

"212. Criminal Offenses Committed Outside the United States 3621"

CONDEMNING ACTS OF ARSON AT SACRAMENTO, CA, SYNAGOGUES

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 136, introduced earlier today by Senators BOXER and FEINSTEIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 136) condemning the acts of arson at three Sacramento, CA, synagogues on June 18, 1999, and calling on all Americans to categorically reject crimes of hate and intolerance.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my friend and colleague, Senator BARBARA BOXER, to introduce a Sense of the Senate Resolution condemning the acts of arson at three Sacramento, California synagogues on June 18, 1999. The resolution also calls on all Americans to categorically reject crimes of hate and intolerance.

I believe this measure is important not only to the Sacramento community but also to all Americans who abhor intolerance.

I was shocked and saddened when I first heard the news that three synagogues in Sacramento had been targeted by arsonists. Committed just a few hours before dawn, this heinous attack was carried out over a 45 minute time span signaling to us that this was deliberate and premeditated act.

In that time, \$1.2 million in damage was done to the Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom and the Kenesett Israel Torah Center. While the damage to the property was severe, no dollar amount can reflect the true damage done when hateful crimes such as these strike at the heart of a community.

Mr. President, I believe it is tragic that even though we have made significant progress to increase tolerance in this nation that such vicious hate crimes continue to be committed.

This resolution expresses our resolve to ensure that such acts of ignorance and bigotry will not be tolerated in this nation and those who commit them will face swift justice. While the resolution condemns these specific acts of arson in the Sacramento area, it also declares our collective abhorrence to all crimes of intolerance.

The resolution also says that the Senate is committed to using Federal law enforcement personnel and resources to identify the persons who committed these heinous acts and brings them to justice in a swift and deliberate manner. It also recognizes and applauds the residents of Sacramento area who have so quickly joined together to lend support and assistance to the victims of these des-

picable crimes, and remains committed to preserving the freedom of religion of all members of the community.

I believe that one of the most sacred rights we have as Americans is the freedom of religion. This country came to be because people wanted to be able to choose how they worshiped. I hope that in the wake of this sorrowful event, we are all reminded of the importance of this freedom.

Whatever the motive in these arsons, all people of faith in the Sacramento community and this nation must stand together to fight such hatred. The bottom line is that hatred, bigotry and racism all come from the same place—ignorance.

California's modern heritage is one in which diversity is to be respected, not scorned. As long as hate crimes continue to counter that heritage, we must work together to denounce intolerance and the protect the rights of all.

Mr. President, while we have made progress to increase tolerance in this nation, tragic events like these in Sacramento prove that we still need to do more. Together, we must send the strongest possible message that hate crimes will not be tolerated.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I join today with my colleagues, Senators BOXER and FEINSTEIN to introduce a resolution condemning the acts of arson against the three Jewish synagogues in Sacramento, California.

Our history is blessed with courageous acts of men and women who have refused to accept, and united against, ignorance, oppression and discrimination. It was their selflessness which, in large part, secured and protected the same freedoms and liberties so many Americans take for granted today.

On June 18th, 1999, in Sacramento, California, the Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom and Knesset Israel Torah Center were victims of malicious and cowardly acts of arson. Mr. President, these acts of intolerance and malice are a direct attack against all Americans and the ideals which are integral to a free and democratic society. The very liberties that allow America to prosper are directly undermined by such acts of blatant hatred and intolerance.

Mr. President, the United States owes much of its strength and greatness to the special uniqueness and diversity of its people. It is imperative that we unite, upholding our responsibility to honor and protect the basic, inalienable right to live without fear and violence. We must send a message to those individuals who would undermine our free and democratic society, that their acts, and any similar actions, will not be tolerated.

Mr. President, I would also like to take this time to commend the residents of Sacramento, and the larger California community, who have joined in solidarity with the Jewish congregations, demonstrating their continued commitment to preserving the freedom of all members of the community.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 136) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 136

Whereas on the evening of June 18, 1999, in Sacramento, California, the Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Knesset Israel Torah Center were victims of malicious and cowardly acts of arson;

Whereas such crimes against our institutions of faith are crimes against us all;

Whereas we have celebrated since our Nation's birth the rich and colorful diversity of its people, and the sanctity of a free and democratic society;

Whereas the liberties Americans enjoy are attributed in large part to the courage and determination of visionaries who made great strides in overcoming the barriers of oppression, intolerance, and discrimination in order to ensure fair and equal treatment for every American by every American;

Whereas this type of unacceptable behavior is a direct assault upon the fundamental rights of all Americans who cherish their freedom of religion; and

Whereas every Member of Congress serves in part as a role model and bears a responsibility to protect and honor the multitude of cultural institutions and traditions we enjoy in the United States of America: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the crimes that occurred in Sacramento, California, at Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Knesset Israel Torah Center on the evening of June 18, 1999;

