

Mr. STEVENS. Will the Senator withhold that request?

Mr. BUMPERS. Yes.

Mr. STEVENS. There is some question as to amendment 2100, Madam President. It is the IMF amendment. It is Senator MCCONNELL's amendment, which now has been amended by two amendments which were adopted this morning. No further amendments are in order. But I was informed that some Senators do wish to speak on the McConnell amendment before it is voted on. And it will be voted on at 11:45.

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. STEVENS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I announce that Senator GRAHAM will not offer his amendment.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BUMPERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for 2 minutes as if in morning business.

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

#### THE JONESBORO SHOOTINGS

Mr. BUMPERS. Madam President, I simply want to call to the body's attention—indeed, to the American people's attention—an editorial in the Washington Post this morning called "Trigger Happy."

As you know, my home State is Arkansas, and we have just experienced one of the gravest tragedies in the history of our State. People all over the State—not just those in Jonesboro—are grieving over the loss of four children 11 years old, and one 32-year-old pregnant schoolteacher, a catastrophic happening that no one can even begin to explain.

But the Post this morning certainly points out one of the serious problems facing this country, and one with which we have never even come close to coming to grips with, and I don't in the foreseeable future see us coming to grips with it. But here it is: In 1992, handguns killed 33 people in Great Britain; 36 in Sweden; 97 in Switzerland; 60 in Japan; 13 in Australia; 128 in Canada; and, 13,200 in the United States.

There was a study completed by the Violence Policy Center. And as the Post points out—they can't put it all in here. But listen to this:

For every case in which an individual used a firearm kept in the home in a self-defense homicide, there were 1.3 unintentional deaths, 4.6 criminal homicides, and 26 suicides involving firearms.

The overall firearm-related death rate among U.S. children aged less than 15 was nearly 12 times higher than among children in the other 25 industrialized countries combined.

From 1968 to 1991, motor-vehicle-related deaths declined by 21 percent, while firearm-related deaths increased by 60 percent. It is estimated that by the year 2003, firearm-related deaths will surpass deaths from motor-vehicle-related injuries. In 1991 this was already the case in seven States.

Madam President, those figures are so shocking to me. I have studied this issue for some time and have lamented the increasing violence from the Postal Service. And now it seems that it is becoming endemic in the schoolyards in America.

When in the name of God is this country going to wake up to what is going on in the country and the easy accessibility to guns?

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam 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. 2100

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, there are now 20 minutes left for further debate.

I ask unanimous consent that time be divided between the majority and minority.

Does the Senator wish any time?

Mr. HAGEL. Two minutes.

Mr. STEVENS. I yield on the majority side 2 minutes to the Senator from Nebraska.

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

Mr. HAGEL. Madam President, I rise with about 20 minutes remaining before the vote on the IMF package.

I wish to first thank the distinguished chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator STEVENS, for his leadership in this area. This is a tough issue. It is an important issue. It is an issue that has come to the floor with much heated debate and exchange. But I wish in just a minute to try to put some perspective on what we are doing here.

First, our economy is connected to all economies of the world. When Asian markets go down and currencies are devalued, that means very simply that we in the United States cannot sell our

products in Asia. Asia has represented over the last few years the most important new export opportunity for all of the United States—not just commodities and agriculture, but all exports. What we are doing today is connected to all parts of the world. We understand something very fundamental about markets and that is that markets respond to confidence. We in the United States—because it is, in fact, in our best interests to participate and lead, not to bail people out, not the IMF bailing anybody out, but what we are doing through a very deliberate businesslike approach, an approach through the IMF established 50 years ago—are participating in a loan process where this country has never lost \$1. We ourselves have used this.

So today all those colleagues of mine who have been so helpful, so involved, I wish to thank and wish also, in these final minutes, to encourage all my colleagues to take a look at this, understand the perspective, ramifications, the consequences, and the importance of what we doing here with this IMF support.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, we are about to complete action on the supplemental appropriation for the International Monetary Fund. I want to thank the chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, Senator MCCONNELL, and Senator HAGEL, who have worked hard to reach agreement on compromise IMF language that the Treasury Department can support.

The amendment we are about to vote on provides the full amount requested by the President for the IMF, including \$3.4 billion for the New Arrangements to Borrow, and \$14.5 billion for the quota increase. None of this money costs the U.S. Treasury. It is repaid with interest. In the event of a default, it is backed up by IMF gold reserves.

This amendment is not perfect. Few are. It does not directly address certain issues I am concerned about, including workers' rights, military spending, and the environment. Neither the IMF nor the Treasury Department have worked aggressively enough to ensure that IMF loans do not promote exploitation of workers, subsidize excessive military spending, or result in environmental harm. I would have strongly preferred conditional language on those issues similar to the economic and trade conditions that are in the bill. However, that was explicitly rejected by the Republican side. I am encouraged, however, that language on these issues is included in the House bill, and will be discussed in the conference. I also want to credit Senator WELLSTONE, whose amendment addresses these concerns.

I should also mention that the McConnell-Hagel amendment does require further progress on information disclosure by the IMF, an area that I have worked on for many years as it relates to all the international financial institutions. The World Bank has