

today the Senate begin consideration of the HUD/VA appropriations bill.

Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I now ask that the Senate stand in recess until 2:30 p.m. today following the remarks of the Senator from Oregon.

Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, every Member of this body has watched horrified these last few months at the outbreak of gun violence that has struck America's schools. Now, with the new school year just a few weeks away, it is time for this body to respond to America's parents who are frightened for their youngsters and are asking, what can be done to protect their children when they are at school?

Frankly, a lot of those parents don't believe that this Congress will produce very much. They know there has been considerable acrimony about the whole debate over guns in America. Certainly there are many areas where reasonable people can differ. There are constitutional protections with respect to the right to bear arms, and at the same time we are also concerned about the safety of those youngsters when they are away at school.

Senator GORDON SMITH, my colleague from Oregon, and I believe it is time to set politics aside with respect to this issue of gun violence in our schools. That is why we have teamed up on important legislation which we believe ought to be enacted by the time school starts in the fall. We don't think this is the complete answer to this scourge of school violence, gun violence, that our youngsters face, but we think it can make a real difference.

We propose this legislation after the tragedy in Springfield, OR. As the Presiding Officer of this body knows, there has been a rash of these violent incidents at our schools. The problems have literally been seen in schools from coast to coast. Senator SMITH and I have introduced legislation which I believe would lay out the beginnings of a rational policy to control school violence in America.

What we have proposed—we did it after consulting with families, law enforcement officials, educators, people who are for gun control, people who are against gun control—we have proposed legislation which would stipulate that when a young person brings a gun to school, that would, in effect, be a five-alarm warning to society. It would make it very clear that at that point there is a real threat to young people, to teachers, and our society. And young people who bring a gun to school, under our legislation, would be detained for up to 72 hours for a com-

prehensive evaluation, from the standpoint of mental health considerations, law enforcement issues, family questions, the whole gamut of concerns that ought to be looked at when a young person brings a gun to school.

The alleged killer at Thurston High School, in Springfield, OR, was apprehended at school with a gun the day before he shot more than 20 of his classmates. That day, the police made a decision which is duplicated each day across our Nation, a decision that seemed reasonable at the time. The youngster was released to his parents, parents who were themselves teachers and who were known to be concerned and involved in the lives of their children. Currently, many police departments across America have complete discretion to treat young people caught with a gun at school in the manner they deem appropriate. As Springfield's own police chief has argued, the evaluation that needs to occur in these situations is beyond the means and capacity of most police forces across our country.

So Senator SMITH and I have introduced legislation which would provide an incentive for each State to enact a law requiring a mandatory 72-hour detention for any child caught with a gun at school. If a State passes such a law, it will be eligible for an additional 25 percent in funding under the Juvenile Justice Act. The cost of this legislation is small, perhaps \$25 million a year, and certainly modest when you look at the State's overall requirements in the effort to prevent school violence.

Now, Mr. President, we are not suggesting that this is all that needs to be done. Certainly, though, our first responsibility when a child brings a gun to school is to protect all of the kids who come to that school armed only with their books and their calculators. Children caught with a gun at school ought to be detained for a sufficient period to protect the other children and to evaluate the degree to which they are a threat to themselves and those around them.

I believe this legislation can win the support of every Member of this body, be enacted in time for the opening of the fall school year and should be acted on as soon as possible. Mr. President, Bill Clinton has spoken favorably of this legislation during his visit to Springfield, OR. The Nation's mayors—Democrats, Republicans, liberals, conservatives—have spoken favorably of this legislation. I am very hopeful that even though this body has an extremely busy schedule in the weeks ahead, there will be time, on a bipartisan basis, to ensure that this legislation moves forward.

According to Larry Bentz, principal of Thurston High School in Springfield, OR, the Thurston High community is slowly returning to some semblance of normalcy. The kids are engaged in the traditions of summer—swimming, playing basketball, summer jobs. With the memories of the brutal shooting at the

high school seared into their memories, the parents are trying to push ahead and return to family routines and responsibilities. But they want to make sure that this body, and elected officials everywhere, don't forget about the gun violence that has shattered young lives and families in Springfield, OR—and, in fact, in five States over the last school year. Senator SMITH and I urge that this body not let that happen. We ought to listen and learn from the lessons of Springfield and commit to doing our part to end school gun violence now as the schools look to opening their doors for a new school year.