(2) rejects such acts of intolerance and malice in our society and interprets such attacks on cultural and religious institutions as an attack on all Americans;

(3) in the strongest terms possible, is committed to using Federal law enforcement personnel and resources pursuant to existing federal authority to identify the persons who committed these heinous acts and bring them to justice in a swift and deliberate manner;

(4) recognizes and applauds the residents of the Sacramento, California, area who have so quickly joined together to lend support and assistance to the victims of these despicable crimes, and remain committed to preserving the freedom of religion of all members of the community; and

(5) calls upon all Americans to categorically reject similar acts of hate and intolerance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 15, 35, 70, 75, 97, 100 through 103, 131, 132, 134, 138, 139, 141 through 156, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service.

I finally ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc,

the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Gary S. Guzy, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Diane Edith Watson, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal States of Micronesia.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Carolyn L. Huntoon, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

John T. Spotila, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Albert S. Jacquez, of California, to be Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation for a term of seven years.

CONSUMER PROTECTION SAFETY COMMISSION

Mary Sheila Gall, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 1998.

Ann Brown, of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 1999.

Ann Brown, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

John T. Hanson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs).

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Timothy Fields, Jr., of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Melvin E. Clark, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 1999.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Donald Lee Pressley, of Virginia, to be an assistant Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Donald W. Keyser, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for Rank of Ambassador during tenure of service as Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Nagorno-Karabakh and New Independent States Regional Conflicts.

Larry C. Napper, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for Rank of Ambassador during tenure of service as Coordinator of the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Program.

Frank Almaguer, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class

of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Honduras.

John R. Hamilton, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru.

Gwen C. Clare, of South Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ecuador.

Oliver P. Garza, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Nicaragua.

Joyce E. Leader, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea.

David B. Dunn, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zambia.

M. Michael Einik, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Mark Wylea Erwin, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros and as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Seychelles.

Christopher E. Goldthwait, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chad.

Joseph Limprecht, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania.

Prudence Bushnell, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guatemala.

Donald Keith Bandler, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cyprus.

Johnnie Carson, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kenya.

Thomas J. Miller, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bismarck Myrick, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Liberia.

Michael D. Metelits, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cape Verde.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

Foreign Service nomination of Peter S. Wood, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 1999.

Foreign Service nominations beginning Constance A. Carrino, and ending Ruth H. Vanheuven, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 1999.

Foreign Service nominations beginning Brian E. Carlson, and ending Leonardo M. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 24, 1999.

Foreign Service nominations beginning Dale V. Slaght, and ending Eric R. Weaver, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 24, 1999.

Foreign Service nominations beginning Johnny E. Brown, and ending Mee Ja Yu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 1999.

Foreign Service nominations beginning Jay M. Bergman, and ending Robin Lane White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 1999.

Foreign Service nomination of Stephen A. Dodson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 18, 1999.

Foreign Service nominations beginning Karen Aguilar, and ending Lauri M. Kassman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 26, 1999.

NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY FIELDS, JR.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am pleased to support the nomination of a fellow Virginian, Timothy Fields, Jr., to be the Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). When I look back over Mr. Fields' dedication to public service including 28 years at the EPA as well as the strong educational background he received at one of our nation's most selective colleges and a great source of pride for my home state of Virginia, Virginia Tech University, I say to myself, the President and the EPA Administrator selected wisely.

We are fortunate that a man of this caliber and distinction is willing to devote himself to public service. Rarely have we had a nominee come before the Environment and Public Works Committee, on which I am privileged to serve, with so much direct experience to qualify himself for the job. Mr. Fields comes before us not from a political background but from the field of engineering.

Here are some highlights: upon graduating from Virginia Tech, Mr. Fields received a masters degree from George Washington University and has studied

at Ohio State University. His lifetime of service at EPA began in 1971. Most recently, on February 17, 1997, Mr. Fields was appointed Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). Prior to this, Mr. Fields served for three years as Principal Deputy Administrator for OSWER where he was responsible for Superfund and solid waste under RCRA, Director of EPA's Superfund office for over two years and serving in that office for five years, and Director of EPA's Emergency Response Division for four and a half years and Deputy Director of the Hazardous Site Control Division for a year and a half.

Even more remarkable is his list of achievements. He received the highest award for civil servants, the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executive Service—not once but four times. He was recommended twice under President George Bush and twice under President Bill Clinton. He is the only EPA employee to be so honored.

According to a report issued by the General Accounting Office, by the end of this fiscal year, all cleanup remedies will have been selected for over 1,100 sites. About 31,000 sites have been removed from the Superfund inventory of potential waste sites to help promote the economic redevelopment of these priorities. I think it is fair to say that Mr. Fields deserves part of the credit.

