

blind to this carnage in our streets, people living in fear of walking down the street in Los Angeles or Chicago, kids living in fear of walking on the playground. There is a school on the west side of Chicago called the Austin Career Academy. When that high school is about to adjourn for the day, let the children go home, the police come and close the streets around the schools so that the gang bangers cannot drive by and shoot the children as they come out of the schools.

That is daily life in too many places in America. We can argue about what we can do and why the people should give up on this Congress. I hope they do not. But we cannot give up on our children, because if we do, we have failed our most fundamental responsibility.

I know this is tough, because some of our colleagues, even on the Democratic side and on the Republican side, have great concerns about the gun lobby and what they might do if they vote for any legislation. It is a tough vote, a hard vote, but I hope they will step back for a second and say we cannot allow this violence and killing to continue in American schools.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield one more moment?

Mr. DURBIN. Definitely.

Mrs. BOXER. I want to pick up on that point because there is a gun lobby. We all see it, we all know it, there are a lot of bucks behind it. But there is another lobby out there, the people, and the people want us to do sensible measures to protect our children.

I want to make one last point to my colleague, and that is, in my home State of California, the largest State in the Union by far—34 million people—the No. 1 cause of death among children from the minute they are born until they are 18, the No. 1 cause of death is gunshots—No. 1 cause of death.

If we had a disease that was the No. 1 cause of death, we would be working on this floor feverishly until we addressed that disease. This is a disease.

I have to say to my friend, I watched him take on the tobacco lobby and win. There is not a time I do not get on an airplane and realize I do not have to smell that smoke and have that in my lungs that I don't think of him and his courage in that matter. When he came over here, I just knew reinforcements were coming for some of these tough issues, and this is one of them.

This is a tough one, but that is what we are here for. It is very easy to vote for the easy bills. It is easy to vote for "Children's Appreciation Day." It is easy to do that. It is a little tougher when you take on the gun lobby.

I hope we are judged by this. My experience is that people respect you, even if they might not agree with you, if you have the guts to do something about a problem.

I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, please join with us. Some of these issues are so easy for you to vote for. For example, one of them you have in here says if a local district has a proposal in for more cops on the beat, waive the matching fund if the community police are assigned to the schools. That is one that does not even touch a gun. But today we are told by the majority leader that he believes it would be unseemly to act. That is his view. I respect it. I don't think it is unseemly to act in the wake of this tragedy. I think people want us to act in the wake of this tragedy.

Thank you. I yield back to my colleague.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I will close by saying I am happy that the majority leader, Senator LOTT, has made this commitment publicly on the floor of the Senate that within 2 weeks we will have debate on legislation such as I have described here. The important thing about that debate is not what is said on the floor of the Senate between Senators. What is important between now and that 2-week deadline is what is said by the American people to those who serve in the Senate.

For those who are watching the proceedings of the Senate or who read the RECORD, I hope you will understand that if you are not part of this debate, if you do not pick up your telephone, if you do not take a pen and write a letter, if you do not send an e-mail saying, "For goodness sake, do something about violence in our schools and the proliferation of guns in the hands of children," I can guarantee you that the outcome of this debate is going to be a disappointment to families across America.

Do not give up on Congress. This is an institution which is serving this country and all of the American families in it. The families have to come forward now. They have to be heard from. It is not enough to say the school year is coming to an end, so that will be the end of school violence. There will always be another school year, history tells us, sadly, always an opportunity for another tragedy. Let us learn something valuable from the suffering of the families in Littleton, CO. Let us vow, Democrat and Republican alike, that we will do everything in our power to reduce school violence and make this a safer place for our children.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Who yields time?

UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
AGREEMENT—H. CON. RES. 92

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding receipt of the resolution, the Senate now begin an hour of debate equally divided in the usual form with

respect to H. Con. Res. 92, a resolution relating to the tragedy in Littleton, CO. I further ask unanimous consent that no amendments be in order to the preamble or resolution, and that immediately following the debate time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the adoption of the resolution, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to display three ceremonial Indian objects as I make my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENSE OF THE CONGRESS WITH  
RESPECT TO THE TRAGEDY IN  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, many of my colleagues in the Senate will speak on this resolution today. I know that the families and, indeed, all of Colorado appreciate their deep and heartfelt sorrow.

On my father's side, as you know, Mr. President, I am Cheyenne, so I would like to begin speaking in the manner of his people.

This fan comes from the eagle. The old people call the eagle the keeper of the Earth, the one that watches over the domain of the Grandfather Spirit.

This pipe carries the smoke with the words and the thoughts from the people who use it to the Creator.

This flute is used to carry songs of love, forgiveness, and brotherhood.

So, Mr. President, I hope that the voices of all the council fires and pipes send our pleas as Senators as we ask for guidance as we try to rid ourselves of violence in this Nation.

I would like the great winged brother that he has chosen as our national symbol of freedom and justice to oversee all of his children. Further, I would like the winds to carry the sweetness and harmony and tolerance of the flute to the Grandfather Spirit.

Mr. President, traditional Indian people do not believe that death is finite. Indeed, they believe that mortal remains return to Mother Earth from which they came, but the soul, which is the part of you that is timeless, goes on to the next world to be forever in the presence of the Great Spirit in a place that is absent of avarice and greed, devoid of hunger and sickness, barren of anger, jealousy, and hate. It is a place of goodness where springtime is forever.

That is the place where Indian people believe the innocent victims of Columbine High School have journeyed. Although their time on Earth was far too short, the elders remind us that the grace of the Creator made our lives so much better by allowing them to be with us for a time, however short.