

placed upon the American worker. Let us reform the overgrown Government agencies and roll back senseless and burdensome regulations. Let us grant the American worker the independence that he or she deserves from the Federal Government.

GINGRICH ETHICS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is at one of its all-time-lowest approval ratings in history. The American people have lost confidence in this institution's ability to lead and to do what's right. We must do all we can to restore their confidence and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that we can monitor our own House.

Stores like the series currently running in the LA Times do not help us in our quest for the public's confidence. The LA Times article and I quote "cited public records showing that six nonprofit organizations linked to GOPAC has raised at least \$6 million in tax-deductible funds that tax experts said appeared to have been used for Republican political purposes."

The American people demand—and deserve—a Congress that is above reproach ethically and morally. Questions have been raised and they need to be answered swiftly, and thoroughly.

No one is above the law in this Congress and no one has a right to be shielded and protected from legitimate questions regarding these very serious issues.

A SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE SPEAKER'S WRONGDOING

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to follow up on this resolution that will be proposed later which basically asks that an outside counsel be appointed for certain purposes. I think the notion that we police ourselves in the House of Representatives to some extent makes sense but, when the time comes, when a certain committee is not doing its job and not basically taking on the responsibility to make sure that certain Members here are properly investigated for alleged wrongdoings, particularly when it comes to tax-exempt organizations, the political process needs to be kept in a proper fashion.

If tax-exempt organizations or other organizations are being used to promote a particular candidacy or a particular political party, the time comes when the particular committee here, in this case the ethics committee, must do its job. If it cannot do its job, then we need have to have an outside counsel appointed.

I think that the LA Times article has clearly pointed out that there have

been a number of allegations here with regard to the Speaker, and the time has come for this House to move to appoint a special counsel to look into the Speaker's wrongdoing.

RESTORE AMERICANS' FAITH IN GOVERNMENT

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, integrity is extremely important to me. I have always been a great believer in Government and believe integrity in Government is also important. There is a very sad period in my life in the early 1970's when it appeared that the Federal Government, or at least some individuals in the White House, had betrayed the trust of the American people and had displayed a notable lack of integrity. It is at that time I decided to become involved in politics. I never expected to be in the Congress, but I did run for local government.

I am sorry to say that once again sadness affects me. Once again, we have an incredible abuse of power in the White House. We have the greatest invasion of privacy that has occurred in the history of the FBI. I am very saddened that this has taken place.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is extremely important for all of us in this Congress and throughout the Federal Government to take whatever steps are necessary to make sure that those responsible are punished, but above all to once again restore the American faith in our Government and in the integrity of Government both in this Chamber and in the White House. I urge that we take strong action to do so.

INTEGRITY BEGINS AT HOME

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that integrity begins at home. Or, more particularly, integrity begins in this House. Every Member of this House will have an opportunity to go on record concerning the integrity of the proceedings of this House and of its Members today.

When the privileged resolution is presented, if you believe in a fair and impartial investigation, you vote "aye". If you believe in a cover up, you vote "no".

If you believe that this House should be muzzled and that this issue should not get a full and fair airing, you vote for DICK ARMEY's motion to muzzle.

This resolution, in its enacting clause, is one sentence. It does not pre-judge charges, as some have done in their remarks here today. It simply instructs the Ethics Committee to immediately transmit the remaining charges against Speaker GINGRICH to the outside counsel for his investigation and recommendations.

How could anyone oppose, given the way these charges have lingered for over 6 months in the committee, simply referring them to the outside counsel to fully and thoroughly investigate them and take such action as is appropriate. That is where integrity begins.

CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT OF 1996

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3525) to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the Federal jurisdiction over offenses relating to damage to religious property, with a Senate amendment thereto and occur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:
Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The incidence of arson or other destruction or vandalism of places of religious worship, and the incidence of violent interference with an individual's lawful exercise or attempted exercise of the right of religious freedom at a place of religious worship pose a serious national problem.

(2) The incidence of arson of places of religious worship has recently increased, especially in the context of places of religious worship that serve predominantly African-American congregations.

(3) Changes in Federal law are necessary to deal properly with this problem.

