

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

RECENT TRAGEDY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, as all of our colleagues and most of America know, tragedy has struck once again in Northern Ireland with the untimely deaths of three young Catholic boys—Richard, Mark, and Jason Quinn. The Quinn brothers were burned to death early Sunday morning after their home was firebombed by Protestant extremists. I join with Prime Ministers Blair and Ahern, President Clinton and others in condemning this terrorist act. I also want to extend, and I am sure I am joined in this by all our colleagues, my deepest condolences to the Quinn family.

The murder of three innocent children is such a cowardly act that it is incomprehensible. Sadly though for those of us who watched the week-long escalation of violence, after members of the Orange Order were prevented from going forward with a controversial parade through the Catholic neighborhoods, the outcome was predictable. Ironically, the Quinn family had absolutely nothing to do with the standoff between members of the Protestant Orange Order and the Catholic neighborhood of Garvaghy Road over whether a controversial parade route would be followed or whether some compromise plan could be devised. Far too often disputes in Northern Ireland has produced innocent victims—many of them children, and it occurred again on Sunday night.

Prime Minister Tony Blair and Northern Ireland's political leaders have called for a halt to the current protest at Drumcree to permit a period of reflection with respect to recent events. I believe that members of the Orange Order should accede to that request. Was the dispute over parade routes really worth the lives of three young boys? I do not believe it was, nor do vast majority of the people of Northern Ireland. It is time for Protestant and Catholic community leaders to put aside their excuses for not having a face to face dialogue. Only they are capable of fashioning a compromise on matters that divide them. Only they can end the senseless violence that threatens to destroy the very foundation of the Northern Ireland Peace Agreement before it even has a chance to become fully operational.

Mr. President, The Good Friday Peace Accords were strongly supported by the majority of Northern Ireland's Catholics and Protestants in the May referendum. The agreement contains a workable plan for getting to the root causes of decades of sectarian conflict, but it must be given a fair chance to produce results. The most recent tragedy in Central Belfast has tested the resolve of Northern Ireland's political leaders to stay the course of peace. I hope they will remain resolute in sup-

port of peace. I pray as well that no more sons or daughters of Northern Ireland parents lose their lives as a result of sectarian terrorism.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as my friend and colleague, Senator DODD, has pointed out, during the weekend, three young brothers—10 year old Richard Quinn, 9 year old Mark Quinn, and 7 year old Jason Quinn—were senselessly murdered because they were Catholic.

Some time ago, an Independent Parades Commission, appointed by the British Government, ruled that members of the Orange Order—a Protestant organization that celebrates a centuries-old victory of Protestants over Catholics by staging triumphalist marches through Protestant and Catholic neighborhoods—could not march through a Catholic neighborhood in Portadown, Northern Ireland. But the Orange Order refused to accept the ruling and vowed to force the march to proceed along the Garvaghy Road in a Catholic neighborhood. A stand-off ensued—members of the Orange Order attempted to march through the area, but were not allowed past barricades erected by security forces. Protestant extremists have used the week-long stand-off as justification to carry out attacks on Catholic homes and members of the police force.

Early Sunday morning, in Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, many miles from Portadown, the Young Quinn boys were asleep in their beds when their home was firebombed by individuals who can only be described as terrorists. The boys were living in a Protestant neighborhood, and their home was targeted because their mother is Catholic.

Both sides deserve their share of the blame for the sectarian attacks that continue in Northern Ireland. But this tragedy never had to happen and never should have happened. The Orange Order must recognize that its refusal to abide by the decision of the Parades Commission led to the murder of the Quinn boys. As a card left at the site of the Quinn home read: "A price to great to pay for a 15 minute walk."

Another contentious parade was conducted today in a civilized manner. Despite opposition by the local Catholic residents on the Ormeau Road in Belfast, the Parades Commission ruled that this parade should be permitted. The Orange Order conducted the parade within the bounds set down by the Commission, and the residents of the area staged a peaceful, dignified protest, but did not attempt to block the parade.

Prime Minister Tony Blair and Northern Ireland's Secretary of State Mo Mowlam deserve credit for not bowing to the pressure of extremists in the Orange Order. And I join with Protestant leader David Trimble, the First Minister of the new Northern Ireland Assembly, and Deputy First Minister

Seamus Mallon in calling on those assembled in Portadown to end their confrontation in light of this tragedy.

This brutal fire bombing was the act of cowards. They do not represent the vast majority of the people in Northern Ireland, Protestants and Catholics alike, who have voted for peace and an end to division. Everyone outraged by the murder of these three young boys must redouble their efforts to support the peace process and to assure that extremists bent on sabotaging that process do not prevail.

We all extend our deepest sympathies to the members of the family.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to proceed for 10 more minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the time moves on on the issue of our Patients' Bill of Rights legislation. Just 43 days remain in this session. The time has come to end the abuses of the HMOs and managed care plans. Families across the country know that too many medical decisions today are being made by the insurance company accountants instead of doctors. They know the company profits too often get priority over patients' needs and, too often, managed care is mismanaged care.

We have legislation—the Patients' Bill of Rights—to end these abuses. Included in the Patients' Bill of Rights is a section that allows ERISA-covered patients to hold their health plans accountable for abusive actions that result in injury or death.

This provision seems to have drawn the strongest opposition from the Republican leadership and their special interest allies. But an article in last Saturday's New York Times paints a poignant picture of the need for reform.

Judges throughout the Federal judicial system have written decisions in which they implore Congress to take action to correct ERISA's gross inadequacies.

They have repeatedly ruled that their hands are tied—even in the most egregious cases—from providing the patients or their families with meaningful redress when an insurance company's actions result in injury or death.

Mr. President, I will quote a few parts of this article.

I ask the Chair to remind me when 2 minutes remain.

... The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, in New Orleans, reached a typical conclusion in a lawsuit by a Louisiana woman whose fetus died after an insurance company refused to approve her hospitalization for a high-risk pregnancy. . . .

In dismissing the suit, the court said, "The Corcorans have no remedy, state or Federal, for what may have been a serious mistake."

The court said that the harsh result "would seem to warrant a re-evaluation of