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CONGRESS MISSES THE BUS ON GUN CONTROL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in less than two weeks, the students of Columbine High School will resume classes and begin their 1999-2000 school year. Since the now infamous Columbine massacre on April 20th, the school has gone through a complete transformation. Sixteen high-definition security cameras have been installed in the school; bullet holes have been patched or covered; the alarm system, which rang for hours during the reign of terror, has been replaced; and new glass windows have been installed to replace broken ones shattered by bullets and home-made bombs. In addition, keyed entry doors have been replaced by high-security electronic doors, a makeshift library has been created out of classrooms, and the school district has hired two additional security guards for protection.

School officials will be making additional changes up until the very day students come back on August 16th, all in an effort to make the Columbine students feel safer when they return to school. Yet, Columbine students were not the only ones affected by last April's shooting. Students and teachers around the nation have lost the sense of safety they deserve to have at school. These students will hardly regain that safety by new landscaping or replaced alarm systems. These students and their families will continue to live in fear until the real issue at hand is addressed: the easy accessibility that young people have to guns.

When school resumes on August 16th at Columbine and around the nation, Congress will have done nothing to prevent young people from purchasing dangerous weapons. Students across the nation will walk into school to begin a new year, while Congress is in a month-long recess, having done nothing to change the same loopholes in the same Federal firearms laws that put the weapons in the hands of minors.

Congress's failure to act is inexcusable. Moderate reforms designed to limit juvenile access to firearms are long overdue. Yet, proponents of even the most modest gun safety legislation have come up against nothing but stonewalling and procedural delays. Sadly, it seems as if action on the juvenile justice bill is only propelled forward by additional tragedies; the Senate bill, having been passed on the day of another school shooting at Heritage High School in Conyers, Georgia, and the final motion to appoint conferees occurring just one day after a mass

shooting in Atlanta. I pray that it does not take yet another mass shooting to move this legislation out of Conference Committee and onto the President's desk.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, pursuant to section 313(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I submit for the Record a list of material considered to be extraneous under subsections (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), and (b)(1)(E) of section 313. The inclusion or exclusion of material on the following list does not constitute a determination of extraneousness by the Presiding Officer of the Senate.

To the best of my knowledge, the conference agreement for the Financial Freedom Act of 1999, H.R. 2488, contains no material considered to be extraneous under subsections (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), and (b)(1)(E) of section 313 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

THE NEW MILLENNIUM CLASSROOMS ACT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to engage in a brief colloquy with the Majority Leader regarding the New Millennium Classrooms Act. Last week, the Abraham-Wyden New Millennium Classrooms Act amendment to the Taxpayer Refund Act of 1999 was cleared on both sides of the aisle and accepted by the full United States Senate. This bill provided tax incentives for businesses to donate both new and used computers to K-12 schools and senior centers. The Senate's approval of this amendment demonstrates our strong commitment to provide school children—especially those children who live in impoverished areas—access to up-to-date computer technology and the Internet. Unfortunately, despite the Senate's strong support for this measure, I understand that it was opposed by the House conferees to the Taxpayer Refund Act.

Mr. LOTT. The Senator from Michigan is correct. The New Millennium Classrooms Act was not included in the House-passed tax bill, and was later omitted from the final tax conference report at the request of House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer. I would say that to the Senator from Michigan that your New Millennium Classrooms Act remains a top legislative priority for our Senate Republican High Tech Task Force. Accordingly, I will continue to work with you to find a way to secure final Congressional approval of this important pro-technology, pro-education initiative.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I thank the Majority Leader for his support.

FORMOSAN TERMITES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to engage into a colloquy with the distinguished Chairman and the senior senator from Louisiana, Mr. BREAU, about two very important ongoing agriculture research projects relating to Formosan termites, and phytoestrogen research ongoing in Louisiana, which the Appropriations Committee has supported in the past.

For the past two fiscal years, vital funding has been provided to the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans to continue "Operation FullStop", which has targeted research and test pilots to find ways to control the Formosan termite. This pest, first introduced into the United States from east Asia in the 1940s has spread like a plague through the Southeast, and its range now extends from Texas to South Carolina. In Louisiana, damage is most severe in New Orleans where the total annual cost of termite damage and treatment is estimated at an astonishing \$217,000,000. Many historic structures in the French Quarter have been devastated, and now as many as 1/3 of the beloved live oaks that shade historic thoroughfares such as St. Charles Avenue are at risk of being lost to termite damage. To help find appropriate controls for Formosan termites in Louisiana and other states where termites are just being found, it is critical for this research to continue.

Additionally, the Southern Regional Research Center in coordination with Tulane and Xavier Universities in New Orleans have merged their complementary expertise in a unique and powerful collaborative on comparative research of the impact of Phytoestrogens on human health. These natural chemicals in soybeans and other plant substances is only starting to receive attention as dietary substances capable of improving human health. In addition, to showing beneficial health effects for the prevention of breast cancer and other health disorders, this research has developed techniques in molecular biology which could lead to applications that control the development of harmful insects. Researchers are on the verge of harnessing this knowledge and applying it to the possible biological amelioration of Formosan termite infestations. Thus, continuation of this research funded by a special Agriculture Research Service grant, is needed to build upon the ongoing program and hopefully find answers to how chemicals found in plant products could be used to replace other toxic pharmaceuticals and pesticides.

Mr. BREAU. Thank you, Senator LANDRIEU. I agree that it is vital that these ongoing agriculture research projects be given much deserved and badly needed attention and consideration by the U.S. Congress. and I join Senator LANDRIEU in my concern about the urgency to control Formosan termite devastation to privately-owned