to have walked on the Moon. He did an incredible job in front of the whole world as it watched in repairing Skylab. He piloted or commanded four different space flights. Before that, he had a career as a naval officer and, yes, during some of the other space missions, Pete was an intricate part of the team that backed up those people who were flying the missions.

I would also like to pay tribute not only to his accomplishments but to those personal qualities that made him much more than a space age technician and a flight jockey. He was a man with enthusiasm for life and adventure. He had wit and optimism. His vision, his humble demeanor, his positive can-do spirit with which he approached every task, every challenge, was something that inspired and energized everyone with whom he worked. His spirit itself was an immeasurable contribution to America's space program. And, yes, his persona became a part of the personalities and the personality of America's space effort. He took his job seriously but never took himself too seriously, which was part of his charm and an example to others. He did not dwell on the past which of course is a trap for both individuals and institutions of great accomplishment.

Pete instead, yes, he looked back and he thought about that and he talked about that when he was asked about it, but he was busy laying the foundation for America's next exciting era in space, the era of space commercialization, when space becomes the arena of entrepreneurship, open to all with boundless opportunity rather than the confines of bureaucratic management and government planning. This, too, is the epitome of Americanism. We are a people who want to lead the way, maintaining a fun-loving spirit as we do but making no apologies about wanting to make a profit by doing what is right as well.

I chaired the hearing of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics on NASA's 40th birthday, its anniversary. Pete testified, his testimony was superb, or should I say, as Pete would, super. He said, ''It was a crazy time of excitement and adventure and new worlds to explore,'' of the 1960s and 1970s. But Pete said, ''I would like to go on record as saying those days are not half as exciting as the coming age of commercial space.''

That was Pete Conrad, a man who was pointing the way to the future. We laid him to rest today. We are all grateful for the things he did for his country, for the world, and I am grateful tonight to have had the opportunity to speak on his behalf.

God bless Pete Conrad and God bless the United States of America.

ON HATE CRIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this year the celebration of our Nation's birthday, July the 4th, was shattered by a string of hate crime attacks in the Chicago area, apparently the attacks of Benjamin-Smith who had links to the World Church of the Creator.

The targets of his attacks included African Americans, Asian Americans and Orthodox Jews. Northwestern University basketball coach Ricky Byrdsong, and Indiana University student Won-Joon Yoon died as a result of these attacks.

Followers of the church have been linked by police and civil rights groups to numerous other incidents, including the 1991 murder of an African American sailor in Neptune Beach, Florida; the 1993 fire bombing of the NAACP office in Tacoma, Washington; the 1997 beating of a black man and his son in Sunrise, Florida; and the 1998 beating and robbery of a Jewish businessman in Hollywood, Florida.

Two brothers held on stolen property charges related to the slaying of a gay couple are being investigated in arson attacks at three synagogues. The brothers' relationship to the World Church is being investigated. But hate crimes are not new or uncommon in the Chicago region. Looking over newspaper headlines, we find that in May, a mosque in DuPage County was desecrated, only the latest in a string of such desecrations.

A group of white teenagers attacked a black police officer near the Dan Ryan Woods.

A Gurnee man convicted and awaiting sentence for a hate crime against a biracial couple was arrested and charged with illegal possession of several weapons.

A 27-year-old was charged with a hate crime for intentionally running down two African American teenagers as they rode their bikes along a Kenosha sidewalk.

A Crystal Lake man was charged with shooting and killing a Japanese store owner just because of his ethnicity.

A Federal jury convicted a Blue Island man of cross burnings before the home of black neighbors in an effort to drive them from the neighborhood.

A Pakistani gas station attendant was attacked by a customer because of his ethnicity.

A retired Chicago firefighter settled a racial harassment suit, admitting his guilt of hate crimes against his Hispanic neighbors and apologizing for his acts.

Pizza Hut in Godfrey, Illinois settled a suit brought by an African American family which they refused to serve and threatened in the parking lot after they left the restaurant.

An Hispanic couple was subjected to repeated incidents of racial hate crimes, including the painting of their homes and garages with racist graffiti.

