The House met at 9 a.m. The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We recognize, O God, that as we focus on our communities and our world there are voices of anger and acts of violence. Yet, we know too that there are voices of singing and acts of kindness and love. We know there is pain and we know there is joy, there is enmity and there is reconciliation.

Teach us, gracious God, so to number our days that our mouths will speak of wisdom and faith and our deeds will be of justice and righteousness. Bless all Your people, O God, this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof. Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. LAHOOD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:


ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 1-minute requests at the end of today's business.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for 5 minutes.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess for 5 minutes.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1501, JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 1999

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 9 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1501) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders; to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to provide quality prevention programs and accountability programs relating to juvenile delinquency, and for other purposes; with a Senate amendment thereto, to disapprove the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Conyers moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1501, be instructed to insist that—

(1) the committee of conference recommend a conference substitute which—

(A) includes a requirement that background checks be conducted on all firearms sales at gun shows so as to effectively preclude criminals and other prohibited purchasers (e.g. murderers, rapists, child molesters, fugitives from justice, illegal aliens, stalkers, and batters) from obtaining firearms from non-licensed persons and federally licensed firearms dealers at gun shows;

(B) does not include any measure that would weaken the effectiveness of background checks currently conducted on individuals seeking to purchase a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer;

(C) does not include any measure that would otherwise weaken or eliminate any other provision of Federal firearms law or regulation; and

(D) includes provisions which would authorize funding for school resource officers and school violence prevention programs, including school counselors;

(2) all meetings of the committee of conference shall be open to the public and to the print and electronic media;

(A) be open to the public and to the print and electronic media;

(B) be held in venues selected to maximize the capacity for attendance of the public and the media; and

(C) be held during reasonable hours;

(3) the committee of conference allow sufficient opportunity for all members of the committee of conference to offer and debate amendments at all meetings of the committee of conference; and

(4) the committee of conference recommend a conference substitute before Congress adjourns for the August recess so that Congress can pass reasonable gun safety measures before children return to school.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

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

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that I have no objection to the instructions proposed by the gentleman from Michigan and we will accept them.

I just have one caveat, and that is putting time constraints on this may make it more difficult to do our best. We will do our best. It would be in an ideal world that we could finish this next week.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I say to the chairman, it is not binding, that we are going to do our best to accomplish that.

Mr. Speaker, as disappointed as I have been about the senseless delays that have prevented this Congress from sending to the President's desk reasonable and moderate gun safety measures, I am pleased that we are finally ready to appoint conferees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for instructing the conferees.

On August 16, in just a few weeks, the children who attended Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, will be returning to school. It has been over 3 months since the tragedy in Columbine occurred. But because of the delaying tactics by the National Rifle Association and its allies, we have only 1 week to settle the gun safety issues before we adjourn for the summer recess.

We should not delay longer. How can we do nothing when 13 children are killed as a result of gun violence in this Nation every single day?

Nine people were shot to death in Atlanta, Georgia, yesterday, and 12 were wounded. We do not know all the facts, but this was clearly a disturbed man who should not own a gun.
Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion to instruct conferees. The gentleman from Michigan's motion makes it clear that conferees craft the conference report in such a way that no criminal will be able to buy a gun, at a gun show or anywhere else. I know of no dispute on this point.

The second instruction in the motion is that the conference report should not weaken any existing gun laws. I can assure you this side intends for that to happen. In fact, a cursory review of H.R. 1501 as passed by the House shows that the intent of this body is to strengthen the laws that punish the illegal possession and use of a gun. We do not need to be instructed to avoid doing the opposite.

The third point raised by the motion, to ensure that the conference report addresses the issue of school resource officers and counselors. This is a very contentious and volatile issue and there are diverse interests tugging and pulling us in different directions. And so I expect this to be a difficult but certainly not impossible conference. But I am fully hopeful that we can emerge with a conference report that can command the support of the majority of this House and a majority of the other body.

I also note that next week is going to involve a number of important measures that will be brought to the floor of this House and that of the other body, all seeking to be reconciled and resolved before the August recess. The interruptions that votes on these measures would cause to a conference, were one to be held, might be enough to prevent us from finishing within a week. Simply put, next week is not the wisest time to begin this conference or to complete it. We are going to try. We are going to give it our very best effort.

And so I support the motion to instruct conferees, and I ask my colleagues to support it. I give you in return my assurance that I intend to complete the work of the conference as quickly and as effectively as possible, while still doing all the work expected of us, in as thoughtful and thorough a manner as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE 18747

July 30, 1999

Meek (FL)  Price (NC)  Smith (WA)
Medina (NY)  Pryce (OH)  Spielberg
Menendez  Quinn  Spratt
Metscalf  Radnorovich  Stabenow
Mica  Remillard  Steinholt
Miller (FL)  Ross (CT)  Strickland
Miller, Gary  Rutledge  Stupak
Miller, George  Reyes  Tawse
Minge  Rodgers  Terry
Mink  Rogers  Thomas
Moolackey  Rohrabacher  Thompson (CA)
Moran (KS)  Ros-Lehtinen  Thompson (MS)
Moran (VA)  Rothman  Thurman
Morella  Roukema  Titus
Myrick  Royalb-Allard  Toomey
Napolitano  Royce  Trafel
Neal  Rush  Turner
Nethercutt  Ryan (WI)  Upton
Northrup  Saha  Vasquez
Norwood  Sanchez  Vento
O'Shea  Sanders  Vielcis
Oxley  Scott  Walsh
Packard  Sensenbrenner  Watt (NC)
Fallon  Servello  Waxman
Pascarelli  Shaw  Weiden
Pastor  Shays  Weldon (FL)
Parrish  Shriver  Weldon (PA)
Paxton  Sherwood  Wexler
Pelosi  Sherman  Whittier
Peterson (MN)  Simpson  Wilson
Petri  Skeen  Wolf
Phelps  Slaughter  Woolsey
Pomeroy  Smith (MI)  Wo
Porter  Smith (NJ)  Wynn
Portman  Smith (TX)  Young (FL)