Mr. Fields' career at EPA is one of great distinction and is a model for Virginians interested in a life in public service. I am very proud to offer my support for Mr. Fields.

THANKS TO THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Republican leader for his willingness to have a session on tomorrow in order that I and other Senators might make speeches which we have not had an opportunity to give during the previous busy days of this week. But I thought it better, if it could be done, that we complete our speeches today and not cause the Senate to have to be in session on tomorrow.

I did want to thank the majority leader for his willingness to have the Senate come in.

Mr. President, I thank those who have stayed to listen, and may God bless all the Members of this body and all the staff people who work to help us to serve our constituents. May he continue to bless this great country, and may we as Americans never forget that this country has been a favorite in God's masterful design. God bless America.

I yield the floor.

ACCESS TO NETWORK STATIONS VIA SATELLITE TELEVISION

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I rise to urge a speedy resolution to the con-

ference the House- and Senate-passed versions of H.R. 1554, the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act. I hope that the conferees will meet soon, and that the Congress can take final action on this matter.

This is a much needed measure to enhance the satellite television industry's ability to compete with cable television. Currently, cable has a commanding 85 percent share of the multi-channel video programming distribution market. Satellite serves only 12.1 percent of the market. The 1988 Satellite Home Viewer Act enacted in 1988 put in place certain impediments to satellite carriers being truly competitive with cable. This measure alleviates those roadblocks and will promote real competition. This is good news for consumers. Prices should come down, and the diversity of programming offered should increase.

The Senate version of H.R. 1554 would remove the 90-day waiting period for receipt of broadcast network signals that consumers currently face when switching from cable to satellite television reception. It would authorize satellite carriers to offer local television station broadcasts to their customers. This provision would go a long way toward leveling the playing field between cable and satellite television. One of the major deterrents to purchasing satellite television has been the inability to watch local broadcast programming. The bill also contains a "must carry" provision, meaning that all local stations must be carried by the satellite carriers by January 1, 2002.

But, Mr. President, the aspect of this legislation that my constituents are most immediately concerned about is their current access to distant network signals through their satellite television systems. As I drive through the mountains of West Virginia, I am awed by their beauty and majesty. West Virginia truly is an amazing state in which to live, sometimes described as "all ups and downs." Flattened out as you would a crumpled piece of paper, a topographic map of West Virginia would move up the ranks from one of the smaller states in the Union to one of the largest. This awe-inspiring geography presents unique challenges to my constituents. One of those challenges is the ability to receive over-the-air broadcast signals. Many of my constituents, through no fault of their own, are having those signals terminated. While they may live in an area that is supposed to get a signal from the local broadcast station, many times geography and other factors result in a picture that is not acceptable.

Under current law, if a household should be able to receive broadcast network signals with an antenna, that household is ineligible to receive distant network signals from their satellite provider. This leaves many West Virginians with little recourse. Their street address or zip code indicates that they should be able to receive

local stations with a rooftop antenna, but the steep hillsides that form their backyards make that impossible.

In an effort to address this issue, under the Senate-passed version of H.R. 1554, customers who were receiving a distant network signal before July 11, 1998, would receive those signals until December 31, 1999. After that date, the affiliate network signals of customers residing within the Grade A contours, the areas closest to the broadcast station, would be cut off. This bill will allow satellite subscribers outside of the grade A contour, but within the grade B contour, to continue to receive their distant network signals after December 31, 1999, subject to an FCC rulemaking. I believe this is a fair way to deal with subscribers who, through no fault of their own, would otherwise have distant network signals terminated.

I am a strong supporter of local broadcasters, and I believe that they perform an important function for local communities. The local news and emergency services broadcasters provide are invaluable and should be protected. While I understand the concerns expressed by local broadcasters, I am not convinced that the grandfathering provision included in the Senate bill will constitute significant harm to their livelihoods.

I urge the conferees to complete action so that Congress can quickly enact this legislation to provide relief to the many people throughout West Virginia and the Nation.

I apologize to all officers, Senators' aides and Members of the staff for the late hour, but I think that is perhaps better than being in session tomorrow.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I take this time to call the attention of our colleagues and our viewing audience to the forthcoming Independence Day, July 4.

What is July 4 all about? The Declaration of Independence in U.S. history was a document that proclaimed the freedom of the Thirteen Colonies from British rule. It was the first formal pronouncement by an organized body of people of the right to govern by choice.

On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, approved Richard Henry Lee's motion for independence, and on July 4—which later came to be celebrated as Independence Day—it approved the declaration. Signing of the declaration took place over the course of several months, beginning August 2. Ultimately, the signatories numbered 56.

The Declaration of Independence, written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, and modeled largely on the theories of John Locke, have affirmed the national rights of man and the doctrine of government by contract, which Congress insisted had been repeatedly violated by King George III.