

issue. And all I can say very quickly is that a parent ought to have a right to leave a loaded gun around, a kid ought to have a right to pick it up and shoot somebody because that's what makes America great. Don't you all realize that? That's what really makes America great. Kind of silly, isn't it? I hope you support resurrecting this bill to the floor.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Schellpeper a question if would answer.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, he's on the phone. In Virginia the Governor is being excoriated because he's in favor of legislation that would restrict Virginians to purchasing no more than one gun per month. The NRA and these other nutty people are running around saying that's violating my constitutional rights to get a gun to defend myself. This fool, who is saying that, can buy 12 guns in a year and only got two hands. If he or she could shoot one gun with each finger, in one year you buy two more guns than you can use at any one time with every finger blazing. That's the kind of craziness that's abroad in the land and other people who want you to think they're intelligent fall prey to the NRA which is one of the most destructive organizations in this society but they've got money. Senator Schellpeper needs to know, if somebody hasn't told him, this bill does not take anybody's gun. You can have a thousand guns, you can have a thousand pistols, you can have a thousand rifles or shotguns, whatever you want to have but it makes you responsible for keeping that loaded weapon away from a child. You always hear this expression that the NRA uses, law-abiding Americans who own guns. What they don't tell you is that the majority of people were law-abiding before they used the gun. These guns are used mainly against family members, close friends and acquaintances. In fact, those are the categories against whom most homicides are committed. If you took all the guns away, you would reduce by more than 50 percent the number of homicides that occur in this country. The NRA doesn't tell you that. See, there is money, there is money in guns and ammunition. There is money in manufacturing them, in selling them, in trading them and making the ammunition. Money is what is driving the NRA. Senator Schellpeper hasn't come out of the telephone booth yet. This bill is as modest an approach as can