

So what we are saying is now is the time as we move forward in a democratic way under a semi-war circumstance that we make these final improvements to the bill, and we are hoping that it can be done as expeditiously as possible.

My thanks to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), for her indefatigable efforts in this; and I am very proud that she is working with us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY).

□ 1230

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for his leadership on this issue. We certainly appreciate his leadership and sponsorship of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1343, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Consideration of this bill is long overdue, and its passage is absolutely critical. I urge the House Republican leadership to allow the bill to come to the floor for a vote.

H.R. 1343 gives law enforcement officers at all levels of government the tools they need to deal with these terrible acts of hate-based violence. This legislation also sends a message to the world that crimes committed against people because of who they are or what they believe are particularly evil and particularly offensive and will not be tolerated in this country.

These types of crimes are committed not just against individuals, not just against a single person, but against society and against all Americans. These crimes are not only meant to hurt the unfortunate individual who falls victim to such acts, but they are also meant to intimidate, harass, and menace others who were not directly attacked.

A few years ago a man filled with hate shot up a Jewish community center in Los Angeles, wounding children and teachers in a place that was supposed to be a protective sanctuary for children. Following his capture the man said he had shot at those children because he wanted to send a message. He said he wanted to send a wake-up call to America to kill Jews.

By passing this bill we will be rejecting such messages and committing the full measure of our justice system to ending such hateful violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman's time has expired.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, may the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) exercise the time now that he had under his own name in his own right?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It would be the Chair's normal course to go to the Republican side of the aisle; but if there is no objection, the gentleman is on the list for 5 minutes.

Is there an objection to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) to have his 5 minutes right now?

There was no objection.

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, this bill also honors the memory of James Byrd, who was horribly dragged to his death behind a pickup truck simply because his killers did not like the color of his skin. It honors Matthew Shepherd, who was beaten and tied to a fence post and left to die in near freezing weather because he was gay. It honors not only the victims of high-profile crimes, it honors the thousands of people whose lives have been scarred by similar acts of hate and violence.

Hate crimes legislation is not a partisan issue. It is not about political posturing. It is not about us versus them. This is an issue that transcends politics.

I urge the House leadership to allow a vote on this important measure, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1343.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H.R. 1343, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. I am so pleased to see that this issue is coming up to the forefront here nationally.

In California we worked long and hard and had a task force that looked at hate crimes up and down the State. We compiled valuable information that assists law enforcement in identifying hate crimes and enforcing the law.

The events of September 11 have continued to demonstrate the destructive power of hate to tear apart the unity of an entire Nation. In the wake of the terrorist attacks, the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee has investigated, documented and referred to Federal authorities over 500 instances. Moreover, the Council on American-Islamic Relations has compiled over 1,400 complaints of hate attacks directed against American Muslims. This is a 51 percent increase in reported crimes.

These instances include the murders of a Muslim Pakistani store owner in Dallas, Texas, and an Indian American gas station owner in Mesa, Arizona, where a suspect was arrested shouting, "I stand for America all the way."

The Department of Justice, however, has opened only approximately 250 investigations of hate crimes directed against institutions or people who appeared to be Arab or Middle Easterners. September 11 and the Arab American situation only represents the tip of a proverbial iceberg.

Hate crimes against any group regardless of race, color or creed should not be tolerated in our great American democratic society. As the James Byrd and the Matthew Shepherd tragedies

demonstrate, not only can the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes strain the resources of State and local law enforcement agencies, but social unrest is even more of a drain on the fabric of our society.

Current law limits Federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to federally protected activities such as voting and does not permit Federal involvement in a range of cases involving crimes motivated by bias against the victim's sexual orientation, gender or disabilities. This loophole is particularly significant given the fact that five States have no hate crime laws on the books, and another 21 States have extremely weak hate crimes laws.

H.R. 1343 will remove these hurdles so the Federal Government will no longer be handicapped in its efforts to assist in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

KLAMATH BASIN TRAGEDY

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, each of us remembers last summer's dramatic national headlines about the several Federal biologists who turned off 100 percent of the water to hundreds of family farmers in the Klamath Basin of northern California and southern Oregon and shut down an entire community.

This week the National Academy of Sciences, perhaps the most highly respected scientific body in this country, has concluded, quote, "There was no scientific or technical information to justify that decision." Let me repeat that statement, Mr. Speaker. There was no scientific or technical information to justify the decision that stripped 1,500 family farmers of their livelihoods, drove a community of 70,000 to the brink of economic collapse, and caused irreparable social harm and changed the lives of thousands of people forever.

All of this was done, Mr. Speaker, because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service biologists merely theorized that withholding water deliveries would benefit the fish. There were no certain facts to back up those theories. There was no hard evidence, no historical proof, only guesswork. In fact, the historical proof told them the opposite, but they consciously chose to ignore it. And the steps they said had to be taken, the Academy's report tells us, are probably harmful.

How could the Academy have reached such a vastly different conclusion? Because, Mr. Speaker, the Klamath Basin tragedy is nothing short of scientific sabotage. The radical environmentalists have hijacked the Endangered Species Act, a well-meaning species protection measure, and are using it as a political tool, a bludgeon against rural Americans to advance a radical political agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I am an environmentalist. The ranchers in my district of northern California are environmentalists. Klamath Basin farmers are environmentalists. In fact, one could not find a group of people who have worked harder to preserve the environment for fish, for birds, and for wildlife refuges in their area. No one knows the land better. No one cares for it more than those who depend upon it for their survival.

