having an impact on drug abuse. Yet the department of alcohol and mental health in Texas for awhile was considering shutting them down because they do not have degrees. They are not licensed drug counselors.

Do you know what? The magic of this is they were not doing drug counseling. They were changing people’s lives. When people’s lives changed, they got rid of drugs.

We need to figure out how we balance the rights of individuals not to fund churches on the other side and at the same time get money into the hands of programs that are actually working.

In my home district, for example, Rev. Ternae Jordan’s son was at a music lesson at a local YMCA. He was sitting on the couch out by the door and was shot in the back of the head by two kids who were shooting outside. The whole city was traumatized by the event. The son recovered, but it led to Reverend Jordan starting a program called Stop the Madness, trying to crack down and encourage neighborhood groups to work on the drug program.

Mr. Speaker, recently I was privileged to attend the seventh anniversary of the Christ Zone behind them. The event was sponsored by the Community, stepped out on Faith and told their whole city was traumatized by the event. The son recovered, but it led to Reverend Ternae Jordan starting a program called Stop the Madness, trying to crack down and encourage neighborhood groups to work on the drug program.

Mr. Speaker, recently I was privileged to attend the seventh anniversary of the Christ Zone behind them. The event was sponsored by the Community, stepped out on Faith and told their story, which I now include in the Record.

NOW, LET’S TALK ABOUT THE PASTOR
(Reverend Jordan)

As a Pastor, Rev. Jordan’s vision, along with Angela, has been a leader in Fort Wayne, IN honoring Rev. Ternae Jordan. Pastor Jordan has been a leader in Fort Wayne in many ways, not the least being through his antidrug organization, A verschiedene, I particularly enjoyed this eloquent tribute by Cheryl Story, which I now include in the Record.

THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN
(Reverend Jordan)

The Lord has blessed us with CWF, a Brotherhood Men’s Support Group and Promise Keepers. We have an old organ and ragged mixed, now we have got high tech equipment and a space for same. Sometimes we couldn’t even make payroll or pay our bills and God has given us financial increase thru tithing members. Seven years ago, if you came to Church at 12:30 p.m. you could pick & choose your own “Praying ground” now it’s standing room only by 1:00 a.m. We got Birthing of a Vision and Stop the Madness now has nationwide video presentations.

We’ve got an integrated Congregation and we participate in inter-racial Church Fellowships. Pastor Jordan is a Jefferson Community Service Award winner, the NAACP’s Golden Anniversary Man of the Year and every year, Mayor Robert in 2000.

This is the vision that we Republicans are trying to communicate, that the answers to America’s problems is the Federal Government, or any government really, that it can be a supplement, it can be a time to be there when you are in need, it can give a stimulus and some training. That is the ultimate answer to our problems.

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I think the people in northeast Indiana for giving me the chance and for having so many of us here who share these views, and hopefully for my daughter who just graduated and for my sons who are still coming up, that they can look at America with hope and with opportunity rather than the type of America that we can see on MTV and the type of pessimism I fear we are going to have if we fall back into the trap of the deficit spending in the States and the type of pessimism that they can look at America with hope and with opportunity rather than the type of America that we can see on MTV and the type of pessimism I fear we are going to have if we fall back into the trap of the deficit spending in the States.

Rev. Otha Aden has a similar program in their church and their program need to join with expectation, the opposite of despair, the faith that he is a Salvation Salesman, a Paradise Specialist and a Dying Hour Confidant. Officiator, a Funeral Eulogist, a Sick Room Minister, a Discharge/Emergency/comfort to those in need. He must know what people are going through and achieve something.

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The Pastor is in duty 24 hrs. Day & Night. He points out, it is not rest he has to provide and encourage people to give them the funds and encourage people to give them the funds so that they grow.

Rather than stomping them out through massive government from implementing to America that the solution to America’s problems is the Federal Government, or any government really, that it can be a supplement, it can be a time to be there when you are in need, it can give a stimulus and some training. That is the ultimate answer to our problems.

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C invoke the SPORTS pro tem. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELD'S] is recognized for 60 minutes.
Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, tonight I am joined by my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. JACKSON], who will also talk about an issue that we both have a great deal of compassion about as Members of Congress. So tonight, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, we would like to take the remainder of this hour to talk about the church burnings across the southern part of the country.

