

SENATE—Thursday, May 20, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Feller, Upper Midwest Regional Director of the World Lubavitch Movement, St. Paul, MN.

We are pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Feller, Upper Midwest Chabad Lubavitch, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God and God of our fathers, sovereign Ruler of the universe and all mankind, tomorrow we mark Your biblical holiday—the Festival of Weeks. On this day 3,311 years ago, You descended on Mount Sinai and gave the Ten Commandments amidst “thunder and lightning and the powerful sound of the ram's horn.”

Before issuing Your Commandments, the most crucial of which are: Thou shalt not commit murder; Thou shalt not commit adultery; Thou shalt not steal, You awesomely declared, “I am God, your God.” You declared so because, in Your infinite wisdom, You knew that only by constantly focusing on Your sovereignty could humans control their negative impulses.

Almighty God, this august institution, the Senate of the United States of America, responds daily to Your declaration at Sinai by opening their convocations in this historic and noble Chamber with the recognition of Your sovereign presence and by publicly offering prayers to You.

Reward this sacred practice by granting the Senators good health, good cheer, good fellowship, long life, and abundant wisdom. May this wise and sacred practice be an inspiration to all convocations and assemblies which are convened daily throughout our blessed country and throughout the world to do likewise, in light of today's event in the school in Georgia, especially in the Nation's public schools, so that mortality, safety, tranquility, and happiness prevail throughout our country and throughout the world. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able chairman of the Judiciary Committee is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I thank the President pro tempore.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HATCH. This morning the Senate will resume debate on the juvenile justice bill. Under a previous order, the Senate will begin 60 minutes of debate on the Smith and Lautenberg pawnshop amendments. Following that debate, at approximately 10:30, votes on or in relation to the amendments will occur. Additional amendments are expected, and therefore votes will occur throughout the day and into the evening.

In addition, consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill will begin today. It is hoped that a time agreement on this legislation will be made and a vote on final passage will also take place today.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. What is the pending business?

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

VIOLENT AND REPEAT JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REHABILITATION ACT OF 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now under that order resume consideration of S. 254, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 254) to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by and rehabilitation of juvenile criminals, punish and deter violent gang crime, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Frist amendment No. 355, to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 to authorize schools to apply appropriate discipline measures in cases where students have firearms.

Lautenberg/Kerrey amendment No. 362, to regulate the sale of firearms at gun shows.

Lott (for Smith of Oregon/Jeffords) amendment No. 366, to reverse provisions relating to pawn and other gun transactions.

AMENDMENT NO. 366, AS MODIFIED

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I send a modification to the desk and ask unanimous consent that the Smith amendment be modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we have no objection to the modification.

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

The amendment (No. 366), as modified, is as follows:

At the end of the act, insert the following:

SEC. . PROVISIONS RELATING TO PAWN SHOPS AND SPECIAL LICENSEES.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the repeal heretofore effected by paragraph (1) and the amendment heretofore effected by paragraph (2) of subsection (c) with the heading “Provision Related to Pawn and Other Transactions” of section 4 of the title with the heading “General Firearms Provisions” shall be null and void.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 923(m)(1), of Title 18, United States Code, as heretofore provided, is amended by adding at the end the following subparagraph:

“(F) COMPLIANCE.—Except as to the State and local planning and zoning requirements for a licensed premises as provided in subparagraph (D), a special licensee shall be subject to all of the provisions of this chapter applicable to dealers, including, but not limited to, the performance of an instant background check.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will withhold.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this is an important day because this is the day on which we hope we can finally pass this juvenile justice bill. We have had another shooting of students just today at a high school in Georgia. The shooting occurred at 8 a.m. at the Heritage High School and a number of children were wounded. I won't go into the details, but the shooting was exactly a month after the April 20 slaughter at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, where two students killed 13 people before taking their own lives.

It is apparent that we have to do something about this, and this bill is a very considered attempt to do exactly that.

Now, we are going to have two very crucial amendments this morning. The Smith amendment is first to come up, and this amendment is to resolve the pawn shop issue and the special licensee issue. I commend the distinguished Senator from Oregon and the distinguished Senator from Vermont in particular for their thoughtfulness in trying to resolve this difficulty. We want to do this in a bipartisan way. I surely hope people quit trying to score political points and help to get this bill done.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, look where we are today—another high school shooting incident in Atlanta,