

thousands of family-owned businesses and farms to the tune of \$46 billion in tax penalties and administrative costs.

No American family should be forced to pay 60 percent of their savings and their business or their farm in taxes when a loved one dies. By repealing the death tax, we will help to preserve thousands of family-owned farms and small businesses across the country that will not have to be sold just to pay this onerous tax.

Mr. Speaker, we are not just ending a tax; we are attempting to preserve the American dream.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD OR MEDICINE

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week, I went on a hunger tour in Appalachia in parts of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia; and I heard about a man by the name of Tom Nelson who is one of the tens of millions of poor Americans we do not see. He was a senior citizen who worked at a food bank in Huntington.

A few months ago, the food bank was not able to pay Mr. Nelson, in large measure because it had not received funding promised by the State for nearly a year. To stretch his Social Security check, Mr. Nelson tried to stretch his blood pressure medicine. The cause of his death was listed as a heart attack, but the truth is he died trying to feed his family.

The poorest 2½ percent of Americans rank with the poorest people in the world, according to the World Health Organization. I think the only thing more shameful than that is the fact that too few of us know about people like Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Speaker, this is the People's House, and I urge all of us, including the Nation's media, to look harder for the 30 million Americans who go hungry each year, and for many more who every day must make the choice Mr. Nelson made between paying for food or paying for medicine.

NEW MEXICO FIRES AND H.R. 1522

(Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, devastating forest fires like this are burning vast areas in our Nation. Today, my subcommittee is having a timely joint hearing on fire management that begin on Federal lands.

Last year on this subject, I introduced H.R. 1522, which is a very simple bill designed to reduce fire risks like this in areas like Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the forest meets the town in the wildland urban interface.

Many of these forests are simply too dense, too crowded, with too many

trees, after 100 years of fire prevention, to be treated by fire alone. My bill calls for thinning of forests to make it easier and safer to allow fires naturally to return without being destructive.

On February 9, 1999, at a hearing on my bill, the Clinton-Gore administration testified against this bill. They said that these kinds of treatments of thinning were simply unnecessary. A couple of weeks ago, Secretary Babbitt held a press conference where he announced that we need a new strategy to deal with fire risks in these urban-wildland interfaces, a strategy that calls for a combination of thinning and prescribed fire. What a revelation. We need this now.

MARKING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF JAMES BYRD, JR.

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

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in marking the solemn anniversary of the senseless murder of James Byrd. Random acts of violence have become a tragic part of modern American life, but James Byrd was not selected at random. No, he was singled out for death solely because of his race.

Just as the youngsters at the Jewish day school in Los Angeles County were singled out because of their religion. Just as Matthew Shepard and Private First Class Barry Winchell were singled out because of their sexual orientation. They were not random victims. They were targeted not because of what they did or where they were, but because of who they were.

Each of these vicious acts was intended to send a message, a message of hatred and intimidation. Well, it is time for us to send a message in response. It is time to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

□ 1030

DEATH TAX

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we are faced with the largest tax burden since World War II and what many people do not realize is that the Federal Government is really taxing American values. A good example is the death tax.

The death tax is one of the most onerous taxes imposed by the Federal Government. It is double and triple taxation on American families' hard-earned savings. Even worse, the death tax forces grieving sons and daughters to sell family businesses or farms just to pay the tax. It is absolutely outrageous that we allow the Federal Government to do this to families.

Enough is enough. It is time to repeal the death tax and end the assault

on American values of family, hard work, savings, and entrepreneurship.

Let us bury the death tax now. By doing this, we will be giving freedom and a new birth to the next generation of families, farmers, and small business owners.

SUPPORT BIPARTISAN HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to say that an institution such as the United States Congress is judged as much for what it supports as what it opposes. It is time now for us to support the bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act and to oppose the hateful acts that caused the dismemberment of James Byrd, Jr., caused the tragic killing in Illinois of Jews and Asians and African Americans, and the terrible attack on the Jewish day care center in Los Angeles. It is time for this institution to be able to say that we abhor hate crimes.

I join Senator ROBB in the offering of Senate Resolution 92 that will ask or state the sense of this House or the sense of the Senate is to oppose hateful acts, and I will offer such a resolution in this House.

Let me also end by simply saying I applaud as well on another topic Tipper Gore's message and effort to provide more mental health resources for Americans and America's children. I held a hearing in my district that indicates that children need to be listened to and heard and that children have depression and mental health needs as well.

Let us pass a bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

BRING HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT TO THE FLOOR FOR DEBATE

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, join today in urging Congress to, not only debate the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, but pass it. We should no longer in America tolerate racial hatred, bigotry, crimes against persons because of their sexual orientation.

We are America. We are a proud country. But, regrettably, deaths like James Byrd, which occurred 2 years ago today, still occur in America, the death of Matthew Shepard, the death of so many others based on their color, their race, their ethnicity, or their orientation. Shamefully, America witnesses once again every day another dimension of killing in this country.