Mr. Speaker, over 63 churches over the past 5 years were burned. All of these were African-American churches; 20 of those cases have been solved at this point. And before I go any further, I would like to commend the Justice Department, who has been working extraordi-narily hard in trying to bring to justice these church burnings across the country, and in particular I want to commend Deval Patrick, who is the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. That department has worked profusely night and day to try to ascertain as much information as possible as relates to these burnings, and I would like to commend him and his staff for all the work that they are doing, and I would like to also commend him for the support that he has given to legislation to make penalties much more tougher and bring people to justice much quicker. And he will be on the Hill tomorrow, as I appreciate it, to try to convince the Committee on the Judiciary to pass legislation in that regard.

I would also like to commend Mr. Johnson, who is with the Department of the Treasury, who is the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement. They are working in a day to day to try to ascertain as much information as possible as relates to the church burnings, and he has worked relentlessly in trying to obtain as much information as possible; and, of course, the personnel over at the entire division, Janet Reno, who on yesterday and on today met with many of the pastors of the churches that were burned from across the South, and I appreciate her compassion and the diligence she has shown in trying to bring people to Justice for the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

The President should be commended as well for his commitment to expend-ing as much resources as possible through this administration to ascertain any information that is possible to bring these senseless burnings to an end.

Mr. Speaker and Members, I would like to share with the Members of the House very briefly the most recent church burnings across the country. I mentioned that there was 63 in the past 5 years, 20 of those cases unresolved, and I think as of last night 21 because a fire was, as I appreciate it, a church was set afire on last night in the State of Texas.

In the State of Alabama, Mr. Speaker, there are a total of 5 churches that were burned. On December 22, 1995, Mount Zion Baptist Church, which is in the own district, we have had over five church burnings. One was Saint Charles Baptist Church, which was the fifth church that was burned and that was burned on January 11, 1996, which is the most recent burning in the State of Alabama. On February 28, 1996, New Liberty Baptist Church in Tyler was set afire, and on March 25, 1996, Missionary Baptist Church in Selma. A total of five churches in the State of Alabama have been burned since December 22, 1995, to this present day.

In the State of Georgia there was one case of arson. On March 27, 1996, Gay's Hill Baptist Church in Millen was burned.

And in Louisiana, my State and my own district, we have had over five church burnings. One was Saint Charles Baptist Church, which was the fifth church that was burned and that was burned on January 11, 1996, which is the most recent burning in the State of Louisiana. On February 1, 1996, Cypress Grove Baptist Church in East Baton Rouge Parish was set afire, and Saint Paul Free Baptist Church in East Baton Rouge Parish was set afire. And in Baton Rouge Parish and Sweet Home Baptist Church in Baker, which is adjacent to East Baton Rouge Parish, and St. Thomas Chapel Benevolent Society in East Baton Rouge Parish. All four of these churches, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, were set afire the same night, and on April 11, 1996, as I stated earlier, Saint Charles Baptist church was set afire as well.

In the State of Mississippi we have identified two to three cases of arson. On April 15, 1996, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church was burned, and on March 30, 1996, El Bethal Church was burned.

And in North Carolina there were four incidents. One that comes to mind the quickest was the 93-year-old wood- en sanctuary that was once used by the congregation of Matthews-Murkland, which was a Presbyterian church, and that was in Charlotte, North Carolina, and that church was burned on June 7, which was the most recent burning in 1996.

And in South Carolina there were five churches. Mount Zion AME Church was burned, and on August 15, 1996, St. John Baptist Church; June 22, 1995, Macedonia Baptist Church; and April 13, 1996, Rosemary Baptist Church. Finally, on April 26, 1996, another Baptist church was burned in the State of South Carolina, and the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. C'LYBURN], who had worked profusely on this and perhaps he will join us in this colloquy later tonight.

