1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	x
3	PLEASANT GROVE CITY, UTAH, :
4	ET AL., :
5	Petitioners :
6	v. : No. 07-665
7	SUMMUM. :
8	x
9	Washington, D.C.
10	Wednesday, November 12, 2008
11	
12	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
13	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
14	at 10:13 a.m.
15	APPEARANCES:
16	JAY A. SEKULOW, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of
17	the Petitioners.
18	DARYL JOSEFFER, ESQ., Deputy Solicitor General,
19	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; on behalf of
20	the United States, as amicus curiae, supporting the
21	Petitioners.
22	PAMELA HARRIS, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of the
23	Respondent.
24	
25	

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:13 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument
4	first this morning in Case 07-665, Pleasant Grove City
5	v. Summum.
6	Mr. Sekulow.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF JAY A. SEKULOW
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
9	MR. SEKULOW: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
10	please the Court:
11	The Tenth Circuit erred when it held that
12	the First Amendment Free Speech Clause forces Pleasant
13	Grove City to accept and erect on its property a private
14	party's donated, unattended, permanent monument.
15	The decision suffers from two constitutional
16	defects: First, the court's conclusion that a donated
17	Ten Commandments monument constitutes private speech
18	rather than Government speech is wrong. Here each of
19	the monuments on display in Pioneer Park have been
20	selected by the Government, are owned by the Government,
21	controlled by the Government, and are displayed on
22	Government property. When the Government is speaking,
23	it is free from the traditional free speech constraints
24	of the First Amendment.
25	Second, the court compounded its error by

- 1 further concluding that Pioneer Park is a traditional
- 2 public forum for the erection of permanent, unattended
- 3 monuments by private parties.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Sekulow, you're
- 5 really just picking your poison, aren't you? I mean,
- 6 the more you say that the monument is Government speech
- 7 to get out of the first, free speech -- the Free Speech
- 8 Clause, the more it seems to me you're walking into a
- 9 trap under the Establishment Clause. If it's Government
- 10 speech, it may not present a free speech problem, but
- 11 what is the Government doing speaking -- supporting the
- 12 Ten Commandments?
- 13 MR. SEKULOW: Well, the Ten Commandments
- 14 here was displayed in Pioneer Park, as the mayor said,
- 15 Mayor Cook, in 1971, to show the pioneer heritage of the
- 16 community. This was a community of pioneers on a quest
- 17 for religious liberty. That's why this town was
- 18 established. There is no Establishment Clause claim,
- 19 Mr. Chief Justice, here. It would be inconsistent with
- 20 the relief that the Respondents are really seeking.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well --
- 22 MR. SEKULOW: And I think that -- yes,
- 23 Justice Kennedy.
- 24 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And I don't want to
- 25 interrupt your answer to the Chief Justice because I

- 1 think it's critical, critical to your argument. As a
- 2 procedural matter, I thought that the Establishment
- 3 Clause issue was raised in the initial complaint. Are
- 4 you taking the position it's now waived or something?
- 5 MR. SEKULOW: Well, there was no Federal
- 6 Establishment Clause complaint at all. There was a
- 7 State --
- 8 JUSTICE KENNEDY: It was under the State?
- 9 MR. SEKULOW: It was under the State of
- 10 Utah's Establishment Clause. It was raised in the
- 11 complaint. It was not the basis upon which the
- 12 injunction was sought, and the Tenth Circuit noted that
- 13 it was waived.
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: If you prevail, the action
- should be dismissed, as far as you're concerned?
- MR. SEKULOW: Yes.
- 17 JUSTICE KENNEDY: All right.
- 18 MR. SEKULOW: Just let me --
- 19 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Then getting back to the
- 20 Chief Justice's point, it does seem to me that if you
- 21 say it's Government speech that in later cases,
- 22 including the case of the existing monument, you're
- 23 going to say it's Government speech and you have an
- 24 Establishment Clause problem. I don't know if -- I'm
- 25 not saying it would necessarily be resolved one way or

- 1 the other, but it certainly raises --
- 2 MR. SEKULOW: Well, I think from an --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- an Establishment Clause
- 4 problem.
- 5 MR. SEKULOW: If there was an Establishment
- 6 Clause claim, Justice Kennedy, which is not here, Van
- 7 Orden forecloses it. This monument is very similar to
- 8 what was at play in Van Orden. And here the city stated
- 9 the reason that they accepted and erected this monument,
- 10 accepted the donation from the Fraternal Order of
- 11 Eagles, was to show something and to represent their
- 12 pioneer heritage, but --
- 13 JUSTICE SCALIA: I suppose it depends on
- 14 what the Government speech consists of, what it is the
- 15 Government is saying about the Ten Commandments. If the
- 16 Government is saying the Ten Commandments are the word
- 17 of God that's one thing, and if the Government is saying
- 18 the Ten Commandments are an important part of our
- 19 national heritage, that's something else.
- 20 MR. SEKULOW: That's -- and precisely,
- 21 Justice Scalia, that's exactly what Mayor Cook in fact,
- 22 at the unveiling ceremony, stated that this will serve
- 23 to remind citizens of their pioneer heritage and the
- 24 founding of --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Do you have to --

1 MR. SEKULOW: -- their community --2 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Did the NEA -- Finley v. NEA, the Court didn't treat that as Government speech. 3 4 MR. SEKULOW: Right. 5 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Or am I -- is that the --6 MR. SEKULOW: No. You're correct. 7 were speech selection cases. It think it clearly --8 that the actions here of the Government, of the City Council, falls neatly within Forbes, Finley, and the 9 10 plurality in American Library Association. The 11 Government --JUSTICE GINSBURG: Before we get -- before 12 13 we get away from the Government, the Establishment 14 Clause, you said, well, Van Orden answered that, but did 15 it? Because you don't have here a 40-year history of this monument being there, and nobody seems to be 16 17 troubled by it. 18 MR. SEKULOW: There is a 36-year history 19 here. This monument has been on display since 1971. So this monument has been there a long time, and --20 21 JUSTICE SCALIA: I think 38 is the cut-off 22 point. 23 MR. SEKULOW: Is that the cut-off? 24 (Laughter.) 25 MR. SEKULOW: Perhaps I miscounted. It may

- 1 be 38. 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Sekulow --3 MR. SEKULOW: Yes, Mr. Chief Justice. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- when you come 4 5 upon this, if somebody comes upon this monument in the park, how are they supposed to tell whether it's 6 7 Government speech or private speech? 8 MR. SEKULOW: Well, of course the face of 9 it, Mr. Chief Justice, states on the face of the 10 monument that it's presented to Pleasant Grove City in 11 Utah County by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. As far as 12 a Government speech as far as ownership and control goes 13 under a Johanns analysis, different from Finley and 14 Forbes and that context, here the Government exercised 15 control. After all, they allowed it, accepted it, and allowed it to be erected on their property. Under Utah 16 17 law, all right, title, and interest to that property 18 transferred. 19 But I would say with regard to the endorsement, if you will, or the Establishment Clause 20 21 issue, really the context here, as this Court has 22 consistently stated within the Establishment Clause
- 24 holding the Ten Commandment in the frieze of the

23

25 courtroom with the words written in Hebrew. That's not

cases matter -- this Court has a depiction of Moses

- 1 an endorsement of the religion or of the commandments.
- 2 It's representative of the history.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: In the context of all
- 4 other lawgivers. This is a stand-alone Ten Commandments
- 5 and you don't see, I don't think, anywhere "I am the
- 6 Lord thy God." That's not shown.
- 7 MR. SEKULOW: No, the words on the Court's
- 8 frieze are "steal," "murder," "adultery" in Hebrew.
- 9 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Yes.
- 10 MR. SEKULOW: Very different in that
- 11 context. But as far as the actual language of what's
- 12 going on within the park itself, Justice Ginsburg, this
- is not a monument standing alone. There are 15 other
- 14 displays in this Pioneer Park. It's called --
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: Is this a challenge to the
- 16 Ten Commandments monument?
- 17 MR. SEKULOW: It's not. This is not an
- 18 Establishment Clause case.
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: I thought this case did not
- 20 involve an Establishment Clause challenge. Why are we
- 21 --
- MR. SEKULOW: There is no Establishment
- 23 Clause. It's not a basis upon which the injunction was
- 24 sought, and the Tenth Circuit specifically held it was
- 25 waived.