Now, the Thurston community is still processing the tragedy at Thurston High. They are debating a variety of approaches and ideas for reducing school violence. Senator SMITH and I don't pretend to have all of the answers, but we know there are some practical steps that the U.S. Senate can take, and take promptly, to make our schools safer in America.

There are other steps that need to be taken, Mr. President. We have to make certain that communities have the resources to evaluate kids in trouble. I heard again and again, as I visited with families in Springfield, from hard-working, middle-class families, that they simply could not get any help until their youngster was violent. That is just not acceptable in America, Mr. President. It is not right to say that there will be no response until a young person is actually violent. We have to get there early. We have to get there with preventive strategies.

Senator SMITH and I hope to be back before the U.S. Senate with other constructive approaches in the days ahead. But let us make a strong beginning, Mr. President. Let us make a strong effort in the U.S. Senate to take the first step to averting further school tragedies. In Oregon alone, young people were apprehended with guns at school 100 times in the last school year—and those were simply the ones who were caught. So as our country goes about the business of the pleasures of summer, and as the U.S. Senate deals with what we know is going to be a very hectic schedule over the next few weeks, let's not forget about what happened in Springfield, OR, in Kentucky, in Arkansas and in Mississippi. Let us remember that our young people will be back in school in just a few weeks. Let us do our part to make sure that school violence ends here.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate now stands in recess until 2:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:54 p.m., recessed until 2:30 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. FRIST).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll to ascertain a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business to pay tribute to the recently deceased comptroller of the State of Maryland.

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

MARYLAND COMPTROLLER LOUIS GOLDSTEIN

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, and to all who are with us in the proceedings today, I rise with melancholy to pay tribute to a great Marylander who passed away over this weekend, our beloved and endeared comptroller, Louie Goldstein. Louie, indeed, was a Maryland treasure—and he was—to the State, and the State treasured him. Like all Marylanders, I will miss Louie Goldstein and mourn his passing. As Maryland's comptroller, he always stood steadfast sentry over the State purse. He helped make sure that the economy was booming, and he fought for the economy of our State. He fought for the State to have a triple-A bond rating. He also was out there absolutely on the side of his constituents.

It is hard to believe that the State tax collector was the most popular elected official in the State. This man collected the State taxes for 40 years. And every tax season he would say "Don't delay. File today." He criss-crossed the State often going close to 100,000 miles reaching out to rotaries, senior citizen clubs, and League of Women Voters gatherings always talking about the State's economy, what the tax dollars went for, and he was beloved.

He ran a tight ship, and Maryland benefited from it for more than 39 years. In his 10 terms as the comptroller, he always made sure that Maryland kept its triple-A bond rating, which was an indication of our fiscal soundness.

As the State's tax collector, he prided himself on getting tax returns back quickly and efficiently to Marylanders. There was no IRS-type heavy hand on Louie Goldstein's watch.

We always knew that the tax collector's office was run efficiently, fairly, and a taxpayer could get a hearing and get their refund early and on time.

Louie was a man of the old school. He was a gentleman. His word was his bond. He believed in high-tech and reach-out politics. But also he was a very shrewd businessman. Under his very folksy style in which he would

reach out and always had a laugh and a word of encouragement, he also knew the power of high-tech. He came from an era of pen and paper. He would joke about himself, and was maybe even a stylist. But quickly he saw the power and utility of new technology and worked diligently to bring high-tech efficiency to the comptroller's office.

Under his leadership, Maryland was the first State to computerize its tax records. At the time of his death, he was working on a system that would allow Marylanders to file their taxes electronically.

He also realized the magnitude of the Year 2000 problem. He got a jump-start on fixing it.

Imagine an 85-year-old comptroller who had served 10 terms doing the job, had more new ideas and was more far-sighted than many of the young people who want to come into government. He was reshaping Maryland's computers so they would be ready by 1999.