The State of Tennessee had a total of six burnings. January 13, 1995, Johnson Grove Baptist Church in Crockett County was burned; and that same night, on the 13th of January, on January 31, 1995, Mount Calvary Baptist Church was burned, and on December 30, 1995, Selma Baptist Church in Fruitland was burned, and on January 8, 1996, First Baptist Church in Knoxville was burned, and on May 14, 1996, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, which is being investigated at this point, is still under investigation, and they have not yet ruled this church to be a church that was burned by arson.

And last, the State of Texas, on June 6, 1996, New Lighthouse of Prayer in Greenville.

And a Church of Living God was burned in Virginia on February 21, 1996; Glorious Church of God and Christ in Richmond was burned.

The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. JACKSON], we have talked about what could we do as Members of Congress to try to assist in stemming the tide of church burnings across the southern part of our country, and we were happy to learn that the ATF decided to publicize a 1-800 number, so we urge Members of this Congress to please inform their constituents of the 1-800 number that their constituents can take advantage of if they know of any information whatsoever about any of these church burnings, and I am told that toll free number is 800-ATF-FIRE, which is a 24-hour a day, 7-day-a-week number where any citizen in this country who has any information whatsoever about church burnings in America can, in fact, call this number, and agents will respond.

We feel that this country should have zero tolerance for anyone who would have the audacity and the gall to burn anything, but particularly, particularly, a church. For a person to light a match to a place of worship in this country shows no respect, first of all, to himself, to the individual who chooses to do it, and certainly does not show any respect to human life. And we are committed to work with the Justice Department, the ATF, and the FBI, and all of the investigative agencies as Members of Congress, we are committed to supporting this effort so that we can bring it to some conclusion.

And this is a bipartisan effort, both Democrats and Republicans. We all agree that there should not, none of us, have any tolerance for individuals who would burn a place of worship. We started this coalition with the blue dog Democrats, as a matter of fact, about 3 months ago when these church burnings first started. Mr. Speaker, some one of these church burnings, has been working very hard with ATF and with the FBI and the Justice Department to try to get as much information as possible, and perhaps he will join us in this colloquy later tonight.

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So I am thankful to all of the Members who have been participating in briefings on church burnings, and I am very thankful to the Justice Department and the administration for their zero-tolerance attitude for this type of behavior and action across the country.

At this time I am going to yield to my colleague from Illinois, Mr. JACKSON.

Mr. J ACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS] for allowing me the opportunity to participate this evening in this special order. I certainly want to join my colleagues along with the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS] and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] from the other side of the aisle, and the gentlwoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON], the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS], members of the Congressional Black Caucus, members of the progressive caucus in this Congress, in condemning those who are burning churches, defacing synagogues in our Nation, and certainly congratulate those who are seeking to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Attorney General Janet Reno has been working diligently along with Deval Patrick, along with the members of the FBI and the ATF, to bring these perpetrators to justice. It is my understanding, after having talked with Mr. Patrick, that this is one of the largest civil rights investigations that has ever taken place in our Nation's history.

I am hoping that the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana, after I read a brief history of church burnings in our Nation, put them in some particular context, will certainly join in a colloquy about church burnings and what it is that we can do to bring an end to this climate.

There are those who have said in the civil rights community that this is not only an indication of the climate and the times that we find ourselves in, but that there is indeed a conspiracy, if not a conspiracy of individuals who have met on this subject, certainly a conspiracy of culture.

If there can be said to be a bright side about these incidents, it is that blacks and whites, Christians, Jews, Protestants, and Catholics, the Rainbow Coalition and the Christian Coalition have united against these acts and they have come together calling for more Federal resources to go into the investigation and the effort to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Mr. Speaker, some in the civil rights community have referred to this form of church-burning as cultural conspiracy, a cultural conspiracy that tolerates, if you will, a kind of racism. The fires have drawn the attention of rights' groups because of the historical legacy of black churches being repeatedly burned during the 1950's and the 1960's. While others have indicated that while those in white sheets have historically been burning churches, we are now living in a climate where those in blue suits are legisating against the civil rights of many Americans, and also those in black robes are indeed those laws that are severely restricting the principles of equal protection under the law.

When we look at what has taken place in this Nation since 1990, 57 churches have been destroyed as a result of fire and vandalism in 15 States. Only 13 cases have been successfully prosecuted and closed. A total of 30 incidents have been reported thus far in 1996 alone. Since 1986, there have been reports of suspicious fires almost every year. Most Blazes occurred in rural, isolated areas where water had to be transported to the site by volunteer companies.