Three men who beat 13-year-old Lenard Clark into a coma because they did not like African Americans cycling through their neighborhood were convicted.

A Chicago Heights man was convicted of attacking a biracial couple in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood.

Four teenagers, professed skinheads, were arrested for spray-painting anti-Semitic slogans on roads, signs and overpasses.

An African American man in Mokena was the victim of repeated hate crimes after receiving newspaper clippings covered with racial slurs.

A Waukegan man was convicted of kicking a Mexican-American teenager who lay dying in the street after a traffic accident.

Three white teenagers in Belleville admitted to dragging a black teen beside their sport utility vehicle.

A Rolling Meadows man was convicted of hate crimes after shouting racial slurs and attacking an African American in a bowling alley.

The list is much longer. Though the Justice Department is required to publish a report of hate crimes, police agencies are not required to report crimes to the Department of Justice. Hundreds of agencies do not report hate crimes. Many individuals are afraid to report hate crimes.

In Illinois, 114 departments reported one or more hate crimes totaling 333 for 1996. The remaining 787 agencies reported no hate crimes. It is obvious that hate crimes are running rampant throughout not only Illinois but throughout our country. They cannot, should not and must not be tolerated.

I urge America to come into the 21st century as one Nation with enough room for everybody to live.

Hate crimes are an attack on individuals or groups of individuals. But they are also an attack on our communities and our nation. The strength of our nation flows directly from the powerful notion that democracy and equality form the inseparable, interlinked foundation for our economic, social and cultural progress.

Our democracy succeeds because the notions of democracy and equality and the constant struggle to expand and deepen democracy and equality have grown and spread and taken root in the psyche of our people.

The struggle for equality for African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans and women have not been easy or painless. These struggles are far from complete.

I believe the historical record is clear: every American has benefitted, our Nation has been enriched, by breaking down the barriers which prevent some Americans from fully participating in, contributing to and benefitting from all that America has to share.

Hate crimes, and those who perpetrate such crimes, crimes which target victims based on race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, tear at the heart of America, at the ideal that people all over the world look to for inspiration. Hate crimes are twice as likely to cause injury and four times as likely to result in hospitalization as assaults in general.

Our Nation fought a bloody civil war to determine whether a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men (and women) are created equal can long endure. The resounding answer to that question,

written in the blood of so many Americans, was nothing less than a second American Revolution.

It is no accident that our Department of Justice was born in 1871 following the Civil War as a response to the wave of hate crime terror instituted by the Ku Klux Klan. And, within the space of a few years the DOJ brought more than 500 prosecutions under the Enforcement Acts which broke the back of the Klan. It is unfortunate that the second and third incarnations of the Klan were not met with similarly forceful responses.

We need additional legislation on the Federal level to reinforce and upgrade the tools, both criminal and civil which give law enforcement the ability to prevent and punish hate crimes. Now is the time for state and local government to review their hate crime laws and upgrade the training of law enforcement officials to respond to hate crimes.

Most important, we must rally every American, every man, woman and child to join in defending our democracy. The best defense against hate crime is mass revulsion and rejection of racism, sexism and homophobia.

To paraphrase the remarks of Frederick Douglass, of July 4, 1852 condemning slavery and racism:

> * * * It is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation which is insensitive to such crimes must be quickened; the conscience of the nation which tolerates such crimes must be roused; the propriety of the nation which ignores such crimes must be startled; the hypocrisy of the nation which tolerates such crimes must be exposed; and these crimes against God and community, men and women must be proclaimed and denounced and fought against with every fiber of our national will.

Hate crimes must not be tolerated at any level in our society.

AN ACCURATE READING OF THE COX COMMITTEE REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, following the public release of the Final Report of the Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with the People's Republic of China, more commonly referred to as the Cox Committee report, there have been attempts to discredit the work of the select committee.

As one of the nine members of the select committee, this Member would like to reemphasize the truly bipartisan nature of the select committee and underscore that every finding made by the Cox committee in its report is fully corroborated with evidence detailed either in the public report itself or in the classified version.