- 1 JUSTICE SOUTER: Mr. Sekulow, can I just
- 2 ask: At what point in the litigation did you first
- 3 raise the Government speech argument?
- 4 MR. SEKULOW: At the Tenth Circuit. The
- 5 Tenth Circuit, the existing law in the Tenth Circuit in
- 6 the Summum line of cases mandated a private speech
- 7 determination, even if the speech was controlled or
- 8 known by the Government, if it originated with a third
- 9 party. As soon as we were before -- and under Tenth
- 10 Circuit rules that's binding, of course, on the district
- 11 court and on the panel.
- But even in the panel brief, we raise the
- issue of Government speech and the Court addressed it
- 14 both as to -- and, Justice Kennedy, going back to your
- 15 point -- both as to Government speech and to the speech
- 16 selection cases of Forbes, Finley, and American Library
- 17 Association. And I think that those cases as well point
- 18 to what's at issue here. Governments in the business of
- 19 governing and determining the parks and the landscape of
- 20 the parks make these kind of decisions.
- 21 JUSTICE SOUTER: Isn't the tough -- isn't
- the tough issue here not so much whether there is
- 23 Government speech. I will assume and I do indeed assume
- 24 that there is. Isn't the tough issue here the claim
- 25 that there is -- is in fact a mixture, that it is both

- 1 Government and private. And the argument for its
- 2 continuing to be private speech I take it is simply the
- 3 Eagles identification with the presentation and their
- 4 espousal of what the monument says. How -- how do you
- 5 think we ought to deal with the mixture issue.
- 6 MR. SEKULOW: Well, I think the fact that it
- 7 originated, that the monument originated by the Eagles
- 8 as a third party, doesn't in any way take away from the
- 9 fact that in this particular case, and in most cases
- 10 involving donated monuments, which, as the United States
- 11 would point to, most of the monuments in parks are
- 12 donated by or originated with third parties --
- 13 JUSTICE SOUTER: They probably are, but most
- 14 of them -- and you correct me if I'm wrong here. But I
- 15 don't suppose that most of them -- most of them contain
- 16 as part of -- in a prominent place in the monument
- 17 itself contain the statement that, you know, this is the
- 18 gift of or the position of or what-not of X, Y or Z,
- 19 whereas this monument does.
- 20 MR. SEKULOW: Most of them, Justice Souter,
- 21 do actually have statements. In fact, a perfect example
- 22 would be at Gettysburg National Military Park a number
- of those monuments, most of them, are donated by or
- 24 originated by third parties. They'll often say "Donated
- 25 by, " for instance, "the Father Corby --

- 1 JUSTICE SOUTER: We may have more cases
- 2 coming.
- 3 MR. SEKULOW: I hope not.
- 4 JUSTICE SOUTER: But tell me, what is the
- 5 criterion that we should use to decide what the
- 6 significance of the private identification is?
- 7 MR. SEKULOW: I think the key should be, as
- 8 this Court alluded to in Johanns, the issue of control,
- 9 who controls the message ultimately here. And the fact
- 10 is the Statue of Liberty originated by the
- 11 Franco-American Union -- was originated by a third
- 12 party. The United States by resolution accepted it. At
- 13 that point title transfer.
- 14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: If that -- if we accept
- 15 that there is Government speech, I think Justice
- 16 Souter's question is isn't this really the Government
- 17 endorsement of the Eagles' message? I mean, the Eagles
- 18 are all over this monument, their symbol of the eagle,
- 19 and the Eagles want it to be known that this is their
- 20 monument. Indeed, I think in Van Orden wasn't the -- in
- 21 the district court there, wasn't the statement, well,
- 22 this -- Texas did this in recognition of the good work
- 23 that the Eagles do in preventing -- help try to
- 24 prevent juvenile delinquency.
- MR. SEKULOW: Right. And I think that

- 1 actually points to why that once it's controlled and
- 2 owned by the Government the fact that it originated in
- 3 the third party, Justice Ginsburg, changes the equation
- 4 for ownership and control to the Government.
- 5 JUSTICE SOUTER: Well, if it does, it
- 6 changes it, as I understand your answer, by eliminating
- 7 the private aspect of the speech. So that your real
- 8 answer to me is it's not a mixture.
- 9 MR. SEKULOW: It's not.
- 10 JUSTICE SOUTER: And there ceases to be a
- 11 mixture the moment the Government accepts it.
- 12 MR. SEKULOW: Once -- right, title, and
- 13 interest vest under Utah law in the Pleasant Grove City
- 14 upon acceptance and at that point it is owned and
- 15 controlled by the city. And the fact that it was
- 16 originally created -- and Justice Ginsburg, you're
- 17 correct, the district court and also the court of
- 18 appeals in Van Orden stated that it was originated as a
- 19 moral quidance for youth. That was the reason that the
- 20 Fraternal Order of Eagles developed. The State of Texas
- 21 said: We're going to honor the Eagles. That was their
- 22 reason, as well as showing the role of the Ten
- 23 Commandments and the rule of law. And then the Third --
- 24 excuse me, Justice Stevens.
- 25 JUSTICE STEVENS: Can I ask you question

- 1 that's kind of in the background of the case?
- MR. SEKULOW: Sure.
- 3 JUSTICE STEVENS: Assume you didn't have the
- 4 policy that you do have, but it was perfectly clear that
- 5 the city decided not to put up this monument because it
- 6 disagreed with the message of the monument. Whether you
- 7 call it Government speech or private speech, would that
- 8 be permissible?
- 9 MR. SEKULOW: It wouldn't be a First
- 10 Amendment free speech claim. It might raise an
- 11 establishment clause, an equal protection kind of clause
- 12 analysis case, but not under the basis upon which
- 13 Respondents have sought here. I think that's important
- 14 to point out. The basis upon which they sought access,
- 15 in you will, is a species of an equal access claim. But
- 16 of course our position is the Government hasn't
- 17 established anything by accepting the monument.
- 18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But, Justice Stevens's
- 19 question is important, maybe not for your case but for
- 20 other cases. We are deciding this for other cases to
- 21 arise, and why isn't he correct that if you don't like
- 22 the message then that raises a content-based claim?
- MR. SEKULOW: Because if the Government is
- 24 speaking, if it's the Government's message, they're of
- 25 course allowed to engage in content-based statements.

- 1 The Statute of Liberty was a statement of liberty
- 2 enlightening the world. I could give a list of
- 3 monuments that do that.
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: I understand that.
- 5 MR. SEKULOW: That's what they did.
- 6 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But it doesn't seem to me
- 7 that you have to make the Government speech argument for
- 8 you to make the argument that you just made.
- 9 MR. SEKULOW: No, not necessarily, because
- 10 even under the speech selection cases -- I mean, that's
- 11 correct -- Governments make determinations of what they
- 12 are going to put in their parks to communicate a
- 13 message. That's very different from a situation I think
- 14 where the Tenth Circuit panel was incorrect and
- 15 Respondents are incorrect: They confuse the issue of
- 16 the Government actually creating a forum or a venue for
- 17 speech -- and a perfect example of that would be here,
- 18 with ownership and control vesting in the city. Very
- 19 different in that situation than the typical equal
- 20 access case, where the Government merely opens up its
- 21 facilities for a variety of viewpoints, Justice Stevens,
- 22 and then cannot engage in content-based or
- 23 viewpoint-based --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: So the city, in effect, if
- 25 the city says, we are going to have a designated