In eight of the cases, where arrests have been made, perpetrators have been black firemen. Seventeen fires were set during black history month or other important civil rights anniversaries, such as Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination; the march across the Edmond Pettus Bridge, Selma, Alabama in March; or near the time the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday is celebrated.

The States that have been hardest hit are Tennessee with eight churches, Louisiana with five churches, Alabama with four churches, and Louisiana, four of the five churches were torched on February 1, 1996, in East Baton Rouge Parish. I believe the gentleman from Louisiana represents this parish.

The interesting thing about February 1, 1996 is that it is the anniversary of the Greensboro sit-in's, where students from North Carolina A&T State University—my alma mater in 1960—fought for public accommodations. Of the Louisiana churches—Cyprus Grove Baptist Church, Sweet Home Baptist Church, Thomas Chapel Benevolent society—all four were located within a 6-mile radius of each other. The St. Charles Baptist Church, the fifth church, was burned on April 11, 1996 in Paincourtville, Louisiana and citizens, again, who are concerned should know that that number is 888-ATF-FIRE. If there is any information that you can provide and that Members of Congress can forward to the ATF, it works to alert the proper authorities about these church burnings, they certainly should do that.

I want to put this in a particular historical context, which I think is certainly appropriate for these times. I wanted to do a little research before commenting further on the climate within which churches have historically burned in this Nation. Before I go any further, I certainly want to commend the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Mrs. E VA CLAYTON, for the legislation that she is sponsoring, along with other Members of Congress who are sponsoring legislation to challenge perpetrators of church-burnings and synagogue defacings in our Nation.

I think what is probably most instrumental when we look at church-burnings in our Nation is that while we are living in a climate and in an environment where we would say that race is still not a factor in American life, while we are hearing more decrees from the court that are certainly suggesting that the court should be going in a direction of colorblindness.

There is one thing that is clear about American history, and that is that race is really not a side issue. It is not an addendum to American history. It is central to the entire history of our Nation from a constitutional perspective: three-fifths human voting status, article 1, section 2 of the constitution; the "such persons" clause, article 1, section 9, the persons held to service or labor clause, article 4, section 2, paragraph 3; article 5, prohibiting any apportionment of the capitalization tax clauses before the year 1808.

It was William Lloyd Garrison and his liberator who condemned the Constitution at that time as a covenant with hell. It is only because of constitutional amendments, amendments that ended slavery that guaranteed the right to vote, that subsequently established the principles of equal protection under the law. It is only because of the Constitution and the Constitution has indeed endured.

Look at our Nation's Capitol. Even the location of our Nation's Capital, it was determined, should be the by-product of a compromise made at the time the Congress was in Philadelphia. The Congress of the United States is presently located between Maryland and Virginia, the compromise between a free State, Maryland, and that of slave State, Virginia. Look at the number of States that were entered into the Union on the issue of race. Slave and free States were admitted together to keep balance in this institution between those who were interested in abolishing the institution of slavery and those who wanted to keep it.

I raise these particular concerns because when we look at the Tilden-Hayes Compromise of 1877, when a Democratic President was subsequently elected, and by and large a conservative Supreme Court was in place. When the Supreme Court of the United States, there was an assumption about the progress that many minorities in our Nation began making after 1863. Twenty-two African-Americans served in this institution as a result of the Emancipation Proclamation. Beyond that, historically black colleagues were also founded.

But once the Tilden-Hayes compromise took place, when Democrats and Republicans, two parties with one assumption that they all agreed that the progress that African-Americans and other minorities were making in our Nation so quickly—they withdrew troops from the South that is, they
withdrew Federal protection from the South, and as a result, the Klan, the Ku Klux Klan, those Knights of the Ku Klux Klan became more evident. Beyond that, churches began to burn at unparalleled rates.

So in 1968 when we look at the parallels between what took place in 1896 with Plessy versus Ferguson and decisions that are coming out of our Court in 1996, we are certainly looking at a climate where we are withdrawing some of the principles that we fought historically against these acts, acts against church burning, acts against racial hatred in the South.