The Cox committee report is not and has never claimed to be a comprehensive report, nor was it ever meant to be one. When rumors first arose that sensitive military technology was being illegally transferred to the People's Republic of China, the House of Representatives created a select committee to investigate such allegations with emphasis on the launch failure investigations of the failures of two Chinese rockets carrying commercial satellites produced by American companies and an investigation of the sale of high performance computers to China.

In the course of our investigation, far more disturbing information came to light that took us into unanticipated directions. Even as we were trying to close the select committee's operations, new revelations kept being brought to our attention by whistleblowers. It became clear that a very deep institutional problem had existed for some time in some of our Federal agencies and particularly the Department of Energy and its national laboratories, there at least since the late 1970s. I believe that these lapses of security at the DOE weapons laboratories taken together resulted in the most serious espionage loss and counterintelligence failure in American history. Moreover, these lapses facilitated the most serious theft ever of sensitive U.S. technology and information.

Clearly, what the select committee revealed is very disturbing. Americans should be angry that their own government's lax security, indifference, naivete and incompetence resulted in such serious damage to our national security. The loss of sensitive nuclear weapons information to China is a national embarrassment and an incredibly important loss.

The bipartisan Cox committee report should be used as the starting point in our efforts to fix the serious problems the select committee identified. Rather, some have focused on discrediting the report by improperly interpreting the very clear language we used and questioning the construction of the report. Instead, they should just focus their attention on the actual meaning of straightforward, plain English meanings of the words we used. We were very careful in what we said and how we said it.

The most recent distortion circulated in Washington and in the national media is a document written by Dr. James Gordon Prather entitled ''A Technical Reassessment of the Conclusions and Implications of the Cox Committee Report.'' It was released personally by the Honorable Jack Kemp after Empower America, the organization to which Mr. Kemp belongs and which sponsored Dr. Prather's research, refused to endorse the final document. The Prather document was also the subject of a Wall Street Journal article and one of Robert Novak's columns last week.

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Dr. Prather claims that our select committee erred in finding that Chinese espionage penetrated U.S. weapons labs. Indeed he claims there was no evidence of Chinese espionage, that the real culprit is the Clinton administration's policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament and opening up the Nation's nuclear secrets to the world.

That is pure nonsense. Of course there was espionage. After careful review of the Prather document, this Member concludes that it was written with an underlying political agenda in mind; that is, to focus attention and blame on the Clinton administration, particularly its policy of engagement with China and its declassification of nuclear secrets. There is plenty of blame that might be headed that direction, but that should not discredit the Cox Committee Report.

If partisan politics is the purpose of the report, then we should recognize it as such, but it is a disservice to the Nation to discredit the work of the Cox committee if the result is that their recommendations are not implemented.

The cover letter to the Prather document clearly states, quote, ''the White House is using the espionage angle to mask the real security risk which comes not from foreign spies, but rather from the Clinton administration's own ill-conceived strategy,'' end of quote. Of course the United States is a target of foreign espionage, including Chinese espionage. To ignore or fail to act on such evidence is an embarrassment to the Clinton administration, and it is dangerous.

Without the Cox Committee, we would still not know of this massive failure or be seeing corrective action. There is a significant difference between analyzing the motive behind whatever partisan spin and public relations angle the White House has given to the Cox Committee Report and the Prather analysis of the contents and conclusions of the report itself.

It appears to this Member that the Prather document mixes up these distinctions for its partisan purposes. In order to better support and prove its conclusions, the Clinton administration policy alone, and not any Chinese espionage, is responsible for American national security losses. The Prather analysis necessarily had to redefine the Cox committee report in a critical way. Unfortunately the overall credibility of the Prather document is suspect, given its numerous flaws and its noticeable selective cherry picking of the Cox committee report.

For example, the Prather document essentially dismisses the charge that China stole design information for the neutron bomb with the help of Taiwan-born Peter Lee.

This dismissal is based on a deliberately selective reading of our report, faulty assumptions and a disregard for other information which is still classified. The Prather document called this theft charge (quote) ''ridiculous'' (unquote) and opined that the Cox Committee, in its zeal to be bipartisan, claimed the Chinese stole neutron bomb information (quote),