

the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations, which guide the relations of the United States with other countries in south-eastern Europe;

(10) calls upon the United States and other Western democracies to publicly announce and demonstrate to the Serbian people the magnitude of assistance they could expect after democratization; and

(11) recognizes the progress in democratic and market reform made by Montenegro, which can serve as a model for Serbia, and urges a peaceful resolution of political differences over the abrogation of Montenegro's rights under the federal constitution.

#### THE JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am disappointed that the majority continues to refuse to reconvene the conference on juvenile justice legislation.

This Congress has kept the country waiting far too long for action on juvenile justice legislation and sensible gun safety laws. We are fast approaching the first-year anniversary of the shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Next Thursday will sadly mark one year since fourteen students and a teacher lost their lives in that tragedy on April 20, 1999.

It has been 11 months since the Senate passed the Hatch-Leahy juvenile justice bill by an overwhelming vote of 73-25. Our bipartisan bill includes modest yet effective gun safety provisions. It has been 10 months since the House of Representatives passed its own juvenile crime bill on June 17, 1999. It has been 9 months since the House and Senate juvenile justice conference met for the first—and only—time on August 5, 1999, less than 24 hours before the Congress adjourned for its long August recess.

Senate and House Democrats have been ready for months to reconvene the juvenile justice conference and work with Republicans to craft an effective juvenile justice conference report that includes reasonable gun safety provisions, but the majority refuses to act. Indeed, on October 20, 1999, all the House and Senate Democratic conferees wrote to Senator HATCH, the Chairman of the juvenile justice conference, and Congressman HYDE, the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to reconvene the conference immediately. This week, Congressman HYDE joined our call for the juvenile justice conference to meet as soon as possible in a letter to Senator HATCH, which was also signed by Congressman CONYERS.

Every parent, teacher and student in this country is concerned about school violence over the last two years and worried about when the next shooting may occur. They only hope it does not happen at their school or involve their children.

We all recognize that there is no single cause and no single legislative solu-

tion that will cure the ill of youth violence in our schools or in our streets. But we have an opportunity before us to do our part. We should seize this opportunity to act on balanced, effective juvenile justice legislation, and measures to keep guns out of the hands of children and away from criminals.

It is ironic that the Senate will be in recess next week on the anniversary of the Columbine tragedy. In fact, the Senate has been in recess more than in session since the one ceremonial meeting of the juvenile crime conference committee. I hope we get to work soon and finish what we started in the juvenile justice conference. It is well past the time for Congress to act.

I ask unanimous consent that this Hyde-Conyers letter of April 11, 2000 be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, April 11, 2000.

Hon. ORRIN G. HATCH,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HATCH: We write to request a juvenile justice conference meeting as soon as possible.

As you are aware, in the last two months, we have witnessed a succession of gun violence tragedies. We have been shocked by a six-year-old shooting a six-year-old in Mount Morris Township, Michigan. We have seen a nursing home held hostage and a mass shooting in Pittsburgh. In February, Memphis firefighters responding to a call were shot and killed by a disturbed man. It is clear that the Nation would like Congress to respond.

We know that there is not complete agreement on all of the issues before the Conference. We also recognize the need for compromise. We have already agreed in principle to proposed language to reduce the waiting period to 24 hours in most cases, but are still trying to resolve appropriate "safety hatch" exceptions.

We have pledged to each other to begin anew negotiations. We believe, however, that beginning the work of the Conference will play a constructive role in the necessary process of narrowing our differences.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,

Chairman, House Judiciary Committee.

JOHN CONYERS, JR.,

Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee.

#### SECTION 415 PENSION REFORM NEEDED

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, during this week prior to the April deadline for filing income tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service, Congress often focuses on the high tax burden shouldered by American families and the need for tax reform. Fundamental reform is my top tax legislative priority. I believe the entire confusing

and incomprehensible tax code should be scrapped and replaced with a system that is fair, simple, uniform and consistent. Until such fundamental reform can take place, I will continue to work in support of tax reform measures that correct unfair aspects of the existing tax code mess.

One section of the code that I believe needs to be changed and changed soon is Section 415. Section 415 of the tax code was enacted in 1974 for the purpose of limiting the pensions of corporate executives. Section 415 no longer impacts corporate executives, but it does unfairly impact middle income workers who are prevented from collecting the full pensions they earned and deserve from their multi-employer plan. This is as simple as the tax code keeping workers from being able to collect their own money. I believe this injustice should be corrected, and I have cosponsored legislation, Senate bill 1209, that will restore fairness to this section of the tax code.

