

firm, when a man walked in with a TEC-9—the same gun that was used by these kids—and mowed him down as he threw himself over his wife to save her life, which he did. He died.

Prayers are very important right now. We turn to God at these moments, but we also have to turn to ourselves. What the Senator is saying is, it is time for this Senate to do something about this problem.

I would like to get his reaction to those numbers I put out here. Again, I thank him for this opportunity to comment on his legislation.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank my friend and colleague from California.

My reaction is this: I am concerned about two things. I am concerned that the American people have given up on us. I believe they have come to the conclusion that for political reasons we cannot do the obvious; we cannot pass the laws to keep guns out of the hands of kids. I think they are wrong. I hope we can prove them wrong.

Certainly the record of the last few decades suggests that we have been blind to this carnage in our streets, people living in fear of walking down the street in Los Angeles or Chicago, kids living in fear of walking on the playground. There is a school on the west side of Chicago called the Austin Career Academy. When that high school is about to adjourn for the day, let the children go home, the police come and close the streets around the schools so that the gang bangers cannot drive by and shoot the children as they come out of the schools.

That is daily life in too many places in America. We can argue about what we can do and why the people should give up on this Congress. I hope they do not. But we cannot give up on our children, because if we do, we have failed our most fundamental responsibility.

I know this is tough, because some of our colleagues, even on the Democratic side and on the Republican side, have great concerns about the gun lobby and what they might do if they vote for any legislation. It is a tough vote, a hard vote, but I hope they will step back for a second and say we cannot allow this violence and killing to continue in American schools.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield one more moment?

Mr. DURBIN. Definitely.

Mrs. BOXER. I want to pick up on that point because there is a gun lobby. We all see it, we all know it, there are a lot of bucks behind it. But there is another lobby out there, the people, and the people want us to do sensible measures to protect our children.

I want to make one last point to my colleague, and that is, in my home State of California, the largest State in the Union by far—34 million people—the No. 1 cause of death among children from the minute they are born until they are 18, the No. 1 cause of death is gunshots—No. 1 cause of death.

If we had a disease that was the No. 1 cause of death, we would be working on this floor feverishly until we addressed that disease. This is a disease.

I have to say to my friend, I watched him take on the tobacco lobby and win. There is not a time I do not get on an airplane and realize I do not have to smell that smoke and have that in my lungs that I don't think of him and his courage in that matter. When he came over here, I just knew reinforcements were coming for some of these tough issues, and this is one of them.

This is a tough one, but that is what we are here for. It is very easy to vote for the easy bills. It is easy to vote for "Children's Appreciation Day." It is easy to do that. It is a little tougher when you take on the gun lobby.

I hope we are judged by this. My experience is that people respect you, even if they might not agree with you, if you have the guts to do something about a problem.

I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, please join with us. Some of these issues are so easy for you to vote for. For example, one of them you have in here says if a local district has a proposal in for more cops on the beat, waive the matching fund if the community police are assigned to the schools. That is one that does not even touch a gun. But today we are told by the majority leader that he believes it would be unseemly to act. That is his view. I respect it. I don't think it is unseemly to act in the wake of this tragedy. I think people want us to act in the wake of this tragedy.

Thank you. I yield back to my colleague.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I will close by saying I am happy that the majority leader, Senator LOTT, has made this commitment publicly on the floor of the Senate that within 2 weeks we will have debate on legislation such as I have described here. The important thing about that debate is not what is said on the floor of the Senate between Senators. What is important between now and that 2-week deadline is what is said by the American people to those who serve in the Senate.

For those who are watching the proceedings of the Senate or who read the RECORD, I hope you will understand that if you are not part of this debate, if you do not pick up your telephone, if you do not take a pen and write a letter, if you do not send an e-mail saying, "For goodness sake, do something about violence in our schools and the proliferation of guns in the hands of children," I can guarantee you that the outcome of this debate is going to be a disappointment to families across America.

Do not give up on Congress. This is an institution which is serving this country and all of the American families in it. The families have to come forward now. They have to be heard from. It is not enough to say the school year is coming to an end, so that will be the end of school violence. There

will always be another school year, history tells us, sadly, always an opportunity for another tragedy. Let us learn something valuable from the suffering of the families in Littleton, CO. Let us vow, Democrat and Republican alike, that we will do everything in our power to reduce school violence and make this a safer place for our children.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Who yields time?

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H. CON. RES. 92

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding receipt of the resolution, the Senate now begin an hour of debate equally divided in the usual form with respect to H. Con. Res. 92, a resolution relating to the tragedy in Littleton, CO. I further ask unanimous consent that no amendments be in order to the preamble or resolution, and that immediately following the debate time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the adoption of the resolution, with no intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to display three ceremonial Indian objects as I make my statement.