- 1 ten-acre field in which anybody can put up a monument,
- 2 but you can't because we don't like your message,
- 3 there's a First Amendment problem. But if the city
- 4 hides the ball in effect and says in effect, we'll --
- 5 we'll let monuments be placed on -- we will accept
- 6 monuments from people who want to place them on our
- 7 property if the monuments have some kind of an arguable
- 8 historical connection or a connection with people with
- 9 long association with the community, as long as they
- 10 have that sort of criterion in mind then they can select
- 11 any way they want to?
- 12 MR. SEKULOW: Justice Souter, there is a
- 13 fundamental difference between opening up a forum,
- 14 taking acres of a park and saying everybody gets to go
- in, and another situation where the Government is
- 16 clearly controlling it not for a subversive reason. And
- 17 I think the evidence in these cases, in these series of
- 18 cases, pointing to Justice Kennedy's concern about what
- 19 does it mean for future cases, here it is
- 20 uncontroverted: The basis upon which the preliminary
- 21 injunction ultimately was issued by the Tenth Circuit
- 22 disregarded or at least cast doubt on the declaration of
- 23 the park administrator, who had been involved in city
- 24 government since 1972, who stated -- and it can be found
- 25 on pages 102 through 104 of the joint appendix -- that

- 1 it's been the practice of Pleasant Grove City for three
- 2 decades to accept displays only in their particular case
- 3 related to the history of the community, its pioneer
- 4 history. -
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: It goes to the same thing,
- 6 doesn't it? I mean, whether it's the Government stating
- 7 the message or whether it's the Government creating a
- 8 limited public forum for the presentation of only those
- 9 messages that it thinks are important, it comes to the
- 10 same thing, doesn't it?
- 11 MR. SEKULOW: Well, it depends on -- if it's
- 12 a limited public forum, certainly limited public forums
- 13 can be based on subject matter and speaker identity.
- 14 This Court said that, said that consistently, Cornelius
- 15 and Perry. So in that context, and now that limited
- 16 public forum appears to be more of a non-public forum
- 17 type of analysis, certainly. Even in the designated
- 18 public forum, it could be limited in that regard.
- 19 I think that points to the confusion of what
- 20 took place here. The Court in our view conflated those
- 21 two issues, the issue of forum and Government speech.
- 22 And while they're both separate basis upon which we
- 23 believe the Tenth Circuit opinion could be reversed and
- 24 vacate the issuance of the injunction, the reality is
- 25 that in this particular case once title passed and

- 1 control vested in Pleasant Grove City they were the
- 2 owner and effectively controlled. And, Mr. Chief
- 3 Justice, that does not mean that they violate the
- 4 Establishment Clause simply because they own and control
- 5 a monument.
- 6 JUSTICE STEVENS: Let me ask you a question
- 7 to make sure I understand your position. It would have
- 8 been permissible for the city to say, our park it filled
- 9 with monuments and we are only going to let those in who
- 10 convey messages that we agree with?
- 11 MR. SEKULOW: If the policy is --
- 12 JUSTICE STEVENS: If that's a policy.
- MR. SEKULOW: If the policy is that we're
- 14 only going -- that the Government's controlling those
- 15 messages, it's not individual private expression, of
- 16 course. If it's individual private -- if the
- 17 Government, on the other hand, were to say --
- 18 JUSTICE STEVENS: But really, in this case
- 19 sort of the debate as to whether the policy
- 20 justifications for the monument are a sham are not are
- 21 really irrelevant?
- MR. SEKULOW: From a legal standpoint on
- 23 Government speech, it's irrelevant. On the factual --
- 24 JUSTICE STEVENS: Even if it's a Government
- 25 forum for private speech, I think it's the same thing.

- 1 You're defining -- you define the forum to include only
- 2 those -- the forum is putting up monuments. You just
- 3 put up those monuments that agree with the message.
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And the same question
- 5 Justice Stevens had, just to tack onto his question
- 6 here, your answer was: Oh, well, the Government owns
- 7 it. Suppose the Government says: We will accept
- 8 ownership only if we agree with the message. That just
- 9 puts his question. I think the ownership argument is --
- 10 is not an answer to the Justice's question.
- 11 MR. SEKULOW: It's not ownership, Justice
- 12 Kennedy, in and of itself. Ownership is an indicator, a
- 13 factor for control, but it is control of the message.
- 14 When the Government implanted that monument donated by
- 15 the Fraternal Order of Eagles, they were sending a
- 16 message. It was not a message of "I am the lord thy
- 17 God" --
- 18 JUSTICE SOUTER: Nothing could be a more
- 19 obvious control of the message than the criterion that
- 20 says we will decide in -- in determining to accept it or
- 21 not, we will decide on the basis of whether we agree
- 22 with the message. That is control with a vengeance.
- MR. SEKULOW: The difference is -- the
- 24 difference between each of those cases and the case here
- 25 is the Fraternal Order of Eagles surrendered control of

- 1 their message and their speech. In the typical equal
- 2 access case, Justice Stevens, they do not.
- JUSTICE SOUTER: Well, they -- they do in
- 4 the example Justice Kennedy just raised and the example
- 5 that I just raised. The Eagles come along say: Here's
- 6 the monument; take it; it's all yours.
- 7 MR. SEKULOW: Which happened here.
- 8 JUSTICE SOUTER: And the -- the Government
- 9 says: Okay, we'll take the Eagles monument. We will
- 10 not on identical terms take the Summum monument because
- 11 we disagree with the message. At the point they make
- 12 the decision they don't own anything. What they are
- doing is controlling, in your words, and they are
- 14 controlling on the basis of agreement with the message.
- 15 Why isn't that a First Amendment violation?
- 16 MR. SEKULOW: It's not a First Amendment
- 17 violation because the Government takes ownership and
- 18 control at the time it's displayed, and there is no
- 19 dispute at the time it's displayed that the Government
- 20 is conveying a message.
- 21 JUSTICE SOUTER: But we've got -- we've got
- 22 to shut our eyes to the period prior to the moment title
- 23 passes.
- MR. SEKULOW: Absolutely not, because
- 25 discovery in this case proves the fact that this has

- 1 been a policy in existence for three decades. And the
- 2 fact of the matter is under that analysis --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: Does that mean if we engage
- 4 in viewpoint discrimination for three decades, we are
- 5 home free?
- 6 MR. SEKULOW: If the Government is the
- 7 speaker, they are certainly entitled to do that. If
- 8 they are not, that would be a very different scenario.
- 9 JUSTICE SOUTER: It wouldn't be a speaker on
- 10 your view until it takes control of the monument.
- 11 MR. SEKULOW: But the Government -- the
- 12 speech selection itself is an independent basis under
- 13 Forbes, Finley, and American Library Association to
- 14 bring these kind of --
- 15 JUSTICE SOUTER: But those are cases in
- 16 which, to begin with, the Government is engaging in -- a
- 17 process of, in effect, sponsoring speech. And here we
- 18 -- we have not, I think, reached the point in which the
- 19 public park is to be analogized either with a
- 20 publication or a magazine or -- or grants to -- to the
- 21 arts.
- MR. SEKULOW: I think, when it comes to the
- 23 issue of selecting monuments for its park, it's very
- 24 similar to a museum curator or the arts.
- 25 Mr. Chief Justice, I'd like to reserve the

1	remainder of my time.
2	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
3	Mr. Sekulow.
4	Mr. Joseffer.
5	ORAL ARGUMENT OF DARYL JOSEFFER
6	ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES,
7	AS AMICUS CURIAE,
8	SUPPORTING THE PETITIONERS
9	MR. JOSEFFER: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
10	please the Court:
11	Of course the Government can select the
12	content and viewpoint of monuments on the National Mall
13	and in other public parks across the country. The
14	Vietnam Veterans Memorial did not open us up to a Viet
15	Cong memorial. When the Martin Luther King Memorial is
16	completed on the mall, it will not have to be offset by
17	a monument to the man who shot Dr. King.
18	JUSTICE ALITO: Can't there be a situation
19	where the Government does create a monument that is a
20	a limited public forum? Let's take the example that you
21	just gave, the Vietnam War Memorial. I presume the
22	Government could not refuse to have the names of certain
23	deceased soldiers on that monument because it disagreed

with certain ideas that they had espoused at one point

24

or another.

