

that far exceeds any increases at the height of the Cold War, the Vietnam War, anything since World War II, to build Cold War weapons against enemies that no longer exist. Hopefully this Congress will act soon to rein in this administration, reexert its authority and bring some sanity to these policies.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PLATTS 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), who asked Members to appear in a Special Order in honor of the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which takes place Thursday, March 21. I also want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), who introduced H.R. 1343, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2001.

There is no place in our society for racism, whether in the form of religious and ethnic discrimination or otherwise. Throughout history, wars have been fought over these types of differences. Many lives have been lost and many people uprooted. As in the dark past, today we are still witnessing violence being perpetrated against others with perceived differences. This is something that must be not only rooted out abroad, but we must also root out the ethnic and religious intolerance that we witness in our daily lives right here in our own communities.

Hate crimes, those committed against a group because of racial or religion or sexual orientation, is alive and well in America. Matthew Shepard and James Byrd are notable victims of these types of crimes; but there are many, many other victims as well of this type of crime, this cycle of violence. It has been stated that crimes based on race ranked number one of all the U.S. crimes reported in the FBI's "Hate Crimes Statistics of 2000" status report. The total number of all hate crimes across the Nation increased 3.5

percent from 1999 to 2000. These numbers reflect only the reported crimes. Many crimes continue to go unreported; and many States, because of budgetary reasons, do not keep tallies of crimes that would fall under this category.

The bill introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) would provide Federal assistance to States and local jurisdictions so that they can more readily report and prosecute hate crimes. It must be understood that violence motivated by race, color, gender, sexual orientation, or disability will not be tolerated.

It is important for Congress to show solidarity with those around the world honoring the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by showing that we are ready, willing and able to address hate-motivated crimes within our own borders, within our own Nation. Our country and the world is very diverse. It is our diversity that should make us stronger as a Nation, stronger as a world community. Until we eliminate racial, gender, religious, and other types of discrimination, our unity as a country and as a world community will be threatened.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATSON of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### KIDNAPPING OF LUDWIG KOONS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I stand here today in utter shock and disbelief and absolute anger.

For 2 years, I have been telling stories about missing children. For 2 years, I have been talking about internationally abducted children. For 2 years, I have been working with Jeff Koons and his attorneys to help bring his son Ludwig home from Italy. For 2 years, I have not seen progress. No change in Italy, and no response from our own government. I cannot express today the outrage that I feel right now about our Justice Department, our State Department, and the government and judicial systems of Italy.

Since 1984, for 8 years, Jeff Koons has been trying to get his son back, a son who he has legal custody of, who has been abused and neglected and forced to live in a pornographic compound in Rome, Italy, by his mother. On March 4 of 2002, this year, the Supreme Court of Cassation confirmed Ilona Staller's conviction for kidnapping Ludwig from his habitual residence in New York. This means Ilona Staller is a convicted kidnapper; yet Italy is still letting her retain Ludwig.

Yesterday, the Minors' Tribunal in Italy held a so-called hearing on the emergency order to keep Ms. Staller from taking Ludwig to another country, Hungary. And it is a so-called hearing because this hearing was nothing more than a dog and pony show. Ms. Staller was questioned for 15 minutes about her lawbreaking, about her intention to once again take Ludwig to another country. The judge questioned Ludwig, a scared, manipulated and abused 9-year-old little boy, about his wishes, alone, in the judge's chambers, with no witnesses, with no attorneys, with no video. And then the judge comes back in and says he is fine with his life as is.

The best psychologists in both countries, Italy and the United States, and doctors, say that Ludwig is on the brink of no return. Unless he is removed now, there is no telling what damage might be done to him physically and mentally. Yet these experts, the top Italian experts, were not allowed to testify at this so-called hearing.

In the end, the emergency request was denied and Mr. Koons was given 30 days to go prepare briefs and another 20 days to respond. Another 2 months of delay. It is contrary to all applicable principles of public international law and procedure to preclude an American citizen minor, who was kidnapped from his habitual residence, any access to his country of birth, even the temporary visits with his father and paternal family in their country of residence.

Ludwig, who is now approaching adolescence, finds himself in a dire situation that places him in imminent danger of grave and irreparable damage. His critical condition is directly related to his mother's continued abuse and neglect of the minor over the years, combined with her willful and systematic breach of Mr. Koons's visitation rights.

I stand here tonight because I am concerned that Mr. Koons may be subjected to further discrimination and inequitable treatment by the Italian judiciary in these impending proceedings. I stand here a part of the United States Government, and I have to say that I am ashamed. Where are our priorities? Where are our values?

I sit and listen to the politicians sound off about family values in this Chamber every day; yet every day our government lets this little boy remain captive against his will. Where is our State Department? Where is our Justice Department advocating for U.S. citizens? Ludwig Koons is a U.S. citizen.

We saw Blackhawk helicopters recently go in to rescue missionaries in Afghanistan, people who had been there of their own will. Yet our government will not send a letter or make a phone call demanding that this kid be sent back to our country. Do we only go to bat for citizens being held by those who are not our allies? Should we not go to bat for everyone?