

Section 109. Conforming amendments.

Title II. Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 201. Repeal of the long-distance telephone call certification requirement.

Current Federal statute requires agencies to certify that individual long distance calls are in the interest of the Federal Government. This law dates from 1939, when a long-distance telephone call was expensive and viewed as a luxury. In many instances, the cost of certifying a call will often exceed the cost of the call itself.

According to the JFMIP report, this change would save \$19.3 million per year.

Section 202. Authority to require use of the travel charge card.

Currently, Federal agencies receive a payment based on charges made by its employees under the government-wide travel charge card program administered by GSA. Many payments, including cash advances, hotel charges and airline tickets for travel expenses are not charged to the card. This limits the potential rebate.

Section 203. Prepayment audits for transportation expenses.

This section authorizes audits prior to payment to verify transportation expenses. All other invoices submitted to the Federal Government are generally audited by the procuring agency for correctness prior to payment. Currently, GSA uses audit contractors to perform prepayment audits on some transportation vouchers. These contractors have identified overpayments that were four times the amount of the payments to contractors, proving that this is a cost-effective tool. In contrast, the GSA Office of Transportation Audits spends \$11 million to recover \$12 million in overpayments using postpayment audits.

According to the GSA, this change would save \$50 million per year.

Section 204. Reimbursement for taxes on money received for travel expenses.

The 1992 Energy Act inadvertently established a tax liability for certain Federal employees. The Energy Act limited the income tax deduction for business related travel expenses incurred while away from home to a maximum of one year (the prior maximum was one year). Most temporary duty assignments are less than one year. Because of this tax change, most Federal agencies have limited temporary assignment to one year.

Most Federal agencies were unaware of this requirement because the IRS did not notify them until December of 1993 and did not withhold tax payments from the employee's salary. Thus, many of the impacted Federal employees were liable for a lump-sum payment plus penalty and interest. In some instances, the tax liability exceeds \$1,000 per employee.

According to GSA, this change would cost \$4 million on a one-time basis.

Section 205. Transfer of authority to issue regulations.

This section gives statutory authority to the Administrator of General Services to issue regulations, which are currently the subject of a delegation of authority from the President pursuant to several Executive Orders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. BAKER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BAKER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

JUST DO IT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Wyoming [Mrs. CUBIN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, you all have seen the Nike ad with the words "Just do it?" That should be the slogan for the Democrats in Congress. They talk about a balanced budget. I say: Just do it. They talk about welfare reform. I say: Just do it. They talk about tax relief. I say: just do it. They talk about an end to big government. I say: just do it.

Talk is cheap, and nowhere is talk cheaper than in Washington. We've had enough talk, enough rhetoric, enough promises. It's time to stop talking about change and start making it happen. What we need is action, and we need it now. We need to stop all this wasteful spending—now. We need to balance the budget—now. We need to end welfare as we know it—now. We need tax relief for the forgotten American worker—now.

Did you ever wonder why Washington waits to solve a problem until it becomes a crisis? The American people should never accept second-best from their government or their elected leaders. They deserve better.

And why not? America's best days are still ahead. In the America of the 21st century, no one needs to be left behind. If we stop all this tax and spend behavior, we will end the Clinton crunch that as contributed to our national anxiety. And if we stop all this spending, we will end the tax trap caused by misguided Washington bureaucrats who want to spend more of your money, leaving you with less.

Let me be as clear as I can. Americans have a right to earn more, keep more, and do more. That's how we restore the American dream. Working together in a spirit of respect, with the right economic policy and incentives, our nation's potential is unlimited. We are Americans. There is nothing we cannot achieve. The best is yet to come. I say, just do it.

CHURCH BURNINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS] is recognized for the balance of the time until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about the issue of church burning. Before I do, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman from North Carolina who had a resolution tonight on the floor of this House and it passed. And I want to thank the gentlewoman for her leadership in that area. I also want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have been asked by the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus to chair an issue that we have been talking about tonight for some time. That is the issue of church burning, burnings across the country.

I take a moment of personal privilege to talk about these church burnings

here again tonight because in my own State five churches were burned.

Second, Mr. Speaker, I feel like Fannie Lou Hamer tonight. I feel sick and tired of being sick and tired. I am tired of individuals who have no respect for human life and no respect to buildings, burning churches at night. I also feel sick and tired of being sick and tired because while individuals burn churches at night, we have people who wake up in the morning and put on black robes and burn congressional districts in the daytime. And I think that is simply unacceptable and unconscionable.

I am happy that the gentlewoman from Texas will be a part of this special order tonight and the gentleman from Illinois will be a part of this special order tonight, the gentlewoman from California as well as the gentleman from South Carolina.

Before we talk about church burnings, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a little bit about the districts that were burned today in the Supreme Court. To know that as a result of this ruling, a State like the State of Texas, a State with a population of almost 20 percent African-Americans, will not have the opportunity, not the guarantee but will not have the mere opportunity to send an African-American to this Congress is absolutely unacceptable and unconscionable. These burnings must stop, not only the burning of churches but the burning of congressional districts and legislative districts across this country. In order for us to get along in this country, in order for us to move forward in this country, we will have to learn how to be more inclusive.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas, who has represented her constituents so well here in this body. I want to say to her in no uncertain terms that she has done a great job. Continue to press on and know that you must keep the faith. We are very pleased with the work that you do.

Now, on the issue of church burnings, Mr. Speaker, the CBC, the Congressional Black Caucus, we will first have a hearing right here in the Nation's capital. We will have the Justice Department. We will have ATF and all Federal agencies involved. That hearings will be headed and led by Congressman CONYERS. And we will talk, we will also have black churches, members, ministers of black churches to talk about these church burnings. Then we will leave this capital and we will travel across this country in each congressional district or each State where there has been church burnings, because we will not accept individuals putting torches to churches.

We are going to insist that every Federal agency in this country use every ounce of its power, every ounce of its resources, to make sure that we find the perpetrators of these crimes and bring them to justice and then move very swiftly to prosecute them.

I have, Mr. Speaker, a map of the entire United States of America which

gives you some sense of church burnings across the country. Before I yield to my colleagues who have joined me here tonight, I want you to see, I want Members of the House to see how this proliferation of church burnings is taking place all across this country.

Utah, the State of Utah, one church burning; Colorado, one church burning; State of Arizona, one church was burned. Even the State of New Mexico had a church burning.

Texas, the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of Texas, not only have they burned the districts, the congressional districts in the State of Texas, but two churches, two black churches were burned in the State of Texas as well, which is absolutely, positively unacceptable and we must insist that every Federal agency that has anything to do with investigations do everything possible to find the perpetrators of these crimes.

The State of Oklahoma, one church; even the State of Illinois, the gentleman from Illinois who is here tonight, a church was burned in his States. The State of Tennessee, which leads the whole Nation in terms of church burnings, six churches were burned in the State of Tennessee; five in the State of Louisiana; three in the State of Mississippi; five in the State of Alabama; one in the State of Georgia; five in the State of South Carolina, the gentleman who is here tonight, five churches were burned, many of them were in his congressional district; three churches in North Carolina; one in Virginia; two in Maryland; one in the District of Columbia; one in New York; and one in Pennsylvania.

And then to know that in Oklahoma, which is the most recent church burning, when we were debating tonight, we were debating on this floor about church burnings, to wake up the next morning and learn that a church was burned in the State of Oklahoma, it absolutely irks Members of this Congress, particularly Members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I want to thank the Members who decided to come here tonight at the wee hours of the night because this is an important issue. I want the Members of this congress to know that the Congressional Black Caucus will not sit idly by and allow individuals to burn churches and get away with it. We are going to insist that every Federal agency that we have under the control of this Federal Government do everything that is humanly possible to find the perpetrators of these crimes, bring them to justice and then prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. JACKSON], who has been participating in these special orders for some time, and also to the gentleman from South Carolina and the gentlewoman from Texas and the gentlewoman from California as well.

□ 2330

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. I want to take this opportunity to thank my distinguished friend from Louisiana, the distinguished gentleman, CLEO FIELDS; and you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us the privilege and this opportunity to address the House during this special order.

Anyone who might have misunderstood what happened in the 1994 elections should have clearly been set straight on the 23rd of January 1995. That day, in the ornate hearing room in the House Committee on Rules, the victorious Republicans, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, removed a portrait of former Representative Claude Pepper of Florida, a renowned white, liberal Democrat, and certainly that was understandable because the Republicans certainly have the right to change pictures in various committee rooms to reflect their new majority. But what tickled me about this was that the new Republican committee chairman, Mr. SOLOMON of New York, distinguished colleague of ours from New York, had ordered the Pepper portrait to be replaced by another Democrat, the late Howard Smith of Virginia, a last-ditch segregationist in many of his years as Committee on Rules chairman, one of the most powerful opponents of civil rights legislation of the sixties.

And so I am here today to really join my colleague from Louisiana, my colleague from California, my colleague from Texas, and my colleague from South Carolina really to say that we are sick and tired as well of being sick and tired, sick and tired of having our churches burned at night, sick and tired of having our districts burned during the daytime, and what is left? Without political representation here in this institution to protect our rights in the society beyond Washington, with this whole motion and movement towards States rights, we are looking at the same kind of climate that we witnessed during the Tilden-Hayes Compromise of 1877.

I spoke not long ago at a high school to some students who at the end of my presentation stood up and asked the question, they said, "Representative JACKSON, what's the difference between a Democrat and a Republican?"

And I tried to say Democrats fight for jobs, they fight for opportunity, they make room for more people, and Republicans tend to be pro-business. But one of the young people said, "But wait a minute. I've heard Democrats on the floor argue on both sides of that issue."

And so in 1877 what we really had was two parties with one assumption. Demopublicans, they called them, and Republicrats; they really conspired. We call it States rights, we call it more access to resources in our communities by the States, and they began shifting more resources to the States, and by 1896 they had stacked the Supreme Court kind of, if you will, a Clarence Thomas court, a kind of Scalia court,

and then we got Plessy versus Ferguson. We had 22 African-Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives between 1863 and 1896, and after they stacked the Supreme Court, black robes, not white sheets who burn churches, but black robes who burn districts by day; by 1901 there were zero blacks in this institution, and I believe it was our late colleague from Illinois, Mr. DuPriest, who stood in this well and gave a speech: We will rise again like the phoenix, we will be back. And then it is not until the 1954 Brown versus the Board of Education decision that allowed the principle of equal protection under the law to be extended to the States in the form of a 1964 Civil Rights Act, a 1965 Voting Rights Act, and after three different reapportionments, the 1970 census, the 1980 census, the 1990 census. African-Americans in this body are now finally achieving comparable numbers to those numbers that they had at the turn of the century. And now we are looking at Supreme Court decisions once again that are consistent with Plessy versus Ferguson, and it is really unfortunate in 1996 that Mr. Thomas is leading the voting rights cabal.

I also rise this evening to stand with my colleagues and to join the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] and the gentleman from the other side of the aisle, Mr. WATTS, in support of their resolution to condemn not only these church burnings, but also to demand that our Federal Government put the kind of resources behind this investigation that is necessary. Mr. Deval Patrick, the assistant attorney general for civil rights, along with the Attorney General of the United States, Miss Janet Reno, have indicated to us on more than one occasion that this is the largest civil rights investigation of its kind, and we are just so grateful to have Representatives in this body who can fight and encourage the Justice Department to put those kind of resources behind these kinds of acts of violence, and it is only because we are here that we can really fight for this right.

And so I would hope, and I have indicated this on another occasion as I prepared to yield time to the gentlewoman from Texas, that in 1996 we have an opportunity in this House, knowing that race and churches are being burned and opportunities are being burned, we have an opportunity in this House not to be demagogic in 1996. There is no need for us to vote on affirmative action in this House in this climate; it only means that more churches will burn. We should put it in the 105th Congress. There are other racially sensitive issues in this political climate that should not be considered in this political climate, and I would urge those in the majority to consider the climate and the times that we are living in and move these votes into the next Congress and give us the opportunity and the Nation the opportunity to have an election that will be free of race and race insensitivity.

And with that, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas. She had a very tough and a very long day. She is one of the most outspoken Members in the House of Representatives. We can count on her to fight for women's rights, we can count on her to fight for the rights of locked-out and disenfranchised people in our country, and it is just unfortunate that a woman of her calibre and her stature who has represented not only African-Americans—people see us, they see African-American, but my district is 65 percent African-American, 35 percent white and Latinos and others live in my district. I am not just a black Representative or a black Congressman. I represent probably one of the most diverse districts in this country. I do not know an African-American in here who represents 99 percent African-Americans. Our districts are diverse, and so she represents her district and has served this institution with great honor, and today the Supreme Court of the United States rules against the calibre and the quality of leadership that she represents.

With that, I now yield time to the distinguished lady from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE].

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the lady.

I think the gentleman is absolutely right. The gentlewoman represents a very diverse district, and, as I stated earlier, we appreciate her leadership, and I think citizens not only in her congressional district but citizens all across her State and citizens all across this country appreciate her leadership, and this time I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. The esteemed gentleman from Louisiana is appreciated, along with my respect for my colleagues who are here on the floor of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina in his leadership over the years in fighting for the rights of South Carolinians, the gentlewoman and her leadership from California, as I have spoken to her frequently on her concern about education, and the gentleman from Illinois who has reached out to the younger voter and demanded of that younger voter that they be part of this process called America.

The gentleman from Louisiana has had a longstanding friendship with young people, but more importantly I have admired his refusal to, even though tired and maybe sick and tired, never to be broken, and I appreciate your leadership on this special order. You are right to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina and the gentleman from Oklahoma for their wisdom and vision earlier this evening to begin to set the tone for the American public on this whole issue of the burning of houses of worship.

As I heard for the first time this morning the rendering of the Supreme Court decision, it did not fall to my lot to immediately begin to think about what SHEILA JACKSON-LEE or any

congressperson would do in this circumstance. But I began to think of those individuals in my district who yet have not reached or have not achieved the opportunity of even traveling outside of the 18th congressional district, citizens in my district who have lived their entire life within the context of the historic 18th Congressional District, individuals who are proud, who believe in America, who have sent young men and women off to war but yet live in housing of sub-standard quality, individuals who are still struggling to get the kind of education to see opportunities for their children, individuals who, if they missed one day of school lunch or school breakfast, their children, of course, would suffer the consequences and the pain of hunger; individuals who give their small donations to their beloved churches and pastors, they give their very best. And to be able to have to go home this weekend to speak to these individuals, to be able to say to them that today on June 13, 1996, they were declared less than an American by the U.S. Supreme Court, individuals who heretofore had paid poll tax or had their ancestors or grandparents or parents tell them how difficult it was first to achieve the right to vote in the State of Texas and now having spent just a few short years.

That is what America needs to understand, that these districts have only come into existence a mere three decades or less. Individuals who are in my district may be voting now consistently only for less than 30 years because of the obstacles that have been placed before them to vote even in the smallest election in the State of Texas, and then to have to go home to these individuals and to clear away the confusion for, they will be asking: Are we no longer part of America? Has the district been declared un-American? The chilling effect will be far reaching.

Young people who are just coming out of high school who I had the opportunity to speak before in the recent graduations in my district, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, if you will, ready for the next day, looking for career opportunities, believing in America; now they must try to understand, are we truly second-class citizens in this country? The criteria used by the Supreme Court today was truly a burning of the Constitution. I would simply ask:

When does a configuration, a drawing, become a higher ideal than the opportunity for people to choose an individual of their choice to represent them in the U.S. Congress? When is it a sin and when is it illegal to take into consideration the diverse concept of race as it is with community of interests so that majority minority districts have now been categorized and labeled as a derogatory concept in the American political system? What does that say to an emerging population who have yet not taken their rightful place in the political arena; a Congress of 435 individuals with a mere 30-plus

African-American Representatives, a number that has grown only since the 1990 census and the 1992 elections?

And so it is important, Mr. FIELDS, that we convene this special order. It is not for any selfish motives of those of us who come to the floor of the House, for I am grateful for the very small opportunities that I have had, but it is for the future of this Nation to recognize that the systematic destruction and undermining of the spirit of those who would cling to democracy is a destruction of this Nation's future. These opinions have continued to chip away at those who have tried to speak peace and equality and inclusion.

And as I bring my remarks to a close, let me say that I am gratified for the words that were said tonight with respect to this blight on America, this blaze on the Constitution, the burning of churches or houses of worship.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have indicated that they will rise up with millions of dollars for the ATF, the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms agency.

In the Committee on the Judiciary, under the leadership of ranking member CONYERS and Chairman HYDE, we have brought out a piece of legislation that I have cosponsored to make the prosecution of these individuals more swift and effective.

But the real key has to be that we must catch these individuals and show America that we are serious, and then at the same time as we catch these individuals we must, in fact, begin to understand that we should not hide away from the racial anger and tones that have been set by the climate of political rhetoric in this Nation, and I hope that we all will commit to drawing down our words, stopping the polarization, and in order to do that let me say to you in closing that I am gratified that both Congresswoman CLAYTON and Congressman WATTS accepted my amendment that calls for, this week, calls for this Nation this week to adopt a week of prayer from June 16 to June 23, gathering in our respective houses of worship to speak not only against burning, but against the anger and the rancorous talk and the castigating of those of us who have come first as slaves in this Nation.

We must break the shackles of racism in this Nation. I call upon my brothers and sisters of Hispanics and Anglos and African-Americans and Asians and men and women in all parts of this community, Jewish people and gentiles, to respect the need to embrace each other.

□ 2345

I hope as we proceed this evening that our Supreme Court will be able to reconsider itself, and recognizing it as the highest body in the land, I respect its privilege, but I would simply hope that they would call upon the spirit of the Honorable Justice Thurgood Marshall who came to that court as a victor and a soldier and a general in the

war of civil rights, and he carried the message forward that in fact we all are created equal. If we take that claim, we will stop the burning of the districts and we will stop the burning of the houses of worship, and we will rise as Americans together, and we will not be singing that song, "We Shall Overcome," but we will sing the song, "We Have Overcome."

I hope this special order will be in tribute to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS] that Americans will listen and rise up to support freedom. I yield back to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Now I would like to recognize the gentlewoman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD]. Before I do, I would like to say that in our discussions on this task force on church burnings across the country, particularly in the southern part of our country, the gentlewoman from California, who by the way, is new to this body, made it very clear that we should have hearings, we should talk to ministers, we should talk to community people, people in the community about their feelings, and also make sure that there is a relationship merged between the investigators, the Federal agencies, and these ministers and these parishioners of these churches. I just want to thank the gentlewoman for her leadership because as a result, there was a meeting at 8 a.m. this morning in the office of the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS], and as a result of that meeting, the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary decided to start his hearings right here in Washington, DC. Because of her leadership, we will be traveling all across the country as a caucus, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, in each of these several States holding hearings on church burnings.

At this time I would like to yield to the distinguished gentleman.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana. It is really fitting and absolutely great for me to see two young African-American men who are role models who are here tonight at this hour to talk about the rash of church burnings in this Nation. Then to hear the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE], who speaks so eloquently on this floor, who has to now go back and try to see what she can do with the recent decisions that have been brought down on her by the Supreme Court.

I would like to thank also the Speaker for allowing us tonight to come and speak about the rash of church burnings. Mr. Speaker, this issue is very important to me, as it should be to all Americans. However, I have a special concern about the rash of church burnings that is taking place across the South and other areas as I have lived through a similar period.

During the 1950's I was the child of an active Baptist minister in Alabama.

Given my father's status and the respect he had earned, especially among the African-American community, we lived in fear every night of the bombings and the arson that was rampant at the time. The young women who were killed in the church bombings in 1962 were neighbors and friends of our family.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the fact that these burnings, both in the 1950's as well as the ones with which we are currently faced, are acts of terrorism.

Furthermore, the U.S. Government, which spends billions of dollars each year investigating and attempting to abate terrorism here and abroad, should do all it can to stop this terrorism that is currently invading the souls of our community.

As we are all aware, Mr. Speaker, terrorism such as these church burnings is the insidious act of cowards; people who are too afraid to air their hatreds or fears in public lest they meet others who may be able to talk some sense into them during a debate.

Yet in order to really understand these random acts of violence and hatred, we should perhaps look at the culture by which they are being perpetuated.

The burning of African-American churches is but one manifestation of the fear, the hatred, and the divisiveness that is becoming more and more prevalent in our society.

Mr. Speaker, we see this divisiveness in ballot initiatives, we hear it in stump speeches by some politicians, and we witness it even in some of the legislation that is coming before us.

Moore and more, people are blaming minorities, immigrants, and women for their woes or their fears.

In my home State of California, we will have a ballot initiative in November on Whether or not to do away with all affirmative actions programs. This initiative follows closely on the heels of the Governor of my fair State asking the regents of the University of California to abolish all affirmative action administration programs.

While these actions, Mr. Speaker, as well as legislation that has been introduced here and in other bodies to eliminate affirmative action programs are not terrorism on the same level as the church burnings, they are born from the same fears and divisiveness.

What we, as national leaders, Mr. Speaker, should do is try to pursue a rational debate to try to solve the problems that face all Americans, regardless of their color, their age, their gender, or their religious affiliation.

We, the political leaders of our Nation, should not try to use the fears of the population to promote ourselves or our agendas. In doing this, we are only creating an environment in which hatred and anxieties are driven to extreme measures, such as those we are witnessing in the South and other places.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Americans to join us in speaking out against the

current rash of church burnings and to alert the perpetrators that this is not how civilized people conduct themselves.

I also urge Americans, and especially the politicians, to pause before they speak words of divisiveness. Rather than playing on and driving the fears of some citizens, I would hope that we could begin to work together for the resolves that will help all Americans build a better nation and indeed a better world.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I thank the gentlewoman. There are individuals in this country who are trying to turn back the hands of time, trying to make 1996 look like 1896, but we are not going back. We have come too far now. We have come to a threshold of freedom, and we have reached the periphery of liberation and we have seen the ambition of liberty. We are not going back.

There are those who try to burn opportunities by burning affirmative action. Some try to burn political inclusion by burning congressional districts, and some even try to burn our spirits by burning churches. But we are not going back.

At this time I would like to yield to the gentleman who has probably the most experience in the civil rights movement of all of us here tonight, the senior Congressman from the great State of South Carolina, who I have a great deal of respect for.

I want to say to the gentleman, I have never been confronted with a door that said colored or white only. I have never had to sit in the back of a bus. I am benefiting from fruits of a tree that I did not plant, I did not nourish, and I did not even shape. I am here today because of people like the gentleman from South Carolina who stood in those many lines and who marched the many highways. And I just want to say thanks to the gentleman, and I know I speak for the gentleman from Illinois as well.

□ 2355

We are here today because of the sweat and tears of your work and we want to thank you. I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank the gentleman very much, my good friend Mr. FIELDS from Louisiana. Thank you, first of all, for your kind words. I am pleased to hear them and I hope that I continue to earn them.

Second, let me thank the gentleman for organizing this special order. I think that your work chairing the Task Force on Church Burnings for the Congressional Black Caucus is work that is to be commended and I thank you so much for bringing us all here this evening. I am pleased to join with my colleagues in this special order.

Let me begin my comments by first of all congratulating the people of South Carolina, Williamsburg County, Greeleyville.

As you may recall, this past Tuesday evening, I traveled to South Carolina

where on Wednesday morning I went with President Clinton to visit the Greeleyville community, the community that suffered a church burning on June 20 of last year. On Wednesday, we met at the site of a new church. On this coming Saturday, 360 days after their church was burned to the ground, the people of Greeleyville, the members of Mount Zion AME Church, their pastor, Reverend Terrence Mackey, will all gather at the site of the old church and they will march one mile to the new church. I think that the people of that community, black and white, have demonstrated to all of us what can be done and what should be done in responding to these kinds of vitriolic actions.

I am very pleased with their demonstration of cooperation. Earlier this evening I heard one of our colleagues talk about the difficulty that a community is having rebuilding a church that was burned. I thought as he spoke of the people in this little town in the poorest county in South Carolina, how they all banded together, irrespective of skin color, irrespective of hair texture, and they all came together to make sure that they demonstrate to the rest of the world how we ought to conduct ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the time is late and I think my time is running out, but I want to say one thing in order to make my point.

Many of you may recall that Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963 issued a letter from the Birmingham City Jail, a letter that spoke to the question of time and the neutrality of time. King admonished us in that letter that we are going to be called to repent in this generation not just for the vitriolic words and actions of bad people but for the appalling silence of good people.

I want to say to all the Members of the body and the people of our great Nation that these vitriolic actions may be bad but it is just as bad for us to remain silent.

So I want all of us to speak up and speak out and make sure that we do so in such a way that the people who perpetrate these vitriolic acts will be driven back under the rocks from which they came and hopefully we, the good people of our Nation, can march forward together.

I thank the gentleman so much for letting me be a part of this special order.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I thank the gentleman.

In closing, I would just like to say to the gentleman that I am happy and pleased that this Congress, and the American people should know that this Congress stands in unison, we stand together tonight, both Democrats and Republicans, blacks, whites, young, old, men and women. We will not tolerate the burning of any churches. We are going to appropriate the necessary resources to the agencies that are conducting investigations and we will find the perpetrators of these crimes and they will be brought to justice.

To end this special order, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois. Before I do, I want to leave on this note. I often talk about what we have in common.

I will never forget when I graduated from high school my mother said, "What's the universal language?" I said, "It's English, Mom." And she said, "No, it's not."

She said, "If you cry, can you cry in English?" I said, no.

She said, "If you're in Spain can you cry in Spanish? If you're in France can you cry in French?" She said, "No, you cry in pain."

There is a lot of crying taking place tonight. I do not care if you are black or white, young or old, male or female, we all cry the same. I would hope we would work together to end that cry.

I yield to close to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Let me say that I think the gentleman from Louisiana's words were most appropriate and fitting to close this special order.

[National Rainbow Coalition, June 13, 1996]

"BURNING CHURCHES, BURNING OPPORTUNITY"
JACKSON ATTACKS SUPREME COURT DECISION

Washington, D.C.—The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson attacked today's Supreme Court decision which struck down majority-minority districts in North Carolina and Texas.

"At night, the enemies of civil rights strike in white sheets, burning churches," Jackson said. "By day, they strike in black robes, burning opportunities."

"1996 is looking more like 1896 every day," Jackson continued. "Churches are burned, all across the South. The gains of the Second Reconstruction won by Dr. King are being rolled back, just like Jim Crow rolled back the gains of the First Reconstruction. The Supreme Court in 1896 ruled on Plessy vs. Ferguson, with its idea of 'separate but equal.' The Supreme Court now puts out ruling after ruling under the pretense that after four centuries of slavery and apartheid, that a white population which makes up 85% of the electorate, and an African American electorate which makes up only about 10%, operate on an equal playing field."

Jackson noted with approval the words of Justice Stevens, who wrote: "A majority's attempt to enable the minority to participate more effectively in the process of democratic government should not be viewed with the same hostility that is appropriate for oppressive and exclusionary abuses of political powers."

Jackson also commented on those who voted in the majority: "On the side of those voting to end the Second Reconstruction, we find Chief Justice Rehnquist, who first came to public notice as he attempted to intimidate minority voters from going to the polls."

"Second, we find Sandra Day O'Connor, an affirmative action justice, who is only on the court because the civil rights movement and the women's movement forced America to widen the pool of those 'qualified' to serve in our nation's highest positions—despite that, she votes to end the most effective electoral remedy we have yet found to diversify the make-up of our legislatures."

"And third, of course, we find Justice Clarence Thomas, who is on the Supreme Court only because he is Black—no white justice with his limited legal experience would ever have been considered for that position—and yet he turns his back on the same movement and remedies that allowed him to rise."

"Clarence Thomas is a memorial to George Bush's racial cynicism, and he has imposed

upon us blow after blow more devastating than anything George Wallace was able to deliver.

Jackson concluded: "It is humiliating and painful to watch a prime beneficiary of Martin's movement stick the dagger in the heart of Dr. King's dream."

"Districts have historically been drawn based on incumbency, political parties, geographical boundaries, and industry. Racial factors were added after judges found, years after Selma, proof of patterns of racial discrimination. Therefore, they ordered the re-drawing of boundaries for 'racial inclusion,' rather than 'racial exclusion.' These judges chose to be 'race-affirmative,' to offset centuries of 'race-negativity.'

"The result after the 1992 elections was the most representative U.S. Congress, and the most representative state legislatures, in the history of this nation. This is the context in which the Supreme Court today has acted to wound Dr. King's dream."

"America is moving towards the end of this century with the same tragic music with which Plessy v. Ferguson ended the last century. And the saddest notes of all are being played by one of the civil rights movement's prime beneficiaries—Clarence Thomas."

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to join in this special order on the recent rash of arson attacks on African-American churches throughout the South.

It causes me great pain that such a special order is necessary today, 40 years after Brown v. Board of Education and 30 years after the civil rights breakthroughs of the 1960's. I think that we all had believed that we were past the shameful period of our Nation's history when racist hate groups bombed and burned African-American churches in order to frighten African-American communities into submission.

I don't know whether these fires were primarily the product of some misguided individual or some fringe hate group—or whether they represent the uncoordinated acts of a number of people who have focused their hatred and frustration on these churches. We will have to wait for the results of the ongoing investigations to find that out. But I do know that—whatever the reason—such acts are unacceptable. They are unconscionable.

Few crimes are as abhorrent as an attack on a church. A church is a place to worship God. It is the heart of the moral and emotional life of any community. An attack on a church is a clear statement of hostility toward an entire community. In a country like ours that places a very high value on freedom of association, freedom of religion, and our Nation's diverse ethnic background, it should also be interpreted as an attack on the ideals and principles of our society.