Americans should be outraged. We do not have to sacrifice the well-being of our citizens to protect species in this country. It does not have to be an either-or proposition. You see, through fish screens, improvements to water quality, and other common-sense steps, we could have found a solution that would have enabled Klamath Basin fish and farmers to get well together without callously taking 100 percent of their water away from these communities.

The dirty truth is the radical environmentalists do not want balance, and species protection is not necessarily their goal. They want to bankrupt farmers and other rural Americans because they want the water and they want the land, and they are misusing the Endangered Species Act to that eminently destructive end.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to plead with my colleagues that they take a hard look at how the Endangered Species Act is being used as a political tool, and to recognize that it is no longer working as a species protective tool. Many of us have long observed this happening.

This week's National Academy of Sciences study lends incredible proof for the Nation to see. Our farmers must be made whole for the economic losses that they have sustained. The administration must act immediately to ensure full water deliveries. We must also demand updates in the law that will guarantee that future species decisions will be solidly grounded in fact, just by sound science, tested and supported by available evidence. Only then will we be able to truly protect the environment and ensure that American citizens are protected from the calculated misuse of the law.

UTAH WELCOMES THE WINTER OLYMPICS

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

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the 2002 Winter Olympic Games will officially begin. Tomorrow the world will be welcome to Utah. Visitors from across the globe will quickly discover that they have arrived at the most beautiful and diverse of the 50 States.

People will be thrilled by the snow-capped rugged mountains, the rustic lands and the greatest snow on Earth. Utah will welcome the world with its

beauty, its charm and its unique warmth and personality. It will not take long for visitors to witness the kindness, hospitality and common decency that are the hallmarks of the great people of the State of Utah.

There will be artistic demonstrations, performances and opportunities for all who participate to learn about the great heritage of the West. Utah will welcome the world with its values.

Preparing for the Olympic Games has not been a short-term task. Individuals in Utah have devoted years to anticipating and planning for this time. And the manner in which they have prepared is demonstrative of their spirit. In Utah, record numbers of individual citizens will serve as Olympic volunteers. Doctors and nurses will donate their time to be first responders in case of illness or injury. Active citizens will greet athletes at the airport, be on hand to provide directions, and ensure a smooth and successful Olympic Games.

For the first time in Olympic history, Salt Lake City has developed a plan to ensure that its neediest populations are served during the Olympics. For example, each evening volunteers will pick up surplus food from Olympic venues and deliver it to the Utah Food Bank from which it will be available to families and the elderly. Utah will welcome the world with its tradition of service.

Throughout all the planning there has been a focus on safety and security. With Federal support and volunteers from surrounding States, Utah's courageous law enforcement personnel will ensure the greatest level of safety possible during the Olympic Games. Utah will welcome the world with its preparation and security.

□ 1245

In every preparation, the Olympic efforts have not been accomplished by one individual. They have taken the sacrifice and dedication of all the citizens of Utah, but in the end, they will not be Utah's games. They will be America's games.

It will be the triumph of our Nation that in the face of great tribulation we did not shrink; we did not fear to go forward in the effort. We demonstrated great courage by pressing on and opening our hearts and our country to the world. America will welcome the world with its unity and resolve.

As the Winter Olympic Games for 2002 have taken on a particular significance as a symbol of global unity and peace, the moral value of the games has become apparent. In order to protect the value and integrity of such international competitions, and of amateur athletics in general, we must not allow the practices like the use of performance-enhancing substances to tarnish the spirit of such significant events. We should expect, in fact we should demand, that Olympic athletes, that all athletes, compete free of performance-enhancing substances.

For sports to meet this standard, there must be a fair testing process. In the year 2000, the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse's National Commission on Sports and Substance Abuse published a report on the practice of doping in Olympic sports. The report says there has been no independent and accountable organization with the authority to create and administer a truly effective antidoping program, and recent data has shown that doping is occurring in increasing rates among our youth.

This report made several specific recommendations to address the practice of doping, and these included mustering the political will to demand a drug-free Olympics; ensuring that an independent authority exists and standards are set for testing practices; researching the long-term health consequences of performance-enhancing substances, with particular emphasis on youth; improving the cost effectiveness of testing; and conducting non-competition testing to develop baselines and generate valid and reliable tests.

Several of those steps have already been implemented.

In year 2000, the U.S. Olympic Committee established the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency as a result of criticism that drug testing and rules enforcement needed to be completely independent of the Olympic committee, and the antidoping agency was designated as the official antidoping agency for Olympic sport.

Another recommendation of the commission has already been implemented by the Salt Lake Olympic Committee, the concept of "Athlete Testing Passports." But more must be done.

For there to be fair, dope-free competition, there must be a fair, reliable and valid method to test for banned substances. Without a fair method of testing, athletes and the public cannot have confidence in the fairness of the competition itself. Much is at stake if the practices of doping are not curtailed.

There is the symbolic value of the Olympics, there is the examples we are setting for our youth, and finally there is the actual health of our youth. That is why I introduced legislation this week that would implement many of the other recommendations of the committee's report.

My bill, the Fair Play in Sport Act, would invest additional resources in developing more valid and reliable tests and conduct more extensive research into the long-term health aspects.

I certainly encourage people's support of this bill. We look forward to welcoming the world to Utah with the Olympic games.

ELIMINATING INCOME TAX ON UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order