Now, anyone who met him knew there was much more to Louie Goldstein than his position as comptroller. When he came up to you, he would shake your hand, give you his trademark little imitation gold coin that said "God bless you, real good." He radiated warmth that was truly genuine. Louie was a tremendous public speaker and, unlike most politicians, people looked forward to his southern Maryland accent. However, when other politicians found out he was scheduled to speak, they always got a little nervous, including yours truly.

Louie Goldstein was a dedicated Democrat and worked tirelessly for a Democratic "Team Maryland," but would work on a bipartisan basis for fiscal soundness and business attraction to the State.

Early on, he campaigned for me. He knocked on doors, and he believed in me, when I was a little upstart politician before I got to be one of the fortunate 100. All Maryland Democrats owe Louie Goldstein a debt of gratitude for showing us how to stay in touch with constituents, whether it was at a church supper or in a business boardroom.

Louie Goldstein was tremendously warm and kind. He loved to laugh and loved to be on the sunny side of life. I am proud to call him a friend, a colleague, and a mentor. There was and will be no one like him. We will find a successor, but we will never find a replacement, nor should we seek one. He was unique in Maryland politics, and I think he was unique in American history.

On the day of his death, he was in five different parades, came home, read the Declaration of Independence to his gathered family, as he had done for so many years, took a swim, and then God called him to glory.

We salute him. As Louie would say to one and all, I say to him, "Louie, God bless you, real good."

I ask unanimous consent that the Baltimore Sun tributes to Louie Goldstein be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the articles were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, July 4, 1998]

LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN, 1913-1998

What can you write about Louis L. Goldstein that hasn't been recorded numerous times during his 60-year career in public service?

He was truly a legend in his own time, the best-known and best-liked Maryland politician of the last four decades.

Call him "Mr. Maryland." Or as one speaker put it at a fund-raiser last year, our "state fossil." Up until his death last night at age 85, Mr. Goldstein could—and did—run lesser-aged politicians ragged on the campaign trail and in the hallways of state government.

Voters elected Louie Goldstein state comptroller a record 10 times. His love of people and his perpetual optimism made him one of the few tax collectors in America who drew cheers, not jeers, from constituents.

But Mr. Goldstein was far more than a popular campaigner. He ran one of the best tax-collection departments in the nation, receiving awards for keeping his office on the cutting edge of technology. His latest success: A vast increase in computerized tax filings this year.

It was on the Board of Public Works, though, that Mr. Goldstein may have performed his greatest service. This largely unknown panel—the governor, the comptroller and the state treasurer—holds immense power over billions of dollars of state contracts.

It was Mr. Goldstein who acted as board skeptic, grilling bureaucrats mercilessly on the merits of projects. What a ferocious fiscal watchdog he was! He poured over voluminous reports to the point where he knew as much about them as those making the presentations.

Often, proposals were pulled even before the public hearing—after Mr. Goldstein had brutally dissected the plan at the panel's pre-board sessions.

Given the immense power granted the governor in Maryland, the need for checks and balances is critical. Louis L. Goldstein performed that role brilliantly. But he did so with a smile on his face and a keen understanding of the benefits of government when it is made to work in favor of the best interests of its citizens.

God bless Louie Goldstein, real good.

[From the Baltimore Sun, July 5, 1998]

"THERE WILL BE NO ONE LIKE HIM"

(By William F. Zorzi Jr.)

Louis Lazarus Goldstein was the total package: indefatigable campaigner, skilled financial watchdog and accessible public servant, a 40-year incumbent who was unbeatable by challengers of either party.

It seemed as if he had been comptroller of Maryland's treasury forever. When Goldstein was first elected in 1958, Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, J. Millard Tawes was stepping up to be governor and the Baltimore Colts were still a month away from winning their first national championship.

When he died Friday night after a heart attack at his Calvert County home, a chapter of Maryland's history was closed. A career ended that stretched back 60 years, to when he was first elected to the House of Delegates.

Goldstein, a Democrat who was 85, helped usher Maryland government into the modern era, overseeing the computerization of the state's tax and payroll systems. He fought