

things with people, participating in events, thinking about policy issues to get involved with those details of how he pays his own bills.

So I hope that everybody looks at this minority report and we get the facts out. We have paid a lot of money for this. Let us not do spin. Let us do facts. Let us try and look at this thing objectively and not politically.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). According to Jefferson's Rules of the House, on page 176, even when Members characterize a report from the Senate—this is on page 176: Except as permitted in clause 1 of rule XIV, it is out of order to characterize the position of the Senate, or of Senators designated by name or position, on legislative issues.

FILEGATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, Shakespeare said, "Something is rotten in Denmark."

Mr. Speaker, I say something is rotten in the White House. I am talking today about the case of Filegate, which has raised so many eyebrows, which has raised so many concerns. Each day a new revelation comes out on this matter. Each day I continue to be shocked and the American people become more concerned about what they learned. First we heard that the FBI had turned over to the White House had obtained 330 names to peruse. We understand the list went from "A" to "G." Then we heard the number raised to 341 names. Recently we heard the FBI state that requests were made for more than 400 files. I learned today that one file was returned on June 10. I learned also today that 71 files were turned over on June 17. What is shocking is I learned today, too, that the White House still has 17 of these files.

Mr. Speaker, the more we learn about this situation, the more I become concerned. Mr. Freeh, the Director of the FBI, said that the FBI was victimized. I think the FBI was victimized. I think the Congress was victimized. Even the Washington Post, one of the administration's most ardent supporters, now feel in their editorials yesterday and today that they were victimized.

Mr. Speaker, this all came about because the committee on which I served, Government Reform and Oversight, requested files. We requested files for almost 2 years, and what did we get? We got stonewalled. It got so bad that we had to issue this contempt report to John Quinn, counsel to the President, requesting this information after our preliminary investigation saw the mis-

use and abuse of the FBI and the IRS in the Travelgate fiasco. That is how this came about.

The more questions that we see being raised, the more questions we have. We do not know how many files were obtained. We do not know how many files were copied. We do not know how the files were used. We do not know whose civil rights or privacy rights were abused. Filegate came to light because of our investigation.

Most disturbing to me as a member of the committee that was investigating this, Government Reform and Oversight, is that the FBI files of three of our subcommittee staff directors were obtained by the White House. To me, this is a clear and direct violation of the firewall which has always existed between the legislative branch, the executive branch, and the chief Federal law enforcement agency of our Nation.

The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight is charged with investigations and audits of the executive branch of Government. Our committee has been stonewalled in repeated requests for documents relating to travelgate during the past 2 years. Only after we took this drastic step of threatening to issue a contempt citation of Congress did we receive one-third of the documents requested. It was through these documents that we discovered the unbelievable tale of the misuse of FBI files in the manner we have heard described, the manner we see here.

Mr. Speaker, in light of what has been revealed, I believe it is incumbent upon this Congress to move forward immediately and issue this contempt citation to Mr. Quinn and the others. It is not sufficient for the White House and Mr. Quinn to suspend Mr. Livingstone. It is now absolutely critical that the Congress obtain all of the 2,000 missing documents, the documents that have been withheld from this Congress, withheld from our subcommittee, and that we conduct a thorough and complete investigation and review of this matter and this entire sorry chapter in this administration.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. MICA. Yes, I would be glad to.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman believe that it is possible that the White House received all of these files from the FBI and that perhaps they were just trying to look into one or two people in those files that they really wanted to get, and that the rest of those files were just a cover against, a vendetta against individuals that they do not want to admit who they are?

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I do not know. We do not have the 2,000 documents we requested, and I call on the Congress to issue the contempt citation.

CHURCH ARSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPRATT] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, in the last 18 months, 40 churches have been burned to the ground, 5 of them in my State. And despite mounting concern, eight churches have burned in the last 2 weeks, four within the last 2 days.

It is time, past time, for Congress to say, "In America, we don't burn churches, synagogues, or mosques, or let anyone who does, escape with impunity."

Today, we have such a chance, because today, we take up a bill called the Church Arson Prevention Act.

We all know that this law will not bring these heinous crimes to a sudden halt. But this law will put the authority of Federal Government, the BATF and the FBI, into the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of every church that's burned.

This bill attempts to justify its purpose under the Interstate Commerce Clause, which I think is unnecessary. I think that under the 1st and 14th amendment, Congress not only has the power but the duty to prohibit any restraint on the free exercise of religion, and we not only have the power but a special duty to see that crimes of hate, aimed at African-Americans because of their race, are prosecuted and punished. And that is critically true when the hatred is visited on churches, the vital beating heart of African-American communities.

I feel certain that the Church Arson Prevention Act will pass this House overwhelmingly. But that is not enough. It must be backed by the unstinting authority of the Federal Government until every miscreant who would commit such a crime knows that he will be pursued relentlessly, prosecuted swiftly, and punished severely.

OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about some good news today. Over the last 20 years, we in this country have made measurable good progress in protecting our natural resources. Our air and our water are cleaner than they were in the 1970's, and we have reversed the decline of several of the endangered species. This is a good record. It is an admirable record. We all know there are still many areas where Federal attention is required today, but we also know that you cannot write thousands and thousands of pages of Federal regulations without some problems developing along the way. It is just common sense to take a look at current regulations and decide what works and what does not and look for ways to make a cleaner, safer, healthier environment for everyone and at the same time, of course, excise those unworkable and