Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, today on the East Front of the Capitol ground is being broken for the new Capitol Visitor Center, a project that will take at least five years and hundreds of millions of dollars to complete. Nearly a century ago, in March 1901, the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia embarked on another project. The Committee was directed by Senate Resolution 139 to "report to the Senate plans for the development and improvement of the entire park system of the District of Columbia ***. (For the purpose of preparing such plans the committee *** may secure the services of such experts as may be necessary for a proper consideration of the subject.)

And secure "such experts" the committee did. The Committee formed what came to be known as the McMillan Commission, named for committee chairman, Senator James McMillan of Michigan. The Commission’s membership was a “who’s who” of late 19th and early 20th-century architecture, landscape design, and art: Daniel Burnham, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., Charles F. McKim, and Augustus St. Gaudens. The commission traveled that summer to Rome, Venice, Vienna, Budapest, Paris, and London, studying the landscapes, architecture, and public spaces of the grandest cities in the world. The McMillan Commission returned and, building on the plan of French Engineer Pierre Charles L’Enfant, fashioned the city of Washington as we now know it.

We are particularly indebted today for the commission’s preservation of the Mall. When the members left for Europe, the Congress had just given the Pennsylvania Railroad a 400-foot wide swath of the Mall for a new station and trackage. It is hard to imagine our city without the uninterrupted stretch of greenery from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, but such would have been the result. Fortunately, when in London, Daniel Burnham was able to convince Pennsylvania Railroad president Cassatt that a site on Massachusetts Avenue would provide a much grander entrance to the city. President Cassatt assented and Daniel Burnham gave us Union Station.

But the focus of the Commission’s work was the District’s park system. The Commission noted in its report:

"Aside from the pleasure and the positive benefits to health that the people derive from public parks, in a capital city like Washington there is a distinct use of public spaces as the indispensable means of giving dignity to government buildings and of marking the extraordinary conditions between the great departments ... (V)istas and axes: sites for monuments and museums; parks and pleasure gardens; fountains and canals; in a word all that goes to make a city a magnificent and consistent work of art were regarded as essential in the plans made by L’Enfant under the direction of the first President and his Secretary of State."

Washington and Jefferson might be disappointed at the affliction now imposed on much of the Capitol Grounds by the automobile.

At the foot of Pennsylvania Avenue is a scar of angle-parked cars, in parking spaces made available temporarily during construction of the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building. Once completed, spaces in the building’s garage would be made available to Senate employees and Pennsylvania Avenue would be restored. Not so. Despite the ready and convenient availability of the city’s Metrorail system, an extraordinary number of Capitol Hill employees drive to work. The demand for spaces has simply risen to meet the available supply, and the unit block of the Nation’s main street remains a dirt road. During the 103rd Congress and thereafter I proposed the “Arc of Park,” legislation that would almost completely eliminate surface parking. Under my proposal the Architect of the Capitol would be instructed to eliminate the unsightly lots, and reconstruct them as public parks, landscaped in the fashion of the Capitol Grounds. A key element of my proposal was that—to the extent we continue to offer it—parking must be put underground. I rise today to emphasize the need for us to remain firm and consistent work of art and to displace some parking. I urge you to support the Architect in his request.

Today, as we break ground on a new project, one that will nearly double the size of the Capitol, let us not forget the grand vision of the McMillan Commission from a century ago. Washington is the capital of the most powerful nation on earth, and deserves to look it.

THE F.I.R.E. ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to America’s local fire fighters who put their lives on the line every day protecting the lives and property of our fellow citizens. When the call comes in, they answer without question or hesitation. Unfortunately, local and volunteer fire departments are in dire need of financial support. The health and safety of fire fighters and the public is jeopardized because many departments cannot afford to purchase protective gear and equipment, provide adequate training, and are short staffed. It is time for Congress to lend them a helping hand. That is why I have cosponsored a bill in the left this body, the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement or FIRE Act. This bill, S. 194, authorizes a program granting up to one billion dollars for local fire departments across our great country. The money would be available to volunteer, combination, and paid departments. It would help pay for much needed equipment, training, EMS expenses, apparatus and arson prevention efforts and a variety of education programs.

Wildfires across America and Montana are a growing threat. The FIRE Act is especially critical for rural states such as Montana as we rely heavily upon our volunteer firefighters.
to protect those things we hold dear. Quite often these volunteer depart-
ments are the only line of defense in these rural communities. It’s time we
provide them with the needed funds for proper training and equipment to bet-
ter protect their communities.

I offer my sincere gratitude to our Nation’s fire fighters who put their
lives on the line every day to protect the property and safety of their neigh-
bors. They too deserve a helping hand in their time of need.

I commend Senators DODD and DEWINE for introducing this important
legislation, and urge all my colleagues who have not done so to sign onto this
bill. I would like to encourage the Committee to hold hearings on S. 419 and
suggest that we continue to move this bill forward toward ultimate pas-
sage.

Thank you Mr. President, I yield the floor.

**GUN VICTIMS OF TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1999**

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the
Columbine tragedy, but still this Re-
publican Congress refuses to act on
sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Amer-
icans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will
read some of the names of those who
lost their lives to gun violence in the
past year, and we will continue to do so
every day that the Senate is in session.

These names come from a report pre-
pared by the United States Conference of
Mayors. The report includes data on
firearm deaths from 100 U.S. cities be-
The 100 cities covered range in size from Chicago, Illinois, which has a pop-
ulation of more than 2.7 million to Bed-
ford Heights, Ohio, with a population of
about 11,800.

But the list does not include gun
deaths from some major cities like
New York and Los Angeles.

