

UNITED STATES



U. S. Congress

OF AMERICA

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 92^d CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

VOLUME 117—PART 3

FEBRUARY 17, 1971, TO FEBRUARY 25, 1971
(PAGES 2741 TO 4082)

BRIEF LECTURE

Judge McLaughlin noted in a brief lecture that he recently had given other "users" of marijuana a sentence of probation without verdict. But he had said publicly at that time that the next time such cases came before him he would mete out jail sentences.

The defendant's lawyer said the youth was married and was the father of a 4-month-old child. He was attending college part-time.

Before passing sentence, Judge McLaughlin said: "Sometimes judges suffer more than the defendants when they have to hand down a jail sentence."

He then told the youth that he must serve four months in county jail "starting at night only when school is over."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SENATOR WALTER F. MONDALE

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a statement of my estimated net worth as of December 31, 1970, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SENATOR WALTER F. MONDALE, DECEMBER 31, 1970

ASSETS	
Residence in Washington.....	\$63,000
Automobiles:	
Chevrolet	2,750
Oldsmobile	3,270
Subtotal	6,020
Household and personal goods.....	5,000
Cash value of life insurance.....	2,456
Personal contributions to Federal employees retirement system....	15,427
Total assets.....	93,396
LIABILITIES	
Mortgage on residence in Washington	38,981
Personal loan (C. A. Nickloff Agency, Hibbing, Minn.)	3,366
Miscellaneous personal bills.....	800
Total liabilities.....	43,647
Estimated net worth.....	49,749

DR. MILTON S. EISENHOWER DISCUSSES PROBLEMS OF VIOLENT CRIME

Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. President, an outstanding American, whom I am proud to claim as a Marylander, is Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower of Baltimore. Dr. Eisenhower is a former president of the Johns Hopkins University and served as Chairman of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence.

Last fall, the undergraduates at Johns Hopkins organized a Milton S. Eisenhower symposium in Dr. Eisenhower's honor, and invited him to give the opening address. In that speech, Dr. Eisenhower, from his perspective as Chairman of the Commission on Violence, gave a broad overview of the severe problem of violent crime in America and the multifaceted dilemma we face in trying to reduce it.

I would like to call Dr. Eisenhower's remarks to the attention of the Senate and ask unanimous consent that they be included in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the speech was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

VIOLENT CRIME: AN OVERFLOW

(By Dr. MILTON S. Eisenhower)

We live in an urban society. We live in an affluent society. And we live in a society that is violent.

In the convergence of those three characteristics lies a central problem for America in the 1970's.

In the metropolitan areas, where two-thirds of the American people live, violent crime is rising, and fear is rising in its wake. Fear is manifested in the locked doors, the empty streets, the growing number of guns bought for self-protection, the signs on public buses that say: "Driver does not carry cash." It is the neglected conditions in American cities that help to account for the rise in violent crime, but violent crime is the cancer that may kill the cities and paralyze the suburbs as well.

The potential products of American affluence—flights to other planets, supersonic transports, rebuilt cities, effective systems of mass transit, clean air and water—all these will be hollow achievements if, at the same time, we ignore the despair and alienation of a large portion of our citizens who do not share adequately in America's affluence. The price of ignoring their situation will be ever-mounting rates of violent crime—and ever-spreading fear, with its paralyzing results.

Dr. Norval Morris, Professor of Law and Criminology, University of Chicago, said to the Commission on Violence: "Crime for the first time is a threat to the quality of life in this country," and Dr. Price M. Cobbs, the distinguished black psychiatrist, said, "If violence continues at its present pace, we may well witness the end of the grand experiment of democracy."

And the Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, after obtaining the unprecedented help of two hundred of the nation's leading scholars in history, law, sociology, criminology, psychiatry, and other fields—after obtaining public evidence from some 150 individuals, ranging from student radicals to police chiefs, from scholars to the head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation—and, after considering this complex problem among ourselves for a year and a half, said to the President of the United States: "We solemnly declare our conviction that this nation is entering a period in which our people need to be as concerned by the internal dangers to our free society as by any possible combination of external threats."