The Senate version of the 1999 tax relief bill included the fix to Section 415. I am pleased that the Senate joined me in recognizing the absolute need to correct Section 415 and to stop unfairly punishing workers by blocking access to their hard-earned pensions, though I am disappointed that this change did not become law last year. It was, however, an important step towards achieving reform. As the nation focuses on tax season, I reaffirm my dedication to fighting to pass legislation to bring fairness to Section 415 of the tax code and ensure our nation's workers collect what they have rightfully earned.

#### U.S.S. "J. WILLIAM DITTER"

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, in honor of their reunion to be held this month, I am pleased to call the Senate's attention to honor the crew of U.S.S. *J. William Ditter* who served during World War II.

I commend the dedication and courage of that crew of the minelayer named in honor of former Pennsylvania Congressman J. William Ditter.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 5, 1888, J. William Ditter received his law degree from Temple University in 1913 and was admitted to the bar the same year. As a school teacher and baseball coach at Northeast High School from 1912 until 1925, one of Coach Ditter's team members was Jimmy Dykes, who later went on to become Connie Mack's star third baseman during the Philadelphia Athletics' glory years in the nineteen-thirties. Less famous, but equally important were the hundreds of young men and women who studied at Northeast High under "Doc" Ditter's tutelage. They constantly sought his advice and retained their affection for him in the years that followed.

In 1925, Mr. Ditter moved to Montgomery County, where he practiced law

and became an active member of his church and community. In 1932, Montgomery County was made a separate Congressional district and Mr. Ditter was elected to serve as its first Representative.

As a member of the House of Representatives, he quickly became known for his tireless work, dedication to our country, and consummate skill in debate. Congressman Ditter took a prominent role in defeating President Franklin Roosevelt's efforts to pack the Supreme Court in order to insure that New Deal legislation would not be declared unconstitutional. As the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Naval Affairs, he led the fight to establish a two-ocean Navy. The success of the Navy in World War II, including the ship which was named after him, was due in part to the leadership and dedication of Congressman J. William Ditter.

In recognition of his leadership, Bill Ditter was selected to be the Chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, a post he held until his death in 1943. While in Congress, Mr. Ditter explained his positions on public affairs by writing a weekly newspaper column, *Trend of Events*. During his years in Congress, he was much in demand as a public speaker, not only in Montgomery County but throughout the state and nation.

Congressman Ditter's political career was cut short by his untimely death in a Navy plane crash near Columbia, Pennsylvania. He was returning from Boston where he had been on a trip to participate in the commissioning of the Navy's new carrier, U.S.S. *Wasp*. Among the many dignitaries who attended his funeral were former President Herbert C. Hoover, a close, personal friend and my colleague Senator MCCAIN's grandfather Admiral John S. McCain, Sr., Commander of Carrier Task Force 38. Congressman Ditter was buried with military honors at Whitmarsh Memorial Cemetery. In light of his distinguished service to our nation, the Navy named a destroyer-mine layer in his honor, U.S.S. *J. William Ditter* (DM 31).

U.S.S. *J. William Ditter* was a fitting tribute to Congressman Ditter. The Sumner class destroyer, which was converted to a high speed mine layer, was christened by Mrs. J. William Ditter on July 4, 1944. It was commissioned on October 28, 1944, and served as a unit of Division 9, Mine Squadron 3. Congressman Ditter's dedication and service to his country was mirrored by the actions of the men on U.S.S. *J. William Ditter*. The "Fighting J. Willy", as the crew called the mine layer, destroyed many Japanese suicide aircraft and boats during its years of service.

The end of April marks the fifty-fifth anniversary of the brave actions of the crew in the early days of the oper-

ations in Okinawa. U.S.S. *J. William Ditter* greatly contributed to the success of the first landings on April 1, 1945 by escorting transport ships carrying American invasion forces.

On April 12, U.S.S. *J. William Ditter* joined the radar picket line to protect ships against attacking Japanese aircraft. On April 26, U.S.S. *J. William Ditter* drove off an attacking enemy aircraft, and on April 27, the crew helped to down two enemy aircraft. On April 28, the crew shot down an attacking suicide aircraft and combined its fire with another ship in order to shoot down two other hostile aircraft. On April 29, the crew detected and attacked an enemy submarine.

By May 28, 1945, U.S.S. *J. William Ditter* had shot down eight Japanese aircraft and assisted in destroying three others. On June 6, 1945, in the radar picket line of Task Force 51.5 patrolling southeast of Nakagusukua Wan, U.S.S. *J. William Ditter* shot down four. However, one suicide plane hit U.S.S. *J. William Ditter*, inflicting heavy damage and numerous casualties. Ten men were killed and twenty-seven were wounded on that fateful day.

Although the ship was repaired enough to make it home to the United States, it was decommissioned and struck from the Navy's fleet when the war ended. Despite the short term of service, U.S.S. *J. William Ditter* had a distinguished war record, keeping in honor with the person for whom the ship was named—Congressman J. William Ditter.

The crew deserves special recognition for their service, and I am pleased to be able to commend them on the floor of the United States Senate. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of the names of the crew members who served on U.S.S. *J. William Ditter*.

As an addendum, I think it is appropriate to note the distinguished public service of Congressman Ditter's son, J. William Ditter, Jr., who is a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania where I knew him as a practicing attorney in that court.

There being no objections, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CREW OF THE U.S.S. "J. WILLIAM DITTER"

Anthony R. Amoroso, Robert Amoroso, James D. Anderson, Harold W. Andrews, James Carlton Annis, Bernard Appelbaum, Armin Argullin, Hans Arnbel, Thomas E. Ates, Lester Bailey, Hayden B. Baker, Harold G. Baker, Robert A. Baker, John L. Balog, Archie Y. Barhardt, Jack L. Bates, Lester E. Bausch, Bruce J. Baxter, Jr., George William Baxter, Robert W. Beale, Bertram D. Bekemeyer, Stefan Belajsak, Loyd D. Benton, Harold L. Berger, Frederick Binder, Coy Blair, Jr., Martin Block, Jr., James O. Blow, Ronald Clarence Blucher, Tyrus Augustus

Bohler, Joshua G. Bosley, Jr., Oscar S. Bowden, Joseph E. Brackett, Charles F. Bradley, Grady H. Bradley, William I. Bradley, Cameron C. Breedlove, John E. Brennan, Wallace C. Brought, Jr., Robert Joseph Bruckbauer, John M. Bryan, Ranson G. Buff, Chester Durward Bullard, Henry A. Bunch, Jacob L. Burkett, William T. Burns, Charles E. Burriss, Joseph F. Burrows, Lester Earl Busby, Jake L. Bynum, Ralph W. Byrd, John P. Byrne, Carl R. Cagle, Jr., Herman Leonard Cain, George Henry Cambria, John R. Carpenter, Melvin Edward Carpenter, Elijah C. Carter, Joseph S. Caruso, Ronald F. Cashin, John W. Caulk, Jr., John G. Chambers, Howard C. Childers, Kenneth H. Chitty, John C. Church, Luke E. Church, Charles H. Clark, James Franklin Clark, Harvey G. Clendenin, James P. Clouse, Kermit T. Cocherham, Walter Fielden Cochran, Otis Elbert Cochran, Frank W. Collins, John I. Colvin, Jack L. Connelly, Eugene C. Cook, Garland V. Cook, Aubrey Bernard Cousins, Alfred R. Cox, James H. Craig, Alton V. Cranfield, Jr., Bruce Alvin Crauswell, Russell B. Crawford, James V. Creasman, John William Crown, Howard J. Cummings, Theodore L. Cunard, Jr., Andrew Joseph Cuneo, John R. Curry, Ralph Ray Curtis, Walter Czarnecki, Doyle O. Daniell, Robert A. Darrah, Franklin Armfield Daughton, Cecil C. Davis, Edward T. Davis, Wilbur A. Davis, Charlie A. Deal, Edward J. Derricott, Charles H. Di Francesco, Bataille Stevenson Dickenson, Ed Lawrence Dickerson, Earl W. Dillon, Philip Dinerstein, Edward P. Domme, Kenneth F. Dommel, Kenneth Cedric Dowell, Elwyn T. Drew, Roland A. Du Sault, Marvin Leroy Dukes, Carl G. Dunn, Francis R. Dymck, Lloyd E. Eagleson, Frank S. Echternach, William L. Eckrote, Charles K. Edmonds, John C. Effner, Keith A. Emerson, Frederick J. Ernst, James E. Erwin, John E. Evans, Ludwig M. Eymann, Theodore Fabey, Warren Harding Fanning, Francis R. Farney, Edward C. Faytak, John Fernandez, Joseph F. Ferriols, Nathan Feuerstwin, Harold R. Fisher, James E. Fleenor, Charly L. Flynn, Urben G. Foley, James Gordon Foley, Melvin L. Ford, Otis Leonard Forehand, Ellis Joseph Foster, Vernon Alfred Frederickson, James L. Freeman, Edward J. Freet, Jr., Dudley V. Frye, Loy J. Gammel, Peter Gardner, R. Giachelti, Travis C. Gilchrist, Robert M. Glover, Sherman L. Goggins, George E. Gold, Lawrence J. Gordon, Eugene Franklin Graves, Louis W. Graves, James J. Greenwood, Elbert Gregory, Alderman Lewis Griffis, Stephen Grigos, Norman A. Gross, James Hasil Grubbs, Jr., William Franklin Gurkin, Jr., Anthony M. Gurnari, Harvey E. Hall, Lawrence Ray Hamilton, Kelse J. Hamlin, Vaughn L. Hanson, Lester L. Hardy, Leo C. Harris, Jr., Lester Harris, Thad Harris, Herman D. Hartman, Jr., Arthur H. Hawkins, John