So I would certainly put in that context a challenge to both Democrats and Republicans on both sides of the aisle as we try and find creative solutions to resolving this particular crisis. We must, when they talk about cultural conspiracy, and I have heard several civil rights leaders refer to this as a cultural conspiracy.

When Michael Jordan when they say cultural conspiracy? I am the gentleman from the south side of Chicago. I am a big Chicago Bulls fan. Everyone in the Congress certainly knows that. I do believe that Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen Chicago Bulls is going to win a championship and bring it home to Chicago.

When Michael Jordan shoots a 3-point shot, I say to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS], if the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HYDE], he manages to shoot that shot from the 3-point line and wherever he is, Jesse, Jesse, unior, in Chicago jumps up excited because Michael Jordan just made a basket. But guess what? Michael Jordan fans in Los Angeles also jump up and shout. Michael Jordan fans in Dallas and Michael Jordan fans in Florida, Michael Jordan fans all across our country and indeed Michael Jordan fans around our world, they jump up, a kind of conspiracy, if you will, for Michael Jordan, because he represents the common denominator through which all of us relate, many of us relate to the Chicago Bulls.

When we talk about cultural conspiracies with respect to church burnings, when politicians fan race hatred, fan the fears of racial animosity within our Nation at the top, they create a kind of cultural fears and racial tension. My appeal in this climate to both parties to help reverse this whole notion — a cultural conspiracy would be that we rise above racial politics in 1996 and do what is in the best interests of the American people.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I think I hear what the gentleman is saying. The gentleman is saying, as I appreciate it, that we as public officials are looking upon on a day-to-day basis for leadership, be it in our own districts or be it throughout the country, we have to be, first of all, a Federal Government and we must also realize that we have to lead by example and try to talk about concentrating more on those things that bring us together than to put so much emphasis on those things that may divide us.

I think the gentleman is correct. Many times, all too often people in public life, people who run for office use issues as a wedge rather than a magnet to bring people together, but a wedge to divide. I do not know if this is what we get, the church-burning is a result of what we get as a result of dividing and not healing and bringing people together. I do not know if that is the reason or not.

But I do think the gentleman certainly makes a very compelling argument in that respect. It goes to show you that people do in fact, if that is one of the by-products of division in this Congress, division in government, and indeed government by example going to put a match to a church, then we have to be very careful in terms of how we lead and govern.

Mr. J ACKSON of Illinois. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I think we need to separate church-burnings from the blowing up of a Federal building in Oklahoma, anti-Federal Government; the Government is too large, the Government is the source of our problem? Can we indeed separate church-burnings from the Freedmen's movement and militias on the rise across our Nation, those who are declaring that their individual plots of land are not part of the United States?

I am suggesting that there is a cultural conspiracy that is much broader than just the churches. We are living in a very dangerous climate where we are not only burning churches but we are also burning opportunity and while we are burning opportunities not only for African Americans and Latinos, we are also burning opportunities in large numbers for poor white Americans, and many of those poor white Americans, along with African-Americans, Latinos, and others, are indeed reacting to this climate.

One of the things we must do is rise above it. They take their cues from us. If they see us on this floor race-baiting and using cold words and cold language to accomplish political ends, if they see us doing it at the national Presidential level, if they see us doing it in the U.S. Senate, the by-product is certainly intolerance that takes place within our communities, which is not what we want to see a freestanding lifting human being should absolutely tolerate.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I thank the gentleman, Mr. Speaker. That leads me to the point of legislation. The gentleman spoke of the legislation that was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] and also to legislation that was introduced by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONyers] and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. H YDE] as a matter of fact. I agree with a common of those pieces of legislation, and will be fighting profusely to pass those pieces on this floor, and to even make them stronger, because in listening to the President's address on Saturday, I do agree with the President. This legislation not only needs to be supported by Members of Congress but it also needs to be strengthened.

I am going to be working with members of this body to strengthen this legislation. I agree with you, we need more than legislation, because we have heard time and time again, one cannot legislate morality. We need more than tougher laws on the books. We need more than a good speech from an individual or a group of individuals. We need positive action. I think that just seeing Democrats and Republicans come together on legislation to prevent further harm to churches or to try to show some attention, bring some attention on a very serious problem is a good indication that we can in fact work together.

