

bipartisanly. We can. We can work together and work something out. The bottom line is we have to keep guns, high capacity clips, away from criminals. And we certainly have to make sure guns do not get into the hands of children. That is all we are asking. Nothing more, nothing less. I think if we all sit down together and work together, we can do this.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

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Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, what are we waiting for? Instead of moving forward and appointing conferees, we are playing more political games with the lives of children, using the cloak of what is unobjectionable through unnecessary procedure to create the illusion of forward progress, doing nothing while we create the illusion of progress, doing nothing while 13 children are killed as a result of gun violence in this Nation every day.

In one month exactly the children who attend Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, will be returning to school. That means we have only 3 weeks to settle the gun safety issues before we adjourn for summer recess. It has been 3 months, 90 days, since the tragedy in Columbine occurred.

Just several years ago the Republicans took 1 week to propose legislation to undo the assault weapons ban, but a simple proposal to close the gun show loopholes to keep guns out of the hands of children takes months and months. We all know it is a stall.

The entire process on gun violence has been a shell game, but as parents and children shop for clothes and notebooks and backpacks, and my children and I will be shopping for backpacks in the next 3 weeks, they should be free from worries about their children's safety from gun violence in schools.

We have differences to settle between the House and Senate passed gun safety and juvenile justice bills. We should be appointing conferees and getting down to the serious work of debating and voting on the gun safety provisions passed by the Senate instead of wasting more time.

This conference should be a careful and deliberative process that American families and schoolchildren can be proud of. We should get started today.

All we are proposing are modest and reasonable steps to make all of us, especially the children, safer from dangerous people and disturbed kids with guns, plugging the gun show loophole, requiring the gun safety locks, banning the high capacity ammo clips, the Hyde-Lofgren amendment banning juvenile possession of semiautomatic assault weapons.

What criminals are stopped from getting guns from licensed dealers because of the Brady background check? Mur-

ders, rapists, child molesters, fugitives, stalkers, batterers, and who wants these people to buy guns and threaten us and our children? Why would anyone want criminals to get guns?

We should plug the loophole and stand up to the gun lobby.

Mr. Speaker, kids are going back to school. It is time for Congress to act before they end up there. Let us stop the stalling. Let us stop the games. Let us do our job.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), beloved former candidate for the United States Senate.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the dean for his generosity at midnight.

I do think, Mr. Speaker, that it is extremely unfortunate that we are here tonight at midnight debating this procedural motion, but I have to say that it is just typical of the way the leadership has managed the gun safety issue. Instead of appointing conferees and enacting meaningful gun safety measures, they are once again throwing an obstacle in the way of legislation to protect our children from gun violence. The truth is that there have been delaying tactics at every turn.

The long, sad saga of this bill is a disgrace to this House. First we were told not to offer gun safety amendments to an appropriations bill because we would consider the juvenile justice bill in regular order. Then, after the Committee on the Judiciary was totally bypassed and a sham juvenile justice bill was put up on the floor and defeated, we were told that conferees would be appointed before July 4. Then we were told again just 2 days ago not to offer or vote for amendments to appropriation bills on gun safety because the conference would be meeting soon on juvenile justice.

Well, here we are months after the tragedy of Columbine High School, we still do not have conferees appointed. What is it going to take for the leadership to wake up and listen to the cries of American families? When are our colleagues going to understand that the issue is not going away? How long will we have to wait before Congress does something to protect our schools from gun violence?

Each time we are faced with a delay, our calls will only get louder. We will not back down, we will not go away, we will continue to insist that Congress do its part to make our communities safer.

It is clear that the American people are demanding action now, and it is time for us to say loud and clear that we cannot allow the NRA to write our Nation's gun laws any more.

Mr. Speaker, after talking to these young people that came to Washington today, I do not know how any of us can look in their eyes and not make a very

clear commitment that we are going to do our best to pass common sense gun legislation now.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind my colleagues again that tonight we are only dealing with a procedural issue, and it is one that is very important because it is necessary to protect the prerogatives of the House, something I know the gentleman, the courteous gentleman from New York, and many other Members of this House feel very strongly about. This is not about the substantive policy issue of the legislation. In fact, the action tonight will allow the juvenile justice legislation to move toward conference in a more expeditious and orderly manner.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 434, AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-236) on the resolution (H. Res. 250) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 434) to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2415, AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY ACT OF 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 247 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 247

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. Before consideration of any other amendment it shall be in