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

#### TRAGEDY IN LITTLETON, COLORADO

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, many of my colleagues in the Senate will speak on this resolution today. I know that the families and, indeed, all of Colorado appreciate their deep and heartfelt sorrow.

On my father's side, as you know, Mr. President, I am Cheyenne, so I would like to begin speaking in the manner of his people.

This fan comes from the eagle. The old people call the eagle the keeper of the Earth, the one that watches over the domain of the Grandfather Spirit.

This pipe carries the smoke with the words and the thoughts from the people who use it to the Creator.

This flute is used to carry songs of love, forgiveness, and brotherhood.

So, Mr. President, I hope that the voices of all the council fires and pipes send our pleas as Senators as we ask for guidance as we try to rid ourselves of violence in this Nation.

I would like the great winged brother that he has chosen as our national symbol of freedom and justice to oversee all of his children. Further, I would like the winds to carry the sweetness and harmony and tolerance of the flute to the Grandfather Spirit.

Mr. President, traditional Indian people do not believe that death is finite. Indeed, they believe that mortal remains return to Mother Earth from

which they came, but the soul, which is the part of you that is timeless, goes on to the next world to be forever in the presence of the Great Spirit in a place that is absent of avarice and greed, devoid of hunger and sickness, barren of anger, jealousy, and hate. It is a place of goodness where springtime is forever.

That is the place where Indian people believe the innocent victims of Columbine High School have journeyed. Although their time on Earth was far too short, the elders remind us that the grace of the Creator made our lives so much better by allowing them to be with us for a time, however short.

Columbine High School will go on because our departed friends would have it so, but it will never forget.

I have heard the debate thus far on this terrible tragedy, and I have to ask: Are more laws the answer? I frankly do not know, Mr. President. Seventeen Federal laws and I think over 6 State laws were broken during that terrible tragedy. Would 1 more or 100 more have helped? I do not know.

I suppose there will be a rush to judgment. And I expect a torrent of proposed legislation, and perhaps some of it will help, perhaps not. But certainly I, as one Senator, will consider any proposal to make things better.

Mr. President, none of us have all the answers. But we know we cannot legislate tolerance. We cannot mandate that you love your neighbor. We can pass no law requiring Americans to respect each other. Those qualities are learned, as is hate and intolerance.

Government has its place, Mr. President, but so do churches, families, clubs, schools, teams, and indeed complete communities. I hope that we do not confuse who should do what. And let our actions reflect the Good Book at least as much as it does the law book. But above all, let us keep the memory of these innocent children and a heroic teacher alive as we strive for a solution.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Who yields time?

Mr. ALLARD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I compliment my colleague, the senior Senator from Colorado, Mr. CAMPBELL, for his fine floor statement. I was especially touched when he brought in the meaning of what was happening in Colorado in relation to his forefathers, the Cheyenne people. It means a lot to me personally to hear those words, because I consider us part of one big family.

I do have a perspective that I would like to share with the Members of the Senate.

Mr. President, House Concurrent Resolution No. 92 is sponsored by TOM TANCREDO. The House of Representatives approved this resolution earlier today, exactly 1 week after Columbine High School was tragically ravaged by

two of its students. The school and a large majority of its students live in the Sixth Congressional District. Congressman TANCREDO represents this district and lives a short distance from Columbine High School.

This resolution is intended to express our feelings of sorrow about the tragedy in Littleton, CO. This resolution is also intended to express our appreciation for those in the community who responded with courage and compassion, including the students themselves.

Today, the State of Colorado observed a moment of silence at 11:21 a.m. mountain daylight time. This was approximately when the terrorism began 1 week ago at Columbine High School.

Earlier today, the Senate joined Senator CAMPBELL and me in a moment of silence and prayer led by the Senate Chaplain. On behalf of Colorado, and especially the citizens of Jefferson County, I thank you for sharing in this gesture of respect and mourning.

My wife Joan and I attended the memorial service this Sunday, April 25, for those who were killed: Cassie Bernall, Steven Curnow, Corey DePooter, Kelly Fleming, Matthew Kechter, Daniel Mauser, Daniel Rohrbough, Rachel Scott, Isaiah Shoels, John Tomlin, Lauren Townsend, Kyle Velasquez, and their teacher, William "Dave" Sanders.

At the memorial service, we shared our profound sense of loss with Vice President GORE, Colorado Governor Owens, Congressman TANCREDO, the students, teachers, and parents of Columbine High, and the people of Jefferson County and Colorado.

