

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 265

Relating to church burnings.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 1996

Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HELMS, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. DODD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. McCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. PELL, Mr. SIMON, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WELLSTONE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Relating to church burnings.

Whereas there have been at least 156 fires in houses of worship across the nation since October 1991;

Whereas there have been at least 35 fires of suspicious origin at churches serving African-American communities in the last 18 months;

Whereas these churches and houses of worship are a vital part of the life of these communities;

Whereas intentionally burning churches or other houses of worship is a very heinous crime;

Whereas intentionally burning churches, when done to intimidate any American from the free exercise of his or her rights as an American, is inconsistent with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, which guarantees every American the right to free exercise of his or her religion, and which ensures that Americans can freely and peaceably assemble together; and,

Whereas intentionally burning churches, when done to intimidate any American from the free exercise of his or her rights, is a serious national problem that must be expeditiously and vigorously addressed: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the Senate condemns arson and other acts
3 of desecration against churches and other houses of
4 worship as being totally inconsistent with fundamen-
5 tal American values; and

6 (2) the Senate believes investigation and pros-
7 ecution of those who are responsible for fires at
8 churches or other houses of worship, and especially
9 any incidents of arson whose purpose is to divide
10 communities or to intimidate any Americans, should
11 be a high national priority.

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