But all too often we do it later, rather than sooner, and I think you are right, we have too much race-baiting, for lack of a better word, in this country. It is not only in the Congress, it is in State legislatures. Now there is affirmative action, a thing that was created by people, legislators who thought and who felt a genuine need in their heart and mind and in their soul to bring people together and to give individuals who have been discriminated against for years and years an opportunity, no a guarantee but a mere opportunity to be treated fair.

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That thing we call affirmative action is now a racial buzz word, and people use it to divide people instead of bringing people together. And I think that is unfortunate. But the gentleman is right, we have to lead by example. If we want racial harmony in our society
and in our country, then the best example is the one that we make ourselves, and it is not only on this floor but throughout our daily lives.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. One of the things I did when I ran for Congress in the Second Congressional District of Illinois is indicated I would rather lose my race right rather than win it wrong, that I did not want to come to Congress at anyone else’s expense.

In the Second Congressional District I ran against some very formidable opponents, but one of the things I did not want to do was destroy their reputations or their character just so that Jesse J. could serve in this body. I knew I was young enough, had the energy enough to run every time until I win, with the ability to build the consensus that was necessary to provide the kind of hope for the people of my district.

I say that to put it in any context. When we talk about affirmative action candidates who run for political office and on the one hand they equate the song “We Shall Overcome” with whistling “Dixie,” there is no difference, a Presidential candidate said, between “We Shall Overcome” and whistling “Dixie,” they are both freedom movements.

Well, if whistling “Dixie,” protecting the Confederacy, is part of a freedom movement and “We Shall Overcome” can be seen to certainly suggests that either we are all missing the boat or that something is taking place within our Nation that has not been healed even since the Civil War. So I would certainly challenge those Presidential candidates to keep the Presidential campaign focused on issues of substance to people as it affects their daily lives.

The gentleman mentioned affirmative action. I heard some of our colleagues earlier on the other side of the aisle talk about affirmative action. He is right. In 1996 affirmative action has become a buzz word.

But the reality is affirmative action is really an outgrowth of the 1954 Brown versus Board of Education decision. Affirmative action is a conservative remedy to offset historical action, historical negative action against groups of people in our society that have been historically denied.

For example, I did a television show last weekend with one of the distinguished gentlemen from the other side of the aisle, and we talked about affirmative action. We talked about affirmative action as equal opportunity, that is, providing opportunity for those who have been historically locked out in our society, and I might add that the primary beneficiaries of affirmative action in our Nation have been white women, not African-Americans.

While there are those in our country who would portray affirmative action as the program that has provided the unfair advantage to African-Americans, the primary beneficiaries of affirmative action in the State of Illinois and in States around our Nation have been businesses owned by white women.

But why is affirmative action so important? Yes, white women have been discriminated against, African-Americans have been discriminated against, and there is a legacy of ongoing discrimination that still takes place within our Nation.

The example that I use so regularly across our country is this. When we have had tryouts for basketball players to play at any Big 10 or Division I basketball school in our country, we go all over the country. We have boosters who write the coach and say, “Coach, listen, there is a 7-foot-4 basketball player here in our local township who can play basketball. Why don’t you give them an opportunity, give them a tryout, send them a letter or try and get them to sign a letter of intent?”

So we go all over the country, primarily because we have an institution in place called boosters to provide information for coaches, and that is why we find so many prominent African-Americans playing basketball in Division I schools.

The problem is this: When it comes around to finding qualified African-Americans who can teach or qualified women who can teach, qualified African-American female, Latino and Asian-American administrators at these schools, they find the same aggressive recruitment mechanisms that went into finding qualified ball players is not applied when it comes to finding qualified teachers. They always say, “Well, we looked in the local pool, the local municipality and we couldn’t find African-Americans or women or Latinos or Asian Americans who were qualified.”