I have never experienced anything that compares to the collective feeling of loss, sadness, and disbelief in Colorado. I would estimate that approximately 75,000 people attended the memorial service. Among those gathered in sorrow, Joan and I witnessed a strong belief in God. We prayed together and searched for answers.

During the past week, many of my colleagues have come to the floor to share their condolences and concern for the students and teachers who have lost their lives or who have been injured in this senseless tragedy. I do hope that our thoughts and prayers have helped to comfort the students, parents, and teachers of the Columbine High School community. Again, I offer my deepest sympathy to those who are suffering.

Our Nation continues to grieve with the families and friends of the killed and injured students and teachers. We are still attempting to understand what happened and why. People are trying to cope with the terror that has crept into our lives. It has become obvious at this point that there are no easy answers. We need to examine the problems facing our youth, but it is critical that we take time to carefully consider the solutions being offered.

There are things that society can do, but those who are looking for easy so-

lutions should take a step back. The families, teachers, and students of Columbine, and the people of Colorado, need time to mourn their losses. We need to wait for law enforcement to finish their investigation. We should study other instances of school violence throughout America and look for a common thread.

We need to carefully evaluate all of the evidence and consider the possible solutions. In addition, it has been estimated that 17 laws were broken by the two students, and we need to evaluate what the current law should have done.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have a list of those 17 laws printed in the RECORD.

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

VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS BY THE ALLEGED PERPETRATORS OF THE CRIME AT COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL, LITTLETON, COLORADO

Details of the explosives and firearms used by the alleged perpetrators have not been confirmed by law enforcement authorities. The crime scene is still being examined and cleared. It is unknown how the alleged perpetrators came into possession of the explosives and firearms they used.

The alleged perpetrators, obviously, committed multiple counts of murder and attempted murder, the most serious crimes of all. And they committed many violations of laws against destruction of property, such as in the school building and the cars in the parking lot outside. All told, the prison sentences possible for these multiple, serious violations amount to many hundreds of years.

Additionally, in the course of planning and committing these crimes, the alleged perpetrators committed numerous violations of very serious federal and state laws relating to explosives and firearms, and, depending on details not yet known, may have committed other such violations. Cumulatively, the prison sentences possible for these violations alone amount to many hundreds of years. A partial list of those violations follows:

1. Possession of a "destructive device" (i.e., bomb). (Multiple counts.) Prohibited under 26 U.S.C. Chapter 53. Each violation is punishable by 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Other explosives violations are under 18 U.S.C. 842.

Colorado law [18-12-109(2)] prohibits the possession of an "explosive or incendiary device." Each violation is a Class 4 felony. Colorado [18-12-109(6)] also prohibits possession of "explosive or incendiary parts," defined to include, individually, a substantial variety of components used to make explosive or incendiary devices. Each violation is a Class 4 felony.

2. Manufacturing a "destructive device" (i.e., bomb). (Multiple counts.) Prohibited under 26 U.S.C. Chapter 53. Each violation is punishable by 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

3. Use of an explosive or incendiary device in the commission of a felony. Prohibited under Colorado law [18-12-109(4)]. A class 2 felony.

4. Setting a device designed to cause an explosion upon being triggered. Violation of Colorado law. (Citation uncertain)

5. Use of a firearm or "destructive device" (i.e. bomb) to commit a murder that is prosecutable in a federal court. Enhanced penalty under 18 U.S.C. 924(i). Punishable by death or up to life in prison. A federal nexus is through 18 U.S.C. 922(q), prohibiting the

discharge of a firearm, on school property, with reckless disregard for the safety of another person.

6. Use of a firearm or "destructive device" (i.e., bomb) in a crime of violence that is prosecutable in a federal court. Enhanced penalty under 18 U.S.C. 924(c). Penalty is 5 years if a firearm; 10 years if a "sawed-off" shotgun, "sawed-off" rifle or "assault weapon;" and 30 years if the weapon is a "destructive device" (bomb, etc.). Convictions subsequent to the first receive 20 years or, if the weapon is a bomb, life imprisonment. Again, a federal nexus is through 18 U.S.C. 922(q), prohibiting the discharge of a firearm, on school property, with reckless disregard for the safety of another person.

7. Conspiracy to commit a crime of violence prosecutable in federal court. Enhanced penalty under 18 U.S.C. 924(n). Penalty is 20 years if the weapon is a firearm, life imprisonment if the weapon is a bomb. Again, a federal nexus is through 18 U.S.C. 922(q), prohibiting the discharge of a firearm, on school property, with reckless disregard for the safety of another person.