1 MR. JOSEFFER: Well, if -- when it is 2 Government speech -- for example, we can have a -- a 3 Washington Monument and a Jefferson Memorial without an 4 I mean, we do get to decide who we want to Adams one. 5 memorialize on the mall because it's Government speech. 6 But there are also -- there are two legal 7 theories here. The first is that this is Government speech. The second is that this -- even if it was 8 private speech, this would be one of those unusual 9 10 contexts like public broadcasting, museums, libraries, 11 where normal forum principles do not apply because the Government is acting as a curator and value judgments 12 13 are, therefore, both inevitable and appropriate. 14 JUSTICE SOUTER: What's the answer to 15 Justice Alito's question? MR. JOSEFFER: I mean, if we wanted --16 17 JUSTICE STEVENS: Well, supposing the 18 Government in the Vietnam Memorial decided not to put up 19 the names of any homosexual soldiers. Would that be 20 permissible? MR. JOSEFFER: Yes. When the -- when the 21 22 Government is speaking, it can choose who to memorialize 23 and who not --24 JUSTICE BREYER: That seems to be the 25 problem here. And what I have in this is the -- the

- 1 problem I have is that we seem to be applying these
- 2 subcategories in a very absolute way. Why can't we call
- 3 this what it is -- it's a mixture of private speech with
- 4 Government decisionmaking -- and ask the question, as we
- 5 do in election cases, is the restriction proportionate
- 6 to a legitimate objective? I know how you're going to
- 7 answer that question. You're going to say: Of course,
- 8 it is.
- 9 But what's interesting me is, are we bound
- 10 in these cases to apply what I think of as an artificial
- 11 kind of conceptual framework or are we free to ask what
- 12 seems to me to be at the heart of the matter? The
- 13 answer to Justice Stevens's hypothetically is: Of
- 14 course the Government can't do that because it's
- 15 disproportionate.
- 16 JUSTICE STEVENS: I didn't get the answer.
- 17 Did you --
- 18 MR. JOSEFFER: Yes, the Government can
- 19 choose to memorialize who it wants on the mall. When
- 20 the Government is -- now, to be clear, that's under the
- 21 Free Speech Clause.
- 22 JUSTICE BREYER: So what is the answer to
- 23 the -- what is the answer to Justice Stevens's
- 24 hypothetical? What is the answer to the homosexual
- 25 hypothetical? What is the answer?

1	MR. JOSEFFER: The only question
2	JUSTICE BREYER: Because that tests the
3	theory.
4	MR. JOSEFFER: Well, as a matter of the Free
5	Speech Clause, there are no limits on the Government's
6	ability to speak freely. Under the Equal Protection
7	Clause, the Establishment Clause, perhaps the Due
8	Process Clause, there might be thought to be independent
9	checks on the Government's speech. But the Free Speech
10	Clause, whatever else it does, does not prevent the
11	Government from speaking freely.
12	JUSTICE SCALIA: It seems to me the
13	Government could disfavor homosexuality just as it could
14	disfavor abortion, just as it can disfavor a number of
15	other things that in in many States people are free
16	to do. The Government can disfavor all of it, can't it?
17	MR. JOSEFFER: The Government would be
18	powerless to do anything if it cannot first formulate
19	and then express its own viewpoints.
20	JUSTICE ALITO: Why is that the answer to
21	the the question? Why isn't the answer to the
22	question that monuments generally are not the
23	erection of monuments generally are not a forum? There
24	is a fundamental difference between the speaker's corner
25	in the park where anybody can speak and a permanent

- 1 monument that takes up space, presumably limited public
- 2 space.
- 3 And if you have the unusual situation where
- 4 you are have a monument that is really analogous to a
- 5 forum, then the forum analysis would be applicable. But
- 6 to apply it to something like the Washington Monument or
- 7 the Jefferson Memorial is ridiculous.
- 8 MR. JOSEFFER: When the -- when the
- 9 Government -- and this is a point I started on earlier.
- 10 When the Government is acting as a curator as in the
- 11 museum context, normal forum principles do not apply.
- 12 In Forbes, for example, this Court held that
- 13 when the Government acts as a public broadcaster it
- 14 normally can engage in viewpoint discrimination outside
- 15 of an exception for candidate debates. And the -- and
- 16 the same point applies here to monuments, I think, for a
- 17 combination of three reasons.
- 18 First, the Government has an overwhelming
- 19 interest as a property owner in not being saddled with
- 20 structures it does not want; second, the limits on the
- 21 availability of public space you refer to; and, third,
- 22 the Government's sovereign interest in using monuments
- on its own property to tell its own story, as the
- 24 Federal Government has done here on the Mall.
- 25 It's similar to, for example, a sculpture

- 1 garden or -- and -- a sculpture garden where the
- 2 Government can choose what sculptures to put in the
- 3 sculpture garden without necessarily having some
- 4 overriding theme or overriding reason.
- If I could give two examples of that, in
- 6 Meridian Hill Park here in Northwest D.C., between 15th
- 7 and 16th streets, the Government chose to accept and
- 8 place a variety of privately donated structures that
- 9 have no evident connection to one another. They cover
- 10 people as diverse as Joan of Arc, President Buchanan --
- 11 JUSTICE BREYER: But suppose they only
- 12 accept Democrats who are sculptors, and they reject all
- 13 the Republicans?
- MR. JOSEFFER: Right. As a matter of policy
- 15 --
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: Now, what in the First
- 17 Amendment -- are you saying the First Amendment would
- 18 not stop that?
- 19 MR. JOSEFFER: The Free Speech Clause on its
- 20 own force does not prevent the Government from speaking
- 21 freely. But as a matter of rational basis review under
- 22 the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, It is hard to see
- 23 how the Government would have a legitimate governmental
- 24 interest in pure partisan activity.
- 25 But the Free Speech Clause, what it does is

- 1 that it -- it limits the extent to which the Government
- 2 can regulate other people's speech.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, under the Equal
- 4 Protection Clause would -- if you wrote an Equal
- 5 Protection Clause opinion, you would end up saying it's
- 6 content-based. That's the First Amendment.
- 7 MR. JOSEFFER: If it's Government speech,
- 8 though --
- 9 JUSTICE KENNEDY: I -- I don't think that
- 10 can you avoid the hard part by saying, oh, other
- 11 amendments of the Constitution might apply. The heart
- of the question is whether the Government may
- 13 discriminate based on content, and that's a First
- 14 Amendment question.
- 15 MR. JOSEFFER: But when the Government is
- 16 speaking or when the Government is acting as a curator
- 17 as with a museum or a sculpture garden or a library or
- 18 here, the Government is absolutely entitled to make both
- 19 content and viewpoint-based distinctions. Otherwise,
- 20 you get the absurd result --
- 21 JUSTICE SCALIA: It's not only absolutely
- 22 entitled, it has to do so. It -- it has no choice, does
- 23 it?
- 24 MR. JOSEFFER: Right. If we -- if we
- 25 couldn't formulate and express viewpoints, I would be

- 1 here today in support of neither party. And the
- 2 Government, frankly, would be prevented from doing much
- 3 of anything.
- 4 JUSTICE SCALIA: You can't run a museum if
- 5 you have to accept everything, right?
- 6 MR. JOSEFFER: Yes. Now, yes -- I mean --
- 7 yes, if it's just the simple point that we can do
- 8 content and viewpoint discrimination in this context.
- 9 And Forbes recognized that when the Government -- even
- 10 if it's private speech, Forbes recognizes that as a
- 11 curator we can do this. An example, though, of the
- 12 question --
- 13 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Does the law always
- 14 require us to adopt an all-or-nothing position? Aren't
- 15 there some extreme cases indicated by the hypothetical
- 16 where the First Amendment does enter in? Do we have to
- 17 decide this case that it's all or nothing?
- 18 MR. JOSEFFER: Of course, the Court could
- 19 put limits on its holding if it so desired.
- 20 But if I could address the, sort of the
- 21 hybrid speech which seems to worry some people. The
- 22 Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a great example. People
- 23 are permitted there to put private objects next to the
- 24 wall. That's clearly authorized speech. It's
- 25 authorized public speech. But at the end of the day,