II

The best estimate of the number of serious crimes committed in the United States each year is ten million, of which more than 1,200,000 are violent crimes: homicides, aggravated assaults, forcible rapes, and robberies. According to another estimate, more than 1 out of 100 Americans commit a major violent crime in any one year. Many more, of course, commit a serious crime some time in their lives.

This violence in our midst earns us the distinction of being the clear leader in violent crime among the modern, stable nations of the world. Thus, the United States, with 200 million people, averages fifty times as many gun murders a year as do England, Germany, and Japan combined with their total population of 214 million.

This appalling statistic calls to mind other salient features of our culture. The more than 90 million firearms privately owned by Americans give us the distinction of having the highest—far highest—gun-to-population ratio of any nation on earth. About half of all American homes have a firearm, and many have more than one. About 25 million

of those weapons are *concealable handguns*, and these are the firearms used in virtually all aggravated assaults and robberies involving firearms and in three-fourths of all gun murders.

Parenthetically, let me add that I continue to be perplexed by the blind, emotional resistance that greets any proposal to bring this senseless excess under control. We lag behind every other civilized nation in the world in failing to have a comprehensive, effective national policy of firearms control. Yet when the Commission on Violence, after careful weighing of all the relevant facts and arguments, recommended a policy of restrictive licensing of handguns and a simple identification system for long guns, vitriolic mail began to pour into my office in Evergreen House. I was labeled with every epithet I'd ever heard—and some I'd never heard before—from "you shame the Eisenhower name" to "fascist" and even to "Communist" (these last two covering quite a spectrum). Vociferous opposition of this sort has kept this nation from instituting a sane, effective policy of firearms control. In the meantime, the senseless tragedies repeat themselves: the domestic quarrel or argument between friends turns into a homicide because a gun is available for acting on the rage. Guns are handy to support the yearnings of the sex maniac. Guns are available to those who hold up banks, filling stations, savings and loan associations—and too often the guns are used as more than a threat. So merchants are leaving the city in fear of their lives. Residents are fleeing to the suburbs and there installing every known type of protective device. And in the meantime, police in most parts of the country are without an effective legal maneuver against the criminal who possesses a pistol, unless they catch him in the actual act of using it in a crime.

If, on the other hand, we had restrictive licensing of handguns, similar to the Sullivan law of New York State, police could, with the use of modern electronic equipment, spot a metallic object on a suspect and, even under recent Supreme Court rulings, frisk a suspect. If the suspect is found with a gun and lacks a license, he can be convicted and sentenced on that evidence alone. There can be no doubt that in a few years the right law would have a profound effect in reducing the crimes of armed robbery, aggravated assault, and homicide.

Guns alone do not give us the distinction of being the most violent of the advanced societies of the world. Controlling firearms would greatly reduce fatalities and discourage many criminal careers, but international comparisons show that our capacity for acts of rage and rapacity is impressive, whether or not firearms are involved. Thus, aggravated assault—which often is just a murder which didn't work out—occurs in the United States at a rate twice that of England and Wales, eighteen times that of Canada. Rape occurs at a rate three times that of Canada, twelve times that of England and Wales. Our robbery rate is double that of Canada, nine times that of England and Wales.

To complete the picture of America the Violent we would have to sketch in the riots that have erupted in American cities in recent years, the firebombings of campus and public buildings by a lunatic radical minority, the attacks by mobs on peaceful demonstrators, and the outrageous killings of students by law enforcement personnel.

By cold statistics, group violence has not been a major problem compared to individual acts of violent crime. A Commission on Violence study looked back over five years and counted 190 deaths and 9,100 injuries from group violence, mostly ghetto riots; in that same five-year period, 53,000 Americans were victims of reported murders; more than a million were injured in aggravated assaults. And if it is fair to extrapolate from a Har-