

children who met this fate. Soon after its establishment, the facility was moved to accommodate more children, and it grew into what is now St. Joseph's Home for Children.

Catholic Charities has retained its focus on children throughout the years, yet at the same time, it has expanded to include other residents of the community in need of assistance. The organization runs emergency shelters and temporary housing facilities for homeless individuals and families. They operate job training programs to help people gain skills, find work, and become self-sufficient. They also help educate the broad community by distributing information and providing counseling on health issues such as AIDS, mental illness, and substance abuse. Catholic Charities acknowledges the diversity of the Twin Cities area by including programs to help immigrants and their families become and remain self-supporting. These and other programs help citizens in the Twin Cities community get back on their feet and enjoy a better quality of life.

Today, however, the fate of Catholic Charities and other similar organizations is uncertain. In a time when budgets are being cut and many social programs are on the chopping block, volunteer organizations like Catholic Charities will become an even more vital part of the Twin Cities community. Limiting both government and charitable organizations from helping the citizens of our community that are in need is a disastrous formula for both the Twin Cities and the nation.

For 125 years, the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis has supported the Twin Cities community, lending a helping hand to those in need. They not only give shelter, educational information, and training to the people they help, they give something even more powerful and important; they give them hope. Hope that they can build a better life and a secure future for themselves and their families. I am proud of the work that all of Catholic Charities' staff and volunteers do on a daily basis to make a difference in the lives of so many people. They have made our Twin Cities, St. Paul-Minneapolis, a strong foundation for families and especially people in need.

SKEPTICISM AND TERRORISM

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend Pennsylvania Avenue was closed-off to protect the White House from terrorist bombs. Soon this body will deliberate legislation designed to restrict domestic terrorism in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing. In the aftermath of such historic and tragic events there have been some sensational proposals about how we might prevent future acts of domestic terrorism. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that some of the recommendations for deterring terrorism threaten to trample civil liberties. I believe it would be a serious mistake to jeopardize the rights and freedoms of all citizens in the name of preventing potential acts of madness. Our freedom is our greatest strength. I encourage my colleagues to remember this and commend you to consider the points raised in this St. Louis Post Dispatch editorial.

[From St. Louis Dispatch, April 25, 1995]

MAKING IT EASY TO HATE

Skepticism toward government—even a measure of cynicism—is a healthy thing in a democracy. It means people are on guard against an overreaching government. But something has been at work in recent years that goes beyond skepticism or mistrust. It comes down to hate, and in Oklahoma City, the nation has seen first hand what hate can do.

The various paramilitary groups that can be found in so many states, including Missouri, are cauldrons of distrust and suspicion in which hate is easily brewed. Some groups call themselves survivalists, others say they are militias, and all are proud to proclaim themselves patriots. Their credo is that the government is the enemy, and they must arm themselves against it. Under this paranoid scenario, everything the government does is intended to enslave people—income taxes, Social Security numbers and, above all, gun control.

If men want to dress up in battle fatigues and play soldier in the woods, that is harmless enough in itself. But things don't always stop there. For the drilling and the target practice to retain their allure, a threat must loom. It is, of course, the government, that large, impersonal force out there. However, until the attack comes, more immediate threats must be found so as to keep everyone alert and ready to hate. Jews or blacks, or both, usually suffice.

Self-appointed paramilitary groups that soon turn themselves into vigilantes are not new in American history. This surge, though, may owe its growth to that relatively new phenomenon known as hate radio, which unrelievedly preaches contempt of government and ridicule of those in power. President Bill Clinton took note of this disturbing development in Minneapolis Monday, reminding Americans that hate radio hosts' "bitter words can have bitter consequences."

This is not to say there is a cause-and-effect relationship between the anti-government propaganda of hate radio and what happened in Oklahoma City. Rather, hate radio provides the background music for extremists. Tell people often enough and long enough that their government can do no right and that the people in it are incompetent or dishonest or sinister, and eventually some of them will conclude that the government is a force for evil. Moreover, it is not difficult to find government excesses to cite as supporting evidence. In this way, a small group of unstable people, susceptible to the message of hate, decides to launch a pre-emptive strike, or take retaliatory action, against a government facility.

The risk now is that the country will overreact. The first impulse is to see all paramilitary groups that cavort in the woods as terrorists in training. The second is to think that constitutional rights must be jettisoned to combat the threat they pose. No one wants to make it easy for another Oklahoma City atrocity, but Congress should not give federal law-enforcement authorities the added powers Mr. Clinton has requested without careful thought.

Since the end of World War II, political dissenters, civil rights organizations, anti-war groups and even Earth Day organizers have been the target of government spying and disruption, always in the name of protecting society. Mr. Clinton wants to give law-enforcement agencies greater authority to place people and groups under surveillance on the basis of less evidence. If the tools the FBI and other agencies have now are inadequate, they should be strengthened, of course, but the bombing in Oklahoma City does not automatically mean they are.

The last thing Congress and the administration need to do is prove that the kooks are right.

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct pleasure for me to take this opportunity to welcome the Southern Illinois Children's Choir to Washington, DC. In a time when children are experiencing especially tumultuous times in an all too violent world, the magnificent efforts which have produced this wonderful choral group are very much appreciated.

The 85 boys and girls from grades 4 through 8 who have auditioned and been accepted as part of the choir represent the southern Illinois communities of Alto Pass, Anna, Carbondale, Carterville, Cobden, DuQuoin, Elkville, Gorham, Harrisburg, Herrin, Jonesboro, Makanda, Marion, Murphysboro, and Sparta. I am proud that many of these young people are residents of the 19th Congressional District which I represent.

The choir was organized only 5 years ago under the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Youth Music Program. Its purpose is twofold. First, and foremost, it has been assembled for the musical enrichment of our children, and then for the enhancement of the musical life for all southern Illinoisans. In the short span of time of its existence, the choir has remarkably amassed a very impressive portfolio of performances, including the Southern Illinois University Opera Theatre, the Symphony Orchestra and Choral Union, as well as various conferences, education programs and concerts throughout the southern Illinois area. In addition, the Choir has sung in the State Capitol at Springfield, and appeared at the 1992 Illinois Music Educators All-State Conference. In 1993, the choir toured the southeast, performing at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, and in 1994, they appeared on the Shepley Music and Art Series at Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis where they presented the premiere performance of Gregg Smith's "Four Sandburg Songs."

The choir continues to impress audiences everywhere it performs. I am especially delighted and pleased that the 1995 tour of Southern Illinois Children's Choir includes a one week visit to the Nation's Capital June 9 through 16. The children's performances while in Washington will include singing a prelude to the morning worship service at the National Cathedral, and performances on the west steps of the Capitol as well as at the Lincoln Memorial. The tour will also include an excursion to historic, Colonial Williamsburg, VA, with a performance at the Bruton Parrish Church.

I heartily commend the choir and all who have contributed to its success—parents, directors and assistants. It is indeed gratifying that these children and their extraordinary musical talents exemplify what is best in the youth of today. They are certainly beacons of light for their families, friends and communities.