

This proved to be a grave mistake. Just a few years later in a speech on the eve of World War II, Hitler justified his brutal tactics with the infamous statement, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" Six years later, 6 million Jews had been exterminated by the Nazis. Never had, as the phrase goes, "Those who forget the past will be destined to repeat it," been more applicable.

If the international community had spoken out against this merciless slaughtering of the Armenian people instead of ignoring it, the horrors of the Holocaust might never have taken place.

As we commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, I believe it is time to give this event its rightful place in history. So let us pay homage to those who fell victim to their Ottoman oppressors, and tell the story of the forgotten genocide, for the sake of the Armenian heritage. It is a story that must be heard.

GUN SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, my concern as a Member of Congress is that the Federal Government does everything it can to be a full partner in promoting the livability of our communities, because at the end of the day, what our families care about is that their children are safe when they go out the door to go to school in the morning, that the families are economically secure and healthy. Of those factors, the most important, I am sure, is the safety of those families.

We have had within the last 24 hours another tragic reminder that handgun and firearm violence continues to be either the first or second leading cause of death and injury to America's children. It does not have to be this way. A few weeks ago I was honored to host a forum on this topic with several distinguished scholars who discussed ideas with Members of Congress of things we can do to reduce firearm violence with our children.

For instance, we have the opportunity to make firearms safer. All we need here in Congress is the will to change Federal policy so that gun manufacturers meet consumer safety standards for their products.

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It is a shame and a national disgrace that toy guns currently have higher consumer product safety standards than real guns. It is outrageous in America that we cannot adopt the simple suggestion to require an indicator that will tell somebody whether or not a gun is loaded or require, for a few cents or maybe a couple of dollars, a

device that will not let a gun fire if the clip has been removed, or requiring a trigger lock on a gun.

It is sad that, given the tragic nature of gun injuries and violence, that there is not a single source of information in the entire United States Government to help us understand the pattern, to isolate the patterns and types of violence and be able to do something about it. It is not the case in other parts of American society.

There are regulations that will in fact make a difference to disrupt this pattern of violence. We have demonstrated that by taking away the right to own guns from people who have demonstrated that they are not responsible gun owners; that we can make a difference in how those guns are used. We have shown that there are consistent areas of support to expand that pattern of denial to people who have consistently shown patterns of violent and reckless behavior. The vast majority of the American public supports it. The majority of gun owners support it.

It is time for us to take that simple step to reduce unnecessary gun violence. It is time for the Federal Government to step forward and stop purchasing firearms for our use that do not have smart gun technology that ensures that that gun that we give to a law enforcement officer cannot be used against him or her, to personalize the weapon. Similarly, we would not think of having an automobile that did not have a key that personalized its use, so we should do the same with firearms.

There are other important areas that we have tried to bring before people in this Chamber. Law enforcement wants us to help them tackle the all-too-frequent problems of firearm violence. Fifteen States have child access protection laws which make it harder for children to gain access to guns.

We have had the tragic example of Jonesboro, Arkansas where the children's first stop was at a home that used safe storage of the weapons. There, even using a blowtorch, they were unable to get access to weapons. They went to the next home, and there the weapons were open and accessible. The rest is tragic history.

The horror that we witnessed yesterday in Colorado is part of a larger pattern. How many more examples are we going to have to witness before we come to our senses on the floor of this Chamber and take simple steps?

There is no one single solution to solve the epidemic of gun violence, but we have the responsibility to undertake these simple, common sense steps. I pray the Republican leadership will allow us to vote on some of them in the course of this session.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

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

There was no objection.

84TH COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor to again commemorate the anniversary of one of the darkest stains on the history of modern civilization, the genocide of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Turkish Empire.

I greatly appreciate the strong support of so many of our colleagues in this effort, especially the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), my fellow cochairman of the Armenian Issues Caucus. I commend him for arranging this special order and for his continued dedication to these vitally important issues.

I would also like to recognize the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for introducing a resolution calling for a collection of all U.S. records relating to the Armenian genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I wish, as every Member does, that this special order did not have to take place. We would like to believe that such a tragedy could never have happened in the modern world because it is painful to accept that man is capable of committing and tolerating such atrocities.

Unfortunately, we have seen over and over the tragic results of hatred and ignorance: the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide, and today the ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. Far too often the so-called civilized nations of the world have turned a blind eye.

I cannot stand here at this moment and talk about genocide without mentioning a genocide which is happening right now before our eyes. Today the United States is not sitting by and simply watching this happen, unlike its reaction to the Armenian genocide 84 years ago. The United States is embarking on a new phase of foreign policy.

This is perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the first time in all of human history that the greatest power in the world is not using its power with the aim of advancing itself and its own interests, but with the intent of protecting and defending a group of oppressed people. The American people can be proud that we are finally using every effort to stop the ethnic cleansing of innocent people. These efforts were not made in the