

When there was a public backlash, the White House damage-control operation went into full gear. The White House publicly smeared the reputations of the workers with all the false charges. The workers and their families were publicly humiliated. Next, to justify the false charges, the White House then unleashed the FBI and the IRS on them. Finally, the Justice Department prosecuted them on trumped up charges.

Nearly 3 years and hundreds of thousands of dollars later, a jury acquitted the fall guy and scapegoat of the White House offensive, Billy Dale. They acquitted him in less than 2 hours.

There can be no doubt that this case was a miscarriage of justice, no doubt that these seven workers were unjustly and unfairly persecuted. And no doubt that the President made a mistake in firing them. Yet, the President has failed to own up. He has failed to take responsibility for their firings and their continued harassment.

There is lots of finger-pointing and blaming going on at the White House, but no one will stand up and take responsibility for what happened. That is usually the sign of failed moral leadership. The leader in the White House—the President—will not take responsibility for the unwarranted firings at the behest of cronies and then, he will not seek accountability for whoever unleashed the powers of the Federal Government to harass the Travelgate Seven.

Mr. President, is it unfair to ask the President to take responsibility for his actions? Is it unfair to hold accountable those zealots on his staff that unjustly unleashed the FBI, the IRS, and the Justice Department on these innocent employees? Is it unfair that the President should admit that he made a serious mistake?

Instead of considering these questions, the President has sent his lieutenants out to again harass these former workers. The House of Representatives earlier this year voted overwhelmingly to provide legal expenses for the Travelgate Seven. It had bipartisan support. But when the bill came to the Senate, it was ambushed by Clinton loyalists. They were afraid of the embarrassment it would cause the President to have to sign such a bill that would prove he had made a serious mistake. Rather than face the music, the President sent out his lieutenants to block the bill in the Senate. They succeeded. The minority leader succeeded in using the Senate procedures to block consideration of the bill that would make these seven families economically whole, and put the ordeal behind them—not psychologically whole, not their reputations whole, not their dignity whole, not their pain and suffering whole, just their expenses—the least of what should be restored.

The President's lieutenants—the Democrats in this body—shot the bill down. It was pure and simple legislative harassment. That was on May 7.

And so, the harassment continues. It is simply not right. It is not fair. And they need to be held accountable.

Mr. President, is it fair for these Democrats to not do the right thing just to save the President from embarrassment? I will let the American people answer that question. Perhaps they will call the office of their Senator.

Tell the Democrats to stop playing politics with the Billy Dale bill. After all, they voted 52 to 44 on May 7 to block the Billy Dale bill.

Mr. President, the bottom line of this story, and of the record of this President, is the absence of moral leadership. A President—a leader—who fails to take responsibility for his actions; who allows cronies to run roughshod over innocent employees; who allows his staff to violate the civil rights of these workers; who lets his staff unleash the powers of the Federal Government against innocent families; who fails to seek accountability for those who did the unleashing; and who covers it all up by claiming executive privilege—in light of all this, can we truly call this President a leader?

He has failed to set the proper example for the country. He has failed to set an example for the people he serves—the American people. He has failed to set an example for his own staff. And, he has failed to set an example for the seven fired workers and their families. Rather than face the music, the President has his lieutenants do his dirty work in the darkness of night, and in the Democratic cloak room, all to avoid the embarrassment of his mistakes.

In the coming weeks, the Billy Dale bill will be brought to the floor again—this bill to restore hope and dignity for these families. I call upon the American people to not allow this injustice to stand. Make the Senate Democrats do the right thing. Make them support the Billy Dale bill. This morning's Washington Post editorializes on this matter. The editorial is entitled, "Another Travel Office Travesty." It says, get politics out of the way and pass this bill. I agree, Mr. President. I urge my Democratic colleagues to get out of the way. I ask unanimous consent that the Post editorial be printed in the RECORD and I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 21, 1996]
ANOTHER TRAVEL OFFICE TRAVESTY

Why are some people in Congress maneuvering to keep that institution from making right some of the wrongs done to fired White House travel office employees? Nothing the Congress can enact will make up for the damage done to the reputations of these workers. But fooling with them the way they are is simply wrong.