What affirmative action simply suggests as it relates to that kind of opportunity is that those institutions have to find and work to find qualified black Ph.D.’s and female Ph.D.’s and Latino Ph.D.’s just as they went and found qualified African-American ball players who play ball in parks across our country and in our high schools.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I agree with the gentleman. I think one of the problems we have with affirmative action is a perception problem. People try to view affirmative action as being twoparalleled things. We can’t find qualified people. They only get an opportunity to compete. People do not get jobs because of affirmative action. Women do not get jobs because of affirmative action, blacks, Hispanics, Latinos. They get jobs because they are qualified. They only get an opportunity to compete.

I want to also mention a meeting that I had today. We started the Presidential candidate and we talked about the church burning in Kentucky and how the President met with the ministers from my district. About four of them were in my office today, after meeting with the Justice Department, and it is amazing, I guess it is not really amazing but it is impressive. It is a good word, to see these ministers who have had their churches burned to the ground, not lose faith.

One of the ministers when asked by me, I guess, they used to think it should be imposed, he said, “Well, 15 years of going to Bible school, or 10 years of going to Bible study and working with the choir and the church.” These are individuals who have lost their buildings, not their churches, because it takes more than a torch to burn a congregation. That was only a building.

To know that those congregations all across the southern part of our country are still meeting, meeting in homes, working in parking lots, even meeting at other churches and those ministers still leading that flock, it brings a breath of fresh air. So for individuals who think they can kill the spirit by burning the church, they are going to have another think coming, because it really does not even weaken it. I have even been in my own State where it has made some of these churches even stronger.

I would like to thank those individuals. I do not know about in other areas of the State but the local community. When we went through this calamity in Louisiana of the initial church burning, four in on night, to see the business community and to see the community at large come together to try to pool resources to help support those congregations is absolutely extraordinary.

It just goes to show the good that we have in so many people. If we can just advocate what good will that we all have within ourselves as often as possible, then hopefully that kind of hate
Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Let me say if there is any bright side to this very unfortunate series of events that have been taking place in our Nation, it is that African-Americans and I have seen Catholic Americans along with Protestant Americans come together, the Rainbow Coalition coming together philosophically with the Christian Coalition to condemn these acts. This is something that historically I would think, considering the partisan nature of politics in our country, would not necessarily be the case, but they have moved beyond their partisan differences, because any group of individual who would attack a church, a place of worship, is certainly beneath the dignity of what we refer to and call ourselves Americans. And so those who are doing it should stop and those who have information about those who are doing it should help. I certainly call the ATF and let them know that they have some information about these unfortunate turn of events in our country.

I thought it was important to put these church burnings in a historical context, because all too often the history of racism and sexism and classism and church burnings and climate setting in our Nation and the role that we play as elected officials in fanning those flames, helping those fires get worse. We are not just burning churches, we are also burning opportunity in our Nation. Burning opportunity forces reaction in our Nation in terms of those who are getting an advantage through affirmative action, through other programs that were designed to help the poor regardless of their race, sex, color or class, in this particular climate we see that there is an emergence, if you will, of more church burnings and this kind of racial hatred.

I want to go back just quickly to affirmative action because we are talking about not just burning churches but burning opportunity in our Nation. To hire someone because they are unqualified is absolutely illegal. That is illegal in our Nation. Affirmative action does not mandate that one hire someone because they are unqualified. I think the analogy that the gentleman from Louisiana raises about an airline industry is certainly correct. You do not have to hire someone because they are unqualified.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his very kind and very gentle remarks. I would certainly hope that those of us in this body, really on both sides of the aisle and certainly those of us who occupy the Supreme Court of the United States and the White House, that we would be particularly sensitive that it is but by the grace of God that the churches that have been burnt, that there have not been full congregations or any congregations in those churches at those times.

But let us also be cognizant of the role that we play with our debates on the floor of this House, with the way in which we conduct ourselves in our Democrat versus Republican politics back home, with the implementation of strategies that have not brought out the very best in people but have, indeed, exacerbated fears and brought out the very worst in people.
I certainly want to commend the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana for the way in which he has conducted himself publicly and the role he has tried to play bringing African-Americans, white Americans, Asian Americans, native Americans and all of the different of Americans under one big tent called America. With that, Mr. Speaker, we yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, a southern nightmare has returned to the once quiet and tranquil rural Southland of America's southland which has many of our citizens concerned.

