

happened to be a law school classmate of mine in Portland, Oregon.

One morning at 10:30, she was having a hearing on a domestic relations matter two floors below where I was working as a county commissioner. Shots rang out. Candice was dead, along with her assailant who was the husband of the woman she was representing.

This impact had a dramatic ripple effect. It was not just the loss of Ms. Jones' life, but it was a loss for her husband, it was a loss for her brother, friends, and colleagues. Certainly, everybody in that courtroom was scarred by that event.

Madam Speaker, it is hard for me to share even today, not because we were that close particularly. In fact, I knew her brother much better, who was a distinguished and respected faculty member at our college, Professor Leonard DuBoff. But what is hard for me, besides the tragic loss of this woman, was that we as a society, we as a government know we can take steps to reduce gun violence, and we do not.

Over the same period of time that we lost those million gun deaths, we as a society cut the rate of auto death in this country in half. There was not any single magic solution, but there was a determination on the part of citizens and government alike to take simple, common sense steps to improve traffic safety, auto design, and law enforcement.

We can do the same thing to reduce gun violence. Luckily, there are now some States where citizens have taken the matters in their own hands, like my own State of Oregon where there is a measure on the ballot in November that will allow people to close the gun show loophole. I am confident that voters will overwhelmingly, when given this chance, vote affirmatively, as they will in Colorado.

It is strange that at a time when leaders in the Mideast are once again taking risks for peace, in fact, putting their own lives at risk by stepping forward, I am sad that the Republican House leadership will not stand up to the gun lobby and take a small but important step for peace in this country to reduce gun violence.

We have not had a meeting of the conference committee on the juvenile crime bill for the last 15 months. It was last August that it met. It has a provision that would enable us to close the gun show loophole that has already passed the Senate.

This is just but one small step, but it would send a signal that we in the House of Representatives care enough about saving lives of families in this country to take modest political risks to do the right thing.

There is still time yet in this session of Congress to do that, to convene the conference committee, to allow the House of Representatives to vote on closing the gun show loophole, to take a small step to make our communities more livable, our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

All praise and honor to You, Lord God. Each day You shower the United States of America with blessings. Enable us to receive Your gifts graciously.

With gratitude for all we have received, may each of us use our gifts in service to one another. Like good stewards dispensing the grace of God in various ways, may our very diversity give You greater glory.

If any of us is to speak out, let us speak with Your Word. If any of us desires to serve, let it be in the strength You supply.

The speaker needs another to listen. The dispenser of good gifts needs another to receive graciously. May true dialogue and the exchange of gifts be the unfolding of Your power in our midst.

In all things, let us so act that the glory and the power be Yours forever and ever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TODAY

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES SENATOR JOE LIEBERMAN MISSES GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

(Mr. COMBEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMBEST. Madam Speaker, last week, the Democratic candidate for Vice President made a brief stop in Odessa, Texas, in my district. He arrived with an agenda to embarrass our hometown son, Governor George Bush. He tried to cast Odessa in a bad light by making false claims against one of our most ardent businesses, the Huntsman Corporation.

The Huntsman plant is a business anchor to the Permian Basin, employing over 700 hard-working men and women. It is a good corporate citizen and an asset to our community. I am sorely disappointed that their campaign would exploit our town for political gain.

The folks of Odessa and Midland were ready to accommodate their guests. However, the candidate snubbed officials from both cities, including the chambers of commerce, mayors, and even the chairman of the Democratic Party. Our local media was also kept at arms' length. Only the candidate's handpicked media could cover the story, with only biased facts.

We in politics fully understand the staged media events and photo-ops, but the Senator's treatment of these kind folks, whom I am honored to represent, was truly uncalled for and out of line. His visit was a missed opportunity for him to meet the real success story in the Permian Basin, the people.

DRUG CZAR DID NOTHING FOR UNITED STATES BORDERS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the Drug Czar is retiring to teach national security issues at two colleges. Now, do not get me wrong. I like General McCaffrey. But for years, while truckloads and boatloads of heroin and cocaine were coming across our border, General McCaffrey asked for more money, more cops, more halfway houses, more counselors, and more TV commercials. He did nothing about our borders.

This drug czar lecturing on national security is like Janet Reno teaching a class on treason. Beam me up.

I yield back the fact that, while our soldiers are vaccinating dogs in Haiti, American police departments are training police dogs to sniff out heroin and cocaine in our schools. Think about it.

