

approved and the House endorsed continues that great and honorable tradition.

The conferees' objection cannot be that this legislation is unconstitutional. This bill accomplishes a critically important goal—protecting all of our citizens—without compromising our constitutional responsibilities. It is a tool for combating acts of violence and threats of violence motivated by hatred and bigotry. The Constitution does not permit us in Congress to prohibit the expression of an idea simply because we disagree with it. As Justice Holmes wrote, the Constitution protects not just freedom for the thought and expression we agree with, but freedom for the thought that we hate. I am devoted to that principle, and I am confident that this bill does not contradict it.

The conferees' objection cannot be that this legislation has not been properly examined. In addition to gaining the approval of the Senate and the House this year, similar legislation passed the Senate last year. It has been the subject of great discussion in the general public and in the halls of Congress. It is long past time to act on this legislation.

Finally, the conferees's objection cannot be that hate crimes are rare occurrences. In addition to the terrible murders of Mr. Byrd and Mr. Shepard, the last years have seen the murder of former Northwestern basketball coach Ricky Byrdsong and others in a bigoted Illinois shooting spree, the terrible sight of small children at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles fleeing a gunman who sprayed the building with 70 bullets from a submachine gun, and racially-motivated crimes in the Pittsburgh area by both African-American and white offenders. And these are just some examples of a wider phenomenon of hate-based crimes.

I would like to thank Senators KENNEDY and GORDON SMITH for their exhaustive efforts on behalf of hate crimes legislation. I regret that their efforts and the will of the House and Senate have been frustrated.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue to fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

October 6, 1999:
Hector Colon, 34, Bridgeport, CT;
David Cook, 32, Kansas City, MO;
Raymond Foster, 32, Philadelphia, PA;
Michael Gatheright, 46, Detroit, MI;
Andres Geronimo, 15, Houston, TX;
Jose Godinez, 19, Chicago, IL;
Jerome Green, 40, Boston, MA;
Relendo McKarney, 21, Washington, DC;
Christopher Reese, 17, Fort Worth, TX; and
Ennis Walton, 29, Denver, CO.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

THE PASSING OF PIERRE ELLIOT TRUDEAU

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, last week the Canadian people learned of the passing of their former prime minister, Pierre Elliot Trudeau. His funeral, which took place on Wednesday, brought Canada's many political factions together for an unusual moment of unity. I would like to take this time to share with my colleagues my thoughts on this momentous event for our neighbors.

Pierre Trudeau led Canada at a time when that nation made enormous progress both internally and on the world stage. He served as prime minister from 1968 through 1984, with a brief nine-month hiatus in 1979–80. During these years, Trudeau championed many initiatives, and supervised the process by which Canada replaced its ties to Great Britain with a constitution of its own. His agenda affected Canadian politics for years after he left office.

Pierre Trudeau's private life certainly made many headlines, but his most enduring legacy was his success in addressing the separatist movement in his native Quebec. Just two years after assuming the prime minister's post, he won plaudits from the Canadian people for his toughness in dealing with separatist terrorists who had kidnapped a British diplomat and a Quebecois provincial official. Ten years later, in May 1980, Trudeau's leadership and persuasiveness convinced 59.6% of Quebecois to vote against separating from the national government. At the same time, though, he was sensitive to his country's French-speaking population; Canada was made officially bilingual in 1984.

I lived in Canada for seven years during the Trudeau era. As an American in this foreign-but-nearby land, I learned first-hand how Pierre Trudeau shaped and influenced the maturation of Canada. Although the United States and Canada certainly had their differences during this era, particularly on matters of arms control, I know that our nation fully respected his abilities and leadership qualities that guided Canada through some momentous times.

Our friendly neighbor to the north has lost a great leader, and I hope all of my colleagues will take a moment to recognize the enormous legacy of Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

THE HAZARD SUPPORT SYSTEM

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, Benjamin Franklin once described how "for want of nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost."

I wish to call the Senate's attention today to a similar situation. For \$13 million, we could help prevent hundreds of millions of dollars in losses from forest fires.

This case involves a Federal program which can help detect wild fires and volcanic activity from space. It is a small program that has been in a pilot phase for a couple of years but which is now operational. Except it is not operating. It stopped when funding for it ended on September 30, 2000. Unfortunately, funds to keep it going have not been authorized or appropriated for the next fiscal year.

The program, which only recently came to my attention, is called the Hazard Support System. It is operated by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and is a forceful example of how today's modern technologies can be employed to the benefit of us all.

For several years, our fire and volcanic agencies have been working with the Department of Defense to realize the potential dual use of the nation's ballistic missile warning satellites to argument existing fire detection and suppression capabilities and to monitor global volcanic activity.

We have heard a great deal about fires over the past few months. On average there about 100,000 wildland fires in the United States each year, destroying millions of acres of timber, rangeland, and homes at the cost of hundred of millions of dollars. In 1994, federal fire suppression cost \$920 million.

Here is a system—the Hazard Support System—which can detect fires of less than a quarter acre in size and dispatch warnings via the Internet to fire fighters in five minutes, saving potentially millions of dollars—not to mention people's homes—and it is not being funded.

The system's utility is not limited to forest fires but also can be used to detect volcanic eruptions and to track ash clouds.

One can ask why should we care about tracking ash clouds?

Imagine cruising through an ash cloud in a airplane at 30,000 feet above Alaska: volcanic ash is sucked into the jet's engines where it instantly melts, coating the inside of the engines, cutting off the flow of oxygen, and causing the engines to stall. The plane drops to 10,000 feet where the engines restart only because the rapid descent has dislodged the ash crust. This actually happened to an aircraft in Alaska.