The travel office fiasco should have been resolved days ago. Billy Dale and his six travel office colleagues were summarily dismissed from their jobs in 1993 for the shakiest of reasons. They were summarily told to vacate their offices by the incoming Clinton White House and publicly smeared

with charges that they had engaged in wrongdoing. White House staff that had an interest in taking over the travel office even helped to concoct the allegations. The reputations of the fired travel office employees were unfairly damaged, and Mr. Dale in particular was made to undergo a painful and costly ordeal before he was exonerated by a jury.

All of the fired employees incurred legal expenses in connection with criminal probes launched against them following their discharge. Mr. Dale bore \$500,000, the lion's share, but no ex-travel office employee escaped without a crushing debt burden. The others incurred about \$200,000 themselves. So to undo at least some of the damage, legislation was introduced in Congress to reimburse them for some of the costs of defending themselves. The House passed the bill by an overwhelming 350 to 43 vote. President Clinton says he will sign it. Sen. Orrin Hatch has introduced the bill in the Senate.

But Senate Democrats have been blocking action on the Hatch measure because they want a vote on the minimum wage increase and can't get one. To make matters worse, the Dale bill was amended by Bob Dole to include the Republican gas-tax repealer. Hence, Bill Dale et al. are now part of the Senate's five-car pile-up, the rest of which includes the minimum wage boost, gas tax cut, taxpayer bill of rights, and the T.E.A.M. measure.

Mr. Dale and the former travel office employees, having taken shots from the White House and lost much in the process, are now caught in another political crossfire. The people holding up action on the reimbursement of the misused travel office employees should back off. The time has come to rectify a wrong.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar, Calendar No. 594. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

ARMY

The following United States Army National Guard officers for promotion in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated

under title 10, U.S.C. section 3385, 3392 and 12203(a):

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Jerome J. Berard, 000-00-0000
 Brig. Gen. James W. Emerson, 000-00-0000
 Brig. Gen. Rodney R. Hannula, 000-00-0000
 Brig. Gen. James W. MacVay, 000-00-0000
 Brig. Gen. James D. Polk, 000-00-0000

To be brigadier general

Col. Earl L. Adams, 000-00-0000
 Col. H. Steven Blum, 000-00-0000
 Col. Harry B. Burchstead, Jr., 000-00-0000
 Col. Larry K. Eckles, 000-00-0000
 Col. William L. Freeman, 000-00-0000
 Col. Gus L. Hargett, Jr., 000-00-0000
 Col. Allen R. Leppink, 000-00-0000
 Col. Jacob Lestenkof, 000-00-0000
 Col. Joseph T. Murphy, 000-00-0000
 Col. Larry G. Powell, 000-00-0000
 Col. Roger C. Schultz, 000-00-0000
 Col. Michael L. Seely, 000-00-0000
 Col. Larry W. Shellito, 000-00-0000
 Col. Gary G. Simmons, 000-00-0000
 Col. Nicholas P. Sipe, 000-00-0000
 Col. George S. Walker, 000-00-0000
 Col. Larry Ware, 000-00-0000
 Col. Jackie D. Wood, 000-00-0000

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

HATE CRIMES STATISTICS ACT
 AMENDMENTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 384, S. 1624.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1624) to reauthorize the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to express my appreciation to the Senate for its swift action in passing S. 1624, which permanently reauthorizes the Hate Crime Statistics Act.

The people of my State of Utah, and of all of our States, have a stake in this legislation, because any of our citizens can fall prey to a hate crime. Every crime, of course, is a terrible event. But the hate crime is of a particularly insidious nature. It splits the individual victim apart from his or her neighbors and community. It isolates the victim because of who he or she is. The hate crime emphasizes the differences, not as the strengths they are in this diverse country, but as a means of dividing American from American. It submerges the common humanity of all peoples. All real Americans condemn these vile crimes without hesitation or reservation.

