

Nickles	Sarbanes	Thomas
Reed	Schumer	Thompson
Reid	Sessions	Torricelli
Robb	Shelby	Voivovich
Roberts	Smith (OR)	Wellstone
Rockefeller	Snowe	Wyden
Roth	Specter	
Santorum	Stevens	

NOT VOTING—1

Moynihan

The amendment (No. 348) was rejected.

Mr. LEAHY. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. HATCH. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, Winston Churchill once said that we build our homes, then our homes build us. I can say happily that my home built me! I was fortunate to have had a great childhood—with two wonderful parents, a great church, and more than a few wise and supportive teachers throughout my school years. I grew up in Lithonia, Georgia, in a community that cared. Unfortunately, not all children growing up in America today are so blessed. Not all children have homes that shape and prepare them to deal with the culture of violence in the world today.

Back in the 50s, my action heroes were Roy Rogers, the Lone Ranger, and Gene Autry. They were the good guys, who righted wrong and always got the girl. A witness at a Commerce Committee hearing 2 weeks ago described today's action heroes: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, whose TV show, we were told, averaged 100 acts of violence every single episode.

When I was in school, the strongest drug around was aspirin, and the most lethal weapon was a sling shot. Last year, over 6,000 students were expelled for carrying a weapon to school—and most said they carried the weapon "out of a need for protection." So far this year—and the year is only 5 months old—19 young people have met a violent death while in school. Our schools were once safe havens in this country, and there is something very wrong, as President Clinton points out, "when kids are more worried about guns and violence than math and science."

The underlying fear of Littleton is that it is symptomatic of a broader pattern of youth violence in this country. Events at Columbine High echo the school shootings in Springfield, OR, when a student invaded the cafeteria, killed a fellow student, and wounded 22 others. It echoes events in Jonesboro, AR, where two Middle School students opened fire, killing five students all under the age of 13 and wounding 10 others. One of the young killers was reportedly angry over the breakup with his girlfriend. It echoes the West Paducah, KY murders in which a fourteen-year-old student

stormed a prayer group meeting before school, killed three teenaged girls, and wounded five more students. It was reported that the teen killer may have been teased by members of the prayer group as well as members of the school's football team.

In interviews with the neighbors of the Littleton killers, each one—almost without exception—saw little sign of the tragedy that lay ahead. These are the words of one of those neighbors:

I turn on the news and I see their house, and I think, "That's my house! . . . It's the exact same house, the same windows, same driveway, same trim, everything except the color. I lie in bed thinking: 200 feet from my bedroom is where the guy conceived this idea to destroy everything we thought we had. Everything you thought you knew about your neighborhood, your schools, your churches—all just shattered. Vaporized. We feel like we are at ground zero."

What causes two seemingly "normal" teenagers to go on a killing rampage? Is it a change in our culture? Is it our marketing of violent movies like "The Basketball Diaries" and gory video games like "Doom"? Is it access to Internet recipes for building bombs? Is it the plight of "latchkey" kids who come home every day after school to an empty house? What is the WHY of Littleton? What are the toxic factors that are producing the alarming trend in this country where young people settle their grievances with mass murders?

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the amendment by Senator LIEBERMAN which would create a National Commission on Youth Violence. It will bring together religious leaders, educators, Cabinet heads, experts in parenting, in law enforcement, and psychology all focused on a single mission: To understand what factors conspire to create a Littleton and what actions we can take to address the possible causes of youth violence. The task will not be easy and the answers will not be simple. But this amendment is a critically important step in addressing the culture of violence that is pervading every segment of our society.

It is obvious to me that we are in a cultural war in this country for the hearts and minds of our young people. And in anything and everything we can do to help and strengthen our children through safe schools, through smaller classrooms, through greater adult interaction and support, we should absolutely do. This Congress has a role. And one of the things we can—and should do—is to adopt the Lieberman amendment. The national commission will seek answers to the perplexing questions of how we deal with the hearts and minds of our youngsters in this cultural war. And, sadly enough, like real war, there are casualties. Littleton, CO is an example of that. Our hope is that we can take some positive action that mitigates the death and destruction of the Columbine tragedy.

What is at stake is no less than this Nation's most precious resource, our number one asset—our children. As the writer James Agee said, "In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances, and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again." Mr. President, on behalf of America's children, I am very pleased that the Lieberman amendment has been accepted by both sides and is part of this important legislation.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, May 17, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,587,730,041,115.05 (Five trillion, five hundred eighty-seven billion, seven hundred thirty million, forty-one thousand, one hundred fifteen dollars and five cents).

Five years ago, May 17, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,588,709,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred eighty-eight billion, seven hundred nine million).

Ten years ago, May 17, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,781,561,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred eighty-one billion, five hundred sixty-one million).

Fifteen years ago, May 17, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,486,043,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-six billion, forty-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 17, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$469,577,000,000 (Four hundred sixty-nine billion, five hundred seventy-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,118,153,041,115.05 (Five trillion, one hundred eighteen billion, one hundred fifty-three million, forty-one thousand, one hundred fifteen dollars and five cents) during the past 25 years.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under Section 308(b) and in aid of Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements for Senate scorekeeping of Section 5 of S. Con. Res. 32, the First Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for 1986.

This report, my first for fiscal year 1999, shows the effects of congressional action on the budget through May 7,