

National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center in my hometown of Charleston.

Senator BINGAMAN and I hope this combination of technological expertise and real-world experience will produce a blueprint for a comprehensive security plan which can be used in any school in the nation. The center will be—and here I quote from the amendment—“resource to local educational agencies for school security assessments, security technology development, technology availability and implementation, and technical assistance relating to improving school security.”

Additionally, our legislation authorizes the Department of Education to begin a competitive grant program to provide funds to local school districts to implement a school security plan, with a preference for schools most at risk of violence.

Again, the Safe Schools Security Act is not a panacea; it will not eradicate all the violence in our schools. But it is an important step in the right direction. The Act will use the expertise the Departments of Justice, Energy, and Education possess to help prevent tragedies like the one that befell Jonesboro. Developing a security model and assisting local schools to implement comprehensive school security plans is the right thing for us to do. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment, and I thank my cosponsor from New Mexico, Senator BINGAMAN, for his hard work and great assistance.

Mr. COCHRAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the amendment authorizes grants to be made on a competitive basis to try to establish security technology systems and other devices and programs to help deal with this problem.

The amendment has been reviewed on this side of the aisle, and we have no objection to having a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 2160) was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be temporarily laid aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside.

AMENDMENT NO. 2161

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] proposes an amendment numbered 2161.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On amendment No. 2118, on page 1 after line 13 insert “shipbuilding”.

On page 3 line 7 Of amendment No. 2100, change the word “requirement” to “requiring”.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this is a technical amendment that corrects language in amendments previously adopted by the Senate on this bill. The amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2161) was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 6 minutes as if in morning business.

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

GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this morning I heard a brief statement by the Senator from Arkansas, Senator BUMPERS, about the tragedy that occurred in his State in the last 48 hours. This tragedy happened apparently when a couple of young children, 11- and 13-year-old children, allegedly stole some weapons and then, on a schoolyard in that small town in Arkansas, murdered five other children and a teacher.

I watched the reports on television and listened on the radio. My children asked me about what they were hearing on those television news reports this morning. It is hard for a parent to explain to a child a news story about children allegedly murdering other children, at a schoolyard. It is hard for me to understand what all of that means or what causes that kind of behavior. I don't think any of us know. We do know that in this country there always needs to be an understanding by everyone—parents, children, and all Americans—that guns and schools don't mix, and that there never ought to be a circumstance in which a child brings a gun to school.

The reason I mention this on the floor today is I want to put this in the context of a piece of legislation that is now law and another piece of legislation that I want to make law. The piece that is now law is a bill I offered a couple of years ago here in the Senate saying that there ought to be a uni-

form zero tolerance policy in every school district in this country. If a child brings a gun to school, that child will be expelled for a year. No questions, no excuses.

People need to understand that you cannot bring a gun to school. But if you do, you are going to be expelled for a year. I am pleased to say that the Gun Free Schools Act is now law, and every school district in the country is required to have that policy in place in exchange for access to Federal funds.

To those who opposed it—and there were some—I asked the question: “Why would you oppose that? Do you believe that in any school district in this country it is appropriate for a child to bring a gun to school?” They didn't think so. “Do you disagree with the penalty? Should we as a country say to every child and to every adult that they cannot bring a gun to a school?” That led me to the second question. And that is the piece of legislation that I would like to get passed here in this Congress.

A few years ago, a 16-year-old young man walked down the corridors of a school in New York. He had on a leather jacket, and there was a bulge on the side of his leather jacket. The security guard at the school stopped this young boy because he was suspicious of the bulge, and, in the waistband of that boy's pants underneath that leather jacket, he found a loaded pistol. The kid was kicked out of school for a year, and he was also charged with criminal weapons violations.

A New York court stood common sense on its head when it ruled in this young boy's case that the gun could not be allowed as evidence in his dismissal action from school because the security guard did not have reasonable suspicion to search him.

Fortunately, that court decision was overturned later by another court. But can you imagine a court saying that? A young boy with a loaded pistol at age 16 walks down the corridor of a school. Because a security guard noticed the bulge in the boy's jacket and takes the loaded pistol from him, the court said the kid's rights were violated. You can't go to the airport and get on an airplane without going through a metal detector. If you have a gun, they will take it away from you immediately and you are not going anywhere. Why should you be able to take a gun into a school?

As I said, that decision was overturned by a higher court.

But the legislation I have introduced, the Safer Schools Act, will make it clear that a gun seized from a student in school can and will be used as evidence in a school disciplinary hearing. No court ever ought to make the same mistake as the earlier court by applying the exclusionary rule even to an internal school hearing. A student doesn't have any right under any condition to carry a loaded gun in the hallways in our schools in this country. Under no condition should that be acceptable. That is why I will offer this

piece of legislation as an amendment at an appropriate time. I hope the Congress will agree at that time that we ought not ever again have a court decision that says a student caught with a gun in school cannot be expelled because the student's rights were abridged when the security guard noticed the bulge in his jacket and searched the student. What an outrageous piece of judgment by a judge who apparently didn't have any judgment.