Under the Hate Crime Statistics Act, the Attorney General is required to collect data "about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, disability, sexual ori-

entation, or ethnicity. . . ." The act has resulted in the creation of a Federal data base on bias-motivated criminal acts. In addition, it has served as a catalyst for an FBI effort to train State and local law enforcement officials about hate crimes. Collection of this data can help alert local communities and their law enforcement agencies to any pattern of hate crimes in their neighborhoods. It can also help spur educational efforts aimed at enhancing goodwill in our communities. The Hate Crime Statistics Act has proven its value, and has earned the permanent reauthorization that the Senate has now approved.

I wish to commend my friend and distinguished colleague, Senator SIMON, for his work on this issue. Without his tireless efforts, there would have been no Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990, and no reauthorization of the act this year. I also wish to commend his chief counsel, Susan Kaplan, for her work on this law over several years.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I am pleased that today the Senate will pass S. 1624, a bill to reauthorize and provide a permanent mandate for the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. I would like to thank Chairman HATCH for his leadership on this important issue, as well as my 51 colleagues who cosponsored this measure. In addition to its strong bipartisan support in the Senate, this bill also has the strong support of Attorney General Reno, as well as the endorsement of major law enforcement and advocacy groups.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act, which passed the Senate in 1990 by a vote of 92 to 4 and was signed into law by then President Bush, requires the Justice Department to collect data on crimes that show evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Until this Act was passed, no Federal records of such crimes were maintained. This lack of information made it difficult to determine whether a particular crime was an isolated incident, or part of a continuing series against a particular group.

The act has proven successful in its initial purpose—the creation of data collection—and has also served as a catalyst for an FBI effort to train State and local law enforcement officials about hate crimes. Hearings held before the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution in 1992 and 1994 showed that one of the prime benefits of the act is that it has helped dramatically increase the awareness and sensitivity of the police about hate crimes. Not only do victims of hate crimes benefit from a more informed police force, but greater police awareness encourages others to report hate crimes.

Since all data submission under the act is voluntary, we did not anticipate 100 percent participation by State and local law enforcement agencies from the start. Nonetheless, over the course of 4 years, there has been great

progress in participation levels. In 1991, 2,771 law enforcement agencies participated in the voluntary reporting program. In 1994, more than 7,200 agencies participated. Local police, advocacy groups, mayors, and others have joined the effort to encourage every law enforcement agency to comply, and as more and more local agencies participate, the statistics will be more and more useful to identify trends and formulate responses. In addition, the FBI is in the process of working with States to upgrade their computer systems. When this transition is complete, the data should be even more useful. Unfortunately, there are still law enforcement agencies in some States and many large cities which are not yet participating in the data collection. We need active oversight of this act to ensure that these agencies join in this important effort, making the statistics more accurate and useful.

FBI Director Louis Freeh has stated that he is committed to the continued tracking of hate crimes statistics. However, we believe that this effort has proven its usefulness and deserves a permanent mandate. Collecting such data will not erase bigotry. It will, however, be a valuable tool in the fight against prejudice.

Obviously, the FBI statistics do not yet accurately reflect the level of violence motivated by prejudice in our society. We need only read the headlines and reports by advocacy groups to see how widespread the problem of hate crimes remains in our Nation.

The Justice Department recently launched a civil rights probe into a rash of arson which has destroyed at least 23 black churches in the South since 1993. The Justice Department is trying to determine whether the crimes are racially motivated, and whether they are connected. Several of the incidents have been solved, however, and clearly racism motivated the offenders. The teenagers found guilty of burning a church in Mississippi in 1993 shouted racial epithets during commission of their crime. Racist graffiti was spray-painted on the walls of a Knoxville, TN Baptist church set afire on January 8, 1996. Sumter County Circuit Court Judge Eddie Hardaway, a black judge who sent two white men to jail for vandalizing black churches, was recently the victim of a shotgun attack which shattered bedroom windows in his home. During the 1960's civil rights movement, many black churches were set ablaze, however in the late 1980's and early 1990's only one or two such crimes were reported each year. This recent string of arson reminds us that prejudice and hate crimes remain a problem in our Nation.

Recent reports by private groups, such as the Anti-Defamation League, the National Coalition on Anti-Violence Projects, and the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, confirm that unfortunately the problem of crimes based on prejudice continues. The ADL's 1995 annual audit of