NAYS—84

Adkhiot  Hall (RI)  Rogers
Arch  Hansen  Ryan (KS)
Arcoey  Hayes  Salmon
Bachus  Hayworth  Sanford
Barr  Hill (MT)  Scarborough
Bartlett  Hilerary  Schaefer
Buck  Hostetter  Sessions
Bilirakis  Hulshof  Shacked
Bonilla  Hunter  Shinkus
Boehner  Jenkins  Sinosky
Brady (TX)  Jones (NC)  Siskiyou
Callahan  Kingstern  Souder
Cannan  Largent  Spence
Chabot  Lewis (KY)  Stump
Chenoweth  Lucas (OK)  Sununu
Coble  Lucas (NC)  Taft
Coburn  McIntosh  Taylor (MS)
Collins  McIntyre  Taylor (NC)
Coble  McManaman  Thalberg
DeLauro  Ney  Thune
Emerson  Paul  Vitter
Everett  Pickering  Wamp
Fletcher  Pickett  Watkins
Gibbons  Pitts  Watts (OK)
Goode  Pombo  Whitefield
Goodlatte  Rahall  Wicker
Graham  Riley  Wills

NOT VOTING—44

Bartow  Fowler  McDermott
Blagushevich  Frank (MA)  Nadler
Brown (FL)  Gallegly  Ortiz
Burr  Geeks  Owens
Burton  Gutierrez  Peterson (PA)
Burr  Hall (OH)  Skelton
Carr  Hutchinson  Stark
Cubin  Johnson (CT)  Stearns
Cummings  Johnson, Sam  Stark
Davis (FL)  Deutch  Townes
Deutsch  Lantos  Townes
Dick  Lothier  Waters
Ehlers  Manns  Weller
Engel  Markel  Weller
English  McCarthy  Young (AK)

MESSRS. COBURN, COLLINS, STUMP, HAYES, PICKERING, PICKETT, HILLREY, WHITEFORTH, BACHUS,
WAMP, CALLAHAN, ROGERS, HALL of Texas, TAYLOR of Mississippi, HULSFORD, MCINTYRE, PITTS, SISKY, WISE, RAHALL, BILIRAKIS, DEAL of Georgia, SPENCE, COBLE, RYUN of Kansas, SUNUNU, ARCHER, ARMEY, MOLLOHAN, TALENT, DELAY, SOUDER, MURTHA, GRAHAM, and BARTLETT of Maryland changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. ROEMER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to instruct was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on rolcall No. 354, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on rolcall No. 354, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber today during rolcall vote No. 354. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HYDE, MCCOLLUM, GEKAS, COBLE, SMITH of Texas, CANADY of Florida, BARR of Georgia, CONVEYS, FRANK of Massachusetts, SCOTT, BIRMAN and Ms. LOFgren.

Provided, that Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas is appointed in lieu of Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts for consideration of sections 741, 1501, 1505, 1594–35, and titles V, VI, and IX of the Senate amendment.

Provided, that Mr. MEEHAN is appointed in lieu of Mr. BERMAN for consideration of sections 741, 1501, 1505, 1594–35, and titles V, VI, and IX of the Senate amendment.

Provided, that From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of the House bill, and the Senate amendment (except sections 741, 1501, 1505, 1594–35, and titles V, VI and IX), and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GOODLING, PETRI, CASTLE, GREENWOOD, DEMINT, CLAY, KILDEE, and Mrs. McCARTHY of New York.

Provided, that From the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of sections 1365 and 1401–03 of the House bill, and sections 1504, 1515, and 1523 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BLILY and Mr. DINGELL.

Provided, that Mr. BILIRAKIS is appointed for consideration of sections 1365 of the House bill and section 1523 of the Senate amendment.

Provided, that Mr. TAIZIN is appointed for consideration of sections 1401–03 of the House bill and sections 1504 and 1515 of the Senate amendment. There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 5(b) of Public Law 93-642 (20 U.S.C. 2004(b)), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House as members of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation:

Mrs. EMERSON, Missouri and Mr. SKELTON, Missouri.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain 1 minutes until approximately 10:45 this morning.

WELCOME HOME TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RED HORSE SQUADRON

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, on June 8, the Secretary of Defense, Bill Cohen, ordered three U.S. Air Force Red Horse Squadron combat engineer teams from Nellis Air Force Base to Albania.

Their mission was to execute critical road and bridge repairs in this war-torn region as part of NATO's efforts to see a peaceful and safe return to a countless number of refugees.

Tonight will be a special evening at Nellis Air Force Base as many of these dedicated troops will be returning to their families and friends. Mr. Speaker, 61 members of the Red Horse Squadron will arrive on base tonight to a warm Nevada welcome.

This last spring, I had the opportunity to visit the Balkan region with some of my House colleagues and we were able to witness firsthand the enormous damage caused to the Kosovo region.

The task of removing land mines and repairing this region is an enormous challenge for our servicemen and women and continues to be this date.

So on behalf of all Nevadans, let me say welcome home to the members of the Red Horse Squadron. I salute them for their valuable service to this country and to this effort.

As we continue to help these refugees back to their farmlands and homes, let us hope that all of our American troops will remain safe and return home in the very near future.