(4) Although local jurisdictions have attempted to respond to the challenges posed by such acts of destruction or damage to religious property, the problem is sufficiently serious, widespread, and interstate in scope to warrant Federal intervention to assist State and local jurisdictions.

(5) Congress has authority, pursuant to the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, to make acts of destruction or damage to religious property a violation of Federal law.

(6) Congress has authority, pursuant to section 2 of the 13th amendment to the Constitution, to make actions of private citizens motivated by race, color, or ethnicity that interfere with the ability of citizens to hold or use religious property without fear of attack, violations of Federal criminal law.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF VIOLENT INTERFERENCE WITH RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

Section 247 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "subsection (c) of this section" and inserting "subsection (d)";

(2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e), as subsection (d), (e), and (f), respectively;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) The circumstances referred to in subsection (a) are that the offense is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce.

"(c) Whoever intentionally defaces, damages, or destroys any religious real property because of the race, color, or ethnic characteristics of any individual associated with that religious property, or attempts to do so, shall be punished as provided in subsection (d).";

(4) in subsection (d), as redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting “to any person, including any public safety officer performing duties as a direct or proximate result of conduct prohibited by this section,” after “bodily injury”; and

(ii) by striking “ten years” and inserting “20 years”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) if bodily injury results to any person, including any public safety officer performing duties as a direct or proximate result of conduct prohibited by this section, and the violation is by means of fire or an explosive, a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than 40 years, or both;”;

(5) in subsection (f), as redesignated—

(A) by striking “religious property” and inserting “religious real property” both places it appears; and

(B) by inserting “, including fixtures or religious objects contained within a place of religious worship” before the period; and

(6) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any noncapital offense under this section unless the indictment is found or the information is instituted not later than 7 years after the date on which the offense was committed.”.

SEC. 4. LOAN GUARANTEE RECOVERY FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts described in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to as the “Secretary”) shall make guaranteed loans to financial institutions in connection with loans made by such institutions to assist organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that have been damaged as a result of acts of arson or terrorism in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary shall establish by regulation.

(2) USE OF CREDIT SUBSIDY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the cost of loan guarantees under this section, the Secretary may use not more than \$5,000,000 of the amounts made available for fiscal year 1996 for the credit subsidy provided under the General Insurance Fund and the Special Risk Insurance Fund.

(b) TREATMENT OF COSTS.—The costs of guaranteed loans under this section, including the cost of modifying loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(c) LIMIT ON LOAN PRINCIPAL.—Funds made available under this section shall be available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$10,000,000.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate to provide loan guarantees under this section, consistent with section 503 of the Credit Reform Act; and

(2) include in the terms and conditions a requirement that the decision to provide a loan guarantee to a financial institution and the amount of the guarantee does not in any way depend on the purpose, function, or identity of the organization to which the financial institution has made, or intends to make, a loan.

SEC. 5. COMPENSATION OF VICTIMS; REQUIREMENT OF INCLUSION IN LIST OF CRIMES ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION.

Section 1403(d)(3) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10602(d)(3)) is amended

by inserting “crimes, whose victims suffer death or personal injury, that are described in section 247 of title 18, United States Code,” after “includes”.

SEC. 6. 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, in fiscal years 1996 and 1997 such sums as are necessary to increase the number of personnel, investigators, and technical support personnel to investigate, prevent, and respond to potential violations of sections 247 and 844 of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 7. REAUTHORIZATION OF HATE CRIMES STATISTICS ACT.

The first section of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (28 U.S.C. 534 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “for the calendar year 1990 and each of the succeeding 4 calendar years” and inserting “for each calendar year”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “1994” and inserting “2002”.

SEC. 8. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

The Congress—

(1) commends those individuals and entities that have responded with funds to assist in the rebuilding of places of worship that have been victimized by arson; and

(2) encourages the private sector to continue these efforts so that places of worship that are victimized by arson, and their affected communities, can continue the rebuilding process with maximum financial support from private individuals, businesses, charitable organizations, and other non-profit entities.