8. Possession of a short-barreled shotgun or rifle. Some news accounts have suggested that the alleged perpetrators may have possessed a "sawed-off" rifle. (A shotgun or rifle less than 26" in overall length, or a shotgun was a barrel of less than 18", or a rifle with a barrel of less than 16".) A spokesman for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office reported, possibly, at least one long gun with the stock cut off. Prohibited under 26 U.S.C. Chapter 53. A violation is punishable by 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Colorado law [18-12-102(3)] prohibits possession of a "dangerous weapon" (defined to include sawed-off guns). First violation is a Class 5 felony; subsequent violations are Class 4 felonies.

9. Manufacturing a "sawed-off" shotgun or "sawed-off" rifle. Prohibited under 26 U.S.C. Chapter 53. Each violation is punishable by 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

10. Possession of a handgun or handgun ammunition by a person under age 18: Some news accounts report one alleged perpetrator as being 17 years of age. It is yet unclear what firearms were involved in the crime. A person under age 18 is prohibited from possessing a handgun or handgun ammunition, except for legitimate target shooting, hunting, and firearms training activities, and similar legitimate reasons. [18 U.S.C. 922(x), part of the 1994 crime bill.] A violation is punishable by one year in prison.

11. Providing a handgun or handgun or handgun ammunition to a person under age 18. Prohibited under the same provision noted in #4, above. Penalty of one year, unless the provider knew the gun would be used in a crime of violence, in which case the penalty is 10 years.

12. Age restrictions on purchasing firearms. Again, the age of the second suspect and how the alleged perpetrators came into possession of firearms are unclear. However, licensed dealers may sell rifles and shotguns only to persons age 18 or over, and handguns to persons age 21 or over. [18 U.S.C. 922(b)(1)]

13. Possession of a firearm on school property. Prohibited under 18 U.S.C. 922(q). Five year penalty. Colorado also prohibits a gun on school property. (Citation uncertain.)

14. Discharge of a firearm on school property, with a reckless disregard for another's safety. Prohibited under 18 U.S.C. 922q. Five year penalty.

15. Possession, interstate transportation, sale, etc., of a stolen firearm. Prohibited under 18 U.S.C. 922(i) and (j). A violation is punishable by 10 years.

16. Intentionally aiming a firearm at another person. Violation of Colorado law.

17. Displaying a firearm in a public place in a manner calculated to alarm, or discharging

a firearm in a public place except on a lawful target practice or hunting place. Violation of Colorado law.

Mr. ALLARD. Whatever the solution, I am convinced that we will never alleviate the problem completely, but we certainly can reduce its occurrence.

It is hard to understand how two students can become so dysfunctional, but we need to continue to search for answers. There is no simple solution. We must pledge ourselves to do what we can. I ask that the Senate begin by approving this resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to join with my colleagues in an expression directed by House Concurrent Resolution 92, which deals with the situation that occurred in Columbine High School in Littleton, CO.

I come this afternoon with no answers, and I wish I had some. Like most of us, I have thought a great deal about the crisis from the moment we watched it unfolding on national television late last week. I guess in all of this, I have been struck by how quickly some people rush to explain what happened and offer solutions to prevent such a terrible crime from ever happening again. I wish I had a crystal ball and could do that. But that is not what has occurred; I don't have a crystal ball that can show all that clearly.

The investigation of the crime is not yet completed, and the community is still in shock. My guess is it is only natural to react by trying to make some sense out of all of this, to locate the exact point where something terribly, terribly wrong happened, to tell everyone to stay away from that point, and to pass a law that would keep everyone away from that point, so that it would shield us and our kids and our communities from harm. While it may be natural, my guess is that at this time it would be a mistake. It would be a mistake to designate the point and rush to judgment, because that judgment may be different tomorrow, based on the facts that are now unfolding.

I don't believe there is a Senator on this floor who has all of the answers. I am impatient to have more information, and I hope it will come out, because I would like to think that Columbine—the situation that happened in that high school is a point of time we will all stop and think about and deal with as an issue which we will never allow to happen again.

I just came off the Capitol steps a few moments ago from speaking to a mar-

velously beautiful group of students from Payette, and Parma, and Middleton, ID. They asked me, "Senator, what can you do to make our schools safer?" I said, "You know, I am not sure I know what to do, because those young men at that high school in Colorado broke 17 laws, State and Federal"—laws that say it is against the law to possess a destructive device, or a bomb; laws that say that manufacturing a destructive device is wrong and against the law; laws that say the use of an explosive or incendiary device in the commission of a felony is against the law. They broke all of those. The law was there and it didn't stop them.

