagree with that. Unfortunately, these same extremists have incredible power here in the Congress.

Mr. President, given the understanding that we had with the leadership on both sides of the aisle, I am shocked that somehow I was not respecting an agreement we had on this matter. And now this.

Mr. President, I want to make clear to my colleagues that I am not going to let this issue die. The lives of thousands of women and children are at stake. And I'm going to continue this battle for as long as it takes.

Members of Congress on both sides of Capitol Hill need to be held accountable on this. The public has got to know what's going on here.

Mr. President, I'm convinced that the overwhelming majority of Americans would agree.

Wife beaters should not have guns. Child abusers should not have guns.

SALUTE TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST ATHLETE

Mr. KEMPThorne. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute today to an Idahoan who has overcome adversity to become an Olympic champion.

Denis O'Brien of Moscow last night won the Olympic decathlon gold medal and set an Olympic record with a score of 8,824 points, the sixth best mark