Ending where I began, my heart breaks for those families, those children, that teacher, and for all of those who suffered that tragedy in Arkansas. I don't know what the cause of all of this is. It is the third such tragedy on schoolyards or in our schools in not too long a period of time. I hope as a country we can think through and find ways to prevent other tragedies from occurring.

But I do know this. As a country we ought to have one voice saying in every circumstance all around this country that it is never appropriate to bring a gun to school; that doing so imposes on you a certain sanction in every school district in this country, and that is a 1-year expulsion. That is now law. And I hope the next law will come from the amendment I will offer in this Senate at a later time saying, if you bring a gun to school, the school authorities have a right not only to search you and withdraw the gun but also to expel you without being afraid they have somehow abridged some one's rights. No student has a right to bring a gun to school.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATURAL DISASTERS AND OVERSEAS PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 2162

(Purpose: To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to extend the term of marketing assistance loans)

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside, and the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), for himself and Mr. BURNS, proposes an amendment numbered 2162.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 59, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. . EXTENSION OF MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS.

Section 133 of the Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7233) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend the term of a marketing assistance loan made to producers on a farm for any loan commodity until September 30, 1998.”

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, might I inquire, is there a time agreement on this amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 30 minutes evenly divided.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, this amendment is very simple. It is to give the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to extend the marketing assisting loans until September 30 of this year.

Why are we doing this? Why am I offering this amendment? It is very simple. The northern tier U.S. farmers are suffering dire economic consequences for a lot of reasons. No. 1, the price of grain, particularly wheat and barley, is very low. We have had very depressed prices for a lot of years. Second, a lot of grain from Canada is shipped down to northern tier States. More grain trucks are coming, it is anticipated, and I believe, frankly, that Canada is beginning to fudge on an agreement it reached with the United States several years ago. Prior to that time, Canada shipped about 2.5 million metric tons of wheat to the United States. We brought the Canadians to the negotiating table, and Canada agreed to limit its shipment to the United States to 1.5 metric tons. That was several years ago. It is clear to me that Canada is at least fudging that agreement and is increasing shipments of grain to the United States.

After that, with the problems we have in dealing with Canada with respect to trade in agriculture, we lost one of the main levers. We had section 22 to say to Canada, “You are disrupting our markets.” That was the purpose of section 22 of the Agriculture Price Stabilization Act, not too many years ago. But we negotiated that away in the last GATT round. In return, all countries promised to reduce their subsidies, particularly their export subsidies. But Canada still retained the Canadian Wheat Board. Not only Canada but other countries—Australia—have their wheat boards, which is a monopolistic control over that country's billing and selling of grain, particularly wheat.

After that, Americans placed limits on exports that other countries don't have. For example, I cite the various countries. The total amount is about 10 percent. Our exports are limited by the sanctions that we imposed preventing exports to certain countries. Canada doesn't have those sanctions, Argentina doesn't, the European Community doesn't. We are limiting our farmers.

A couple of years ago, we passed the Freedom to Farm Act. You recall under that act we basically decoupled agricultural price support payments from production. From that point on, farmers had more freedom in the production of their crops, the crops they could choose.

At that time, too, the price of wheat was very high. As I recall, it was around \$6 a bushel, almost as high as \$7 a bushel. Now it is down, in many cases, below \$3 a bushel. At that time, farmers realized that they had a bit of a Hobson's choice here: On the one hand, support Freedom to Farm—at that time, corn was high and the price support payments were decoupled but were quite high at the time even though they had been coming down gradually—so now it is not much less. Farmers could either vote for that—support Freedom to Farm—or keep the present program. Most farmers decided they would gamble on Freedom to Farm, basically because prices were good at the time.

But in exchange, American farmers expected—in fact, they were promised—that the United States would fight vigorously to open up foreign markets—fight vigorously to open up foreign markets. I might say, I do not think anybody in this Chamber thinks the U.S. has fought very vigorously to open up foreign markets to the sale of wheat and other grains. We have talked about it. There has been a lot of talk about it but not a lot of action.

So all I am saying is, in exchange for the U.S. Government's failure to fight to open up markets for American products, particularly wheat now—exports of wheat—at the very least, we can extend the loan provisions of the current law 5 months, to September 30, 1998.

It just seems to me, because the farmers now are suffering so severely, bankers are starting to call in loans, bankers are not giving farmers additional operating capital—at the very least, we can extend the marketing assistance loan period for 5 more months to the end of 1998, to give farmers a chance, a little longer into 1998, before their loan is called and they have to pay back their loan at the current loan rate.

What you are going to hear is this. You are going to hear: “Oh, gosh, there we go. We are opening up the Farm Act, Freedom to Farm.” That is not true. In no way does this amendment open up or revisit the Freedom to Farm Act.

We are also going to hear this sets a bad precedent—here we are, after passing Freedom to Farm, where the Government is coming in.

But I say that, first, our goal here is not to be rigidly consistent and mechanically steel-trap logical and just rigidly sticking to something. Rather, our charge here, our obligation, is to do what is right. I think it is right just merely to extend marketing assistance loans to the end of the year. We are not going back from Freedom to Farm; not any other change.