How about setting a device designed to cause an explosion upon being triggered? That is against the law. It is a violation of State law in Colorado. It didn't stop what happened there in Littleton. There is a law regarding the use of a firearm or destructive device to commit a murder that is prosecutable in a Federal court. That is against the law. Yet, those two young men defied the law. The use of a firearm or a destructive device in relation to other activities is against the law.

I could read all 17 of these laws, and not one of them saved one child or that teacher, that coach, at that high school. Maybe if you had stacked all the laws against the front door, in book form, you would have blocked the entry of those kids with their bombs for just a moment in time, and that school might have been saved. But nobody did that. We could rush to judgment today and pass a lot more laws and take those books of laws and stack them up against the schoolhouse door. My guess is that not one more child in America would be safer.

Laws are important, and I am not suggesting they are not. They direct a civil society to, hopefully, do better things. But they need to be carefully-thought-out laws. My guess is that the breaking point is at hand, when America as a culture had better turn and look at itself and ask, "Why?"

When those kids asked me what I could do this afternoon, I asked them, "What are you, as students, prepared to do?" It "ain't cool" to rat on a fellow student. Peer pressure is such that young people don't talk about another young person with their principals or superintendents—even if the young person said, "I am going to kill somebody," or do something else wrong. It isn't cool. Yet, if you don't do something, maybe it is Columbine that happens.

I would like to see our schools become zones for education. Drug-free? Absolutely. Gun-free? Absolutely. But zones for education, not primarily socialization and the mixing and all of the kinds of things that go on in schools. Let's set some rules. How about a dress code? How about random inspection of lockers? If you are going to educate and you are going to make a safe haven for education, maybe it is

time you bring discipline back to schools and you say to the bad actors: You are out.

I don't know that that is the answer, but I think it is time our society talks about it, because we have passed a lot of gun laws in the last decade in this Congress and children died last week in Littleton, CO, in spite of all those gun laws we passed, all those bomb laws we passed.

I don't think there is a Senator on the floor who is going to rush out and say it is against the law to buy a pipe—nor should they—or against the law to go out and buy a propane canister to fuel your barbecue. But those were tools used in bombs in Littleton's high school. There is no Senator who will do that, because there may not be any political bounce in it and it just would not make common sense.

So let us let the survivors mourn in Littleton, CO. Let us let that community heal. Let's let the law enforcement people try to make sense of what made these young men tick, by their diaries, by their web page, by their play-acting, by the evil that invaded their hearts. Then maybe we, as public people, can help reshape our very wonderful culture.

Yes, maybe it will take some changes in law. There is no disputing what I represent, and most people in this body know I am a strong supporter of second amendment rights. I am also a strong supporter of first amendment rights. I am not going to trample on those rights, and I am going to supply formidable debate and opposition to anybody who will on this floor try to reshape them in the name of safety and security. But I am willing to put those rights on the line, and I am willing to say—to a culture that has failed to recognize that along with rights comes responsibility—that it is now time to get responsible.

That is what I told those young people a few moments ago on the steps of their Nation's Capitol—that I was going to fight to secure for them the kind of freedoms my forebears had fought to secure for me; that I had accepted the responsibility that came with those rights and they, too, must; that passing laws in the U.S. Congress does not a safer world make, unless the laws are enforceable and unless people genuinely agree with them.

So I think it is appropriate that our leader has asked us to take pause, not rush to judgment, not play to the politics of the moment, but to take a deep breath and think awhile, let a community heal just a bit, speak to it in the form of the resolution that is now before us, allow the investigators to patch together this weird and terribly evil story. And then let's examine it as a Congress, as an American culture, and say to ourselves we must become more responsible—responsible as legislators, responsible as parents, responsible as a culture, in taking our rights in a way that demonstrates the responsibility that goes with them.

I say to the citizens of Littleton, CO, how terribly sorry I am. My wife and I mourn with them. We have three beautiful children and a grandbaby, and we are so glad that they are safe and happy today. We know there are parents in Littleton, CO, who have lost something that can never and will never be replaced. So I am pleased that today, as a Congress and as a Senate, we are speaking to the people of Littleton, CO, and then we will step back and allow the healing process to begin as the investigative work is completed. Then, and only then, is it right and proper that we engage. And I will not be a vehicle to obstruct that engagement. That would be wrong. But we will soon have a juvenile crime bill on the floor. That is the appropriate place to talk about how to deal with this issue, and from sound information make quality judgments about how we may help our culture reshape itself in a responsible and caring fashion.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges for Angela Williams and David Goldberg be granted for the 106th Congress.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as we consider this resolution before the Senate to remember those who lost their lives just one short week ago in Littleton, Colorado, we are once again reminded of an event which is heart-wrenchingly tragic and one that bears out the need for educators, parents, and government officials to work together to ensure that the classroom is a safe place for all students.