B. Hawthorne, Edward J. Haywood, John W. Heafner, Hugh Plonk Heauner, Herbert Kenneth Heim, Donald E. Heiner, Herbert K. Helm, William R. Helms, Sr., Robert A. Herman, Howard L. Herthel, Joe Shafter Higginbotham, Clarence E. Higgs, Richard L. Hinton, Dewey T. Hobgood, Francis J. Hoey, William E. Hoffman, Thomas Alexander Holden, Lester Manford Holladay, Harold Arthur Hollstrom, John L. Holt, Jr., Marvin J. Holtz, Harold G. Holzworth, John Henry Honour, Jr., Clyde E. Hooper, Marvin G. Hoover, Clay T. Houchin, John M. House, Leslie C. Hovis, Jr., James Samuel Hughes, Stanley J. Humphrey, Robert Angelo Iafrate, James Bernard Ingley, James Michael Irwin, Robert Lee Jacobs, Albin Maynard James, James Oscar Jarvis, Lee N. Johnson, Robert R. Johnson, Wilbur N. Johnson, Carl Chesley Johnson, Ralph Ross Johnston, James E. Jones, Walton Hailey Jones, Norman Emmett Jump, Arthur Louis Junker, Henry William Kaiser, James L. Keever, John Y. Keith, Jr., Charles Fenwick Kendall, Raymond F. Kennedy, Galin Kerr, John E. Kirkpatrick, Andrew F. Klacskiewics, Berry L. Knight, James Knowles, Arnold Stuart Knudsen, Arthur J. Koch, Theodore Koch, Hazel L. Kolb, Edward J. Kolenski, George E. Kondas, Joseph G. Krakow, Walter A. Laarser, Kenneth S. Lancaster, Joseph Landers, Charlie M. Langley, William D. Langley, Laurance John Langley, Norman L. Langlois, J. Larney, Nick T. Laudas, Albert F. Lechewicz, Curtis F. Lee, Allan Marley Lee, Sabatino Donato Leo, Albert A. Leuesque, Walter Leuthold, John W. Lewis, Arthur L. Linker, Robert P. Llewellyn, Warren E. Lloyd, Vincent J. Luei, Robert W. Lultrell, Jr., William N. Lynch, William Wallace Lynch, Paul S. Manzone, Elliot G. Mapp, Tony Marcello, Creighton William Marshall, Billy B. Martin, Terrance M. Mason, Russell E. Mattson, Vincent D. McCall, Lloyd A. McCraney, William J. McCrudden, William R. McKay, Jr., George W. McQueen, Joseph A. Mezzanotti, Warren Calvin Milard, Daniel Millard, Joseph A. Minieri, Peter F. Monahan, Martin Mondzak, Richard L. Montgomery, William B. Morgan, Bennie W. Morris, Sr., Henry A. Mueller, John K. Murray, Frank H. Nearing, Norman D. Nipping, Wilbur O. Niven, Lee S. Nordigan, Paul Peace Norris, Donald V. Northrop, Donald W. O'Shaughnessy, Milton P. Orr, Joseph F. Ott, Jr., John Edward Pacheco, Melvin Painter, Paul Gregory Paltakos, Chester Ray Park, Frank A. Patalane, James O'Neal Peatross, Abner Hartfield Perry, Henry R. Peter, Chester G. Polad, Reginald Smith Porter, John G. Porto, Woodrow W. Potter, Albert W. Price, Roy Prince, Nathan Prizer, Theodore F. Profant, Paul C. Raddatz, Jr., Louis H. Rauschenberg, Eugene A. Reese, Albert Reid, Jr., Lucas Reyes, Guy H. Rhodes, Arthur H.

