

should be advised that recorded votes will be postponed until 12 noon on Tuesday, June 18.

On Tuesday, the House will take up six bills under suspension of the rules: H.R. 3005, the Securities Amendments of 1996; H.R. 2803, the Anti-Car Theft Improvements Act of 1996; H.R. 3525, the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996; H.R. 3572, a bill to designate the William H. Natcher Bridge; H.R. 3184, the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and H.R. 3107, the Iran Oil Sanctions Act of 1996.

On Wednesday, June 19, and Thursday, June 20, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. We will consider the Interior and the VA-HUD appropriations bills, both of which will be subject to rules.

And, Mr. Speaker, if I might just add, we are continuing to talk to Members on both sides of the aisle that are concerned with the VA appropriation bill, and it is hoped that possibly we might be able to work that out for consideration on Tuesday. That has not yet been settled.

I would like to remind Members, though, Mr. Speaker, that we may take up a resolution holding the President's aides in contempt of Congress. It is our hope that the President will be forthcoming with the subpoenaed Travelgate documents before next week; however, in the event that these key documents are not provided, we may find a need to act on the contempt resolution.

Next week, Mr. Speaker, we should conclude legislative business and have the Members on their way home by 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 20.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his information for this week and next week.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield.

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to my friend, the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I am a little bit concerned. We need to be taking up these two appropriation bills this coming week, Interior and the HUD-independent agencies bill. I have a Committee on Rules to run upstairs and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] served on that committee for many years. He knows that if we are going to be coming back here, which we are willing to do in the Committee on Rules Monday night and put out a rule so that we can have the HUD-independent agencies bill on the floor Tuesday, we need to know this evening.

Members have the right to know what they are going to be doing. If we are going to have to be coming back here on Monday, we need to make reservations. Under the laws now we cannot have two or three or four backup reservations, and I would suggest my good friend, the majority leader, who I know wants to cooperate, and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT], work this thing out and let us know to-

night what we are going to be doing, one way or the other, so that these Members can schedule their weekends and the valuable time they have back in their districts. That is only fair.

We are willing to sacrifice coming back here a day early to do it. So think about that. It is important to all of us.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would continue to yield for a moment, I would advise the chairman of the Committee on Rules that we are having discussions on this. They are going cordially, and as soon as we have more complete discussions, we will let the gentleman and the committee know.

Mr. SOLOMON. I appreciate that.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 17, 1996

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I the Journal stands approved.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE OVERSIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker, pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chairman of the Committee on House Oversight:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE OVERSIGHT,
Washington, DC, June 10, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, of the House of Representatives, the Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that the House Franking Commission has been served with a subpoena issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

BILL THOMAS, *Chairman*.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, June 12, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that the Office of Finance has been served with a subpoena issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

SCOT M. FAULKNER.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO RECENT CHURCH BURNINGS

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 187) expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to recent church burnings, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House; that debate on the concurrent resolution be limited to fifty minutes, equally divided and controlled by myself and the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON]; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to final adoption without intervening motion.

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, although I do not plan to object, let me just understand the time.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. CLAYTON. I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, 50 minutes total, 25 minutes per side.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we have quite a number of people who have expressed a desire to speak, and I would like some accommodation. I know that the gentleman has been working with me, but is it possible we can do 30 minutes each side?

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman would continue to yield, we probably will not use our 25 minutes, so I can accommodate the gentlewoman, yes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 187

Whereas more than 30 African-American churches have been burned over the last 18 months;

Whereas arrests have been made in only 5 of the cases currently under investigation;

Whereas the African-American community deserves the full support of Congress in solving these cases in an expeditious manner and it is important for Congress to speak out against the recent incidents of arson; and

Whereas several measures which would expedite the investigation into these incidents and assist in the prosecution of individuals found guilty of involvement in these incidents are now pending before Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) attacks on places of worship because of the race, color, denomination, or ethnicity of the congregation undermine fundamental American ideals;

(2) these fires appear to be hate crimes and also implicitly interfere with the First Amendment rights and other civil rights of the victims;

(3) the arson of a place of worship is repulsive to us as a society;

(4) the Congress condemns, in the strongest possible terms, these abhorrent actions against freely worshipping American citizens and the African-American community in particular;

(5) the Congress sends its sincere condolences to those individuals who have been affected by these acts of cowardice;

(6) the Congress fully supports the activities of local law enforcement officials, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Treasury in investigating these incidents;

(7) the Congress urges the United States Attorney General and local prosecutors to seek the maximum penalty available under law to punish the perpetrators of these craven acts;

(8) it is important that Congress enact appropriate legislation to ensure that Federal law enforcement has the necessary tools to punish and deter these shameful, vile acts, including the bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives Hyde and Conyers which would facilitate the prosecution of persons responsible for these acts;

(9) the President is urged to make the fullest possible use of all available law enforcement resources to bring the culprits in these crimes to justice;

(10) Congress encourages the people of the United States to work within their own communities to prevent arson against African-American or any other house of worship; and

(11) Congress encourages American citizens to observe a national week of prayer beginning June 16, 1996, and ending June 23, 1996, in their churches, synagogues, mosques and other places of worship for racial harmony, religious tolerance and respect for the civil and human rights of all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] and the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] each will control 25 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr. WATTS.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. MYRICK].

