

In fairness, we have been given some suggested changes to the underlying bill. We were given those suggestions late yesterday. I would be willing to accept a number of them if it meant we could pass this bill by a date certain. As well, staff has been working to clear several amendments as part of a managers' package of amendments, which I hope Senator LEAHY and I can do. Still, we have been given no commitment, assurances, or even a hint that my colleagues will agree to a vote on a time or date certain. This bill is too important to be treated this way. The problem of juvenile crime and the victims of juvenile crime deserve better.

We should pass this bill, but there are a number on the other side who want to pull this bill down. You hear a lot of posturing about the gun lobby, which is complete nonsense. Let's just review the facts.

The President's gun package was framed as essentially containing the following elements: Gun show loopholes; permanent Brady; one gun a month; juvenile Brady; juvenile possession of assault weapons, increase the age to 21; child access to guns, liability; safety locks; increase penalties for guns to juveniles; firearms tracing; youth crime gun initiative; gun kingpins penalties; and a clip ban.

More than half of the President's so-called "plan" has been acted on by the Senate or is contained in a pending amendment. In other words, we have agreed to a unanimous consent agreement limiting amendments which allows for the remaining elements of the President's plan to be offered.

So the question is, Where is the President on this issue? Republicans want to let this plan be voted on, but his allies in the Senate do not appear eager to move forward. I hope they will.

I believe my colleague from Vermont when he says that, given some time and through the caucuses today, we probably can get this resolved, or at least he hopes we can. I do also. We have to get it resolved.

We are not trying to avoid the gun issue. I think some are concerned how this bill, with its reforms of the entertainment industry, will be received by their friends in Hollywood. That is something I think really bothers some on the other side. It bothers me, too. But we are doing some things that really are valuable, really viable, really worthwhile, and really allow for voluntary compliance and an approach that really will work in the best interests of the entertainment industry.

Given the seriousness of this problem, and the number of warning signs that future tragedies may be imminent—we are announcing them daily—we cannot afford to filibuster this bill through amendment. We should not play politics with this bill. Instead, we should come together and pass this

bill. I am certainly hopeful that that is what we are going to get done either today or tomorrow.

I think the majority leader has been more than accommodating on this. He has indicated that he can only give so much time to this because there are so many other pending bills. The distinguished Senator from Vermont and I both know that we have to bring up the bankruptcy bill, the Satellite Home Viewer Act, in addition to all these very important issues that involve the national defense and our people who are serving in the Balkan crisis, and, of course, the supplemental appropriations bill. We only have a limited time in which to do it.

So it is good that we get together today and get this matter resolved. I don't think we could have had a more cooperative majority leader, under the circumstances. We stand ready, willing, and able to work with our colleagues on the other side to try to narrow these amendments and, of course, work with them to try to get some of these problems solved that they think are so serious.

I might add that a number of these gun amendments were already in the bill; juvenile Brady is a prime example. We had that already in the bill. You would think, from the President's remarks, that it wasn't part of our bill. We have worked on this bill for 2 years. I want it to be bipartisan; I want our Democratic colleagues to be part of this; I want them to feel good after it is all done. We have made every effort to try to accommodate them. But to have this thing go on for another day or two is basically not right, under the circumstances.

So I hope we can get together, and I hope we will work together and get our staffs together, and I hope we will resolve this either today or tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know the distinguished Senator from Utah would not want to leave a wrong impression about what has happened, so perhaps I might flesh out his remarks just a tad.

One, it should be noted that every single Democratic Senator wants to see a juvenile justice bill passed. The comments about pulling the bill down have all come from the Republican side of the aisle, not from the Democratic side of the aisle.

As far as working on this, I am not sure to what the Senator is referring. I don't know when I have spent so much time on the phone, the computer and e-mails, and on a bill as I have this past weekend. Our staffs have worked late into the night. We were given a wish list from the Republican staff, as was appropriately done at the beginning of the weekend. We worked on that all weekend long, calling Senators all over the country on it. As of last night, we had cleared 40 amendments. That is

progress. That is very significant progress.

Now, the distinguished Senator from Utah said on the talk shows this weekend that they need seven amendments on the Republican side. Four were introduced yesterday, but this morning there are suddenly 10. We have kind of floating numbers here. But the facts are such that we have been working and we have cleared a very large number of amendments that Senators never have to see.

The last crime bill took 12 days. There were 99 amendments. We walked through it, and we did it. I remember being on that committee of conference, and the distinguished Senator from Utah may recall that we were there until 3, 4, 5 o'clock in the morning. These were complex issues, but we got it done. The crime rate has been coming down for 6 years—something that I have not seen under any other administration before—Republican or Democrat. So we can get somewhere on this.

We have significant issues in here. Every single Member on this side of the aisle is committed to seeing a juvenile justice bill passed. We want to go on to debate and vote on Y2K. The majority leader is correct in saying the supplemental has to be passed. We are not trying to delay it. I assure my friend from Utah that an enormous amount of work was done this weekend, and it was done until very late last night. I think my last e-mail on this came through to me at about 12:30, 12:45 this morning. We are getting it done.

Now, the distinguished Senator from North Carolina has been sitting here patiently and wishes to speak about a lifetime friend, a man who deserves a great deal of honor and praise by this Senate from both sides. I think we would do the Senate well and the memory of the great man well by both of us holding this debate until after the caucus. I thank the distinguished Senator from North Carolina for his courtesy, which was doubly helpful this morning because I know this is a difficult time for him.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to morning business for 60 minutes, under the control of the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. HELMS, for a special order in memory of Adm. Bud Nance.

The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL BUD NANCE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, let me take note that members of Adm. Nance's family are in the family gallery. While the rules prohibit my saying anything to them, I think they