

Members, in case someone was off the planet last week, that Columbine came to the Nation's capital last week here where the Congress sits.

At a traditional kids' fun day at the National Zoo, created by the Congress for kids, seven children were shot. One, an 11-year-old boy, lies at Children's Hospital with a bullet in his head. He was the quintessential innocent victim. Harris "Pappy" Bates is a big baby of a boy, the kind one would expect to find at the zoo on Easter Monday. Very much still a child, a rotund kid who was named Pappy because he looked like a papoose when he was born.

His family had their first access to the press on Sunday. They thanked people for their prayers and they thanked the President for calling. They said they were praying for the 16-year-old suspect who was being held for the shooting. This family, I must say, gives real meaning to Christianity at a time when so many profess Christianity and speak only of vengeance. Pappy's mother said to me that she had always intended to be at the Million Moms March coming up on Mother's Day. She also said she supported gun safety legislation and always has.

Pappy Bates is one of 700 children killed by gunfire in the Nation's capital, children under 19, during the 1990s. But there have been 80,000 children killed by gunfire since 1978. The gun safety bill pending before us is only part of a very complex puzzle. The networks are in the puzzle, cable is in the puzzle, sports is in the puzzle, violent computer games is in the puzzle, and above all parents, who have the primary responsibility for children, are in the puzzle. We have to work to get all pieces on the table, and I want to work with Members on all pieces of the puzzle. But would we leave guns out of this puzzle?

We are so very close, my colleagues.

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Who would, after seeing what happened right here under the nose of the Capitol on Easter Monday, even think of leaving a loophole in the gun bill now stalled before us?

For all Americans, the average Americans, indeed 90 percent of Americans, the instant check will work. But according to the data, the 10 percent that we need 24 hours to look at are 20 times more likely to be criminals or people with a mental defect or people who otherwise should not have a gun.

It has been more than a year since the Columbine youth massacre. Not one more week, Mr. Speaker, not one more week after this week should pass, and certainly not after an 11-year-old lies with a bullet in his brain at Children's Hospital right here in the Nation's capital. Not after Columbine, which itself should have been all we needed, if we needed even that. Not after what had happened at the zoo.

I ask Members to come back with a new resolve to do what we almost have done. We are almost there. It has been

difficult. Let us go the rest of the way. Do it for Pappy. But, above all, do it for the children in our districts.

U.S. NEEDS ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL DEAL WITH RUSSIA IN FAIR AND CONSISTENT MANNER ON ARMS CONTROL PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the recess period, I had the occasion of interacting with over 50 senior Russian leaders from the equivalent of our Congress, the State Duma and the Federation Council.

I had the pleasure of meeting them at Columbia University at a conference. I spoke to 25 new Duma deputies at Harvard University and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. And just today, on the other side, we met for an ongoing conference between Senators and House Members and members of the Russian leadership.

The underlying concern expressed by the Russians with America is a lack of confidence in what our real intentions are. They say that oftentimes we will lead them down a path and then undermine what they thought were our ultimate intentions.

That is happening again, Mr. Speaker. We are all happy that the Russian Duma just recently ratified START II, in fact over the break. But, unfortunately, again this administration has led the Russians down a negative road.

Three years ago the administration negotiated substantive changes to the ABM Treaty involving multilateralizing the Treaty and demarcation between theater national missile defense systems.

As required by our Constitution, the administration should have been brought those changes to the Senate for their advice and consent. Repeatedly members of the Senate said, bring them forward, let us look at them and debate them; and repeatedly the administration failed to do that because they knew they did not have the votes to get them passed. So then they convinced the Russians to put those two items on the back of START II so the Senate would have to consider them as a part of the START II protocol issues.

Now we are going to again disappoint the Russians because the administration chose not to have a legitimate debate on those two protocols but rather have the Russians attach them to the START II treaty that they passed in Moscow just several weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, when are we going to learn? To deal with the Russians, we have to be up front, candid, and consistent. The more games that we play, the more underhanded tactics when we cannot get issues resolved according to our Constitution, the more consternation and frustration it causes in our relationship with Russia.

Unfortunately, once again, the Russians will feel that we have let them down and that our word is not good. How tragic it is and how sad it is. We need an administration, Mr. Speaker, who will deal with Russia in a consistent, fair, and uphanded manner, not one that plays games on the arms control process.

TRIBUTE TO JENARD AND GAIL GROSS AND JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jenard and Gail Gross and the Jewish Women International. This is an important evening and an important week as I honor the Jewish Women International organization and my good friends, great Houstonians, great Texans and great Americans, Jenard and Gail Gross.

The Jewish Women International strengthens the lives of women, children, and families through education, advocacy, and action. Jewish Women International focuses on family violence and the emotional health of children on the local, national, and global level.

Jewish Women International spearheads activities to educate the Jewish community about domestic violence. Currently, more than 3,000 rabbis from all branches of Judaism have been alerted to the growing tide of family abuse and have learned how to recognize the signs of abuse in their congregation by reading the Resource Guide for Rabbis on Domestic Violence.

In particular, I would like to honor Gail and Jenard Gross for their unwavering support for Jewish Women International and their efforts involving the Prejudice Awareness Summit.

As we move into the 21st century, clearly the challenge for Americans, with all of our diversity, is to learn to live together in peace, to accept our diversity, to appreciate it, to applaud it. And if there ever are two individuals who applaud and appreciate diversity and live it every day, it is Gail and Jenard Gross.

The Prejudice Awareness Summit is an unprecedented opportunity for teams of students to have a positive interactive learning experience with peers from a variety of ethnic, cultural, racial, and economic backgrounds through one-day workshops on prejudice.

The Prejudice Awareness Summit educates our youth about prejudice by providing a comfortable forum to discuss issues of prejudice. With a thorough knowledge of stereotypes, exposure to powerful speakers, and interactive learning exercises, these students can become leaders in the battle against prejudice.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity today to participate in the President