- 1 the Government comes around, takes it away, puts the
- 2 nonperishable objects in a Government warehouse, and
- 3 then decides which of them to display in the
- 4 Smithsonian's American History Museum.
- 5 So what starts off as public speech -- or as
- 6 private speech, clearly becomes Government speech when
- 7 the Government assumes control over it. It's the same
- 8 as the Government putting a painting --
- 9 JUSTICE SOUTER: It would be -- the
- 10 trouble --
- 11 MR. JOSEFFER: -- in a Government museum.
- 12 JUSTICE SOUTER: I see your point, but the
- 13 trouble with that as an argument here is the private
- 14 part of the speech is just as much chiseled in stone as
- 15 the public part. So it's not going to go away at the
- 16 end of the day, and there isn't any way that the
- 17 Government in effect can engage in the gesture of saying
- 18 all private speech is treated the same way, whatever way
- 19 that might be. So we've got a -- we've got a -- we've
- 20 got a more difficult problem here.
- 21 MR. JOSEFFER: But if the Government -- take
- 22 a museum. The Government could choose or not choose to
- 23 put, say, a Gilbert Stuart painting that has a favorable
- 24 portrayal of a former president on display. The
- 25 Government didn't paint it. It has Gilbert Stuart's

- 1 name all over it. But when the Government chooses to
- 2 put that in a -- in a display, it's the Government that
- 3 is speaking, and the Government, therefore, has an
- 4 absolute right to decide its own speech. That should
- 5 become --
- 6 JUSTICE SOUTER: What you are, in effect,
- 7 saying -- and this may be -- I don't mean I think this
- 8 is necessarily the wrong answer -- but you're, in
- 9 effect, saying, yes, you can find instances of
- 10 Government speech in which there is clearly a -- a
- 11 private identification consistent with it, but the only
- 12 appropriate analysis is the analysis for government
- 13 speech. You can't have it both ways, you've got to pick
- one or the other; and it is -- it is the Government
- 15 aspect which controls the First Amendment purposes.
- 16 That, I take it, is your answer?
- 17 MR. JOSEFFER: Yes. And when we are talking
- 18 about physical objects that constitute the speech,
- 19 that's oftentimes the case in museums, sculpture
- 20 gardens, parks across the country. So, frankly, there
- 21 is -- there is nothing even unusual about it. And the
- 22 reason is that all the free speech clause does --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: There is nothing unusual
- 24 about it, but we haven't had this kind of a challenge
- 25 before. So, I -- I guess it still rests on you to say

- 1 why should we submerge the private part to the
- 2 Government part. There may be a very good reason, but I
- 3 want to know what your reason is.
- 4 MR. JOSEFFER: It's simply that once the
- 5 Government is speaking, it is the one -- it turns on
- 6 control, right? So once the Government takes control of
- 7 something, says this is our speech, then it's the
- 8 Government speaking. And here, I mean, it does --
- 9 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, maybe they can't do
- 10 it in museums, either. I mean, yes, we've been doing
- 11 this for a couple of hundred years, but maybe we've been
- 12 wrong all along and maybe the Government can't run
- 13 museums. It's possible, right? It's a brave new world.
- MR. JOSEFFER: And frankly, public parks are
- 15 no less absurd, because we've been doing it in public
- 16 parks for probably at least as long as well. And in
- 17 fact, there are thousands of privately donated monuments
- 18 and sculptures in public parks across the country, and I
- 19 suspect a great many of them don't have some formal
- 20 disclaimer on them saying "I am the United States and I
- 21 approve this message." That's not the way that
- 22 Government speech has ever been thought to work.
- The question, though, with Government speech
- 24 turning on control, this is the easy case because we
- 25 have a physical object that Government has both legal

- 1 and physical custody over. It chooses to display it,
- 2 and then it can do whatever it wants with it. It can
- 3 move it, modify it, destroy it, drop it to the bottom of
- 4 the ocean, sell it on eBay. So you'll never get a
- 5 better example of control, which this Court held in
- 6 Johanns is the touchstone for Government speech that's
- 7 not subject to the free speech clause.
- 8 Thank you.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 10 Ms. Harris.
- 11 ORAL ARGUMENT OF PAMELA HARRIS
- 12 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
- MS. HARRIS: Mr. Chief Justice, may it
- 14 please the Court:
- 15 The city here gave the Eagles access to its
- 16 public park for s display about the Ten Commandments and
- 17 it denied Summum access for a display about the tenets
- 18 of its faith. That's a violation of the core free
- 19 speech principle that the Government may not favor one
- 20 message over another in a public forum. The Eagles
- 21 display here is not Government speech. The city had
- 22 nothing to do with the Ten Commandments Monument.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: You say in a public forum.
- 24 I mean, that sort of begs the question. I mean, that --
- 25 that encapulates your -- your -- encapsulates your

- 1 answer. Has the -- has the city allowed anybody to put
- 2 up a monument there willy-nilly?
- I mean, a public forum, as you know, we can
- 4 have praise in the park, we can have protest. Anybody
- 5 can do it, so long as you get a license and you're not
- 6 interfering with some other group. That's a public
- 7 forum. Has this city said anybody can put up a monument
- 8 in this park?
- 9 MS. HARRIS: Justice Scalia, there is a very
- 10 serious factual question in this case about whether the
- 11 city ever had a bona fide selection policy for this
- 12 park. But putting that to one side for a moment, a
- 13 public park is a public forum. A monument in a park may
- 14 be a mode of communication for that forum --
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: It's a public forum for
- 16 some things. Is it a public forum for everything? It
- 17 may be a public forum for processions, for parades. But
- 18 it is a public -- is it a public forum for anybody
- 19 constructing a monument?
- 20 MS. HARRIS: If you look at the question
- 21 that way, Justice Scalia, it might be said that a public
- 22 park is not a forum for sound trucks, it's not a forum
- 23 for sleep-ins, it's not a forum for news racks.
- 24 What that means is that there is no
- 25 unfettered right to engage in those forms of

- 1 communication. But if the Government allows it all --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Those are time, place, and
- 3 manner regulations, with which we are all familiar. But
- 4 my concern is that this -- this case is an example of
- 5 the tyrannies -- of the tyranny of labels. Because it's
- 6 a public forum, as Justice Scalia indicated, for
- 7 parades, for protests, which are limited temporally,
- 8 it -- it -- it just seems wooden and rigid to say to all
- 9 of a sudden say, well, it's a public forum for something
- 10 that will last 30 years for which there is only limited
- 11 space. It just doesn't make common sense.
- 12 MS. HARRIS: And that is exactly why,
- 13 Justice Kennedy, the city, any city, is permitted to
- 14 make a decision that it will close its public parks to
- 15 all unattended displays. The Court said that in
- 16 Pinette. It said that earlier in Vincent. But Because
- 17 there --
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: How far do you push
- 19 that? I mean, what about the hypotheticals on the other
- 20 side? I mean, you have a Statue of Liberty; do we have
- 21 to have a statue of despotism? Or do we have to put any
- 22 president who wants to be on Mount Rushmore? How do you
- 23 answer those?
- MS. HARRIS: Of course not, is how I answer
- 25 that, Mr. Chief Justice.

1	Any city has available to it two very
2	straightforward options for dealing with this question
3	if by some happenstance they do have a monument on
4	public land that is not now a Government monument. The
5	first thing they can do is adopt any existing monuments
6	as Government speech converts them.
7	JUSTICE SOUTER: How do they do that? What
8	is the you mentioned that frequently in your brief,
9	and I'm not sure what formality you have in mind when
10	you say adopt.
11	MS. HARRIS: Governments can do it different
12	ways, Justice Souter. The way the national Government
13	does it under the Antiquities Act of 1906 is they
14	formally designate pre-existing structures as a monument
15	of the United States or a memorial of the United States.
16	And that, by the way, Mr. Chief Justice, is

- 17 the response to the Statue of Liberty problem. In 1924
- 18 it was so designated.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So, it's frozen into
- 20 time. Everything up until now is okay, but anything
- 21 going forward is not?
- MS. HARRIS: I'm not sure I understand.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I thought you
- 24 said the Government can accept what's there and say
- 25 that's our speech. But you're challenging the ability

- 1 to do that going forward.
- 2 MS. HARRIS: No. No, Your Honor. If the
- 3 Government accepts what's there -- what is there now and
- 4 says that's ours, then they can say we are not taking --
- 5 we have closed this forum to private speech, these parks
- 6 are available only to Governmental displays.
- 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: The other side says that
- 8 some of these monuments, especially in the Civil War
- 9 battlegrounds, do indeed show who the donors are.
- 10 MS. HARRIS: I'm sorry?
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: What -- Mr. Sekulow says
- 12 that some of these monuments, notably those in the Civil
- 13 War battlefields, do show who the donors are.
- Now is that Government speech or private
- 15 speech?
- 16 MS. HARRIS: It depends if they were
- 17 privately formulated and handed off to the Government as
- 18 a completed object, they are only Government speech if
- 19 the Government has since then converted them --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: So they have to go?
- 21 MS. HARRIS: -- by adopting them. They
- 22 don't have to go.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Now that the Government
- 24 converted them, it passes a law saying, what, we -- we
- 25 adopt this?