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to stand here tonight in support of this resolution, and I am very happy that the resolution is coming forward. Back on the first of March some of us who are members of the Family Caucus actually sent a letter to Attorney General Reno asking her to take action and bring all resources to bear because we knew that this problem existed, and so it is good that we are coming together and there is a very strong interest in finding a solution to the problem.

This is a bipartisan effort, which always is great to see when everybody can work across all lines and come forward to share. We have the gentleman from Illinois, Chairman HYDE, whose legislation is coming on the floor next week, which will put some teeth into prosecution and bring to justice the people who are doing these things. The gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LIGHTFOOT] came forward with an appropriations bill, which is budget neutral, I might add, and that is going to help give the resources to the ATF agents who work in the arson division. And I will say from firsthand experience, unfortunately we had an incident in my city last week, and they are dedicated, dedicated people who really are short-handed. So this is going to be a big help to them.

And then today, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, CURT WELDON, announced that the Fire Caucus and all the fire services and the insurance agencies are coming together with a prevention effort that we can all share in our districts and really get the word out there of what people can do to try to prevent some of this.

So I commend both the gentlewoman from North Carolina, EVA CLAYTON, and the gentleman from Oklahoma, J.C. WATTS, for coming forward with this resolution, and it sends a strong message that we are not going to tolerate this anymore in our country. I do not care who these people are or where they are from, this is totally inexcusable and it has to stop.

I am embarrassed to say that North and South Carolina have had more of these church burning incidents than any other geographical area or State combined, and that is very depressing to me, but we do need to come together not just at the congressional level, but we need to come together locally.

The fourth aspect of this is that we really need to look toward helping these communities rebuild. We are going to be rebuilding the church in our area, and it is going to serve as a museum memorial to the culture of the black church because this is something that people really need to understand.

The whole community is doing it, it is a volunteer effort completely, and I am challenging other communities to reach out and do the same. They say

you can burn the building, but you do not burn the church, and I think we all know that.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT], our distinguished minority leader.

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in a unanimous way for this resolution. I commend my friend the gentlewoman from North Carolina [EVA CLAYTON] for working so hard to bring this resolution to the floor. I commend my friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] for being a sponsor and being one who has made this bipartisan.

There is no more dastardly act than burning a place of worship, and the offense is even greater when racial hatred is involved, as it is in many of these cases. It is very important tonight that all of us, Republican, Democrat, from every part of this country, with one voice say tonight that these acts are morally reprehensible and wrong and must end.

I have no idea why these things are happening. I am sure none of the rest of us do. I assume racial hatred and hatred lies at the core of these acts. This had stopped and did not go on for years and years because there was a sense in this society that this was inappropriate behavior. Perhaps the dialog on some of our radio shows, or something, is making it possible for people to believe that we can act out our hatred by the violence that is represented in these acts.

The President has spoken out, and now it is entirely necessary and appropriate that every Member of this body tonight say unequivocally to the people of our country that these acts must end. And we will take every action that is necessary in the days ahead to make sure that whatever laws need to be changed are changed, to see that every person who is responsible in any way for any of these burnings is brought swiftly to justice.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends for bringing this resolution, and I urge every Member to raise their voice, not only tonight but in their district and in their communities to stop these dastardly acts.

□ 2130

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 187, expressing Congress' outrage and my personal outrage at the burnings of over 30 African-American churches throughout the southern United States. I commend the sponsor of this measure, the distinguished gentleman

from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] and the gentlelady from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] for their efforts in introducing this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, there is no more cowardly act than the desecration of another's house of worship. It is an act perpetrated by bigots who use the cover of night to burn a sacred place that so many in their community hold dear. Our houses of worship are a significant part of the glue that holds our sense of community together. When these gutless individuals strike at the sanctuaries of our neighbors, they are striking at the sanctity of our communities and the freedoms we all enjoy under the first amendment to practice our religious beliefs.

My heart and sympathy go out to our African-American citizens and I strongly encourage this body to enact the bipartisan legislation introduced by Judiciary Committee Chairman HENRY HYDE and ranking member JOHN CONYERS to ensure that Federal law enforcement officials have the requisite tools to investigate and vigorously prosecute those who committed these abhorrent acts. In addition I encourage the Justice Department, the Treasury Department, and the Attorney General to expeditiously prosecute these cowards to the fullest extent of the law.

