

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 22, 1999, I was unavoidably detained and was not present during rollcall vote 430. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 1501, JUVENILE JUSTICE
REFORM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in the five months since the shooting of 16 innocent high-school children at Columbine High School in a suburb of Denver, Colorado, over 500 American citizens have died as a result of gun violence. What has the Republican leadership in Congress done to address this problem? Absolutely nothing. What is worse, the motion offered by Congressman JOHN DOOLITTLE does even less. This motion, which says that anything during the conference of the Juvenile Justice bill that could possibly harm the Second Amendment to the Constitution should be rejected, is a terrible motion. It is terrible because Congress should protect our neighborhoods, our police departments, and the American people. This motion does protect one group of individuals—the gun lobby. I make no apologies for standing up for our neighborhoods, our police departments, or the citizens of the 15th Congressional District of Michigan.

This motion does not protect our neighborhoods. Several Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, have offered reasonable, sane, and safe recommendations regarding gun control. The issue of guns is one that cuts across the whole of America's fabric, but it especially harms minorities and urban areas—similar to the area which I am honored to serve. By limiting the options of Members to posit real and reasonable constitutional limits to control the glut of guns in our nation, this motion makes our neighborhoods unsafe. All we are asking is that gun dealers perform background checks, that child safety locks be sold on handguns, and that former criminals be prevented from buying guns.

This motion does not protect our police departments. The Fraternal Order of Police Officers and the International Association of Police Chiefs have endorsed measures similar to the Brady law. These same organizations have both supported measures that would get rid of "cop killer bullets", assault weapons and high-powered rifles. This motion would, incredibly, not allow these measures to be considered by the conferees.

This motion does not protect the Constitution. We have all sworn to protect and defend the Constitution. It is Congress' job to make laws; it is the job of the women and men of

the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution. We do not need to establish the precedent of "pre-interpreting" the Constitution for the sake of a sound bite or political folly. This motion removes the option of interpreting the Constitution from the Judicial branch, presupposing that Members of Congress know what is best for the Constitution.

I will continue to fight for our Constitution. I will continue to protect our children, our senior citizens, our neighborhoods, our police officers. I say no to the glut of guns on our streets and to the gun lobby. I urge my colleagues to say no to the Doolittle motion.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 29

- 9 a.m.
Small Business
Business meeting to markup S. 791, to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the women's business center program. SR-428A
- 9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 1508, to provide technical and legal assistance for tribal justice systems and members of Indian tribes. SR-485
- Environment and Public Works
Business meeting to markup pending calendar business. SD-406
- Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings on biotechnology issues. SH-216
- Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending nominations. SD-226
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1501, to improve motor carrier safety. SR-253

- 2 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters. SH-219
- 2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the practices of the Bureau of Reclamation regarding operations and maintenance costs and contract renewals. SD-366

SEPTEMBER 30

- 9 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to review the Administration's agriculture agenda for the upcoming World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle. SR-328A
- 9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Consumer Affairs, Foreign Commerce, and Tourism Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1130, to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to liability of motor vehicle rental or leasing companies for the negligent operation of rented or leased motor vehicles. SR-253
- Year 2000 Technology Problem
To hold hearings to examine the global impact of Y2K technology on the transportation system. SD-192
- 10 a.m.
Judiciary
Business meeting to mark up S.J. Res. 3, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims. SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine issues on corruption in Russia. SD-419
- 2 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters. SH-219
- 2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1457, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to assess opportunities to increase carbon storage on national forests derived from the public domain and to facilitate voluntary and accurate reporting of forest projects that reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. SD-366

OCTOBER 5

- 9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's Blue Ribbon Panel findings on methyl tertiary-butyl ether. SD-406