- 1 MS. HARRIS: That has happened.
- 2 JUSTICE SCALIA: Isn't it enough that the
- 3 Government accepts ownership of it and places it on the
- 4 Government's property? Isn't that a manifestation of
- 5 the Government's adoption of it?
- 6 MS. HARRIS: Let me answer both of your
- 7 questions, Justice Scalia. The way it does that even if
- 8 they -- even if a monument makes clear that it was
- 9 privately formulated, a Government can still adopt it as
- 10 its own speech. It can put --
- 11 JUSTICE SOUTER: So this case -- your claim
- 12 would disappear if this town in Utah had passed an
- ordinance saying we adopt the Ten Commandments Monument?
- MS. HARRIS: It would, Justice Souter. We
- 15 would no longer have an equal access right going
- 16 forward --
- 17 JUSTICE SOUTER: But that's -- I mean, if
- 18 that's all that's involved here, we're engaging in kind
- 19 of a -- almost a silly exercise in formality.
- 20 MS. HARRIS: Absolutely not, Justice Souter.
- 21 And the reason we know it's not a formality is because
- 22 the city here refuses to do it. If it were just a
- 23 formality, they would check the box. They won't do
- 24 it --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: If we tell them you have

- 1 got to take the monument down if they don't do it, don't
- 2 you think they are going to pass that pretty quick?
- 3 MS. HARRIS: I don't think they are, Justice
- 4 Souter. And I think it would be partly a concern about
- 5 establishment clause exposure, which we already heard
- 6 about today.
- 7 I think that there are substantive reasons
- 8 why they might not want to adopt one version of the Ten
- 9 Commandments as the city's own speech. As it happens,
- 10 the version of the Ten Commandments on the Eagles
- 11 monument isn't even the Mormon version of the Ten
- 12 Commandments. That might raise sensitivities in this
- 13 town. And whenever the Government adopts one version of
- 14 the exodus account, that is not legally sensitive but
- 15 politically sensitive as well.
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: It depends on what you mean
- 17 by adopting one version. If it's adopting the version
- 18 by saying these Ten Commandments are the word of God,
- 19 that's one thing. If it's adopting it by just saying
- 20 this is a version of the Ten Commandments that has had a
- 21 very significant place in the history of the American
- 22 people.
- MS. HARRIS: I think that those are --
- 24 JUSTICE SCALIA: I wouldn't care what
- 25 version it was if that's all they're doing.

Τ	MS. HARRIS: Those are very different
2	JUSTICE SCALIA: Nor would the Mormons in
3	Utah, I think.
4	MS. HARRIS: Well, those are very different
5	for establishment clause purposes, Justice Scalia. But
6	the only way the Government can be adopting anything in
7	this context is by saying through the act of selection
8	we have adopted it. And the problem with that is that
9	the Government is not allowed to select which private
10	speech it wishes to present to the public in a public
11	park.
12	It can do that. It can do that in museums.
13	It can do it in libraries. It can do it
14	JUSTICE ALITO: Let me give you this
15	example. Just by chance yesterday I was taking a walk
16	in a little neighborhood park , and I saw that there was
17	a monument a small monument, donated, and it says
18	right on there donated by a private neighborhood
19	association to commemorate a number of people who were
20	killed in the 9-11 attack on the Pentagon. And now if I
21	searched the town records or the county record and I
22	don't find any resolution saying they adopted this
23	monument as their monument, does that mean that if I
24	would like to put up a monument in the park to
25	commemorate loved ones who died, or people who I

- 1 respect, I have a First Amendment right to do that?
- 2 MS. HARRIS: No, Your Honor, and really for
- 3 three separate reasons. First of the all, it may be
- 4 that the Government -- even privately donated monuments
- 5 often involve a great deal of Government involvement at
- 6 the front end, when they are created. Government often
- 7 works in partnership with private donors to create the
- 8 content of that monument.
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: Well what if the situation
- 10 is a neighborhood association prepared this; they said
- 11 we'd like to display it in the park; and the county or
- 12 the town says fine, go ahead and do it?
- 13 MS. HARRIS: Even under those more usual
- 14 circumstances there would be two things the city could
- 15 do to keep you out of their park. As I said, they could
- 16 adopt the monument that is there. The other thing any
- 17 city can do is adopt some kind of a content-neutral ban,
- 18 or a content-neutral limit, on the number of private
- 19 displays it wants to have in its park.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Ms. Harris, we -- we need a
- 21 clear rule here. We -- we can't expect the courts or
- 22 the cities for that matter to investigate in every case
- 23 what the degree of the Government's involvement in
- 24 the -- and what is the degree, 50 percent, 45 percent,
- 25 36 years? I mean, we are going to make up a percentage?

- 1 That's -- that's not the way threshold constitutional
- 2 questions ought to be resolved or resolvable. We need a
- 3 clear rule that the cities can rely on.
- 4 MS. HARRIS: I agree that we need a clear
- 5 rule, and if clarity is important here the easiest way
- 6 for the Government to make clear that it has adopted a
- 7 privately formulated message as its own is to adopt it
- 8 clearly and publicly. It can put up a plaque; it can
- 9 designate it a city monument.
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: Is there an historical
- 11 basis for that, or you just made it up? You think it
- 12 would be a good idea? I mean, if that had been the
- 13 practice over the past 200 years for all of these
- 14 monuments that -- that, you know, are strewed across the
- 15 landscape, then I'd say yes, that's probably what the
- 16 difference is.
- But I'm not aware that there is any such --
- 18 such requirement and any such practice on the part of
- 19 Government. You're -- you're creating a new world.
- 20 MS. HARRIS: I --
- 21 JUSTICE SCALIA: It may be a very nice world
- 22 but it happens not to be the world under which our
- 23 Constitution has subjected this country.
- 24 MS. HARRIS: If this is uncommon, that is
- 25 because usually the Government does reserve monuments

- 1 for governmental speech, monuments that it helps to
- 2 create or monuments that it is happy to endorse after
- 3 the fact. If this case is unusual, it's because
- 4 Pleasant Grove has done an unusual thing here by
- 5 allowing a private party to erect a permanent monument
- 6 in its park, even though it is not willing to endorse
- 7 the content of that monument.
- 8 And I do want to say that although clear
- 9 rules are necessary, whatever the particular details of
- 10 how a monument came to be on public land, there are
- 11 these two clear safe harbors for any city facing that
- 12 problem. Adopt it now or enact a content-neutral limit
- on the number of monuments in the park; and we think the
- 14 city could do that on a going-forward basis. It could
- 15 say we have room -- for aesthetic reasons, for space
- 16 constraint reasons, We would like --
- 17 JUSTICE SCALIA: So that's all right, the
- 18 first 95 monuments, whoever -- whoever put them up,
- 19 okay? It's a monument to chocolate chip cookies or
- 20 whatever else, is that it? First 95?
- 21 MS. HARRIS: Sure. A city could say we
- 22 think --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: This is a practical
- 24 solution to the problem?
- 25 MS. HARRIS: Absolutely, because any city

- 1 confronting this problem now can look at its park and
- 2 say we have four monuments --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: You're saying the last
- 4 generation had much more freedom than the present one?
- 5 MS. HARRIS: I'm saying that as long as it
- 6 does it on a content-neutral basis, because it is
- 7 genuinely concerned about aesthetics, space constraints,
- 8 clutter in its parks, a city can enact a ban or a limit
- 9 on the number of displays; and if that has the effect of
- 10 grandfathering in existing displays --
- 11 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Can we go back to -- your
- 12 basic premise is this is a public forum, in any and all
- instances; and we do have, certainly in the speech area,
- 14 demonstration area, from time immemorial public parks
- 15 have been places where people can speak their minds.
- 16 But I don't know of any tradition that says people can
- 17 come to the park with monuments and put them up if they
- 18 will, so long as they meet the equivalent of time, place
- 19 and manner.
- 20 So you're making an assumption that from
- 21 time immemorial, monuments, just like speeches, can be
- 22 presented by anyone who wants to.
- MS. HARRIS: No, Justice Ginsburg.
- 24 Monuments are different from speeches and because
- 25 monuments are different, the Court has held that unlike

