

an animal rights group. They objected to me only taking two of each kind of animal aboard. Just when I got the suit dismissed the EPA notified me that I could not complete the ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood.

"They didn't take very kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of the Creator of the universe. Then the Army Engineers demanded a map of the proposed new flood plain. So I sent them a globe. Right now I'm trying to resolve a complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that I'm practicing discrimination by not taking Godless or unbelieving people on board.

"The IRS has seized my assets claiming I'm building an ark in preparation to flee the country to avoid taxes. I just got a notice from the State that I owe them some kind of tax and that I failed to register the ark as a recreational watercraft.

"Finally, the ACLU got the courts to issue an injunction against further construction of the ark saying that since God is flooding the earth it is a religious event and therefore unconstitutional. I really don't think I can finish the ark for another 5 or 6 years," Noah wailed.

The sky began to clear and the sun began to shine and the seas began to calm. A rainbow arched across the sky, and Noah looked up hopefully. "You mean you're not going to destroy the earth, Lord?"

"No," the Lord said sadly, "I don't have to. The government already has."

PROUD AND STRONG SUPPORTER OF ORGANIZED LABOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for his leadership on labor issues on behalf of working families throughout this country, and I would like to commend my friends at the AFL-CIO for organizing the seven days in June activities. This week there are over 110 organized labor rallies taking place across the Nation as a result of their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying loud and clear that I am a proud and strong supporter of organized labor in this country. I am proud to stand with the hard-working men and women who make up the labor movement in America. I am committed to fighting for a middle-class workforce where workers can comfortably support a family and not worry about losing their jobs, and I will continue to urge this Congress to

fight not only for a minimum wage, but for a livable wage. I will continue to demand international trade agreements that create more American jobs, not lose them, and I will stand with my friends in the labor movement against any and all initiatives designed to compromise workers' safety, worker rights, or worker benefits.

The history of the U.S. labor movement is a strong and proud one. Organized labor embodies what is best in our constitution, namely our First Amendment freedoms of speech and association. But the Constitution only protects these freedoms. It has been the courage and determination of working women and men that have been the engine of social progress throughout this century.

The fact is nobody ever handed a working person the American dream. Job security, a living wage, the right to collective bargaining, these are things which were fought for. The benefits gained for the courage and blood of organized labor are now commonplace among most American workplaces. It is important to recognize that without the labor movement there would be no minimum wage, there would be no safety standards in the workplace, there would be no pensions or worker health plans. If it were not for organized labor, workers would have no rights, and that is a fact.

Organized labor continues to push for real issues important to real working people, and I urge working people across this country to keep organizing and to keep advocating. We can never allow our country to become a society where a privileged few enjoy all the benefits of the many who work. We must continue to work together in the next century to advance our issues, to pass meaningful labor legislation, and to continue to move forward toward a society which reflects the principles of social and legal justice for all, but this will only happen through continued grassroots organization by dedicated working men and women.

PAUL HARVEY ON GUN CONTROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 20 of this year a terrible tragedy occurred at Columbine High School in Colorado, and I do not represent Columbine High School. Now I do not represent Columbine High School. I represent some Littleton addresses, and I am close to Columbine, but I do not exactly represent it, but I took this tragedy very, very personally. It is something that I think all of us have a difficult time getting over.

On Wednesday, April 21, 1 day, 1 day after the tragedy, as I understand it,

the chairman of the Democrat Congressional Committee was whipping his troops into line saying that this is a great time for gun control legislation to be presented to the House because it will be good for politics in the next election. I think that is shameful. We should not take advantage of this kind of a tragedy for political purposes.

I did not engage in the debate last week when we were dealing with this because I did not feel we were doing anything that was really very meaningful. Demagoguery flowed from both sides like water, and nothing much was really accomplished, and as the various amendments came up, I kept asking myself would this have done anything in the Columbine case if this amendment had been law, and most cases, sadly I have to say absolutely not.

Recently I heard a Paul Harvey broadcast which I think maybe opens up the perspective on the Columbine High School situation, and I would like to share that with my colleagues this morning:

If only the parents had kept their children away from the guns, we wouldn't have had such a tragedy. Yeah, it must have been the guns. It couldn't have been because of half of our children being raised in broken homes. It couldn't have been because our children get to spend an average of 30 seconds in meaningful conversation with their parents each day. After all, we give our children quality time.

It couldn't have been because we treat our children as pets and our pets as children. It couldn't have been because we place our children in the day care centers where they learn their socialization skills among their peers under the law of the jungle while employees, who have no vested interest in the children, look on and make sure that no blood is spilled.

It couldn't have been because we allow our children to watch an average of 7 hours of television a day filled with the glorification of sex and violence that isn't fit for adult consumption. It couldn't have been because we allow our children to enter into the virtual worlds in which, to win the game, one must kill as many opponents as possible in the most sadistic way possible.

It couldn't have been because our children, who historically have been seen as a blessing from God, are now being viewed as either a mistake created when contraception fails or inconveniences that parents try to raise in their spare time.

It couldn't have been because our Nation is the world leader in developing a culture of death in which 20 million to 30 million babies have been killed by abortion. It couldn't have been because we give 2-year prison sentences to teenagers who kill their newborns.

It couldn't have been because our school systems teach the children that they are nothing but glorified apes who have evolutionized out of some primordial soup of mud by teaching evolution is fact and by handing out condoms as if they were candy. It couldn't have been because we teach our children that there are no laws of morality that transcend us, that everything is relative and that actions do not have consequences. What the heck, the President gets away with it. No, it must have been the guns.