The tragic events last Tuesday at Columbine High School serve as yet another warning that something has gone terribly wrong in our nation. Schools are not the idyllic places that they once were. They are less and less safe havens, conducive to study, but, rather, increasingly, are proving to be unstable communities, teetering on the brink of violent outbursts.

It makes me long for the old high school which I attended and from which I graduated 65 years ago. It makes me long for the little two-room schoolhouse in which I began my studies along about 1923. Sometimes I think schools are too large these days. They don't allow for the personal attention that teachers could otherwise show

students. They are conducive, I think, by their very largeness to the creation of gangs, hate groups, and so on.

The scene of screaming students rushing outside through schoolhouse doors, some hobbling or clenching a gunshot wound to the arm or leg, and others overwhelmed with fear for their own lives, has become all too familiar to this nation during the past few years. From West Paducah, Kentucky, to Jonesboro, Arkansas; Springfield, Oregon; and now to the community of Littleton, Colorado, gun shots have shattered the silence and tranquillity of an otherwise typical high school day, abruptly ending the innocence of youth, and launching families and friends into some of the most difficult days of life that no human being should have to confront.

We would have never dreamed of this kind of thing in my school days.

Mr. President, there is a crying need to do more to protect our children. But, the unfortunate reality of the situation is that there is no single-step panacea to prevent further bloodshed at schools across the country. One could make many suggestions. Many suggestions are readily obvious. But the problem of school violence does not begin and end on school grounds. It is much more pervasive. It reaches beyond the schoolyard gates, into our communities and into our homes.

It is unfortunate that we live in a country where criminals find ways to get around the law and do evil, but it happens. Hatred is a powerful demon that can draw people to do things we do not truly understand. I have seen it in my own lifetime, and, I try, whenever possible, to help teach young people to avoid such egregious mistakes. Of course, the young are not alone in the making of these mistakes. But mine is only one voice. But it is one voice.

I often take time out to talk with the pages here. I don't have to do it. Nobody makes me do it. Nobody tells me to do it. But I like to talk to these young people. These are fine young people, these pages of ours on both sides of the aisle. I often pause to take a half hour with them to talk about wholesome experiences, and to relate good stories from Chaucer, and from other great authors, as I feel that if I can do a little good with these young people here, who knows where this influence will stop?

While it is my intention to make any and all efforts to prevent this kind of tragedy before it visits another region of the country, it is essential that we take up the effort and the responsibility to raise our children, to nurture them, to protect them, to guard them as much as we can from these evil influences that are always ready to prey upon them, and it is my desire always to try to provide these young people with a solid foundation, to encourage them to engage in wholesome pursuits and to read from good literature, and in this way I think adults can help to

provide them with a solid foundation—spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. We have to indulge with caution any idea that there can be morality without religion. Protecting our Nation's children should be a team effort, not simply a matter of public policy.

If we ever have a hope of preventing violence in the classroom, parents must take an active role in their child's life and monitor their child's behavior for unusual actions or alarming conduct. Teachers carry similar responsibilities and must no longer "chalk up" unusual behavior to the simple conclusion of a student having a bad day. We have witnessed too many oversights like this which have snatched the lives of other innocent children caught in the line of fire.

Moreover, we should not be surprised, given the excessive and mindless violence—I tell you, it is excessive, because I see it when I turn on the television—mindless violence, excessive violence. We should not be surprised then, given the excessive and mindless violence infiltrating, permeating, the television airwaves and now the Internet, that we really have a problem in today's society. It is not a hidden fact that I am no fan of the muck that spews out over the tube or the obscenities rumbled by so-called actors and actresses in a TV drama, but there is little that we in Congress can do to regulate children from jumbling their brains with this nonsense.

Parents must no longer give their children free rein of the remote control or unmonitored access to dial up those polluted websites running rampant over the Internet. Children, with their inquisitive young minds, too often repeat what they see on TV or read about over the Internet, and with little guidance from parents, it is next to impossible to prevent this often fatal "copycat" action from recurring.

Probably most disappointing to me is that in watching the news recently, it seems that the tragic news of a school shooting has become somewhat of a feeding frenzy for the media to hit the airwaves with explicit details, often those that are too easily digested by a listening youngster experiencing emotional distress. It seems counterproductive, even dangerous, to offer what amounts to free advertising by reporting on the Internet websites that hand out free explanations on how to make a bomb or where to obtain a gun. Mr. President, when is enough enough?