We must not stand by allowing this outrage to continue. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this worthy measure.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAYNE], the chairman of the Black Caucus.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina and the gentleman from Oklahoma for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Chairman, as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise to express my outrage at the senseless desecration of African-American churches and also to extend my sympathy to the ministers and their congregations all over the country who have lost their places of worship. Our thoughts are also with members of the other churches and synagogues which have been defaced. These incidents of racial and religious bigotry remind us of other painful episodes in our history which we had hoped never reoccur.

Sadly the legacy of racial division is kept alive not only by those who carry out these acts, but by others who create an atmosphere which not only tolerates but encourages bigotry. We can turn on our radio any day of the week and hear right-wing talk radio hosts spewing forth words of hatred to appeal to those in the audience who are discontented with their lives and are looking for scapegoats.

In my area, the radio talk show host Bob Grant, who is courted by some politicians, has built his career out of making offensive and hurtful statements. He finally pushed things too far the day of the tragic accident when the

plan carrying Ron Brown and others went down. On his radio show he said, upon learning that initially there was one survivor, Bob Grant joked that his pessimism led him to believe that the late Secretary may have survived.

Although this radio talk host was fired, he was immediately picked up by another radio station. And we call this corporate responsibility?

The most recent church bombing in Oklahoma reminds us that these evil incidents are not confined to the Southeast. The Department of Justice has received reports of incidents in States like Maryland, where the target was a Quaker meeting house; in my home State of New Jersey. We have had them in Richmond; Seattle, Washington; and in other parts of New York State this has occurred.

Mr. Speaker, we must stop these senseless burnings.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON].

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important piece of legislation, and thank the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] and the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] for offering this legislation.

I join in the outrage that is being expressed by Members of both parties, liberals and conservatives, those from rural areas and those from urban areas, about the devastation caused by these terrible and outrageous fires.

As someone who got involved in public life first of all in the fire service, when I served as volunteer fire chief, I understand perhaps in a way that many of us do not the impact of anyone suffering through the tragedy of fire.

It is especially outrageous when it hits a place of worship, and all of us must come together in this country and condemn it. We are here to acknowledge that there has been a special focus on African-American churches in the South, and that is especially outrageous.

I would also acknowledge, Mr. Chairman, there have been 80 churches burned since January of this year, 30 that we know of in the South and in black areas. But a number of them have not gone reported, but yet have been turned in to the insurance corporation which services and provides insurance for churches and synagogues across America.

Today we announced a major initiative, supported by a bipartisan group of Members who are part of the Congressional Fire and Emergency Services Caucus, to attack this problem in a different light. The focus up until now has been on catching those hardened criminals who have committed these acts, or those vandals, or those outrageous individuals.

The problem we have, Mr. Speaker, is that that is very difficult. In fact, the

conviction rate for arson in this country is less than 2 percent. It is the toughest crime to convict someone unless someone actually sees them lighting the match. So while it is important that we look for the perpetrators, we must also realize it is especially difficult.

What we announce today is the establishment of a trust fund that would provide reward money for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone that is convicted of the act of arson. But that is not enough, because that is extremely difficult. What we announce today, Mr. Chairman, is the ability for us to have a proactive effort focusing on how to help churches across America prevent arsons from occurring.

To that end we brought together the insurance industry, all the major fire service groups: the International Association of Arson Investigators, the paid firefighters, the volunteer firefighters, the Black Professional Firefighters, the National Fire Protection Association, the insurance industry, the American Insurance Association, and the Insurance Committee for Arson Control, and we announced a 3-part initiative that is declaring war on arson as it relates to churches in this country, especially our black churches.

The initiative will take place through the offices of Members of Congress and it is in three parts. First of all, it provides arson prevention kits for every church in every Member's district that that Member wants to send that packet to, any church or synagogue. It will outline specific steps that can be taken locally to help reduce the possibility for arson.

Secondarily, we will be offering free half-day seminars to any Member of Congress that wants to establish a seminar for one half day for clergymen, for deacons, for ministers, for rabbis to come together with professionals who will be provided for free, to give those people direct insight into arson and how they can prevent it.

The third part of this initiative, Mr. Speaker, allows for a proactive effort to allow any church that so desires the contact their Member, and they will be provided a free professional survey of their church with specific recommendations that they can take to reduce the likelihood of an arson fire occurring, at no cost to that church or its congregation.

None of this is being funded by the Government. All of this is being provided by those individuals in the arson investigation community and the insurance industry who want to take proactive steps. It is in our hands now as Members of Congress to implement these recommendations, to coordinate these efforts, and to make sure there is follow through. There is much that can be done to reduce the potential for arson, and we must take the lead to make sure that that education is provided to every church and synagogue in this country.

