

For instance under my bill if you fire a gun during the commission of a Federal crime, if it is the first offense you will get 30 extra years in jail. If it is the second offense, you will get a minimum of 50, 50 extra years in jail.

The key message is that we have had it with gun related violence. Americans have zero tolerance for gun crime so our justice system should as well too. I think we should keep those who would misuse guns in jail and not let them walk the streets as they have done in the past. No more slick criminal defense attorneys pushing criminals to freedom through legal loopholes, no more soft sentences before the judge, no more legal gymnastics setting criminals free after a fraction of their allotted time in jail. My bill sends a very clear message:

If you want to use a gun to commit a felony, plan on spending the next few decades behind bars, no exceptions.

□ 1730

I believe that the new Congress has brought about true change. We have worked hard to balance the budget for the first time in a generation, just as we said we would. We worked hard to reduce the burden of big government on hardworking Americans and job-creating businesses, just as we said we would.

As I have laid out here today, we have worked very, very hard to make our streets safe and our schools more secure, just as we said we would. We are doing it so we can restore the American dream for every child, for every family, for a brighter and safer 21st century, because I believe together, in a bipartisan fashion, that this Congress has had a number of successes, and that together, and in future Congress, we can continue to build a future for that child, and that child than can be raised by his own parents, not the village, but by his family, for a bright and safe 21st century.

REPORT FROM INDIANA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOLEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my report from Indiana. Each weekend my wife Ruthie and I travel across the State of Indiana, and often we meet good people who are taking responsibility for making our communities a better place to live. In my book, these people are Hoosier heroes, Hoosier heroes because they work and sacrifice to make a difference.

Today I would like to recognize many of those individuals involved with the Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center in Columbus, IN, as Hoosier heroes. There are 5,000 people who live in this neighborhood, one of the older parts of Columbus. The families who live in the Lincoln Central neighborhood may be considered poor in finan-

cial terms. There are 40 percent of them who are under the poverty line. Eighty percent of the children from that neighborhood are on free or reduced lunches. But I want to submit, Mr. Speaker, that they are rich in spiritual materials, because citizens from around the city came together to form a community group to help rebuild, to clean, and to make Lincoln Central a better place to live.

They are people like Hutch Schumaker, a local businessman and community leader, who donated his time to make sure that the planning was in place and the community was behind the effort to improve Lincoln Central neighborhood; people like Randy Allman, who is the coordinator of the Lincoln Central neighborhood group, who is responsible for conversion of the armory into single apartments for senior citizens; and Kate Garvey, who is a local resident. She has been very active in the planning committee, making sure people from the community are involved in this effort.

Then there is Diane Doup, who is the activities coordinator. She is responsible for allowing folks to come in and tour. She took me and then later Ruthie on a tour of the neighborhood so we could witness firsthand the remarkable efforts of the citizens of this neighborhood, taking charge of their own lives to build a better future.

Citizens in the Lincoln Central neighborhood come from one of the poorest areas in the inner city of Columbus, but by joining together to improve, strengthen, and secure a better way of life, their mission is very simple. I want to quote to you today, Mr. Speaker, from their mission statement:

To create a safe and caring neighborhood where individuals are treated with respect and live in harmony in their community.

It first started in 1994, when hundreds of volunteers from around Bartholomew County, including local churches, businesses, and other groups, joined with the 5,000 neighborhood members in Lincoln Central neighborhood to work together. Along with some of the local service agencies, they took charge in a resolve to meet the needs of their community.

When I was there I toured around the neighborhood in August and I happened to see some of their projects. I was greeted by proud residents who were eager to show me how they were improving their neighborhood. They began by buying up some of the old houses, getting them purchased so they could resell them to families who needed them. Now those houses have been fixed up and painted up and are some of the best-looking houses on the block. These families have been allowed to move in and they have a better hope for the future.

The neighbors have come together and they bought up one house next to an old play lot and have torn it down, and are converting the entire area into a new playground for the kids of Lin-

coln Central neighborhood. I saw many dilapidated old homes that they have targeted for refurbishment and renewal, so those who are less fortunate will have a better place to live.

What is so remarkable is one of the comments I heard from Jerry Combest, a resident. He told me, as an organization, we are looking for a hand up, not a handout. We want to help make our lives better for ourselves. That comes through in the spirit from the members of the Lincoln Central neighborhood. They are not sitting back and asking somebody else to take charge of their lives and their neighborhood. They want to take responsibility and fix up their own neighborhood. These good people are leading the way as examples in Columbus, IN. I am proud of their good work.

I want to say that everybody involved with the Lincoln Central neighborhood has earned the title of Hoosier hero.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today through Tuesday, September 10, on account of official business.

Mr. GEREN of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of personal business.

Mr. SANFORD (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of assessing the effects of Hurricane Fran on his district.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. VOLKMER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BONIOR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. VOLKMER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. SCHROEDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PORTER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MCINTOSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PORTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to: