

LOS ANGELES TIMES EDITORIALS

KATHRYN M. DOWNING, *Publisher*MICHAEL PARKS, *Editor*JANET CLAYTON, *Editor of the Editorial Pages*

Tackling the Haters

The nation has been rocked by a series of hate crimes in recent weeks: the burning of synagogues in Sacramento, the murders of gay men in Redding and the shootings of African Americans, Asians and Jews in the Midwest. These were crimes against people based simply on who they are and what they look like. Such crimes hurt not only the individual, they are crimes against society, blows against the ideals of equality that this nation should hold most sacred.

There are often signposts for hate crimes, and new investigatory practices in use nationally and locally can help spot them. Right now, for example, the effort to bring the Los Angeles Police Department into the Information Age with the help of civilian computer experts may offer a payoff. Hate crime incidents are now stored on the department's recently opened Hate Crime Monitoring System. It enables investigators to sort through reported crimes and incidents citywide. This technique can illuminate a pattern of incidents and lead police to be extra vigilant around potential targets such as churches or synagogues.

The fact that law enforcement has also begun to work more closely with academic experts is welcome. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and the LAPD, for example, have cooperated on a UCLA research study that has identified clusters of hate crimes in the Antelope Valley, Sunland-Tujunga and the northwest San Fernando Valley, as well as in Hawaiian Gardens, Harbor Gateway and east Los Angeles County. Sheriff's Department territory near Lancaster has been especially troubled by the Nazi Lowriders, a group linked to racially motivated assaults and shootings.

Human relations commissions in Los Angeles and Orange counties monitor hate crimes as reported by police agencies and

compile an annual list. They are helped by people like Huntington Beach Police Sgt. R.K. Miller, who tracks skinheads and their white supremacist philosophy and regularly contacts national groups, such as the Anti-Defamation League, for updates of hate groups.

Last year, the Cypress Police Department publicized attacks on Latinos by gang members, including a man said to belong to a white supremacist group.

Federal and local authorities are right to plumb the workings of two so-called white supremacist church groups suspected of having influenced the perpetrators in the Redding and Indiana-Illinois cases. Members of one such group, the World Church of the Creator, are being questioned about what they may have known about the suspect in the Indiana-Illinois shootings before they occurred.

There is always a fine line to walk in protecting the free speech rights of noxious hate groups, but there is no protection for inciting violent acts.

For example, what exactly does the leader of the Creator church mean when he exhorts followers to "strive harder" or "we will condemn our children to a world of inferiority and savagery at the hands of our racial enemies....Take action now and save this planet! RAHOWA." The acronym is said to refer to "racial holy war."

Would heightened monitoring activities have saved the lives of Gary Matson and Winfield Mowder of the Redding area, Ricky Byrdson of Evanston, Ill., Won-Joon Yoon of Bloomington, Ind., and prevented the wounding of nine others? We cannot be sure. What is certain is that good people must do more than shake their heads and shrug when bigots attack. Vigilance by law enforcement is merely the first step.

GOP Health Care Bill

■ Re "Senate OKs GOP Health Care Bill Amid Veto Threat": The current dust-up in the Senate over the so-called patient protection and affordability of rights seems to me like a win-win situation.

Republican senators win if they get to keep getting contributions from the health industry donors whose industry they've saved. Democratic senators win because they get a campaign issue to beat up the Clinton wins because he tends to feel our pain by veto when the Republican reaches him. Everyone wins.

JOHN C. HALL
Miss.

■ I spent many months working for Proposition 188, a single-payer health care system. It was overwhelmingly defeated, but it was the last opportunity for the public and the medical profession to control the destiny of our health care delivery system. Quality care will never be found in a profit system that exists now.

As a retired schoolteacher on a fixed income, I joined Medicare through Medicare. My experience with the HMO was most disappointing and I quit, returning to care with a supplement to cover some of what Medicare doesn't. This is at a cost of \$250 a month, which includes half of prescription costs. It does not include dental or eye care. The expense of a supplement is part of the for-profit system; however, choice of provider and quality of care are provided.

If we eliminated the for-profit system, we could have everyone with top quality care for the same amount of money as are spending today on health care. Where is the outrage of the system? Things will not change until we act.

ROLAND R. R.

■ I feel that an increase in health care prices and fees should be weighed by consumers (July 17). An increase would mean a cutback in the purchase of junk foods, cigarettes and other unnecessary luxuries. We are quick to demand quality health care as a place for our slovenly health habits. 65% overweight and obese.

JIM
Bak

■ Our infant mortality rate is the highest in the nation. Our children must grow up with a

Mexico's Banks: Still Wobbly

An independent audit of President Ernesto Zedillo's record of Mexico's

financial system was open to fraud and insider lending.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET



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Economics, Science, & General Government Branch (ESGG)

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U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20530

Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

This letter presents the views of the Department of Justice on S. 1406, "A Bill to Combat Hate Crimes." Hate crimes have no place in a civilized society, whether based on the race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, or disability of the victims. We share your conviction that every level of government must take action to respond to these violent, devastating attacks. However, this bill would maintain the "federally protected activity" requirement in section 245 of title 18, an outdated restriction on Federal jurisdiction that has prevented the Department from taking action to investigate, prosecute, and punish several brutal incidents of hate based violence. It also fails to offer Federal protection to victims of violence based on their gender, sexual orientation, or disability. We cannot fully vindicate the Federal interest in combating hate based violence without eliminating these two serious deficiencies in the current law.

I. Section 1(e) and Current Section 245

Section 1(a) would create a new section 249 in title 18, making it a crime to travel across State or Indian country lines in order, by force or threat of force, to willfully injure, intimidate, or interfere with any person because of the person's race, color, religion, or national origin, ~~and~~ to do or attempt to do so. While current law does not cover hate crimes where the defendant crosses State lines, our experience with section 247 of title 18 suggests this amendment would be ineffective and that very few cases would be reachable under this provision.

Before the enactment of the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996, section 247 prohibited the intentional defacement, damage, or destruction of any religious real property because of the religious character of the property if, in committing the offense, the defendant either traveled in interstate or foreign commerce or used a facility or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce in interstate or foreign commerce. Confronted

with a rash of arsons at houses of worship in early 1996, the Department and the Congress concluded that section 247 had proven totally ineffective because of these restrictive interstate commerce requirements. In fact, between its enactment and the 1996 amendments, only one case was brought under section 247.

Recognizing this problem, Congress enacted the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996, which amended section 247 to eliminate the interstate commerce element entirely for racially motivated arsons and to cover other offenses that are "in or affect interstate commerce." Thus it is no longer necessary to establish as a jurisdictional prerequisite that the defendant moved in interstate commerce or used a facility in interstate commerce. The "affects" standard is more in line with existing criminal statutes outlawing, for example, the possession of certain weapons, e.g. 18 U.S.C. 922(g), 924, or the use of fire or explosive devices, e.g. 18 U.S.C. 844(i). These amendments and the expanded Federal jurisdiction have contributed to the success of the Church Arson Task Force, which has worked with State and local investigators and prosecutors to investigate 785 fires that occurred after January 1995, with 340 total defendants arrested. The vast majority of these cases have been prosecuted in State courts under State law. The task force's 34% arrest rate is more than double the average for arson investigations, which is at least partly attributable to the ability of Federal investigators and prosecutors to work closely with their State and local counterparts.

In addition to the limited number of cases that would fall under new section 249, the bill would not remove the serious jurisdictional limitations of section 245. In cases involving racial, religious, or ethnic violence, the Federal government still would have to prove a defendant attacked his victim not only because of racial, religious, or ethnic bias, but also because of the victim's participation in one of the six specifically enumerated "federally protected activities."¹ This requirement can lead to bizarre results. For example, in U.S. v. Black and Clark (12/12/91) (E.D. Calif.), two white supremacists were charged in the assault of a black man at a convenience store/gasoline station. The victim received multiple stab wounds and required hospital treatment. There was no previous State action. After indictment, Clark pled guilty to violating section 245 and was sentenced to serve seven years and 10 months in

¹The six protected activities are attending a public school; participating in a program or activity administered by a State or local government; government employment; serving as State juror; traveling in or using a facility of interstate commerce; or using the facilities or services of certain enumerated places of public accommodation or entertainment. 18 U.S.C. § 245(b) (2).

prison, to be followed by three years supervised release. Black was convicted at trial and sentenced to serve 10 years in prison. Establishing jurisdiction under 18 U.S.C. 245 hinged on the fact that there was a pinball machine in the store, which qualified the gas station as a place of entertainment. Without that pinball machine, we would have had no jurisdiction in the case.

In addition, the bill provides no Federal coverage whatsoever for violent crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability. S. 622, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999, would correct both of these jurisdictional gaps, permitting the Federal government to work in partnership with State and local officials in the investigation and prosecution of cases that implicate the significant Federal interest in eradicating hate-based violence. The Department supports enactment of S. 622, whose provisions were included in the Senate version of the appropriations bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, and the Judiciary.

II. Other Sections

Section 1(b) would direct the Comptroller General, in consultation with the National Governors Association, to conduct a study comparing the number, prosecution and conviction rates, and sentences of hate crimes in ten jurisdictions with hate crimes laws to those in ten jurisdictions without hate crimes laws. A carefully designed study along these lines could provide useful information about the effects of hate crimes statutes on law enforcement.

Section 1(c) of the bill would direct the Attorney General, in consultation with the States, to develop a model hate crimes statute. While we agree that States should be encouraged to adopt and enforce comprehensive hate crimes statutes, the Federal government must do more than provide a model. Federal jurisdiction is needed as a backstop for State and local enforcement to ensure that justice is done in every case.

Section 1(d) directs that, at the request of a State or local law enforcement official, the Attorney General acting through the Director of the FBI "shall provide technical, prosecutorial, or any other form of assistance" in the investigation or prosecution of a crime that is a crime of violence under 18 U.S.C. 16, constitutes a felony under State law, and either is motivated by race, ethnicity or religion or is a violation of a State hate crime law. We have two concerns with this provision. First, in order to give the Attorney General discretion to determine, in light of other Federal interests and priorities, which cases warrant Federal assistance and what type of assistance to provide, section (d)(1)(A) should be amended so that she "may provide" such assistance at the request of a State

or local official. Second, because the majority of States do not include gender, sexual orientation, and disability as protected categories in their hate crimes law, the bill will not allow the Department to provide investigatory and prosecutorial assistance to most States investigating such violent attacks.

Section 1(d)(2) would establish a grant program within the Department to assist State and local law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes where the State certified that it lacked the resources necessary to do so itself. An application would have to be approved within 24 hours. While we support the goal of providing assistance to States investigating hate crimes, requiring individual grant applications and approvals for each specific case will be burdensome for both State and local law enforcement officials and the Department, and may cause delays that impede investigations.

We look forward to working with you to address these issues by crafting a thoughtful, measured response to this critical problem facing our Nation. We remain convinced that S. 622 embodies that response. The Office of Management and Budget has advised us that from the perspective of the Administration's program, there is no objection to submission of this letter.

Sincerely,

Jon P. Jennings
Acting Assistant Attorney General

cc: Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Minority Member

Latino Group Says Rise in Hate Crimes Is Unnoted

By MICHAEL A. FLETCHER
Washington Post Staff Writer

HOUSTON, July 26—Hate crimes and law enforcement misconduct targeting Latinos are on the upswing, a trend that has gone largely unnoted because of a dearth of reliable data and policymakers' reluctance to move beyond the "black-white" racial model, according to a report released yesterday by the nation's largest Hispanic advocacy group.

The National Council of La Raza

report documents dozens of assaults, church burnings and cases of alleged law enforcement abuse against Hispanics. It also says the number of federally reported hate crimes against Hispanics increased nearly 20 percent from 1993 to 1996, which it called a consequence of broad "anti-immigrant" sentiment, the rapidly growing Hispanic population and an increased "tolerance for intolerance."

The report, released at the NCLR's annual convention, relies heavily on anecdotal evidence to make its case. "The fact that there

has been no systematic data collected is itself a statement," said Carmen Jorge, a civil rights policy analyst for the NCLR.

The federal government "has failed to recognize or failed to collect the full range of data."

The report says Latinos are frequent victims of racial profiling by police.

That issue has received wide attention as it relates to African American motorists, but Latinos face similar unfair scrutiny, a situation that the NCLR says receives little attention.

Besides noting an increase in crimes against Hispanics, who account for 11 percent of the U.S. population and are expected to be the nation's largest minority group by 2005, the report said there are indications that more Latinos are becoming perpetrators of hate crimes. From 1995 to 1997, the report said, race-based hate crimes committed by Hispanics in Los Angeles County increased from 22 percent to 34 percent, a pattern that the NCLR found in several other California counties.

Richard Socarides 03/14/99 11:26:49 AM

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Subject: Congress Renews Hate Crime Campaign

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Doug.Case @ sdsu.edu
03/13/99 01:32:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Richard Socarides

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Subject: Congress Renews Hate Crime Campaign

ASSOCIATED PRESS
March 12, 1999

Congress Renews Hate Crime Campaign

By MELISSA B. ROBINSON

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Lawmakers are renewing their campaign for an expanded federal hate crimes statute, hoping public outrage over recent killings will spur passage.

``No one says hate crimes are overblown now, not after this year of savage crimes,'' said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., a cosponsor of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999, a replica of last year's bill.

Last month in Texas, John William King, a white supremacist, was sentenced to death for chaining a black man, James Byrd Jr., behind a pickup truck and dragging him to his death.

Two men have been charged in the October slaying of gay college student Matthew Shepard, who was pistol-whipped and lashed to a fence in Wyoming. Two men also have been charged with beating to death a gay textile worker, Billy Jack Gaither, in Alabama last month and burning his body on a pile of tires.

``We owe it to the families of Byrd and Shepard and Gaither and perhaps others we don't know,'' said Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., who is sponsoring the bill in the House with Reps. Connie Morella, R-Md., Michael Forbes,

R-N.Y., and Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., the first openly gay woman elected to Congress.

In a positive sign for supporters, Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, has scheduled hearings on the legislation for next month.

But it still faces a difficult road.

Some congressional Republicans have suggested the legislation is unnecessary because dozens of states have laws protecting the groups identified in the bill. As well, backers are concerned that social conservatives may construe the legislation as extending special protections to homosexuals.

``This is not a bill that will, in one way, advantage one group over another," said Oregon Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden, who is sponsoring the bill in the Senate with Massachusetts Democrat Edward Kennedy and Pennsylvania Republican Arlen Specter. ``I can't believe any members of the United States Senate want to be soft on violence."

Specter said he wasn't as optimistic as some of his colleagues.

``A lot of opponents ... pick out hate crimes legislation for a great deal of criticism," he said. ``This is a tough bill to get very much support."

Under the bill, current law would be expanded so the Justice Department could prosecute crimes based on a person's sex, sexual orientation or disability. Now, the statute only covers crimes based on race, color, religion or national origin.

Also, the bill would make federal prosecution of hate crimes easier. Current law limits prosecution to situations where the victim is targeted for engaging in certain federally protected activities, such as serving on a jury, voting or attending public school.

More than 40 states have hate crimes laws but only 21 cover sexual orientation, 22 cover gender and 21 cover disability, according to the White House, which supports the bill.

Kennedy said the bill wouldn't undermine states in prosecuting hate crimes, just bring investigative and other resources of the federal government to bear where necessary.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 28, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING BROOKS ATKINSON THEATER EVENT

Brooks Atkinson Theater
New York, New York

7:42 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Wow. I would like to thank Bill Haber and Kevin and all this magnificent cast for giving us too much to think about. (Laughter and applause.) Here we are, all reliving our entire family histories -- (laughter) -- trying to come to grips with some little common element. And now you're supposed to think about being good citizens. (Laughter.)

I want to thank Senator Torricelli and Senator Launtenberg and Senator Schumer; Congressman Gephardt, I know is here, and I think Congressman Kennedy is. There are a lot of people here from the New York and New Jersey and Connecticut delegations. I saw Congressman Rangel, Congressman Payne, Congresswoman Lowey.

Let me just say to all of you, these people have made a great sacrifice to give us this gift and to give the DSCC and the DCCC this gift. You know, Monday is their day off and they couldn't even wait until the normal time to start, they did it in the middle of the afternoon. We took a day out of their lives and they have given us something immeasurably more valuable, so I think we should give them another -- (applause.)

I hope that as you leave here you know how grateful we all are for the work you have done to help us do well in the coming elections, in the Senate and the House elections. I hope that you saw this morning the announcement that -- we did our annual review, our so-called mid-session review and it turns out our surplus will be \$20 billion more than we thought this year. (Applause.) And tomorrow I'm going to announce our Medicare reform program, which our Democrats support, that will include for the first time a prescription drug benefit for seniors, which I'm

very proud of and which I think is important. (Applause.)

If we can prevail upon our friends on the other side in the Congress to go along with us, just generally with the budget and Social Security, we'll have another \$155 billion to spend on children and we'll be out of debt as a nation for the first time in forever, in 15 years, we'll be totally out of debt. So I'm happy about that. (Applause.) And I feel very good about the fact that all of this is benefitting all kinds of ordinary citizens.

But I'd like to just mention one other thing. We saw in this magnificent opus of Eugene O'Neil's something about the fragility of life, the frailty, the brittleness, the tenderness, the weakness that makes life more interesting than politics sometimes -- nearly always. (Laughter.)

One of the reasons that I became and stayed a Democrat is that I always felt that our party was more interested in people in their individual struggles, and we always thought everyone should have a chance. And I'd like to just, before you leave, ask you to remember one or two things of which I am especially proud for our party, as we have tried to deepen the meaning of freedom and responsibility and bring more people into our national family and our sense of global community.

The first is that it was 30 years ago today, not very far from here, that the Stonewall riots occurred, which sparked the gay and lesbian civil rights movement. **I'm proud of the fact that the Democratic Party has been clearly and unambiguously for the elimination of all forms of discrimination, for the Employment and Nondiscrimination Act, for the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, for the proposition that every law abiding person in this country ought to be treated with equal dignity. (Applause.)**

Today, we are struggling in Kosovo -- a very small place, a very long way away -- for the proposition that people ought not to be slaughtered because of the way they worship God or their racial or ethnic heritage, as we have done in Bosnia. Today, we're working, along with our friends in Ireland and Great Britain, in the 11th hour of an Irish peace process. Today, we hold our breath with anticipation as the new government is about to take hold in Israel, and I hope and pray that we will see a culmination of the peace process there.

And I'm proud of the fact that our party has stood for the proposition that people ought to be able to get along based on their common humanity, across all the things that divide us and that that's a -- (applause) -- of intensity we're striving for. (Applause.)

Let me say one other thing. We've been through a lot as a country in the last several weeks: the difficulties of the conflict in Kosovo; also the difficulties we face at home, especially after the horrible loss of those children's lives at Littleton. I am still hoping that members of the other party will decide that they really are the candidates of law and order and will join us in our attempts not only to support community policing -- which means that we stand against abuses and for building bridges in the community, but that we ought to give the police a chance and the children a chance by having sensible restrictions to keep guns out of the wrong hands -- (applause.)

Finally, let me just say I'm profoundly grateful to the people of New York and this wonderful city for being so good to Hillary and me and to the Vice President and Mrs. Gore; for the Broadway night we had in '92, in the campaign; for the magnificent convention for two great electoral victories; for a 50th birthday party I had here, which I will never forget -- I can still remember when that happened.

I hope you will continue to stand for these things, which deepen the meaning of the word, America. We have a lot to think about in this play, we have a lot to be grateful to these gifted people for. You have a lot to be proud of in supporting our party and our ideas and our values. And you have done a good thing here today by giving us a chance to reflect the views of most Americans in the United States Congress.

I thank the members of the House and the Senate who are here, again; I thank you. Good evening. Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

7:50 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 11, 1999

GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE MONTH, 1999

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Thirty years ago this month, at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, a courageous group of citizens resisted harassment and mistreatment, setting in motion a chain of events that would become known as the Stonewall Uprising and the birth of the modern gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Gays and lesbians, their families and friends, celebrate the anniversary of Stonewall every June in America as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month; and, earlier this month, the National Park Service added the Stonewall Inn, as well as the nearby park and neighborhood streets surrounding it, to the National Register of Historic Places.

I am proud of the measures my Administration has taken to end discrimination against gays and lesbians and ensure that they have the same rights guaranteed to their fellow Americans. Last year, I signed an Executive order that amends Federal equal employment opportunity policy to prohibit discrimination in the Federal civilian work force based on sexual orientation. We have also banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in the granting of security clearances. As a result of these and other policies, gay and lesbian Americans serve openly and proudly throughout the Federal Government. My Administration is also working with congressional leaders to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would prohibit most private employers from firing workers solely because of their sexual orientation.

America's diversity is our greatest strength. But, while we have come a long way on our journey toward tolerance, understanding, and mutual respect, we still have a long way to go in our efforts to end discrimination. During the past year, people across our country have been shaken by violent acts that struck at the heart of what it means to be an American and at the values that have always defined us as a

Nation. In 1997, the most recent year for which we have statistics, there were more than 8,000 reported hate crimes in our country -- almost one an hour. **Now is the time for us to take strong and decisive action to end all hate crimes, and I reaffirm my pledge to work with the Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.**

But we cannot achieve true tolerance merely through legislation; we must change hearts and minds as well. Our greatest hope for a just society is to teach our children to respect one another, to appreciate our differences, and to recognize the fundamental values that we hold in common. As part of our efforts to achieve this goal, earlier this spring, I announced that the Departments of Justice and Education will work in partnership with educational and other private sector organizations to reach out to students and teach them that our diversity is a gift. In addition, the Department of Education has issued landmark guidance that explains Federal standards against sexual harassment and prohibits sexual harassment of all students regardless of their sexual orientation; and I have ordered the Education Department's civil rights office to step up its enforcement of anti-discrimination and harassment rules. That effort has resulted in a groundbreaking guide that provides practical guidance to school administrators and teachers for developing a comprehensive approach to protecting all students, including gays and lesbians, from harassment and violence.

Since our earliest days as a Nation, Americans have strived to make real the ideals of equality and freedom so eloquently expressed in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. We now have a rare opportunity to enter a new century and a new millennium as one country, living those principles, recognizing our common values, and building on our shared strengths.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 1999 as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that celebrate our diversity, and to remember throughout the year the gay and lesbian Americans whose many and varied contributions have enriched our national life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 6, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT HATE CRIMES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Roosevelt Room

10:51 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Leahy, Senator Specter, Congressman Cardin and Delahunt, Secretary Riley, Acting Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee; to our D.C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey, and the other distinguished guests in the audience who are in support -- broadened support of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Let me begin by thanking Attorney General Ketterer and Bishop Jane Holmes Dixon for being here.

I want you to know that the Attorney General got up at 3:00 a.m. this morning to drive down here from Maine. And of course, he got up that early so he could stay lawfully within the speed limit -- (laughter) -- coming down here. And he set a good example, and he was wide awake and very persuasive on the law.

Bishop, we thank you for your very moving remarks. Remind me never to speak behind you again. (Laughter.) It was -- so much of what the Bishop said about the setting of this is many things that I have thought. I think she and I and those of us who grew up in the segregated south are perhaps more sensitive to all these various hate crimes issues because we grew up in a culture that was dominated for too long by people who thought they only counted if they had somebody to look down on, that they could only lift themselves up if they were pushing someone else down; that their whole definition of a positive life required a negative definition of another group of people. That's really what this is all about.

And if you -- as she said, if you look at the whole history of this violence we see in Kosovo, what we went through in Bosnia, this, the fifth anniversary of the awful Rwandan genocide, that I regret so much the world was not organized enough to move quickly enough to deal with it before hundreds of thousands of lives were lost -- with the oppression of women in Afghanistan, with the lingering bitterness in the Middle East -- you see all these things. When you strip it all away, down deep inside there is this idea that you cannot organize personal life or social life unless some group feels better about itself only when they are oppressing someone else. Or people at least believe that they ought to have the right to do violence against someone else solely because of who they are, not because of what they do. Now, at the bottom, that's what this is all about.

And I have said repeatedly since I have been President that one of the things I have sought to do in our country is to bridge all these divides, and to get all of our people not to agree with one another, not to even like one another all the time -- goodness knows, we can't like everybody all the time -- but to recognize that our common humanity is more important than these categorical differences. And also to recognize that over the long run, America will not be able to be a force for good abroad unless we are good at home.

If you think about the brave men and women who are working with our NATO allies today in Kosovo, and you remember that this basically all started 12 years ago, when Mr. Milosevic decided to rally the support of his ethnic Serbian group by turning their hatred against the Kosovar Albanians, and later the Bosnian Muslims and the Croatian Catholics, and the others -- it is very important that we deal with these challenges here at home, even as we continue to support the work of our people in uniform in this Balkans.

I want to say again, the United States would never choose force as anything other than a last option. And Mr. Milosevic could end it now by withdrawing his military police and paramilitary forces, by accepting the deployment of an international security force to protect not only the Kosovar Albanians, most but not all of whom are Muslims, but also the Serbian minority in Kosovo. Everybody. We're not for anybody's hate crimes. And by making it possible for all the refugees to return and to move toward a political framework based on the accords reached in France.

Now, as I said, we can't continue to organize ourselves to try to stand against these things around the world -- which I firmly hope we will. I applaud the women in America who have done so much to bring to the world's attention the terrible treatment of women in Afghanistan, for example. And we have worked hard in Africa to work with other African forces to build an Africa Crisis Response Initiative so that something like the Rwanda genocide cannot happen again. We have to keep working on these things.

But first of all, we must always be working on ourselves. That's really what this is about. Because we know this is more the work of the Bishop than the President, but we know that inside each of us there are vulnerabilities to dehumanizing other people simply by putting them in a category that permits us to dismiss them, or that permits us to put them in a category so that on a bad day, when we're feeling especially bad about something we've done, we can say, well, thank God I'm not them. And it is a short step from that -- a short, short step from that -- to licensing or even participating in acts of violence.

As I said, it may be -- I was standing here looking at Secretary Riley, and Bishop Dixon; I was thinking about all the years that Secretary Riley and I worked together. It may be that the three of us are more sensitive to this because we grew up in the segregated South, but it is very easy to get into a social system where you always get to think a little better of yourself because you've always got someone that you can dehumanize.

And that's really what this whole issue with gays is today in America. We're not talking about everybody agreeing with everybody else on every political issue. We're talking about whether people have a right, if they show up and work hard and obey the law, and are good citizens, to pursue their lives and dignity without -- free of fear, without fear of being abused.

And this should not be a partisan issue. I want to thank Senator Specter for showing up here today. This ought not to be anything other than a basic, simple statement of American principle.

But I would like to say one other thing, just as a practical matter. Isn't it interesting to you that we are on the eve of a new century and a new millennium -- which will be largely characterized by globalization, the explosion of technology, especially information, and the integration of people -- and the number one security threat to that is the persistence of old, even primitive, hatreds? Don't you think that's interesting?

So what I worry about all the time is whether terrorists can get on the Internet and figure out how to make chemical and biological weapons to pursue agendas against people of different ethnic or religious groups. And so it's very humbling, I think, for those of us who think we have brought the modern world, and prosperity and rationality to all of human affairs, to see what is going on in the Balkans, and to see these terrible examples of violence here in our own country. It's very humbling. We should remember that each of us almost wakes up every day with the scales of light and darkness in our own hearts, and we've got to keep them in proper balance. And we have to be, in the United States, absolutely resolute about this.

That's why I think this hate crimes issue is so important. That's why I convened the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes a year and a half ago. Since then, I would like to say, we have substantially increased the number of FBI agents working on these crimes. We have successfully prosecuted a number of serious cases. We have formed local hate crimes working groups in U.S. Attorney's offices around the country.

But this is a significant problem. In 1997, the last year for which we have statistics, over 8,000 hate crime incidents were reported in the United States. That's almost one an hour. Almost one an hour.

So, what are we going to do about it? I would like to mention -- we've already talked about the law and I'll say more about that in a minute, but first of all, let me mention three other things. I've asked the Justice Department and the Education Department to include in their annual report card on school safety crucial information on hate crimes among young people both at and away from schools -- not only to warn, but to educate.

Secondly, I'm asking the Department of Education to collect important data for the first time on hate crimes and bias on college campuses. Another cruel irony, isn't it -- college, the place where we're supposed to have the most freedom, the place where we're supposed to be the most rational, the place where we're supposed to think the highest thoughts with the greatest amount of space. We have significant hate crime problems there, and we need to shine the light on that.

Third, I'm very pleased about this -- we are going to have a public-private partnership to help reach middle school students to discuss this whole issue with them and talk about tolerance -- why it is a moral, as well as a practical imperative. And the partnership includes AT&T, Court TV -- good for them -- (laughter) -- the National Middle School Association, the Anti-Defamation League, Cable in the Classrooms, as well as the Departments of Education and Justice. I would like to thank them all, because we have to not only punish bad things when they happen, the larger mission is to change the mind, the heart, and the habits of our people when they're young -- to keep bad things from happening.

Finally, let me join the others -- the Attorney General and the Bishop -- in saying, Congress should pass this law this year. The federal laws already punish some crimes committed against people on the basis of race or religion or national origin, but as the Attorney General made so clear, not all crimes committed for that purpose. This would strengthen and expand the ability of the Justice Department by removing needless jurisdictional requirements for existing crimes, and giving federal prosecutors the ability to prosecute hate crimes committed because of sexual orientation, gender or disability, along with race and religion.

Now, again I say, when we get exercised about these things -- in

particular, when someone dies in a horrible incident in America -- or when we see slaughter or ethnic cleansing abroad, we should remember that we defeat these things by teaching and by practicing a different way of life, and by reacting vigorously when they occur within our own midst. That is what this is about. And we should remember, whenever we, ourselves, commit even a small slip, where we dehumanize or demonize someone else who is different from us -- that every society must teach, practice, and react, if you want to make the most of the world toward which we are moving.

Our diversity is a godsend for us, and the world of the 21st century. But it is also the potential for the old, haunting demons that are hard to root out of the human spirit. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would be important, substantively and symbolically, to send a message to ourselves and to the world that we are going into the 21st century determined to preach and to practice what is right.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

11:08 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the President

For Immediate Release

April 6, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON URGES PASSAGE OF FEDERAL HATE CRIMES BILL,
ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP TO TEACH TOLERANCE IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS,
AND SIGNS DIRECTIVE TO INCREASE HATE CRIMES REPORTING

April 6, 1999

Today, President Clinton will applaud public and private efforts to teach children about tolerance, and will urge Congress to pass quickly the pending federal hate crimes legislation. This legislation strengthens the existing federal hate crimes law by (1) extending the situations where prosecutions can be brought for violent crimes motivated by bias based on race, color, religion, or national origin; and (2) expanding the federal hate crimes statute to protect against hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability. The President will also announce a new public-private partnership which will focus attention on issues of hate, tolerance, and diversity in middle-grade schools. Finally, the President will call on the Departments of Justice and Education to include hate crimes in their annual report card on school safety and to report on hate crimes and bias on college campuses.

Urging Passage of Expanded Federal Hate Crimes Law. The President will urge Congress to pass the bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999, which expands a principal federal hate crimes statute. The current statute prohibits acts of violence that are based on a person's race, color, religion, or national origin and that are intended to interfere with certain specified federally protected activities. The proposed legislation would extend the situations where prosecutions could be brought by making these acts of violence illegal even if they did not interfere with federally protected activities. In addition, the legislation would authorize the Department of Justice to prosecute individuals who commit violent crimes against others because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender, or disability. Current federal law does not cover these cases.

Announcing Public-Private Partnership to Create a Middle-School Program about Tolerance. The President announced a public-private partnership that will develop a program for middle-school students to teach tolerance in the classroom and in their daily lives. The members of the partnership are AT&T, Court TV, the National Middle School Association, the Anti-Defamation League, and Cable in the Classroom. They will be assisted by the Departments of Justice and Education. This effort is supported by the NAACP, the Leadership Conference for Civil Rights, the National Council of La Raza, the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, the National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems, the National Education Association, and the National School Boards Association. The Partnership also expects support from other organizations that deal with these issues. Recognizing that tolerance cannot be taught in a single day and that raising awareness of diversity should be integrated into students' daily lives, this public-private partnership -- entitled "Dealing with Our Differences" -- will provide an opportunity for middle-school students to learn about the harmful impact of intolerance and will highlight positive ways that young adolescents are dealing with diversity issues. The Partnership will develop in-school lessons and activities supported with cable TV programming, videos and websites, a nationally-televised forum on diversity and tolerance at the end of October; and post-show lessons and

activities.

Directing the Education and Justice Departments to Collect Data About Hate Crimes in Schools and Colleges. In order to better understand the problem of hate crimes and intolerance among young people, the President will call on the Departments of Justice and Education to include in their annual report card on school safety a new section on hate crimes among young people, both at and away from school. In addition, the President will direct the Department of Education, with appropriate assistance from the Department of Justice, to collect data on hate crime and bias on college campuses for periodic publication.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 29, 1997

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Spring is a season of renewal, not just of the world around us, but of the ideals inside us -- those that bind us together as a people. Millions of families will come together to celebrate Easter this weekend and Passover in the coming weeks, to reaffirm their faith in God and their commitment to our sacred values.

And in this season of renewal, I ask all Americans to reaffirm their commitment to this central ideal -- that we are many people, but one nation, bound together by shared values, rooted in the essential dignity and meaning of every American's life and liberty. That is the root of the American idea of a community of equal, free, responsible citizens and the American Dream to build the best possible future for our children.

The divide of race has been America's constant curse in pursuit of our ideals. The struggle to overcome it has been a defining part of our history. Racial and ethnic differences continue to divide and bedevil millions around the world. And as we become an ever more pluralistic society with people from every racial and ethnic group calling America home, our own future depends upon laying down the bitter fruits of hatred and lifting up the rich texture of our diversity and our common humanity.

We're not there yet, as we often see in the tragic stories in the news. Just last week in Chicago, a 13-year-old boy, riding his bike home from a basketball game, was brutally attacked and almost beaten to death -- apparently for no other reason but the color of his skin. Lenard Clark is black; the young men accused of attacking him are white. This weekend, I hope all Americans join Hillary and me in a prayer for Lenard and his family.

There is never an excuse for violence against innocent

citizens. But this kind of savage, senseless assault, driven by nothing but hate, strikes at the very heart of America's ideals and threatens the promise of our future -- no matter which racial or ethnic identity of the attackers or the victims. We must stand together as a nation against all crimes of hate and say they are wrong. We must condemn hate crimes whenever they happen; we must commit ourselves to prevent them from happening again. And we must sow the seeds of harmony and respect among our people.

And let's be honest with ourselves: racism in America is not confined to acts of physical violence. Every day, African Americans and other minorities are forced to endure quiet acts of racism -- bigoted remarks, housing and job discrimination. Even many people who think they are not being racist, still hold to negative stereotypes, and sometimes act on them. These acts may not harm the body, but when a mother and her child go to the grocery store and are followed around by a suspicious clerk, it does violence to their souls.

We must stand against such quiet hatred just as surely as we condemn acts of physical violence, like those against Lenard Clark.

At the same time, black Americans must not look at the faces of Lenard Clark's attackers and see the face of white America. The acts of a few people must never become an excuse for blanket condemnation -- for bigotry begins with stereotyping, stereotyping blacks and whites, Jews and Arabs, Hispanics and Native Americans, Asians, immigrants in general. It is all too common today, but it is still wrong.

In Chicago, we see leaders of different races and political philosophies coming together to decry the crime against Lenard Clark. That is good and it is reason for hope.

The holidays of this season teach us that hope can spring forth from the darkest of times. Those of us who are Christians celebrate a risen God who died a painful, very human death to redeem the souls of all humanity without regard to race or station.

So as families come together to celebrate Easter and Passover, as parents reunite with their children, their brothers and sisters, and friends with each other, let us all take time to search our souls. Let us find the strength to reach across the lines that divide us on the surface and touch the common spirit that resides in every human heart.

And let us also remember there are some Americans who feel

isolated from all of the rest of us in other ways -- sometimes with truly tragic consequences like the events just outside San Diego, which have so stunned us all this week. Our prayers are with their families, as well.

In this season of reflection, we must find kinship in our common humanity. In this season of renewal, we must renew our pledge to make America one nation under God. In this season of redemption, we must all rise up above our differences to walk forward together on common ground, toward common dreams.

Thanks for listening.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

March 11, 1999

STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT GORE
ON THE HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

This past year, our nation witnessed a number of heinous and cowardly hate crimes. These shameful acts of violence -- like the vicious murders of James Byrd and Matthew Shepard, and most recently the death of Billy Jack Gaither in Alabama -- were attacks not only on individuals, but against America and our shared values.

We must send a clear and strong message to all who would commit crimes of hate: it is wrong, it is illegal, and we will catch you and punish you to the full force of our laws.

That is why I am very pleased that Senators Kennedy and Spector and Representatives Gephardt, Conyers, Morella and others are reintroducing the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This legislation would remove needless jurisdictional requirements and give the Department of Justice the power to prosecute hate crimes committed for any reason.

I urge members of Congress to come together in one voice on this issue. I urge them stand together against intolerance, against prejudice, and against violent and senseless bigotry and pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

June 21, 1999

STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Tipper and I were deeply saddened to learn of the terrible fires that damaged three synagogues in Sacramento last week. Our thoughts and prayers are with the members of the Jewish community whose lives have been disrupted by this terrible crime.

The predawn attacks on Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom and Knesset Israel Torah Center were cowardly. They targeted the Jewish community of Sacramento, and hurt all citizens in California and across this nation in the process. Local law enforcement and national officials are working together to investigate these incidents, and they will bring those who perpetrated these terrible acts to justice.

Thousands of books and holy scriptures were destroyed in the fires. Your places of worship and learning lie charred in the aftermath of this terrible violence. But the history and culture of this community remain intact. The hopes and dreams of this community remain strong and defiant -- unyielding to the forces of an intolerant few. No hateful person or violent act can take that away.

Hate crimes can not be tolerated -- by anyone, anywhere. Last year, more than 8,000 hate crime incidents were reported in the United States -- almost one an hour. That is unacceptable. We must remember, in order to stop these terrible crimes from happening, we must band together as a national community -- as One America - to fight them. And now is the time for national leaders to take a stand against hate crimes and lead our nation in this movement. Together we can practice, and teach a different way of life -- one in which these terrible acts never happen.

Our diversity is a godsend for us, and the world of the 21st century. But it is also the potential for the old, haunting demons that are hard to root out of the human spirit. America's strength comes from its diversity, and our ability to recognize and celebrate the differences among us. Together, we must come together to recognize that diversity and, in doing so, make sure that what happened here last week

never, ever, happens again.



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Bill 1 of 50

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Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999 (Introduced in the Senate)

S 622 IS

106th CONGRESS

1st Session

S. 622

To enhance Federal enforcement of **hate crimes** , and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

March 16, 1999

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. WELLSTONE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To enhance Federal enforcement of **hate crimes** , and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the '**Hate Crimes** Prevention Act of 1999'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that--

(1) the incidence of violence motivated by the actual or perceived race, color, national

origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or disability of the victim poses a serious national problem;

(2) such violence disrupts the tranquility and safety of communities and is deeply divisive;

(3) existing Federal law is inadequate to address this problem;

(4) such violence affects interstate commerce in many ways, including--

(A) by impeding the movement of members of targeted groups and forcing such members to move across State lines to escape the incidence or risk of such violence; and

(B) by preventing members of targeted groups from purchasing goods and services, obtaining or sustaining employment or participating in other commercial activity;

(5) perpetrators cross State lines to commit such violence;

(6) instrumentalities of interstate commerce are used to facilitate the commission of such violence;

(7) such violence is committed using articles that have traveled in interstate commerce;

(8) violence motivated by bias that is a relic of slavery can constitute badges and incidents of slavery;

(9) although many State and local authorities are now and will continue to be responsible for prosecuting the overwhelming majority of violent **crimes** in the United States, including violent **crimes** motivated by bias, Federal jurisdiction over certain violent **crimes** motivated by bias is necessary to supplement State and local jurisdiction and ensure that justice is achieved in each case;

(10) Federal jurisdiction over certain violent **crimes** motivated by bias enables Federal, State, and local authorities to work together as partners in the investigation and prosecution of such **crimes** ; and

(11) the problem of **hate** crime is sufficiently serious, widespread, and interstate in nature as to warrant Federal assistance to States and local jurisdictions.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF HATE CRIME.

In this Act, the term '**hate** crime' has the same meaning as in section 280003(a) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (28 U.S.C. 994 note).

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN ACTS OF VIOLENCE.

Section 245 of title 18, United States Code, is amended--

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

`(c)(1) Whoever, whether or not acting under color of law, willfully causes bodily injury to any person or, through the use of fire, a firearm, or an explosive device, attempts to cause bodily injury to any person, because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, or national origin of any person--

`(A) shall be imprisoned not more than 10 years, or fined in accordance with this title, or both; and

`(B) shall be imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or fined in accordance with this title, or both if--

 `(i) death results from the acts committed in violation of this paragraph; or

 `(ii) the acts committed in violation of this paragraph include kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill.

`(2)(A) Whoever, whether or not acting under color of law, in any circumstance described in subparagraph (B), willfully causes bodily injury to any person or, through the use of fire, a firearm, or an explosive device, attempts to cause bodily injury to any person, because of the actual or perceived religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability of any person--

 `(i) shall be imprisoned not more than 10 years, or fined in accordance with this title, or both; and

 `(ii) shall be imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or fined in accordance with this title, or both, if--

 `(I) death results from the acts committed in violation of this paragraph; or

 `(II) the acts committed in violation of this paragraph include kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill.

`(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the circumstances described in this subparagraph are that--

 `(i) in connection with the offense, the defendant or the victim travels in interstate or foreign commerce, uses a facility or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce, or engages in any activity affecting interstate or foreign commerce; or

 `(ii) the offense is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce.'.

SEC. 5. DUTIES OF FEDERAL SENTENCING COMMISSION.

(a) AMENDMENT OF FEDERAL SENTENCING GUIDELINES- Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, the United States Sentencing Commission shall study the issue of adult recruitment of juveniles to commit **hate crimes** and shall, if appropriate, amend the Federal sentencing guidelines to provide sentencing enhancements (in addition to the sentencing enhancement provided for the use of a minor during the commission of an offense) for adult defendants who recruit juveniles to assist in the commission of **hate crimes** .

(b) CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER GUIDELINES- In carrying out this section, the United States Sentencing Commission shall--

 (1) ensure that there is reasonable consistency with other Federal sentencing guidelines; and

 (2) avoid duplicative punishments for substantially the same offense.

SEC. 6. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS- The Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice shall make grants, in accordance with such regulations as the Attorney General may

prescribe, to State and local programs designed to combat **hate crimes** committed by juveniles, including programs to train local law enforcement officers in investigating, prosecuting, and preventing **hate crimes** .

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS- There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO ASSIST STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice, including the Community Relations Service, for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002 such sums as are necessary to increase the number of personnel to prevent and respond to alleged violations of section 245 of title 18, United States Code (as amended by this Act).

SEC. 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, the amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provisions of such to any person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 11, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT HUBERT HUMPHREY CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD DINNER

The Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

8:15 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so very much. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the warm welcome. Thank you, Dorothy, for your wonderful words. She has been involved in this work for many years, but every time I hear her speak I always marvel at how young and vigorous and alive and energetic she always sounds. (Applause.)

I'm honored to be here with Wade Henderson, Julian Bond, Rabbi Saperstein, Monsignor East; my good friend, Justin Dart, Frances Humphrey Howard -- it's nice to see you tonight, ma'am. I also want to -- I have been told that Judy Shepard is here, the mother of Matthew Shepard, and she testified for the hate crimes legislation today. I don't know where she is, but I'd like to ask her to stand up -- and I thank you. Where is she? Thank you very much and God bless you. Thank you. (Applause.)

I would like to thank the members of the administration who are here: Secretary Herman; our EEOC Chair, Ida Castro; our Civil Rights Assistant Attorney General, Bill Lann Lee -- (applause); Ben Johnson, who is continuing the work of our initiative on race at the White House -- (applause); and Mary Beth Cahill and others on the White House staff. I thank them. (Applause.)

I would also like to say a special word of appreciation to the many members of the Congress who are here, well over a dozen House members and Senator Wellstone, Senator Sarbanes and Senator Robb. I thank all of them for being here and for what they do. If it weren't for them, many of the things we have tried to do in the area of civil rights and human rights would not have been sustained in these last few years.

When I saw Senator Robb's name here it reminded me before I give out this Hubert Humphrey Award -- or acknowledge the award winners, you're going to give it out -- I admired Hubert Humphrey very much and I grew up just being almost crazy about him because I grew up in the south during the civil rights revolution. And I got to meet him when I was a young man and when he was making his last campaign and during his latter service in the Senate, after he had been Vice President.

But I would like to say something I have rarely had the chance to say as President -- but I don't think I would be here doing this, or we would be where we are as a country if it had not been for the President Hubert Humphrey served, Lyndon Johnson, and I think that we should never forget that. (Applause.) I just got back from Texas a few days ago, and I was thinking about it quite a lot down there.

I want to congratulate the Hubert Humphrey award winners tonight, Gary Locke, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, Jeannie Van Velkinburgh, who I know is back in the hospital tonight and couldn't be with us.

We honor these people because of something Dr. King once said, "No social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability." You all know they are pushed forward by courageous men and women who give themselves and inspire others to follow. People like my good friend, Governor Gary Locke, who has used the power of his office to expand and defend opportunity for all the people of his state. Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, who together for 50 years have advanced the cause of civil rights through their art and through their efforts to open the theater and movies to people of all backgrounds.

And Jeannie Van Velkinburgh, who stood with the white martyrs of the civil rights movement in the south; when she was paralyzed in 1997, trying to help a black man under attack by skinheads. All true American heroes. I know we are honored to be in your presence tonight. I congratulate them on their awards and I congratulate you for your choices.

For nearly half century, the Leadership Conference has helped hundreds of diverse groups keep their eyes on the prize and speak with one booming voice. Today, your voice is louder, larger and more diverse than ever. And that is good, because it is still sorely needed. While our economy has never been stronger and minority unemployment is the lowest it has been since separate measurements have been kept, there are still striking disparities in income, wealth, jobs, education and criminal justice that breakdown along what DuBois called "the color line"; and other disparities that affect people who are disabled or people who are gay.

In other words, we still have quite a little hill to climb before we can claim to be the one America of our founders' dreams.

I was thinking today how I could best honor the spirit of Hubert Humphrey. I could give a long speech. (Laughter.) I should tell you, if he were here at this podium tonight and I was out there, I would want him to give a long speech. I loved his long speeches. But I think what I will do instead is to try to make briefer comments in the spirit of his service about just three things we still need to do before we cross that bridge into a new century.

First, we must continue to work together for a fair and accurate census. (Applause.) I agree with Wade when he says the 2000 census is a civil rights issue. It is a fundamental building block of democracy. We have to make sure the Census Bureau can do its job with the most up-to-date and scientific methods. We all say we live for the day when every American counts as much as every other American. Surely, that day must begin with counting every American.

The second thing we have to do is to close the economic opportunity gaps that still exist among our people -- in our inner-cities, our smaller and medium-sized towns, our rural areas and on our Native American reservations. There will never be a better time for us to shine the light of economic opportunity on communities and neighborhoods that have been too long in the shadows. We do have the strongest economy in a generation, perhaps in this century. But we know -- we know -- that there are still large numbers of communities that have been left out and left behind.

Just an hour ago I returned from Atlanta -- I think Congressman Lewis is here -- but I toured the Sweet Auburn Market in Martin Luther King's home neighborhood, in Atlanta's empowerment zone with the Mayor of Atlanta, Bill Campbell, and two of his predecessors, who are friends of many of yours, Maynard Jackson and Andy Young.

I was there to highlight the fact that our greatest untapped markets today for America are not overseas, they are right here at home.

There's an \$85 billion consumer market out there that is grossly underdeveloped. Ever since we took office, Vice President Gore and I have worked hard to try to get more people to invest in that part of America, with the empowerment zone program, the community development financial institution effort, special initiatives from HUD, from SBA, from the Department of Labor. And we have had some good success.

But as I look back on it, even now, with unemployment at 4.3 percent, with over 18 million new jobs, there are still inner-city neighborhoods, there are still medium-sized and smaller communities, there are still rural towns, there are still Native American reservations where there has been almost no new investment in job creation.

And what I am attempting to do this year is to convince the Congress to pass legislation and the American business community to mobilize to invest in those communities to create jobs there. I took some of the biggest business leaders in America today to that market in Atlanta. And I let them sit there with me and we listened to people talk about how they started their coffee shop and their bakery and their restaurant; and how one man had bought an empty old mill and was converting it to 500 apartments; and how a young man who was a supplier to other businesses had taken his business from \$150,000 a year to \$12 million a year in three years, starting with a modest loan.

And in July, in early July, I'm going to take three days and do what I did today in Atlanta. I'm going to go across the country, to the poorest communities, and to some places where a lot of good things are happening, to demonstrate why we need to have a national framework to give every community a chance to get the money it needs to start the businesses, to expand the businesses, to create the jobs, to stabilize the future. (Applause.)

Our proposal is very straightforward: we want to double the number of empowerment zones where people get tax credits, loan guarantees, direct investment and technical assistance. We want to dramatically increase the number of community development banks; but we want to pass a national new markets initiative that simply says we want to give business people and investors the same incentives to invest in poor American neighborhoods we give them to invest in our neighbors. We don't want to take those other incentives away -- we want to grow the Caribbean economies, we want to grow the Central American economies, we want to encourage Americans to be involved in Africa and we want a new partnership there. But we also believe that Appalachia, the Mississippi Delta, south Texas and the Indian Reservations of the high plains should get new American money now. (Applause.)

So I would ask you to help me pass this legislation.

The third thing I ask you to do is to help us pass the hate crimes prevention act this year. (Applause.) In 1997, the year Jeannie Van Velkinburgh and Omar Deah (phonetic) were brutally attacked by skinheads, more than 8,000 hate crimes were reported in the United States -- that's nearly one an hour. The hearings today that Mrs. Shepard testified at were held in the United States Senate by the Judiciary Committee, under the leadership of Senator Hatch. First, I commend Senator Hatch for holding those hearings, they are a welcome sign -- surely the goodness we can make fighting hate crimes a bipartisan, even a nonpartisan mission of the United States of America. (Applause.)

I think we need to be clear about what our legislation is designed to do. It is not an effort to federalize crimes traditionally handled by the states. It is an effort to partner with local authorities. And it is not only about cracking down on hate crimes committed because of

sexual orientation, gender or disability. It's also about expanding civil rights protection for all Americans. Let's never forget what happened to James Bird, Jr. in Texas. I met with his daughter in Austin, just a few days ago. She's down there trying to get the Texas legislature to pass state hate crimes legislation. We ought to be pulling for her and for the Texas legislators who are trying to get the job done -- and we ought to remember that we also need it here in Washington. (Applause.)

So I say to you, we need to do this for all Americans. We need to make a hate crimes prevention act and the employment nondiscrimination act the law of the land, because it will help us to move toward one America and it will help us to make a statement about what we are not, as well as what we are.

I was honored to appear at a testimonial banquet for Rabbi Saperstein the other night. We've been friends for many years, I love and admire him very much. And I especially appreciate how hard he's worked for peace in the Middle East, and how hard he's worked to protect the heritage and the historical rights of the Israeli people and still be fair and humane toward the Arabs, with whom they share that land.