Rich, Zerney W. Roberts, Sr., Marvin E. Robinson, Joseph Rus, Claude C. Samples, Anthony Santamaria, Thomas F. Sarafield, Arthur A. Saunders, Elmer G. Schleif, Donald L. Schnurr, William Schoene, Jr., Joseph Schrippe, George Schroeder, Kenneth R. Schwarz, Harry L. Segal, Roland O. Sewing, Earl F. Shank, Earnest L. Shelley, Thomas Wayne Shexhan, James L. Sikes, Paul S. Smith, Hugh Berkley Snyder, Paul Samuel South, Frank A. Spiller, John W. Sprouse, Andrew A. Staske, Brune S. Stee, Alexander A. Steiner, Frank D. Stewart, Randolph T. Stickhouse, Charlie W. Strader, Jacob Straf, Anthon T. Stricklend, Michael J. Strusinski, Joe H. Summerlin, Benar L. Thompson, William Leslie Tiffany, Ben Lyman Titus, Henry Gustav Toepfer, Wykliff N. Tolari, Jack E. Tompkins, James Henry Torian, Warren E. Traak, Clinton A. Trick, Fernando B. Tucker, James L. Turner, Mark C. Turner, William M. Turscanyi, Earl C. Umsuf, Joseph Valenti, Jess Marnell Van Cleave, George Richard Venerable, William E. Vogel, John P. Walsh, William D. Warner, Helmuth J. Weber, Herbert Roy Weber, Frank William Whitfield, Billy B. Williams, George Willie Wilson, Robert W. Winke, Frederick A. Wirth, Joseph Wozny, James R. Yates, and Carl L. Young.

#### ELIAN GONZALEZ

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to take this occasion to say something about the Elian Gonzalez case. I have not spoken formerly in the Senate about it, but it has been addressed by several of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. For me, it is simple because it is not about politics; it is about the heart; it is about family.

Some may call me old fashioned. I think kids belong with their parents—I have always believed that—unless there is some reason a child should not be with the parent, if the child has a bad parent. There is no proof of that in any way, or suggestion of that, except at the last minute the relatives who are caring for Elian, now, have made these charges.

It seems as if every time the father comes closer, he becomes a worse person. First, he was wonderful. They said, he is wonderful but he doesn't care about his son; he is not here. Now he is here, and they still will not turn the child over.

I have a little grandson. He is about a year younger than Elian, so I am pretty familiar with kids that age because I have watched him so closely. They are babies; they really are. They are little children. They are babies. They are impressionable. That is why it is so important to treat them well and to not use them for any purpose—let them be children.

I have to say unequivocally as a grandmother, not as a Senator, I be-

lieve it is very harmful for a child to be exposed to screaming adults outside of his home, day in and day out, shouting things. There is something wrong with that. It is harmful to a child.

I also want to point out there is room for politics over the Cuba issue. Of course there is. But it is not around this case. It should not be around this case, either by those in this country who want to make it a political issue, or Fidel Castro, who may well want to do that if and when Elian is back. That would be deplorable.

We have to treat this child gently. We have to reunite this child with his living parent. I just would like to make a plea to those who do not want to do that and who have said that to get Elian with his father is going to take people coming to the door, that they will not relinquish this child except if there is force used, that is not the way we do things in this country.

This is a country of peaceful laws. That is why we have courts. That is why people have to obey court orders. We have laws. We cannot, because we disagree with them—God knows, every one of us disagree with jury verdicts; we disagree with laws; we disagree with decisions. The beauty of our Nation is that we are a country of laws. We must make it clear those laws should be obeyed. We ought to do it in the best interests of this child, which means gently and peacefully.

#### REMEMBRANCE OF THE KATYN FOREST MASSACRE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to remind my fellow Americans of a horrific tragedy which occurred in Poland six decades ago. April 13 serves as a day of remembrance of this terrible massacre.

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland to begin World War II. Two weeks later, in accordance with the secret Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the East and completed the partition of this nation. The Soviet invasion lasted eleven days and resulted in the forced deportation of 1.5 million Poles to Russian labor camps. Of those 1.5 million, approximately 15,000 Polish military officers disappeared under mysterious circumstances. On June 22, 1941, tensions between Germany and the Soviet Union exploded as the German army stormed into Soviet territory. It would take nearly two years before the German army would uncover evidence relating to the 15,000 Polish officers who had disappeared in 1940.

In 1943, German forces near Smolensk, in western Russia, investigated reports they heard from Russian civilians to the effect that a large number of prisoners had been murdered by the Soviet secret police in the area nearly three years earlier. The German investigators were led by local Russians to a