

Mr. LEAHY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

Y2K ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I call for the regular order with respect to the motion to proceed to S. 96.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed to S. 96 is the regular order.

The Senator from New Jersey.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, while we were on the motion to proceed, taking a cue from earlier speeches—the distinguished Senator from Colorado spoke at some length earlier. I would just like to take a few minutes.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the Senator yield to me?

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. LEAHY. I just note two things. First is that even though the last amendment brought up by the Republican side is vehemently opposed by a Member on this side who could not be present, we made no objection to that, knowing he would have time to debate later on. Mr. President, we did this to try to comply with the request of the majority leader and the distinguished Senator from Utah, who said they wanted to move forward with this. We did it in good faith. Frankly, for one of the very few times in my 25 years in the Senate, I find my faith shaken because it is very obvious nobody intended to go forward; they just wanted to go right back to Y2K and block anything else.

If their side wants to bring up something even if our side is not here to debate it, that is fine. If our side wants something similar, that is not fine. It is like the Democratic amendments being voted down over here so a day or so later they can be brought up as Republican amendments and voted up over there. And in between we hear complaints about this is taking too long.

I will repeat what I have said before: Every single Democrat wants a juvenile justice bill with everything from the prevention of crime to education to helping our juveniles. I question whether the same thing can be said for the other side of the aisle.

The Senator from New Jersey had the floor. I yield back to him.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. HATCH. He can't yield the floor to another person—or did he have the floor? I don't know.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator can only yield for a question.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, let me just answer that and then I will be happy to yield to the distinguished Senator from New Jersey.

Look, the games are over as far as I am concerned. When a Senator stands on the floor and says he is protecting Members of his side and extends the same courtesy to the other side to protect Members on their side, all they have to do is tell us. If the distinguished Senator believes somebody on his side has to be protected, all he has to do to be protected is tell me and I will honor that. I asked for that same courtesy on our side because there are Senators who cannot be here who want to be here when Senator LAUTENBERG brings up his amendment. It is a fair request, a fair statement; it is a fair position. I really do not think people should try to make political points or political hay out of it.

I might also add, nobody wants this bill more than I do. I have been working on it for 2 solid years. I have been working on it every day on the floor. I am going to do everything in my power to get it passed. I have to admit I have had a lot of cooperation from our distinguished ranking minority leader on the Judiciary Committee, for which I am very grateful. But there is no reason to play these games here. It is unreasonable for anybody to suggest that because somebody is protecting his side, because I am protecting my side, there is something untoward about that. I would not suggest it if the Senator wanted to protect his side.

Naturally, I am going to yield the floor to my friend from New Jersey. I wish I could accommodate him, frankly, because I care for him. I know he is sincere on this amendment. But it is not unreasonable to ask that Senators, on something they feel very deeply about, since everybody left here today other than a few of us, that they be protected so they can be here when the amendment is brought up.

Also, I note the distinguished Senator from Arkansas is on the floor. She wants to make a statement that is unrelated to the bill, as I understand it, or to either of the bills—the current bill that is on the floor or the prior bill we were debating.

So I yield the floor for the distinguished Senator, and of course, hopefully the Senator from Arkansas will then make her statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Utah for his consummate interest in issues that matter, even though at times we differ. He did request a courtesy that I would like to have yielded to, except for the fact that we have allowed some on that side to be protected while not enabling this Senator to be able to obtain the same protection. I am bound, at 3:30, for Albania, Macedonia, Hungary, and Bulgaria.

I plan to visit with our people in Aviano, Italy, and Brussels head-

quarters and be back here Monday night. This is not intended to be a world endurance record. That is not why I am doing this. I am doing it because I have had a deep interest in what takes place there and am shocked by the horror of the deeds that the Serbian Government is perpetrating on these people.

I have had a chance to meet some of the refugees at Fort Dix. I was there last week with the First Lady to greet the first of the refugees who arrived in America. I did serve in World War II—not in this area, but I was in Europe during the war. The horrors we are witnessing are too much for a civilized world to bear.

I salute the leadership of the President, the courage and the commitment of our troops who are there for long hours each and every day working to the best of their ability, which ability is very good.

There have been mistakes made, and that happens in a wartime environment. Mistakes are made because we are trying to make sure our casualties are few.

That is where I am going, and I will not be here then on Monday to bring up this amendment. I would have offered the amendment without debate.

The fact of the matter is that everyone is pretty much aware of what my amendment is. It helps to further close the loopholes, which I know the Senator from Utah wanted to do. I do not think the amendment we voted on this morning does it. It does not close the loopholes. That is my judgment, and I am prepared to defend that judgment.

I want to correct it. I want to see all the loopholes closed, and so do the vast majority of Americans. Eighty-seven percent, as a matter of fact, in a national poll said they want the loopholes at the gun shows closed.

I take a second seat to no one in wanting to get a juvenile justice bill in place. I want to see if we can help our young people avoid the violence that seems to permeate our society. But the fact of the matter is that each of us in this parliamentary structure that we operate under is entitled to offer amendments.

I had hoped I would have been able to, as they say in the vernacular here, lay it down, put it at the desk and have it saved for debate at a later time. The Senator from Utah tried very hard to be cooperative, as he always does with me—we have a good relationship, and I respect that enormously—to say: All right, we can have some time. We will arrange not a lot of time on Tuesday for a discussion and a vote.

The inability to offer that amendment is decidedly a disadvantage, though it will be offered by one of my colleagues. I had hoped, since I authored it in the first place, to send it up. That may be a red flag to some over there, but the fact of the matter is that I know the Senator from Utah does not disagree with me in principle; in approach perhaps, in principle certainly not.