And I make this point for the following reason. It seems to me that the central irony of our time is that most of us have a vision of America in the 21st century and the world in the 21st century in which we'll all be mixed up in wonderful ways. We'll have all this fabulous technology and we'll be e-mailing people on the South Pole or wherever. (Laughter.) Our kids will have pen-pals in Africa and Mongolia. We'll jet around on airplanes and do business with people at the tip of Tierra del Fuego. (Laughter.) Our kids will speak Japanese and Russian; one of them will solve the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh. This is what it's going to be like, it's going to be great.

We just has this NATO summit here. We had the leaders of 42 countries here, all the way to Central Asia; speaking all these different languages because we see that the world is drawing us closer together. Technology and commerce and culture all bringing us together. And most of us think it will really be neat if America can thrive in that kind of world because we're rapidly becoming the most diverse democracy ever known. And won't it be grand? That's the image we all have. That's the dream we have.

And, yet, our whole world is bedeviled by the oldest problem of human society, which is fear and hatred of the other. We have known it in America primarily as the curse of race. Although we see discrimination and cruelty against people who are gay, discrimination against people who are disabled, we see it in other manifestations. We occasionally see religious discrimination in America. But primarily we have known it as race.

And, yet, we see it everywhere. Hillary wanted to come here tonight to pay her respects to the honorees, but she got on a plane today to continue years of work she has done in Ireland, to try to use women and children to bring together people across the lines of Catholic and Protestant Irish. And then she's going on to the refugee camps of Albania and Macedonia, to clarify our compassion and concern for the predominantly Muslim Kosovar Albanians who have been driven from their homes, and female loved ones murdered.

The bane of the Balkans is primarily a religious ethnic bane. First, the Bosnian Muslims, but now the Kosovar Muslims driven from their homes, systematically killed, raped, pillaged; their cultural and religious institutions and records destroyed. Why? Because they have been turned into something sub-human and so they somehow taint the land they share with the Serbs or the Croats or others.

We saw with breathtaking speed what happened in Rwanda a few years ago, the world totally caught flat-footed with no mechanism to deal with the slaughter of Rwanda, where somewhere between 700,000 and 900,000 people were killed in 100 days with no modern weapons, mostly hacked to death -- because two African tribes who, in this case, had shared the same land for 500 years, all of a sudden decided that they couldn't bear it anymore.

I hope you support what we are doing in Kosovo -- (applause) -- and what we did in Bosnia. I want you to know that we also have worked to redeem the failure of the world to stop the slaughter in Rwanda by developing an Africa Crisis Response Team, working with the militaries of the countries in the region that are committed to democracy and human rights, so that, God forbid, if anything like this ever happens again we, in the United States, and other freedom-loving people around the world, will have Africans with whom we can work to move more quickly to stop genocide, to stop ethnic cleansing, to not let it happen again. (Applause.)

But what I want to say to you is this: There will be fights around the world based on ethnic differences that we won't be able to stop. Sometimes people just fall out with one another. But if we want to at least be able to stand firm against ethnic cleansing, against genocide and for the principle that it is possible to honor our differences, to enjoy our differences, to recognize our differences and still keep them contained within the framework of our common humanity, so that life is more interesting, but not unbearable. If that's what we want, and we expect people to take the United States seriously at a time when we are easy to resent because of our economic and military power, then people have to see us not only trying to do good around the world, but trying to be good at home. (Applause.)

You know, many of these people are struggling. Macedonia and Albania, the two poorest countries in Europe -- think how easy it is for all of them to resent us, to say, well, we're just waiting for our turn in history's clock to bring us to the top and take them down, to resent our power, to resent our wealth, to resent what they may think of as our preaching. I am telling you, it's imperative that we do this at this moment in history. But if we want to be a force for good, we have got to be good.

So when we stand up for the hate crimes legislation, when we stand up for the employment nondiscrimination legislation -- (applause) -- when we stand up as a people and say that it's okay for us to have differences, and we're not even asking everybody to like everybody else in America. But we have got to find a way to get along by recognizing the fundamental human dignity of every person. We have got to find a way to do that so that we take advantages that are rife with all of our diversity by joining together in affirming our common humanity.

Keep in mind, unless we can do that here at home, in the end, we will not be able to do that around the world. And our whole vision of the 21st century -- our whole vision -- what we want our children to see in the world of their dreams depends upon our being able to do both: to stand for what is good abroad and to keep struggling to be good home at home. That's what our honorees have led us in doing. It is certainly what you have led us in doing. Don't get tired, we've still got a ways to go.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

8:40 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT CLINTON: GETTING TOUGH ON HATE CRIMES

President Announces Significant New Law Enforcement and Prevention Initiatives

"Hate crimes ... leave deep scars not only on the victims, but on our larger community. They weaken the sense that we are one people with common values and a common future. They tear us apart when we should be moving closer together. They are acts of violence against America itself...."

"As part of our preparation for the new century, it is time for us to mount an all-out assault on hate crimes, to punish them swiftly and severely, and to do more to prevent them from happening in the first place. We must begin with a deeper understanding of the problem itself."

President Clinton, Radio Address to the Nation, June 7, 1997

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HATE CRIMES

November 10, 1997

On November 10, 1997, the President convened the first-ever White House Conference on Hate Crimes, a day-long event held at The George Washington University. At the Conference, the President announced significant law enforcement and prevention initiatives to get tough on hate crimes. The Conference examined the positive actions that communities are taking and outline the steps we all can take to prevent hate crimes.

A hate crime is the embodiment of intolerance -- an act of violence against a person or property based on the victims race, color, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability. Every year, thousands of Americans are victims of hate crimes -- and it is suspected that many more go unreported. Teenagers and young adults account for a significant proportion of the country's hate crimes -- both as perpetrators and victims. Every time one of these crimes is committed it creates tension and fear, and tears at the fabric of community life.

The Conference is an important element of the President's Initiative on Race and of his vision for One America. Members of the President's Advisory Board on Race participated in the Conference at satellite locations.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

The President, Vice President, Attorney General and Secretary of Education were joined by other members of the Cabinet, Members of Congress, selected state and local officials, and approximately 350 leaders from the law enforcement, civil rights, anti-violence, youth, education, and religious communities.

Hate crimes survivors also attended. Participants included representatives from all 50 states. Thousands more participated at over 50 satellite-linked events across the country.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

The President hosted a breakfast for Conference participants at the White House and made an opening address at the Conference. After his remarks, the President chaired a panel discussion in which the Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, and several other distinguished Americans joined.

In the afternoon, members of the Cabinet and other senior Administration officials chaired a number of concurrent working sessions to examine various aspects of the hate crimes issue. Afterward, the Attorney General chaired a closing panel to discuss ideas and themes from the working sessions. Participants attended a closing reception at the United States Holocaust Museum.

The Conference was held at the Cloyd Heck Marvin Center at the George Washington University, 800 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC, and was by invitation only. The President's remarks began at approximately 11:30 a.m. The closing panel and remarks by the Attorney General commenced at approximately 4:15 p.m. The event was open press, except for the working sessions beginning at 2:30 p.m., which were closed press. Press inquires should be directed to (202) 456-7150.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

President's Remarks at White House Conference on Hate Crimes
President's Closing Remarks at White House Conference on Hate Crimes
Clinton Administration Accomplishments
Hurtful Acts Hurt Kids

Contact the White House Conference on Hate Crimes at (202) 456-6350.



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