Efforts to end school violence can be, and will likely be, undone by this practice of revealing too much information with little thought of the future implications. I urge the media to think about the possible consequences of their actions before trying to beat the other news team to the latest punch line. Supplying children with information that could lead to the perpetuation of school violence is not the solution. Children need not be confronted with all of the finite details of the gory

pictures as they sit down to the breakfast table with their parents.

The tragedy at Columbine High School may be impossible to ever, ever truly understand. But that should not deter us from seeking answers and working for solutions. It is time to stop wringing our hands over this issue and take action so that we in Congress can support measures that might prevent a recurrence of this nightmare.

I am concerned that we may be approaching the day when our nation's students spend more time in the classroom thinking about the potential for a gun pop than a pop quiz. A day when teachers are too preoccupied with their own fear of a gun emerging into their classroom to teach their students the basic grammatical structure or algebraic formula properly. Today's children deserve the opportunity to get an education. Today's teachers deserve the opportunity to teach. They deserve this just as much as the children and the teachers of yesteryear. We must all do whatever we can to ensure that today's children and those of the future have an opportunity to excel academically in an environment free from guns, knives, and other weapons.

I look forward to working with Senator LIEBERMAN in the upcoming weeks to author legislation that would establish a National Commission on School Violence to help get at the root of this problem if that is possible. It is my hope that by joining forces between educators, children, parents, media, and others, we will gain a more vivid perspective on what leads to violent behavior behind the schoolhouse doors, and that we can begin to remedy this harrowing problem overtaking our nation's schools. I urge teachers and parents, church and civic leaders to do the same. This type of disaster can occur anywhere—we must act now if we are to prevent a replay of this nightmare in another American community.

I hope parents throughout the Nation are thinking soberly, soberly about this problem.

I took a piece of plastic clay  
And idly fashioned it one day  
And as my fingers pressed it still  
It moved and yielded to my will.  
I came again when days were past.  
The bit of clay was hard at last.  
The form I gave it, it still bore,  
And I could change that form no more.  
I took a piece of living clay  
And gently formed it day by day.  
And molded with my power and art.  
A young child's soft and yielding heart.  
I came again when years were gone,  
He was a man I looked upon.  
He still that early impress wore,  
And I could change him nevermore.

There is a lesson in this for all of us. I hope we will learn it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the tragic shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise in support of the resolution and to express my deepest, heartfelt sympathy for the families of the victims of Columbine High School shootings.

At a time like this, words seem to lose their meaning, and there is little that we can say to adequately express our regret and sorrow. There is no way to explain the senseless violence that claimed the lives of the students and teacher in Littleton, and we struggle to understand and explain the inexplicable.

Schools are supposed to be safe havens where teenagers—children—are supposed to grow and learn, not plot to murder their peers. What happened in Colorado simply defies explanation or comprehension. During trying times like this, we must fall back on our faith. Our faith in God, and family, and community. Our beliefs have been shaken, and we must rely on each other and trust that the Lord will help see us through the confusing darkness that has descended on our Nation after this terrible catastrophe.

A similar tragedy occurred at a high school in Paducah less than a year and a half ago. Unfortunately, this is an experience that we in Kentucky have been through and we grieve with our friends in Colorado. The children of Colorado and their families will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the concurrent resolution. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) is absent due to surgery.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) would vote "aye."

The result was announced—99 yeas, 0 nays, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 92 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Abraham	Bayh	Boxer
Akaka	Bennett	Breaux
Allard	Biden	Brownback
Ashcroft	Bingaman	Bryan
Baucus	Bond	Bunning

Burns	Gregg	Mikulski
Byrd	Hagel	Murkowski
Campbell	Harkin	Murray
Chafee	Hatch	Nickles
Cleland	Helms	Reed
Cochran	Hollings	Reid
Collins	Hutchinson	Robb
Conrad	Hutchison	Roberts
Coverdell	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Craig	Inouye	Roth
Crapo	Jeffords	Santorum
Daschle	Johnson	Sarbanes
DeWine	Kennedy	Schumer
Dodd	Kerrey	Sessions
Domenici	Kerry	Shelby
Dorgan	Kohl	Smith (NH)
Durbin	Kyl	Smith (OR)
Edwards	Landrieu	Snowe
Enzi	Lautenberg	Specter
Feingold	Leahy	Stevens
Feinstein	Levin	Thomas
Fitzgerald	Lieberman	Thompson
Frist	Lincoln	Thurmond
Gorton	Lott	Torricelli
Graham	Lugar	Voivovich
Gramm	Mack	Warner
Grams	McCain	Wellstone
Grassley	McConnell	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1  
Moynihan

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 26, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,591,807,374,069.84 (Five trillion, five hundred ninety-one billion, eight hundred seven million, three hundred seventy-four thousand, sixty-nine dollars and eighty-four cents).