Mr. HYDE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I, of course, do not intend to object. I make this reservation so that we may have an opportunity to clarify how this text, which has been substituted by the other body, differs from the House-passed version of the legislation.

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that this bill makes abundantly clear the jurisdiction federally under the Constitution's interstate commerce clause and the 13th amendment, increases maximum penalties for church arsons where bodily injury occurs, includes religious fixtures and objects as covered property, provides \$5 million in HUD loan guarantees and reauthorizes the Hate Crimes Statistic Act.

I wonder if this is the chairman's understanding, Mr. Speaker, and I will yield to the gentleman from Illinois for the purpose of elaboration on this point and observe that the unanimity of our cause has been underlined by the gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr. J.C. WATTS, in the work that he and other Members on the gentleman's side have been doing, along with the gentleman from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. SANFORD BISHOP, and the gentleman from North Carolina, Mrs. EVA CLAYTON.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

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Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I want to congratulate the gentleman for his being the chief cosponsor of this legislation and his important work in advancing it to the point where it is today ready for passage.

The Senate amendment retains the provisions of the House version, which amends section 247 of title XVIII to eliminate the \$1 minimum, to clarify the interstate commerce requirement, and to make it a crime to destroy religious property due to the racial or ethnic character of persons affiliated with the property.

The Senate amendment includes the House language making personal injury victims of section 247-type crimes eligible under the Victims of Crime Act, but does not create a priority for those victims. The Senate amendment also corresponds the penalties in section 247 to those in the Federal arson statute.

The Senate amendment includes a \$5 million loan guarantee program under HUD to assist in the rebuilding of non-profit property damaged by arson or terrorism. This provision has been cleared with the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

The Senate amendment authorizes funding to the Departments of Treasury and Justice in 1996 and 1997 for personnel to investigate and respond to violations of section 247 and section 844 of title XVIII. The Senate amendment reauthorizes the Hate Crimes Statistics Act for 6 years, through the year 2002.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary for his excellent clarification. I commend him personally for the way that, as the sponsor of this measure, he was worked with all the Members, not only on the committee but in the Congress, and I might commend the House itself for the enormous rapidity with which we have acted. I think that the action this Congress has taken and the speed with which we have moved serves notice to all would-be terrorists of the domestic variety that the Federal and State governments will use all of their activities and resources to prosecute these destroyers of houses of worship. They can run but they cannot hide, and when found, they will be vigorously prosecuted.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to do so to heap further praise on the chairman of the committee and on the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS], for the haste with which they have moved this legislation along, and also to heap additional praise on the Senate for doing

what I think is a major improvement in the bill that had previously passed on the House side. The Senate has taken a good idea and made it surprisingly and pleasingly better than we started with.

There is one reservation that I have about the way we are doing this. I wanted to express that without objecting to the unanimous-consent request. That is, the disappointment that I am sure that all of our Members will feel at not having had the opportunity, because of this process, to vote unanimously in support of this resolution, to send another resounding signal to all Americans that this kind of conduct, church burnings, is not to be tolerated in our country, and this process is depriving us of having the opportunity to be able to cast a recorded vote.

But I understand the reason why. The reason is that these two gentlemen, the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], and the ranking member, understand that this is important to get this legislation passed and to the President immediately, and we are about to go home for a break, and we need to move this legislation along.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself entirely with the remarks of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT] and let him know that my sentiments are his.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I agree with both gentlemen. It would be desirable, but we do have other considerations. I think the expedition with which we pass this sends that same message. It was a unanimous vote in both Chambers, and that speaks loudly, as well as the fact that we are here today to get it passed.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1972

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 1972.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY ACT OF 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to call up the bill (H.R. 3663) to amend the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act to permit the Council of the District of Columbia to authorize the issuance of revenue bonds with respect to water and sewer facilities, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3663

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 "District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. PERMITTING ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BONDS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of section 490(a)(1) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (sec. 47-334(a)(1), D.C. Code) is amended—

(A) by striking "and industrial" and inserting "industrial"; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: ", and water and sewer facilities (as defined in paragraph (5)).".