But only if Congress speaks loudly against violence and specifically against violence perpetrated because of hate will we only cleanse our souls and urge our Nation to move forward in a better, more positive spirit.

So I urge my leaders to consider bringing the Hate Crimes Prevention Act to the floor so that we can debate this in the well, in this Chamber, and pass it on behalf of all Americans.

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION LEGISLATION

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, hate crimes are a form of terrorism, and they demand a national response from this Congress. My own State of New York is expected to pass a hate crimes bill later today. But Congress stays silent. The Federal hate crimes bill should be marked up in the Committee on the Judiciary and debated on this floor as soon as possible. We should stand together to ensure the safety of our citizens and to punish those who terrorize large groups of people with vicious acts of hatred.

Some people say that all crimes are hate crimes, that this bill would seek to punish thoughts. That is simply not true. The bill does not create a new crime for thinking racist or homophobic thoughts, it simply strengthens laws to punish those who physically attack others based on their perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, or gender. It punishes action and intent, not thoughts.

Hate crimes are especially odious because they victimize more than just the individual victim. They are acts of terrorism directed against an entire class of citizens. They are intended to terrify people simply because of who they are.

We should act now before new names join those of Matthew Shepard and James Byrd as victims of hate crimes. We should pass a sensible hate crimes bill this year.

PRESERVATION OF STILTSVILLE

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands for holding a hearing calling for the preservation of Stiltsville.

Stiltsville is a group of seven homes located south of Key Biscayne, Florida, located in my congressional district that has been part of the landscape and seascape of our young community since the 1930s.

Mother Nature has destroyed many of these homes, but now the Federal bureaucracy seeks to do what previous hurricanes have not succeeded in doing, which is to tear down these beautiful homes.

The homeowners have gathered a powerful coalition to help them with

the causes of saving Stiltsville, and they obtained over 60,000 signatures and resolutions of support from the Dade Heritage Trust, almost all of the municipalities in the Miami-Dade County, the Dade County Commission, the Florida House of Representatives, and the South Florida Congressional Delegation.

Governor Jeb Bush also supports the preservation of Stiltsville, and I thank the gentleman from Utah (Chairman HANSEN) for his help to our cause.

We will continue to negotiate with the Department of Interior on finding a solution that meets the goals of the National Park Service while saving this remarkable landmark that we call Stiltsville.

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am the author of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. We have 191 cosponsors. Today is the day that marks the senseless death, lynching of James Byrd, Jr. in Jasper, Texas, when he was dragged for miles over a country road, chained by the ankles to a pickup truck. His body was shredded and ripped in the 2-hour ordeal.

Since the 2 years of his murder, the House has done nothing to address the nationwide outburst of hate violence. So my bill really should be taken up by the Committee on the Judiciary. We should stop the stalling.

We know that the year of 1999 was called the summer of hate. Events of violence have occurred throughout the country. So we cannot, as a body, dismiss these atrocities as anonymous agents of lunatics. We need a hate crimes prevention law.

SUPPORT ESTATE TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in 1978, Susan Tagera left her corporate job at IBM and decided to pursue her American dream of owning her own business, a bicycle shop. She worked real hard over the 21 years to build up this shop and get a good clientele. Unfortunately, now she has breast cancer. She has to do something about the shop. She is passing it on to her son.

Only one problem. It has got an estate tax problem. See Uncle Sam has got it so that enterprising businesswoman like Susan cannot successfully pass their business on to the next generation.

That is why we need estate tax relief so that small business owners like Susan and millions all over America and family farmers can pass on what they have worked hard and struggled for and dreamed about, just pass it on to the next generation.

At the same time, they will be economically independent so that they will not have to depend on tax dollars for their livelihood and long-term care in the future. They have become independent. Why does our Tax Code penalize them?

This week, Congress has a chance to help Susan out by voting for estate tax relief. I hope that all Members on both sides support this legislation.

HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest this morning to people talking about the anniversary of the BYRD death, and I started to think, why is it that we sit here in Congress and profess how far America has come, how great the prosperity is, and how we have grown economically and socially? Is it not time, then, for America to grow morally? For those who fear to answer this question, I will answer it for them. The time is now.

Over a year ago, the bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act was introduced. This legislation will make it easier for Federal authorities to assist in the prosecution of racial, religious, and ethnic violence. It has been referred to a subcommittee. Why have we not done more? Instead of doing more to strengthen hate crime legislation, members of society with no sense of remorse are killing those who they believe to be inferior to them.

Most people that are born do not have anything to do with their race, not a whole lot to do with their religion because their parents are the ones who help to determine that, and certainly not their sexual orientation.

Let us move, Mr. Speaker. Let us pass this legislation.

WORKING TO SOLVE PROBLEMS WITH USE AND ABUSE OF PUBLIC LANDS

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

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite our colleagues to join with us and listen to the debate on what I think is a remarkable piece of legislation that will, I believe, significantly affect the course of public lands and legislation in America.

I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands for his work on this bill. I encourage all of our colleagues to take a look at what we can actually do to solve the problems of use and abuse of our public lands.