A wave of church arsons is sweeping across the South, taking with it many rural, mostly black churches, as well as the confidence and security that many of these communities once felt.

Mr. Speaker, if this were 1956, I would blame it on the States'-Rights activists, but this isn't 1956, this is 1996, and I thought Bull Conner was dead.

Just like a bad dream which comes in the middle of the night, so also, come these arsons, enveloped in darkness and all too reminiscent of the Bad Old Days when the night-riders of the Ku Klux Klan practiced their evil under the cover of darkness and with the assistance of the torch.

The number of these incidents, as of May 21, 1996, given in testimony before the Judiciary Committee, was 57 across the United States.

Now, the number of church arsons has risen to 58.

The number has risen to 58 because this last Sunday, another fire tragically burned the Rising Star Baptist Church, in Greensboro, AL, to the ground, and leaving an entire congregation without a house of worship.

The fire is still under investigation. Tragically, under the cover of darkness, a beautiful quiet community in west Alabama's agricultural heartland has again experienced another church arson. This makes the ninth arson of a black church in Alabama.

In light of these events, the names of these Alabama churches now evoke a rollick of despair, a string of broken dreams, and a hallmark of heartache. Allow me to cite the names of the Alabama churches which have burned: Mount Zion Baptist Church; Mount Zion Baptist Church; Little Zion Baptist Church; New Liberty Baptist Church; Jerusalem Baptist Church; Bucks Chapel Church; Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church; Pine Top Baptist Church; and now Rising Star Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I can not say definitely that these fires are the direct result of a resurgence of racism, but they are the deliberate result of hatred, ignorance, and lawlessness. Although these fires have burned down many rural churches in Alabama and across the United States, these fires have not burned out my optimism for the progress which Alabama and the South have made in my lifetime, in the area of race relations.

I know, it is a far from a perfect situation which exists today in Alabama, or in America, but if we realize this fact, and continue to progress and grow, we will reach Dr. King's promised land. And just like Dr. King, "I may not be with you, when you get there," but if this comes after my work on earth is done, I assure you that I will be there in spirit.

In closing, allow me to say that crosses may not be burning in Alabama tonight, but our churches are in flames and these criminals must be brought to justice.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:
- Mr. SCHIFF (at the request of Mr. ARMET), for today and Tuesday, June 11, on account of official business.
- Mr. ROHRABACHER (at the request of Mr. ARMET), for today, on account of a delay in transportation.
- Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and Tuesday, June 11, on account of personal reasons.
- Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.
- Mrs. LINCOLN at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and the balance of the week, on account of medical reasons.

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. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:
  - Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes. today.
  - Mrs. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
  - Mr. MONTGOMERY, for 5 minutes, today.
  - Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(For the following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:
- Mr. BURR, for 5 minutes, on June 11.
- Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes each day, today and on June 11, 12, 13, and 14.
- Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes each day, on June 11, 12, and 13.
- Mr. BUYER, for 5 minutes each day, on June 11, 12, and 13.
- Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes each day, today, and on June 11, 12, and 13.
- Mr. CHAMBLYSS, for 5 minutes each day, on June 11 and 12.

(For the following Member (at his own request) and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:
- Mr. HALL of Texas, 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. PALLONE) to include extraneous matter:
  - Mrs. MALONEY.
  - Mr. DELLUMS.
  - Mr. POSHARD.
  - Mr. FAZZIO of California.
  - Mr. WARD.
  - Mr. LANTOS.
  - Mr. MONTGOMERY.
  - Mr. CONYERS.
  - Mr. BERMAN.
  - Mr. TORRICELLI.
  - Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
  - Mr. ACKERMAN.
  - Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey.
  - Mr. DEUTSCH.
  - Mr. BENTSEN.
  - Mr. FARR of California.
  - Mr. PARKER.
  - Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:
- S. 1634. An act to amend the resolution establishing the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission to extend the service of certain members to the Committee on Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 11, 1996, at 9 a.m.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR COMMENT

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 7, 1996.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR COMMENT

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking [NPR] for the proposed regulations implementing Section 223(e) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, was published in the Congressional Record dated May 23, 1996. This...