(2) WATER AND SEWER FACILITIES DEFINED.—Section 490(a) of such Act (sec. 47-334(a), D.C. Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) In paragraph (1), the term 'water and sewer facilities' means facilities for the obtaining, treatment, storage, and distribution of water, the collection, storage, treatment, and transportation of wastewater, storm drainage, and the disposal of liquids and solids resulting from treatment."

(b) USE OF REVENUES TO MAKE PAYMENTS ON BONDS.—The second sentence of section 490(a)(3) of such Act (sec. 47-334(a)(3), D.C. Code) is amended by inserting after "property" each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B) the following: "(including water and sewer enterprise fund revenues, assets, or other property in the case of bonds, notes, or obligations issued with respect to water and sewer facilities)".

(c) PERMITTING DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE REVENUE BONDS TO WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 490 of such Act (sec. 47-334, D.C. Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h)(1) The Council may delegate to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority established pursuant to the Water and Sewer Authority Establishment and Department of Public Works Reorganization Act of 1996 the authority of the Council under subsection (a) to issue revenue bonds, notes, and other obligations to borrow money to finance or assist in the financing or refinancing of undertakings in the area of utilities facilities, pollution control facilities, and water and sewer facilities (as defined in subsection (a)(5)). The Authority may exercise authority delegated to it by the Council as described in the first sentence

of this paragraph (whether such delegation is made before or after the date of the enactment of this subsection) only in accordance with this subsection.

"(2) Revenue bonds, notes, and other obligations issued by the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority under a delegation of authority described in paragraph (1) shall be issued by resolution of the Authority, and any such resolution shall not be considered to be an act of the Council.

"(3) The provisions of subsections (a) through (e) shall apply with respect to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, the General Manager of the Authority, and to revenue bonds, notes, and other obligations issued by the Authority under a delegation of authority described in paragraph (1) in the same manner as such provisions apply with respect to the Council, to the Mayor, and to revenue bonds, notes, and other obligations issued by the Council under subsection (a)(1) (without regard to whether or not the Council has authorized the application of such provisions to the Authority or the General Manager).

"(4) The fourth sentence of section 446 shall not apply to—

"(A) any amount (including the amount of any accrued interest or premium) obligated or expended from the proceeds of the sale of any revenue bond, note, or other obligation issued pursuant to this subsection;

"(B) any amount obligated or expended for the payment of the principal of, interest on, or any premium for any revenue bond, note, or other obligation issued pursuant to this subsection;

"(C) any amount obligated or expended to secure any revenue bond, note, or other obligation issued pursuant to this subsection; or

"(D) any amount obligated or expended for repair, maintenance, and capital improvements to facilities financed pursuant to this subsection."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The fourth sentence of section 446 of such Act (sec. 47-304, D.C. Code) is amended by striking "(f) and (g)(3)" and inserting "(f), (g)(3), and (h)(4)".

SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF REVENUES AND OBLIGATIONS.

(a) EXCLUSION OF REVENUES FOR PURPOSES OF CAP ON AGGREGATE DISTRICT DEBT.—Paragraphs (1) and (3)(A) of section 603(b) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (sec. 47-313(b), D.C. Code) are each amended by inserting after "revenue bonds," the following: "any revenues, charges, or fees dedicated for the purposes of water and sewer facilities described in section 490(a) (including fees or revenues directed to servicing or securing revenue bonds issued for such purposes)."

(b) EXCLUSION OF OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO DEBT SERVICING PAYMENTS ON CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 603(b)(2) of such Act (sec. 47-313(b)(2), D.C. Code) is amended—

(A) by striking "and obligations" and inserting "obligations"; and

(B) by inserting after "establishment," the following: ", and obligations incurred pursuant to general obligation bonds of the District of Columbia issued prior to October 1, 1996, for the financing of Department of Public Works, Water and Sewer Utility Administration capital projects."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 603(b)(3)(B) of such Act (sec. 47-313(b)(3)(B), D.C. Code) is amended by inserting after "bonds" the following: "(less the allocable portion of principal and interest to be paid during the year on general obligation bonds of the District of Columbia issued prior to October 1, 1996, for the financing of Department of Public Works, Water and Sewer Utility Administration capital projects)".