The following are the names of some
of the people who were killed by gun-
fire one year ago today—on June 20, 1999:

- Ed Barron, 39, Detroit, Michigan
- Jeremy Davis, 39, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Myron Frennery, 22, Houston, Texas
- Jose Garcia, 18, Chicago, Illinois
- Agustin Gonzalez, 21, Houston, Texas
- Fernando Gonzalez-Cenkeras, 35, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Jovel D. Gwinn, 22, Kansas City, Missouri
- Roshon Hollinger, 5, Atlanta, Georgia
- Antwane Johnson, 29, Denver, Colorado
- Edward Johnson, 36, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Loris Larson, 35, St. Louis, Missouri
- Robert Mirabelli, 20, Chicago, Illinois
- Frederick Ratner, 16, Memphis, Tennessee
- Coartney Robinson, 20, Dallas, Texas
- Arnold Webb, 30, Detroit, Michigan

In the name of those who died, we
will continue the fight to pass gun
safety measures.

I yield the floor.

**ARREST OF VLADIMIR GUSINSKY
IN RUSSIA**

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I
rise today to express my deep concern
about the recent arrest in Russia of
Vladimir Gusinsky and its negative im-
pact on press freedom and democracy
under the leadership of President Putin.

Mr. Gusinsky runs Media Most, a
major conglomerate of Russian media
organizations, including NTV, Russia’s
only television network not under state
control. Media Most is a leader in Russian
news reporting, and its outlets have of-
ered hard-hitting, often critical ac-
counts of Russia’s brutal campaign in
Chechnya, as well as reports on alleged
Government corruption. Besides being
an important media and business ex-
sclusive, Mr. Gusinsky is a leading
figure in the Russian Jewish commu-
nity, serving as President of the Rus-

cian Jewish Congress.

On May 11, just days after President
Putin’s inauguration, Russian federal
agents in a major show of force raided
several of Media Most’s corporate of-
fices, raising immediate concerns
about the direction of press freedom in
the new government. These concerns
intensified on Tuesday June 13 when a
Russian prosecutor called Mr. Gusinsky
in for questioning, and then arrested
him on suspicion of embez-

zling millions of dollars worth of fed-

eral property. On June 16, Mr.
Gusinsky was released from prison
after the prosecutor formally charged
him with embezzlement.

It is very difficult for anyone to ad-

dress fully the specifics of such
charges, and the Russian government’s
case against Mr. Gusinsky, when so lit-
tle information has been made avail-
able by the Russian government. How-
ever, the circumstances of the case
raise serious concerns about the initial
direction of press freedom and democ-

racy under President Putin. As one of
the opening acts of the new Adminis-
tration, the government chose to carry
out a heavy-handed, much publicized raid on an organization led by high pro-
file Government critics. It chose to

arrest the leader of an organization,
Media Most, that is one of the few out-
lets of independent news about con-
troversial Russian government poli-
cies. The fact that this arrest took
place while President Putin was trav-
eling abroad, and that he public-
ly speculated that the arrest might have been
excessive, serves to make the situation
and the Government’s policy even more
confusing and unsettling. Moreover,
this case in not occurring in a vacuum.

After President Putin’s election, but
before his inauguration, there were dis-
turb ing signs of government hostility
toward Radio Free Europe/Radio Lib-
erté. Evidence that this was the case is
printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the ma-
terial was ordered to be printed in the
Record, as follows:

> [From The New York Times, June 15, 2000]
> A CHILLING PROSECUTION IN MOSCOW

While President Vladimir Putin is trav-
eling through Europe this week extolling
the virtues of Russian democracy, his colleagues in the Kremlin have been philo-

gists. The arrest and detention of Vladimir
Gusinsky, the owner of media properties
that have carried critical coverage of the
government, is an assault against the prin-
ciple of a free press. Whatever the merits of
the alleged embezzlement case against Mr.
Gusinsky, there was no need to haul him off
to prison, an action that cannot help but stir
fear in a nation all too familiar with the ar-
bitrary exercise of state power.

If the rule of law prevailed in Russia, and
Mr. Gusinsky could count on a presumption
of innocence, quick release on bail and a fair
trial, his arrest might seem less ominous.
But Russia lacks a fully independent judicial
system, and the government still uses crimi-

nal prosecution as a political weapon. He is
charged with embezzling at least $10 million in federal property, apparently involving
his purchase of a state-owned television station
in St. Petersburg. He says the accusations are
false.

This is a stench of political retaliation
about this case. Mr. Gusinsky’s company,
Media-Most, owns numerous newspapers and
magazines as well as Russia’s only inde-

pendent television network. Their coverage
of the war in Chechnya has been aggressive and
skeptical, and they have not been hesi-
tant to investigate government corruption and
other misconduct. Last month heavily
armed federal agents raided the Media-Most
office in Moscow, the first signal that the
Kremlin might be trying to intimidate Mr.
Gusinsky.

Mr. Putin seemed surprised by the arrest,
calling it “a dubious present” when he ar-

olved in Madrid on Tuesday. That offers lit-
tle comfort to anyone concerned about Rus-

 sia’s fragile freedoms. If the arrest was
meant to embarrass Mr. Putin while he is
visiting Western Europe, it is disturbing evi-
dence of palace intrigue and political insta-

bility in the Kremlin. If Mr. Putin received
advance notification about the arrest and
failed to order the use of less draconian tac-

tics, he has done a disservice to the press
freedoms he says he supports.

> [From The Washington Post, June 15, 2000]
> MR. PUTIN SHOWS HIS KGB FACE

The most recent defining act of Russia’s
new president, Vladimir Putin, is more So-
viet than democratic. In an apparent effort