Together, Mr. Speaker, as Republicans and Democrats and liberals and conservatives, as those representing rural and urban areas, we will solve this problem, and we will send a signal that anyone who ever contemplates the act of arson, especially at a religious institution, is going to face the most severe consequences that this country can bring to bear.

We are going to mobilize the communities of this country in a way they have not been mobilized before to stop these despicable acts. I thank my colleagues, and I urge support of this resolution.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT].

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague from Oklahoma and my colleague from North Carolina for bringing this resolution forward.

I tell my colleagues that I worshiped on Sunday in the church that burned in Charlotte, NC, and I want to lift up two quick messages from the minister's speech that day. He said unequivocally to the people who are doing these burnings, "You can destroy the building, but you cannot destroy the church."

Second, he said to his members, "We have got to find a way to find the good in this and to rise above this and to maintain the values that we hold dear."

I hope all of us will keep those two things in mind as we condemn these church burnings and as we all vote, hopefully unanimously, in support of this resolution.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON].

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Oklahoma for bringing this resolution in a timely manner to this floor.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. WAMP].

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, of course we should all come together tonight and unanimously condemn these outrageous acts. But I want to come tonight from a little bit different perspective because, Mr. Speaker, long before I was a Member of this body, I was a member of a much greater body, and long after I am a Member of this body, I am going to continue to be a member of a much greater and everlasting body.

I hope that our gentleman from North Carolina is right that some good can come out of this, and I hope to my core that this serves as a wakeup call to the church, to all churches everywhere, that this could be an opportunity for the church to do its work, to build the kingdom of God; that our brothers and sisters in the predomi-

nantly white churches would come out of their churches between now and Sunday and between now and next Wednesday and offer to rebuild these churches; that this would be an opportunity for the kingdom of God to come alive here, that some good could come out, that our brothers and sisters all across the land would offer their support.

I hear today that the Southern Baptist Convention took a step, but many more need to be taken to have some good come from this, that the kingdom would be lifted up, that we would go out as churches and offer to rebuild these churches, and that good would actually rise out of these ashes.

The most important word in the world today, that is needed so desperately in this country, is reconciliation. This is an opportunity for reconciliation. This is an opportunity for white folks to say, "We love you, black brothers and sisters, and we want to help you, and we hurt for you." Please country, come together.

Mr. Speaker, I call on people of faith all across America to get out of your church, take your resources. If ever there was a mission project for churches and religious institutions all across the United States of America, this is the mission project that could heal our land. Let us reconcile as a Nation, Mr. Speaker, through this one action, and have some good rise from these horrific acts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 187.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut, [Mrs. DELAURO].

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my colleague, Mrs. CLAYTON, on this resolution. I rise in strong support of the resolution.

I stand with my colleagues tonight to voice my outrage and condemnation of these church arson. As towns and neighborhoods begin that process of healing and rebuilding, it is imperative that we send a loud and a clear and a firm message to the perpetrators of these sick crimes that Americans will not tolerate bigotry or hate crimes.

□ 2145

The perpetrators must and will be punished. History teaches us that we all have a stake in the battle against the forces of hatred. We cannot stand and be silent. We must speak louder than the voices of hate. Those voices encourage violence and have resulted in the destruction of churches, churches built on faith, on hope, and on love.

I am proud to join my colleagues today in support of this resolution and urge its adoption. Further, I urge my colleagues to call on others to go to their districts, to speak out against the voices and the actions of hatred in this country. It is only through such acts that we can prevent further violence and destruction.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY].

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the gentleman from Oklahoma and the gentlewoman from North Carolina for bringing this resolution to the floor. As a Representative from the State of Maine, I want to add my voice to the national chorus that denounces these instances of religious and racial hatred. I ask unanimous support for this resolution that we offer tonight.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT].

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I commend and thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] and all of those who have joined with her for her leadership in expressing our collective outrage at what has been occurring in communities across this country. Now is the time for people of good will regardless of religion or their political persuasion or their region of the country to join together to condemn the outrage that has occurred and the attempt at intimidation steeped in hate on which it is based.

It is not enough merely to condemn. For while we are all outraged by what has occurred, we know that simply expressing our fury through resolution is only a first step. It is time to match our actions with our words and resolutions. So it is extremely important that the Church Arsons Prevention Act introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS], that would strengthen our ability to fight this kind of arson, be enacted at the earliest possible date in this Congress.

We should move forward on this legislation to halt attacks on our communities. Our communities are suffering, and they should look to our national leaders with confidence, for we have the responsibility to prove, as Barbara Jordan would say, that America is as good as its promise. In keeping this promise, we can be inspired by the congregations who refuse to be intimidated.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LIGHTFOOT].

(Mr. LIGHTFOOT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here and rise in strong support of this resolution. Since we have a limited amount of time, I would like to briefly comment on one aspect of this resolution, and that is Congress' full support of Federal, State and local law enforcement investigations.