One such case would be too many. But a single case could be understood as the isolated action of some sick individual. Unfortunately, the number of such crimes has grown so great that I think we can reasonably conclude that these arson attacks are racially motivated and, to some undetermined extent, organized. Clearly, African-American churches have been targeted because they represent the moral and emotional center of these communities. These attacks are clearly hate crimes directed at African-Americans. These crimes make clear that our Nation's painful struggle over race relations is far from over. Moreover, the sheer number of attacks suggests some kind of conspiracy, as well as a number of copycat free agents.

At times like these, it is important that Americans spontaneously rise up and unequivocally condemn these attacks, and that our government take every possible action to identify, apprehend, and punish the perpetrators. We must make it unmistakably clear that our society will not condone, tolerate, or ignore crimes of hate. We must make it clear that an attack on any member of our society is an attack on us all. We must make it clear that ours is a nation based on tolerance, diversity, and compassion—not violence, prejudice, and hate.

As a result of our racially troubled past and the sad, lingering legacy of slavery and Jim Crow laws, white Americans have a special responsibility at times like these to reach out to our African-American brothers and sisters to let them know that we do not share the racial hatred that appears to have motivated these attacks. We have a responsibility to let them know that we share their pain and anger, and that we want to work with them to heal the wounds created by these reprehensible attacks.

Sadly, it is clear that our society is still torn over the issue of race. I believe, however, that we have the potential to grow and mature. Change can be difficult, and it often takes time. But I believe that the day is not that far off when this society will fulfill the ideals of equality, freedom, and harmony to which it has always aspired.

I believe that we should attempt to turn this tragedy into opportunity—an opportunity to address the tensions that still linger below the surface in the daily interactions between Americans of different races, religions, and ethnic groups. As a first step, let us rise up as one people to condemn these intolerable attacks. Second, let us make certain that the Federal Government makes every effort possible to get to the bottom of these crimes. And finally, let us engage in a national dialogue to expose and extinguish the misunderstanding and fear that motivate such hateful acts.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HOUGHTON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today until 3 p.m., on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 7 p.m. and the balance of the week, on account of attending his daughter's graduation.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 8 p.m. through Tuesday, June 18, on account of official business.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 7:30 p.m. and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FILNER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HILLIARD, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HAYWORTH) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. WALKER, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. WELLER, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. HILLEARY, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. WAMP, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes today.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. HORN, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. BAKER of California, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. MCINTOSH, for 5 minutes, on June 20.

Mrs. CUBIN, for 5 minutes today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FILNER) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

Mr. EDWARDS.

Mr. SCHUMER.

Mr. MARTINEZ.

Mr. BONIOR.

Mr. LEVIN.

Mr. JACOBS.

Mr. TORRICELLI.

Mrs. KENNELLY.

Mr. MARKEY.

Ms. DELAURO.

Mr. LAFALCE.

Mrs. MALONEY.

Mr. TOWNS.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey.

Mrs. LOWEY.

Mr. CARDIN.

Mrs. THURMAN.

Mrs. CLAYTON.

Ms. LOFGREN.

Mr. REED.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HAYWORTH) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. FIELDS of Texas.

Mr. HOKE.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

Mr. SPENCE.

Mr. DORNAN.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 midnight), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, June 17, 1996, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from

the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3571. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tobacco Inspection; Growers' Referendum Results (Docket No. TB-95-13) received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3572. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tobacco Inspection; Growers' Referendum Results (Docket No. TB-95-15) received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3573. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96-982-1IFR) received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3574. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Increased Assessment Rate for Domestically Produced Peanuts Handled by Persons Not Subject to Peanut Marketing Agreement No. 146 and for Marketing Agreement No. 146 Regulating the Quality of Domestically Produced Peanuts (Docket No. FV96-998-1IFR) received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3575. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Temporary Suspension of Minimum Grade Requirements (Docket No. FV96-922-1IFR) received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3576. A letter from the Director, the Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals of budget authority as of June 1, 1996, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 685(e) (H. Doc. No. 104-232); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3577. A letter from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "FHA Single Family Housing Reform Act of 1996"; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

3578. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Pension and Welfare Benefits, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Interpretive Bulletin 96-1 Participant Investment Education (Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration) (RIN: 1210-AA50) received June 12, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

3579. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Valuation of Plan Benefits in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Plan Benefits and Plan Assets Following Mass Withdrawal; Amendments Adopting Additional PBGC Rates (29 CFR Parts 2619 and 2676) received June 11, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

3580. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "Development Disabilities Assistance Amendments of 1996," pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1110; to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

3581. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information,