

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

(Mr. REDMOND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. CLEMENT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. KOLBE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE NEED FOR HATE CRIME LEGISLATION

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, on the front page of virtually every newspaper in America yesterday, I saw a story that sickened me when I read it and should shock every Member of this body. Matthew Shepard, the 21-year-old student at the University of Wyoming who was described by a family member as an incredibly caring person with a big heart, mind and soul, was lured Tuesday night from campus by two young men, driven a mile outside of town, bludgeoned with a blunt instrument and tied to a fence like a dead animal. Close to death, with his head battered and burn marks on his body, he was discovered 12 hours later by two passing cyclists who at first said they mistook his unconscious body for a scarecrow. Today, as we deliberate here, young Matthew Shepard is lying in a coma, clinging to life.

Why was this young man singled out for such a barbaric act of violence? According to all accounts, he was attacked simply because he was gay. This is the latest in a series of brutally violent crimes committed against people for no other reason than the color of their skin, their sexual orientation or their religion.

For example, in southern Virginia last year, a soft-spoken black man was soaked in gasoline, burned alive, and then beheaded in the yard of his slayer. The victim was the only son of his parents, who were incredibly proud of his service in the Marines. He was targeted for this act of violence, it was discovered, simply because he was black.

Likewise in April 1994, two African American men murdered a white father of three in Lubbock, Texas. The killers later stated that they had set out to find a victim this time who was white.

Earlier this year in Illinois, a Hispanic family mourned the loss of their

son who was kicked and verbally abused as he lay on the ground bleeding to death, shortly after being in a car accident with the assailant. According to the authorities, the driver of the other car was upset that his car had been damaged and went over to the victim and repeatedly kicked him in the stomach while shouting, "Mexican, go back to Mexico."

And all of us by now have heard about the recent slaying in Texas of James Byrd, a disabled black man. The Nation was horrified to hear the account of Mr. Byrd who was offered a ride by three young men in a pickup truck. After luring him into their vehicle, buying him beer and driving him to a remote location, the men beat Byrd unconscious, chained him to their truck and dragged him around until he was beheaded.

Incidents like these underscore the need for Congress to move forward and pass pending hate crime legislation sponsored by my colleague from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM). We have a responsibility as lawmakers and as human beings to do everything in our power to punish those who commit hate crimes of any kind to the fullest extent of the law. But it is equally important for us to speak out loudly against those individuals and organized groups like neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and skin-head sects which target people based on benign traits like skin color, sexual orientation or religion.

Today we should all keep Matthew Shepard and his family and his friends in our prayers as we reflect on this brutal act of violence. If we are in fact to survive as a society, we have got to come to grips with these horrible, horrible crimes that are being committed around us, and we have got to teach our children different, we have got to set examples.

The two young couples that disposed of the body of a baby in a trash can as they celebrated their evening prom continue to underscore how terribly weak we are becoming as a Nation and how careless we are becoming with facts and how we are not protecting each other from these types of acts of violence.

So, again I urge my colleagues to speak forcibly on this floor about protecting every human being on this earth. And we may have our differences, we may disagree on a lot of things, but to witness these kind of crimes being repeated and repeated and repeated, and allow them to go unchallenged, and allow it to be, well, because he was different, or that just happened because he was hanging out around the wrong types of people. Even the characterization of a legislator several years ago when he said, homosexuals are like gay bulls; they are worthless and should be sent to the packing plant. When legislators and people of authority start talking about other people like that, you wonder what impact it may have on average Americans who are sitting, listening.

□ 1600

DOING THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida for his thought-provoking remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened with interest to many different perspectives on this floor and in this chamber on this Sunday afternoon when we remain in session intent on doing the people's business.

Mr. Speaker, I was especially astounded to hear a lecture in ethics from the other side, particularly from one Member who finds himself ethically-challenged and, indeed, involved in civil litigation concerning what many would define as an ethical problem, and yet that is the level of absurdity we have reached in Washington, when those who are suspected of doing wrong often stand to claim their endeavors to be right.

So it is sadly, Mr. Speaker, at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, where this morning our President met with leaders of the minority party, but failed to meet with the leadership of this House from the conservative majority. Indeed, in discussing with the leadership of the majority party the phenomenon, apparently this President has not met with the majority leadership throughout this two years of the 105th Congress.

Yet tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States will leave our Federal capital, intent on raising funds for electioneering. First he will go to Palm Beach, Florida, and then tomorrow night he will go to New York City. New York City? Yes, New York City. He will be there to raise money for a Member of this House who sits on the Committee on the Judiciary and who has aspirations of joining the other body here on the hill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I understand how hard bitten and cynical Washington, D.C. has become. Indeed, in stark contrast to my usual weekend activities when I am back home in position to listen and learn from the constituents of the 6th District of Arizona, I had the opportunity this morning to watch the various Sunday news programs, and came away from those just a bit chagrined by the ferocity of the spin cycle, and the seeming hunger on the part of the media elite to cast aside the Constitution and find some unconstitutional or extra-constitutional remedies for the plight in which our President finds himself.

Mr. Speaker, we should all remember, we stood here as a body 435 strong in January of 1997, raised our right hands and swore to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. Those in the Executive Branch take a similar oath. And for anyone in any office to suggest that we cast aside the Constitution and constitutional principles to embrace some remedies of