- 1 oratory, a city can decide to close its parks entirely
- 2 to all private unattended displays. It could not say,
- 3 "We've heard enough speeches; no more speeches." It can
- 4 say no private --
- 5 JUSTICE SOUTER: If that -- it that is so,
- 6 what is the point of using the public forum analysis at
- 7 all?
- 8 MS. HARRIS: Because here the city has not
- 9 done that. The city has not closed -- it has not made
- 10 the decision that it will bar all private unattended
- 11 displays.
- 12 JUSTICE SOUTER: That -- that may mean that
- 13 you have the foundation for a -- a speech discrimination
- 14 argument --
- MS. HARRIS: That --
- 16 JUSTICE SOUTER: -- but that would not be
- 17 the answer if we were dealing with a -- a traditional
- 18 public forum in -- in the sense that the Court's cases
- 19 have used the term.
- MS. HARRIS: Oh, I think --
- 21 JUSTICE SOUTER: So it seems to me that your
- 22 use of public forum is just by kind of remote analogy
- 23 here, and I -- I'm not sure that it's helping you or
- 24 would help us if we used it as criterion for decision.
- 25 MS. HARRIS: Oh, I think it may be helpful,

- 1 Justice Souter, because once we know that we are talking
- 2 about a public forum, we know that access cannot be
- 3 limited on a content basis.
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, your -- you can
- 5 stick with it as long as you want; that's what the --
- 6 the Tenth Circuit did, but suppose that we were to say
- 7 that we were unconvinced by the comparison between
- 8 speeches and parades on the one hand and monuments on
- 9 the other, so we did not apply the public forum analogy.
- 10 Would that be the end of your case?
- 11 MS. HARRIS: Oh, no, Justice Kennedy. Even
- 12 outside a public forum, in any context -- even in a
- 13 museum or library -- in any context in which the
- 14 Government is regulating private speech, it may not act
- 15 in a way that is designed to suppress one particularly
- 16 disfavored message or view; and we think that's what
- 17 happened here. As I said earlier --
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, but it does
- 19 all the time. The -- you don't get equal time -- the
- 20 cigarette companies don't get equal time because the
- 21 Government says the Surgeon General has determined it is
- 22 bad for your health. It always suppresses alternative
- 23 viewpoints.
- MS. HARRIS: When the Government is speaking
- 25 for itself, then the Government does have a right to

- 1 prefer certain viewpoints over others, but here the city
- 2 has consistently refused to adopt the content of this
- 3 monument as its own, and it is still disclaiming
- 4 endorsement of that monument. The city here -- the
- 5 justification for that Government speech exception is
- 6 that sometimes, as the United States has said, the
- 7 Government is entitled to speak in its own voice to
- 8 promote its own messages, its own policies. But it says
- 9 it's not doing that here.
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: You will say just the
- 11 opposite when you come back here to challenge the Ten
- 12 Commandments monument on -- on Establishment Clause
- 13 grounds. You will say something like this: Anybody who
- 14 comes into this park and seeing this monument owned by
- 15 the Government, on Government land, will think that the
- 16 Government is endorsing this message.
- 17 That's what you will say now.
- MS. HARRIS: Um --
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: Now why would it be true
- 20 there, but it's not true here? Would anybody think that
- 21 on public land owned by the Government the Government
- 22 disagrees with this message?
- MS. HARRIS: Justice Scalia, for one thing,
- 24 if this case were being litigated under the
- 25 Establishment Clause, it wouldn't be critical whether

- 1 the monument were actually Government speech, because
- 2 the Establishment Clause can be implicated by the
- 3 Government's interaction with private speech as well.
- 4 That said, I do not think it's the case that anybody who
- 5 came across this monument would know that the Government
- 6 is speaking.
- 7 The monument says it is presented by the
- 8 Eagles. It has the Eagles emblem. The mayor himself
- 9 testified in his deposition that he thought the monument
- 10 was owned by the city, because it's the Eagles and not
- 11 the -- I'm sorry; was owned by the Eagles, because it is
- 12 the Eagles and not the city that maintains that
- 13 monument.
- I think there is a very real question about
- 15 what people would think here and if those perceptions
- 16 are important the easy way to clarify it is for the city
- 17 to step up and adopt the monument as Government speech,
- 18 which it won't do here.
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: Isn't merely allowing the
- 20 monument to be built on public property sufficient
- 21 acceptance? If somebody came up to you and said I'd
- 22 like to put up a monument in your front yard, and you
- 23 said sure go ahead, do that, aren't you accepting
- 24 that -- whatever the monument says, in a sense?
- 25 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, my front yard is

- 1 different from a public park, and that matters because
- 2 when all the Government has done is said sure, go ahead,
- 3 put your monument in our park, that's all the Government
- 4 ever does when it administers access to a public forum.
- 5 If it's doing it on a content basis, that's a problem.
- 6 The Government --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: No, but it doesn't -- it
- 8 doesn't have to do that, say, for time place and manner
- 9 restrictions for access to a public forum if it really
- 10 is a public forum. There is something more involved
- 11 here.
- 12 This is closer to the case of the individual
- 13 who says sure, put the McCain sign on -- on my lawn. No
- one is going to doubt that the person whose house is
- 15 there is in favor of McCain; and -- and it seems to me
- 16 we are in the same situation with the monument in the
- 17 city.
- 18 MS. HARRIS: Again, I think because it's a
- 19 public park and because public forums are always used
- 20 for the expression of -- of ideas that the Government
- 21 does not necessarily agree with --
- 22 JUSTICE SOUTER: Sure, but when you get the
- 23 monument --
- MS. HARRIS: -- the perceptions will not be
- 25 clear.

- 1 JUSTICE SOUTER: We do not -- there is no
- 2 pervasive understanding or non-pervasive one, I would
- 3 have thought, in the United States that anyone who wants
- 4 to display a message in granite in a public park can put
- 5 it there. No one assumes that. Everyone assumes that,
- 6 if the granite monument is there, the city or whatever
- 7 has said, yes, we approve it, put it there.
- 8 MS. HARRIS: The city in this case --
- 9 everybody may assume that, and they would be right. The
- 10 city in this case did say, yes, we approve that monument
- 11 and not that one. So you can put yours up, and you
- 12 can't. That doesn't solve the First Amendment problem.
- 13 That is the First Amendment problem that the Government
- 14 --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: It may create the First
- 16 Amendment problem, but it seems to me, going back to
- 17 Justice Alito's question, that the City's decision is a
- 18 clear adoption of the monument.
- 19 MS. HARRIS: If all we have, I think,
- 20 Justice Souter, is that the city has permitted one
- 21 private speaker to erect a monument, there is no
- 22 constitutional or judicially manageable line between
- 23 that and just the ordinary thing the Government always
- 24 does when it grants preferred access to a public forum,
- 25 which is to say you're in, you're out. If that's enough

- 1 for adoption, then there are no more First Amendment
- 2 violations through lack of equal access.
- JUSTICE SOUTER: Yes, but even on your own
- 4 criterion, if the city passes a resolution saying we
- 5 adopt this, you're still -- you're going to be faced
- 6 with precisely the content discrimination problem that
- 7 you're arguing about here.
- 8 MS. HARRIS: But because it's adopted it as
- 9 its own message, then we think the Government is
- 10 speaking. And when the Government is speaking, as the
- 11 United States, said it is entitled to make content and
- 12 viewpoint distinctions, but in order to do that, it has
- 13 to step up and speak itself. That's the justification
- 14 for the Government speech doctrine.
- 15 JUSTICE SOUTER: You're basically just
- 16 arguing for a clear statement rule. I mean, Justice
- 17 Alito's question, my analogies are suggestive of the
- 18 fact that there is an affirmative Government act of some
- 19 indication of approval when it says, yes, you can put
- 20 the monument here. And what you're arguing for is,
- 21 well, we want a clearer statement, we want it to say,
- 22 yes, we really adopt it, it's ours from the heart. And
- 23 that seems to be the difference between your position
- 24 and the -- and the position that acceptance of the
- 25 monument is enough.