Five years ago, April 26, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,561,451,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred sixty-one billion, four hundred fifty-one million).

Ten years ago, April 26, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,756,180,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred fifty-six billion, one hundred eighty million).

Fifteen years ago, April 26, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,485,043,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-five billion, forty-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 26, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$471,530,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-one billion, five hundred thirty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,120,277,374,069.84 (Five trillion, one hundred twenty billion, two hundred seventy-seven million, three hundred seventy-four thousand, sixty-nine dollars and eighty-four cents) during the past 25 years.

DAIRY POLICY REFORM

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the direction of our nation's dairy policy. When Congress passed the 1996 Farm Bill, we passed the most significant reform of our agricultural system since the Great Depression. In that bill, we ordered USDA to update our outdated milk pricing laws—something that had not happened for 60 years.

In taking these market oriented actions to drag dairy policy into—if not the 21st century—at least the second half of the 20th century, Congress may have spoken more boldly that we were willing to act. Congress has tried to put the brakes on USDA's milk pricing reform efforts from the moment they began. And now, mere days after USDA announced the reformed system, there are those who are seeking to insulate their home states from it by legislating compacts to set the price of milk artificially high in their regions.

These actions cannot stand. Though I understand my colleagues desire to protect the dairy farmers in their regions, I cannot let them do so at the expense of the productive dairy farmers in the upper Midwest—or at the expense of a national milk pricing system that, for the first time in sixty years, is market oriented and fair.

Expanding the anti-competitive Northeast dairy compact would regionalize the dairy industry and institutionalize market distorting, artificially high prices in one area of the country—just as the rest of the country is moving toward a simplified and more equitable system.

Dairy markets are truly national in nature. My region of the country, the Upper Midwest, has learned this lesson all too well. We have seen our competitive dairy industry decline, damaged by the distortion caused by an outmoded milk marketing order system. That system requires that higher prices be paid to producers the farther they are from Wisconsin. Sixty years ago, when the Upper Midwest was the hub of dairy production and the rest of the country lagged far behind, this regional discrimination had some justification. It encouraged the development of a dairy industry capable of producing a local supply of fluid milk in every region. But today, that goal is largely accomplished, and the continuation of the discriminatory pricing policy serves only to fuel the decline of the dairy industry in the Midwest.

The new system proposed by USDA is not all that we in the Upper Midwest would want. But it is an improvement in the current system, and a move toward a national compromise on this divisive issue. It is a step forward.

The legislation introduced today to continue the Northeast Dairy compact is just the opposite—a step backwards. It would remove a region from the new national dairy pricing system and move toward a Balkanized dairy policy. It hurts consumers in the affected region—consumers who will pay arti-

cially high prices for their milk. And it hurts our hopes of achieving long-overdue unity on dairy pricing reforms that are fair and good for all regions of the country.

For all of these reasons, I oppose the expansion of regional milk pricing cartels like the Northeast Compact, and I ask my colleagues to do the same. Lets enter the next millennium with a dairy policy that is market-oriented and consumer friendly—not one that ties us to the unjustified protectionism and unnecessary inequities of the past.

CELEBRATING MISSOURI HOME EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, as a parent and former teacher, it is a privilege for me to be able to recognize Missouri home schoolers, who will observe Missouri Home Education Week during May 2-8, 1999.

Home schooling has been legal in Missouri since the state's founding in 1821. Since that time, and especially in the last two decades, home schoolers have faced numerous challenges and successes.

Fortunately, legislators are increasingly cognizant of the importance of local decision-making and parental involvement in our children's education. Home Education Week reminds us that parents are the first and best educators of their children. Study after study has shown that parental involvement is the most important factor in a child's academic achievement.

It is, therefore, appropriate that we celebrate Home Education Week by acknowledging the hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence of the more than 4,300 home school families in my home state. Recently, the Washington Post lauded the academic achievement of these families. The Post article describes a study of home-schooled children, stating that they "score well above the national median on standardized tests [and] often study above their normal grade level."

It was an honor for me to proclaim Missouri's first Home Education Week in 1989. Now, in 1999, I look forward to the continued success of Missouri home school families, and to working with them to promote the kind of freedom that encourages parents to take an active role in guiding the course of their children's education.

ANTITRUST SUITS AND SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that articles written by Karen Kerrigan and Raymond J. Keating of the Small Business Survival Committee, along with a letter addressed from Karen Kerrigan to certain Members of Congress, be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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