

House of Representatives expired after 59 days, just 59 days after two students shot up Columbine High School in Colorado. The House decided that more dead children is the price to pay to protect the national gun lobby."

And the Chicago Tribune again, on July 18 said, "Last weekend, a bigot with a heart full of hate, a couple of guns and a load of ammo left a trail of blood through Illinois and Indiana. This week, congressional conferees from the House and Senate will start to decide whether the country needs tighter gun control laws."

Mr. Speaker, I only wish that had been true. I only wish that conferees had been appointed and that they were starting to decide whether we need tighter gun laws.

The editorial goes on, "Poll after poll has shown that Americans want to close the loopholes in the existing gun laws governing the sale and use of firearms, but Members of the House who flatly rejected meaningful gun control legislation last month are not listening to the polls, they are listening to the National Rifle Association."

Let us review in closing, Mr. Speaker, the three simple measures that the Senate passed that we hope will become the law of the land, that we hope that the Speaker will appoint conferees, that we can get down to the business that the American people are asking us to do. Those three things are: close the loophole in the Brady Bill, the gun show loophole; the second is to require child safety locks; and the third is to ban, another loophole, ban the importation of high capacity ammunition clips.

If we do those things, we will have made the first small step in addressing the concerns of the Americans for their own safety, for the safety of their children. We will be saying to the American people that we want your children to be able to walk to school and be in school in safety. We want you to feel safe in your neighborhoods. We do not want another child to die; we do not want another police officer to die. We want to address this problem in our country, and we are going to make those first steps. Let us do it, Mr. Speaker. Let us do it soon.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, in the last few months and years, a series of tragic events has made it clear that there are serious shortcomings in our gun laws that must be addressed. The U.S. Senate, after lengthy consideration, finally passed a bipartisan measure that would begin to close loopholes that have too often resulted in guns getting into the wrong hands by allowing vendors at gun shows and flea markets to sell firearms without conducting background checks. The Senate is to be applauded for this action. The Senate had the courage to pass a bill that dealt with the issue of juvenile justice and gun violence in a sensible and thoughtful manner.

In the House, that same courage appeared to be lacking in too many of our colleagues.

As a mother of five and grandmother of thirteen, I empathize with the families who lost children in Littleton, Colorado and with the thousands of other families across this nation who have seen violent crime rob them of their loved ones. These are losses that can never be forgotten and that leave a lasting void no one can fill.

Unfortunately, the American people were the big losers in the debate on the House floor over gun safety last month. Hours of floor debate over three days and nights produced nothing that can comfort those who have already lost a family member to gun violence and provided no real meaningful measures to ensure the future safety of our children.

The fight for sensible gun control is not over. Those of us who believe in closing gun loopholes will continue our efforts. Three months ago, I spoke to many members of Family and Friends of Murder Victims assembled in Rose Hills Memorial Park to honor their slain loved ones during Victims Rights Week. I pledged to them that I would work to ensure we establish laws and programs that help prevent the additional loss of innocent lives and to strengthen victims' rights. I intend to keep that pledge.

Let us look at the facts: In the five years that the Brady Bill has been in effect, requiring a three business-day waiting period for a gun purchase, more than 400,000 illegal gun sales, two-thirds of which involved either convicted felons or people with a current felony indictment, were blocked. This is clear evidence that this law works and that we are on the right path.

However, we still have far to go. Studies show that one in four gun murders are committed by people aged 18 to 20. Furthermore, about two-thirds of all homicides involve the use of a gun. Also consider that domestic violence often turns into homicide in many instances where guns are readily available, and that law enforcement officials support gun safety because it saves police officers' lives.

These facts demand our immediate attention. It is no wonder that a recent Pew Research survey found that 65% of the nation believes gun control is more important than the right to bear arms. Similarly, a Gallup Poll shows that 79% of Americans support mandatory registration of all firearms.

I wholeheartedly support a rational gun safety policy to close loopholes that have allowed too many individuals to skirt laws designed to prevent guns from getting into the wrong hands—often the hands of felons or minors.

We should strengthen the Brady law and fight for new gun safety measures that include: a three business-day waiting period to complete background checks on people buying guns at gun shows and flea markets—just like sales at retail outlets; banning the import of large-capacity ammunition clips; raising the national age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21; gun safety locks to accompany all new firearm sales; and preventing serious juvenile felons from ever owning guns.

We can achieve all of this if the members of the House have the will and the American people make it clear to their representatives that they demand action on gun safety. Let us stop the delay. Let us pass meaningful gun safety legislation.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on my Special Order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2465, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-268) on the resolution (H. Res. 262) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2465) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2606, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-269) on the resolution (H. Res. 263) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2606) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT TO THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 29, 1999.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDO). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

THE REPUBLICAN AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the recognition for this hour