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Stop Hate Radio -- Talking Points  
March 28, 2002

Now that the program seems to be getting under way - in the best possible way, grass roots, local, decentralized - some talk radio show hosts have already weighed in. And, as anticipated, they want to wave the First Amendment and censorship flags as a means of gaining sympathy.

1. Hate Radio is NOT free speech.
  - a) Hate Radio is on commercial channels. Unless it is paid for (by advertising) it is not on the air. Unless the station owners approve, it is not on the air. Unless the basic licenses and bills are paid it is not on the air. There is nothing "Free" about it.
  - b) Hate Radio hosts control the microphone, control who they talk to, and control all debate. If they do not agree with a speaker, they either shout them down, or turn off their microphone. They have the first word, the last word, and control all words in between. There is nothing "fair" about this, nor is this in any wise "free speech."
2. We BELIEVE in Free Speech and we are exercising our free speech rights.
  - a) Any business advertising on Hate Radio is paying to have our beliefs and our families insulted.
  - b) We don't call it Hate Radio because it disagrees with our beliefs. We call it Hate Radio because it is predicated on INSULTING our beliefs. On laughing and sniggering at our political stances, and talking about how stupid and "full of it" we all are. This is not political debate. It is political slander.
  - c) We have a RIGHT to boycott any business that uses its profits from our patronage to have a Hate Radio host and his hand-picked listeners insult us and our beliefs.
  - d) We cannot hope to get a fair hearing for our points of view with ten and twelve hours of continuous hatred spewing forth five days a week, every week of the year.



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3. By voting with our dollars, we are telling advertisers something that they should have known already: You are not going to be effective in business by insulting about half of your potential customers!
  - a) We believe in Free Speech, and we would like the hosts of Hate Radio to have all the free speech that they can handle - off the air, and on their own time.
  - b) We hold the advertisers every bit as accountable for the Hate Speech on Hate Radio as the hosts.
  - c) We believe that in order for our nation to survive as a democracy, there must be abundant fair debate of political principles and policies.
  - d) We also believe that the politics of personal hatred have no place in public debate of issues that we all share in a democratic political system.
  
4. The question is often asked: "Why aren't there more "liberal" talk shows on the air?"
  - a) Perhaps it is because the tactic of personal demonization and mockery are not consistent with liberal and progressive attitudes
  - b) The question itself is not particularly meaningful. "Hate Radio" is dependent not on politics but on the political tactic of smear. We would hope that NO "liberal" or progressive Hate Radio would appear, because it is not the politics that we are ultimately offended by, even though we may disagree vehemently.
  - c) It is the Roman Circus spectacle of insult, totally controlled debate, unfair and sneering slander of those who disagree with the hosts that we disagree with.
  - d) We aren't out to stifle Free Speech. We are out to encourage it, because "Hate Radio" is nothing like free speech, and makes a mockery of the very concept by its conduct and behavior.
  - e) We have a right not to support any business/advertiser who financially supports such behavior.

I hope these are useful points for you. Let me know what has worked for you in presenting these concepts to your grass roots groups and I'll pass those tactics on.



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Just remember: the weakest link, the Achilles heel of Hate Radio is in its advertisers, and they will back away from the controversy at the first hint of lost profits - indeed, as they never should have found it profitable to fund Hate Speech in the first place. For that somnolence in the past, we have only ourselves to blame. For changing the future we have only ourselves to rely on.

Hart Williams