

Mr. President, it is that simple. As juvenile gangs spread from urban to suburban to rural areas, as they travel from State to State, the "veil of secrecy" draped over their criminal histories and records undermines the ability of law enforcement to protect the rest of society.

In order to empower local law enforcement, the proposed bill would provide money to States to create and maintain juvenile criminal records, and to share those records with other federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.

Mr. President, school officials also need access to juvenile criminal records to assist them in protecting the best interests and safety of all students. The decline in school safety across the country can be attributed to a significant degree to laws that put the protection of dangerous students ahead of protecting innocent, law-abiding students. While visiting with school officials in Sikeston, MO, a teacher told me how one of her students came to school wearing an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet. The student told the teacher, "You don't know if I'm a murderer or a rapist and I ain't gonna tell you." That student was not only brutally honest, he was right. No one had any knowledge of what crime he had committed and, more importantly, they had no way of finding out.

If schools knew the histories of violent juveniles, they could respond to any misbehavior by imposing stricter sanctions, assigning particular teachers, or having the student's locker near a teacher's doorway entrance so that the teacher can monitor his conduct during the changing of class periods. In short, this bill would allow school officials to take measures that could prevent violence against other children at school.

Mr. President, for purposes of adult sentencing, adult courts need to know that convicted felons have a history of criminal behavior. According to the 1991 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, nearly 40 percent of prison inmates also had prior criminal records as juveniles. That is approximately 4 in 10 prison inmates. The proposed legislation would allow adult courts to have access to juvenile records so that criminals could no longer masquerade as neophytes before the adult criminal justice system.

The bill also allows State and local governments to use Federal funds to implement the Serious Habitual Offenders Comprehensive Action Program [SHOCAP].

SHOCAP is a multi-agency crime analysis and case management process for identifying and prosecuting violent and hard-core juvenile offenders in a community. SHOCAP targets such serious habitual offenders for intensive social supervisory interventions, intensive accountability in school attendance and discipline, and strenuous investigation and prosecution when they commit a new crime.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [OJJDP] conducted five test pilots of SHOCAP. Oxnard, CA was one of the sites selected. When SHOCAP was implemented in Oxnard in 1983, officials found that less than 2 percent of all juveniles arrested in that community were responsible for over 35 percent of the felonies committed by juveniles. Four years later, Oxnard's juvenile violent crime dropped 38 percent. Illinois and Florida have also recently established statewide SHOCAP programs in an effort to reduce their juvenile crime rates. S. 10 would allow all jurisdictions to use Federal funds to help implement SHOCAP.

Mr. President, reforms are also necessary at the Federal level as well. S. 10 would make it easier for Federal prosecutors to try juveniles as adults. Under the bill, U.S. attorneys would have discretion to decide whether to try as adults juveniles 14 years or older without having to go through the Attorney General's office in Washington.

Federal juvenile court proceedings would be opened to the general public. When imposing a sentence, the district court would also be allowed to consider a juvenile's entire criminal record under the bill. In any case in which a juvenile is tried as an adult, access to the record of that offense would be made available to law enforcement authorities and others in the same manner that adult criminal records are publicly available.

Mr. President, the government should also be able to mount a counter-attack on gang violence. This legislation targets violent youth gangs, like the notorious Simple City Crew in the District. There would be new Federal penalties for offenses committed by criminal street gangs. Gangs are no

longer concentrated in the big cities, they are now in rural towns. The bill would also provide \$100 million to hire assistant U.S. attorneys to prosecute juvenile criminal street gangs.

We as a nation and a government must challenge this culture of violence and restore the culture of personal responsibility and accountability. It is high time to consider hard-headed and sensible juvenile justice policies. Where possible we must give second chances. Where necessary we must punish severely. This is a first step to restore justice to a nation that has grown weary of injustice.

In sum, this legislation would send a clear, cogent, and convincing message to violent juveniles: "Serious acts have serious consequences."

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, it was not quite 12 months ago—on Friday, February 23, 1996—that the Federal debt broke the \$5 trillion sound barrier for the first time in history. The records show that on that day, at the close of business, the debt stood at \$5,017,056,630,040.53.

Just 20 years earlier, in 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$629 billion—and that was after the first 200 years of America's history had elapsed, including two world wars. Then the big spenders really went to work and the interest on the Federal debt really began to take off—and, presto, during the past two decades the Federal debt has soared into the stratosphere, increasing by more than \$4 trillion in two decades from 1976 to 1996.

So, Mr. President, as of the close of business Friday, January 17, 1997, the Federal debt stood—down-to-the-penny—at \$5,309,774,506,681.99. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,917.66 as his or her share of that debt.

This enormous debt is a festering, escalating burden on all citizens and especially it is jeopardizing the liberty of our children and grandchildren. As Jefferson once warned, "to preserve [our] independence, we must not let our leaders load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude."

Was Mr. Jefferson right, or what?

NOTICE

Incomplete record of Senate proceedings. Except for concluding business which follows, today's Senate proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:19 p.m. adjourned until Wednesday, January 22, 1997, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate January 21, 1997: