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Congressional Record S. 13973 - 'Drug, Gun and Obscenity'

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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three of the most pressing matters that face this country.

On Wednesday of this week the agenda of the Judiciary Committee contains the legislative proposals dealing with the dissemination of obscene material to minors, as well as a proposal to meet the growing problem of salacious advertising. In addition, the Judiciary Committee may have on its agenda for the next meeting the drug bill; a comprehensive proposal that is designed to update the fight against this spreading menace in line with our experience.

These matters are most critical. The legislative solutions sought for these problems are of the highest priority. And the committee may be assured that their recommendations to the Senate on these matters will be welcomed with expeditious handling by the leadership. Certainly there are no issues of more significance.

It is also hoped that the Committee on the Judiciary at its next meeting will consider the proposal that would make the use of a gun in committing a crime a separate and distinct offense punishable with a mandatory sentence. This is the so-called Lesnick bill. And what it says is that the growing use of guns by criminals and the resultant homicide rate in this country is going to be met with punishment that fits these acts of violence.

I believe the contents of this bill will provide a degree of deterrence that does not now exist. I am hopeful that this proposal will be favorably considered during the Judiciary Committee's deliberations.

I have strongly endorsed these efforts to meet all of these problems in our society—obscenity, drugs, and gun crime. I speak for the entire Senate in expressing the hope that these proposals are written into the law books before the session adjourns.

HIGH PRIORITY MATTERS ON
AGENDA OF COMMITTEE ON THE
JUDICIARY THIS WEEK

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I would like to call the Senate's attention to the action scheduled by the Senate Judiciary Committee later this week on