

year, and such changes are likely to affect only a small percentage of these cases.

So these proposals do not represent serious attempts at legislation. Rather, they are a transparent attempt to legislate by sound bite and kill a bill that they themselves only recently agreed was the best approach to juvenile justice.

Housing juveniles in adult prison facilities means more kids likely to commit suicide, to be murdered, physically or sexually abused, than their counterparts in juvenile facilities. As a matter of fact, children in adult jails or prison have been shown to be 5 times more likely to be assaulted and 8 times more likely to commit suicide than children in juvenile facilities.

So the repeated studies of prosecuting juveniles as adults indicate that rather than serving as a deterrent to juvenile crime, prosecuting more juveniles as adults merely leads to greater and more serious recidivism.

If we are truly interested in juvenile justice reform, we must begin by rejecting unprincipled amendments allowed by the rule that would cut the heart out of this bill and stick to the principles of H.R. 1501. This was the bill produced by a bipartisan process, unanimously approved by the Subcommittee on Crime.

In the wake of the recent school tragedies in Littleton, Colorado, Conyers, Georgia, and other places, the American people now deserve and expect reform. We cannot and should not allow false arguments about getting tough on crime and prosecuting juveniles as adults to prevent us from achieving these important goals.

Let us carefully review and reject most of these amendments that will send us further backwards instead of moving us forward as the American people would wish.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, if I might, I want to make sure it is very clear that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), despite his criticism and concern about pending amendments, he does and has all along supported this underlying bill, H.R. 1501, that is out here right now, unamended. Am I not correct?

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield, he is absolutely correct. We support H.R. 1501. But we have never had hearings on any of the other accompanying amendments.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I just wanted to make the point again that we start today with a very bipartisan product that Democrats, Republicans alike, support on juvenile justice.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from Florida yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I just think it is sort of ironic that the very ones that wanted us to come straight from the Senate with a bill to the floor with no consideration are now complaining because there was not enough consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that the truth will make us free if we admit what the truth is. Every once in a while, I read something or hear something that blows away all that smoke that clouds a particular issue. A letter written by a Mr. Addison Dawson to the San Angelo Standard-Times is just such a statement. In fact, after I make this statement, I do not think anybody else needs to speak. We just need to vote.

The following is Mr. Dawson's letter, which Paul Harvey read on his radio show: "For the life of me, I can't understand what could have gone wrong in Littleton, Colorado. If only the parents had kept their children away from the guns, we wouldn't have had such a tragedy. Yeah, it must have been the guns.

"It couldn't have been because half our children are being raised in broken homes. It couldn't have been because our children get to spend an average of 30 seconds in meaningful conversation with their parents each day.

"After all, we give our children quality time. It couldn't have been because we treat our children as pets and our pets as children.

"It couldn't have been because we place our children in day care centers where they learn their socialization skills among their peers under the law of the jungle, while employees who have no vested interest in the children look on and make sure that no blood is spilled.

It couldn't have been because we allow our children to watch, on average, 7 hours of television a day filled with the glorification of sex and violence that isn't even fit for adult consumption.

"It couldn't have been because we allow (or even encourage) our children to enter into virtual worlds in which, to win the game, one must kill as many opponents as possible in the most sadistic way possible.

"It couldn't have been because we have sterilized and contracepted our families down to sizes so small that the children we do have are so spoiled with material things that they come to equate the receiving of the material with love.

"It couldn't have been because our children, who historically have been seen as a blessing from God, are now being viewed as either a mistake created when contraception fails or inconveniences that parents try to raise in their spare time. It couldn't have been because we give 2-year prison sentences to teenagers who kill their newborns.

"It couldn't have been because our school systems teach the children that they are nothing but glorified apes who have evolutionized out of some primordial soup of mud.

"It couldn't have been because we teach our children that there are no laws of morality that transcend us, that everything is relative and that actions do not have consequences. What the heck, the President gets away with it.

"Nah, it must have been the guns."

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, this has been a hard bill to follow because the majority has been kind of playing a legislative shell game. We started with this bill and that bill, and this bill became part of that bill, and that bill went into that bill, and this amendment was pulled out to be offered by a Member who might have a little political difficulty.

So I am not familiar with everything that is in here. But after listening to the majority whip, I have to read it more closely, because I may have missed the part in which we ban the teaching of evolution.

I know we have had a lot of discussion of what was causing the problems here, but I just heard the majority whip say it was Charles Darwin's fault. It is apparently evolution. It is teaching children that they are the products of evolution that is the cause of this.

So I will have to watch more carefully for the amendments when we get the amendment of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip, correcting the teaching of evolution.

I have to say, as I listened to him, I have not heard such an angry denunciation of the American people since SDS used to pick at me 30 years ago. I guess there is a degree of anti-Americanism here that I had not anticipated. It is the American people's fault. They are involved in family planning. They are teaching evolution. They are doing all these things.

Plus, I guess somebody ought to arise to defend the States. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) said the States' juvenile justice is broken down. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is mad at the States. The poor States. I guess the States rights movement we should officially inter today.

What we have today is an announcement. Hey, States, you do not know to handle your local criminal business. We, the all-knowing Congress, will take care of it. So we will abolish the teaching of evolution, and we will diminish States rights, and we will solve the problem.

I guess I wished they had stopped at that, though, because I am now looking at the amendment that has been made in order by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the chairman of the committee, and I must say I am impressed by the gentleman's discretion. I have not seen him here all morning. I am not surprised that he does not want to be associated with all of this.

But the gentleman's amendment, I was going to ask, Mr. Chairman, if we