1 MS. HARRIS: I would formulate it only 2 slightly differently, which is not so much a clear 3 statement but that those are really two different 4 things, approving it for access and adopting the message 5 as the Government's own. And that the differences --6 JUSTICE SOUTER: Well, you can --7 MS. HARRIS: -- that would --8 JUSTICE SOUTER: You can make that distinction. There's no -- I understand the distinction 9 10 you're making, but because I don't see that that's a 11 distinction that a reasonable member of the public would understand to be implied by the -- or at least to be --12 13 to be raised by the placement of the monument, I don't 14 know why it's a distinction that should be significant 15 for First Amendment purposes. 16 MS. HARRIS: If what matters is the public 17 perception, then, yes, we do think that to clarify an 18 unclear situation like this, where have you a monument 19 that says it's presented by the Eagles, it has the 20 Eagles emblem, the Eagles are continuing to maintain it 21 in the park, and that's a fact we should assume a 22 reasonable observer would know, then, yes, be clear. 23 The Government -- there's one way to clarify that, and 24 that's for the Government to adopt it. 25 JUSTICE ALITO: And when Government adopts

- 1 it, can it at that time specify what it understands the
- 2 statement to be?
- 3 MS. HARRIS: I think it can, Justice Alito.
- 4 It can adopt -- now the Government is speaking, now this
- 5 is the Government's own message, and it can tailor its
- 6 adoption to make clear what message it's adopting.
- 7 And in answer to some of Justice Scalia's
- 8 questions, I think the Government here could put up a
- 9 plaque in front of the Eagles' monument that says
- 10 "Monument of the City of Pleasant Grove and dedicated to
- 11 the role that the Ten Commandments play in secular law."
- 12 It can do that.
- 13 JUSTICE SCALIA: Suppose the resolution of
- 14 adoption by the City Council just says, "The City
- 15 Council agrees that this monument of the Eagle
- 16 Association expresses an idea worthy of the public's
- 17 attention."
- MS. HARRIS: I think the --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Is that enough?
- 20 MS. HARRIS: No. I think that the ordinance
- 21 -- or the ordinance has to do one more thing, which is
- 22 to -- which is to say, "This is a monument of the City
- 23 of Pleasant Grove, we adopt the content of the
- 24 monument, "not just "we approve it." "We are giving it
- 25 preferential access, and here is why."

1 JUSTICE SOUTER: You want a signing 2 statement as well as a signature? 3 (Laughter.) 4 MS. HARRIS: Like that. 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Does it depend on -given the focus on public perception, does it depend on 6 7 the content of the speech? In other words, if you came 8 across a monument and it said, "The Eagles are a lot 9 better than every other organization, you should give 10 money to the Eagles," someone is going to walk by that 11 and say, "Well, that's probably not the City, that's 12 probably the Eagles." But the Eagles, you know, for all 13 the good they do, did not come up with the Ten 14 Commandments, and somebody is going to look at that and 15 say, "That's probably the City." They are not going to 16 look at that and immediately say, "That's what the 17 Eagles believe." 18 MS. HARRIS: Well, I think it's actually 19 trickier than that, more complicated than that, Your 20 Honor. Again, given this monument, I think there will 21 be questions about whether this is the speech of the 22 Eagles. And I actually think that, given all the legal 23 sensitivities around a Ten Commandments monument, your 24 average citizen, when they see a religious monument in a 25 park, may well think that may be private speech because

- 1 the Government usually can't endorse or at least
- 2 sometimes can't endorse religious speech. So I actually
- 3 think these questions are very complicated.
- And, again, if you want to be clear about
- 5 who's speaking, there's an easy way to do that, which is
- 6 for the Government straightforwardly and clearly to
- 7 adopt this speech as its own.
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: What if it's just a statue
- 9 of George Washington? What kind of a resolution does
- 10 the city council adopt? "We endorse everything George
- 11 Washington ever said"?
- 12 MS. HARRIS: No. No. Again, and in my
- 13 answer to Justice Alito, they can adopt any resolution
- 14 they want so long as they adopt that statue as a --
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, if --
- MS. HARRIS: -- city memorial.
- 17 JUSTICE SCALIA: That's right, and I think
- 18 they would adopt a resolution that says, "We think
- 19 George Washington is worthy of respect and emulation on
- 20 the part of our citizens."
- 21 MS. HARRIS: And so long as that is --
- 22 JUSTICE SCALIA: If it could say that, why
- 23 couldn't it say the same thing about the Ten
- 24 Commandments? "We think the Ten Commandments are worthy
- 25 of respect and " -- and I wouldn't say "emulation"; I

- 1 would say "respect and reverence by our citizens."
- MS. HARRIS: So long as --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Would that be enough?
- 4 MS. HARRIS: So long as it is preceded by a
- 5 statement that the city actually adopts the memorial as
- 6 its own, that this is --
- 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: I don't know what that
- 8 means.
- 9 MS. HARRIS: -- a Pleasant Grove memorial or
- 10 a Pleasant Grove monument.
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: It has acquired the
- 12 memorial. The City has acquired property in this
- 13 memorial and has agreed for this memorial to be placed
- 14 in the city park. Period. "We believe that the Ten
- 15 Commandments which are embodied in this memorial are
- 16 worthy of respect by the citizens of Pleasant Grove" --
- 17 is that enough?
- MS. HARRIS: It may be that if the
- 19 Government goes on long enough, it will have connoted
- 20 what is very important here, which is that it is
- 21 prepared to adopt the content of that monument as its
- 22 own.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: I don't know what that
- 24 means. You keep saying it, and I don't know what it
- 25 means.

1 MS. HARRIS: It means --2 JUSTICE SCALIA: I would have thought 3 adopting what I said shows that it is adopting the 4 content of the monument insofar as the monument says the 5 Ten Commandments should be respected by the citizens of Pleasant Grove. Is that enough? 6 7 MS. HARRIS: If the City says --8 JUSTICE SCALIA: Or it has to say, "We believe in the Ten Commandments"? 9 10 MS. HARRIS: No. No. I understand your 11 question, Justice Scalia. If the City says what you 12 just said, "We are adopting this monument insofar" and 13 however it wants to finish that sentence, that is fine. 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: You don't think that's 15 fairly implied by the mere fact that it is there in 16 Pleasant Grove's park and that Pleasant Grove City 17 Council has allowed it to be constructed there? Don't 18 you think that's implicit? 19 MS. HARRIS: No, I don't, Your Honor. I think that all that implies is that Pleasant Grove has 20 21 decided this speech is worthy of display in this public 22 park based on its content. And that is the decision the 23 City can't make. If it were just a formality, if it were simple, and it's all the same, who cares?, then I 24 25 think that Pleasant Grove would be here saying something

- 1 different, which is, "We adopt. We'll check
- 2 that box." There are substantive reasons why it doesn't
- 3 -- it may be a fine line --
- 4 JUSTICE SCALIA: Maybe the City doesn't know
- 5 --
- 6 MS. HARRIS: -- but the City doesn't want to
- 7 cross it.
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: -- know what you mean by
- 9 "We adopt," just as I don't know what you mean by "We
- 10 adopt."
- 11 MS. HARRIS: Well, whether or not the City
- 12 knows what we mean, what we know from the City's brief
- 13 is that what it's saying is -- and this is on page 33 of
- 14 its brief -- the Government speech here is only in the
- 15 act of selection. Selection. It's not about the
- 16 content of that monument. That's not enough to make a
- 17 Government speech, and the City is not permitted to
- 18 speak through selection, and --
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: What do we do -- is this
- 20 monument suspiciously similar to the one in Texas? And
- 21 so if the history is the same, you would know that there
- 22 was -- a big element of this was Cecile B. DeMille
- 23 trying to promote his movie, The Ten Commandments. So
- 24 he gave money to the Eagles, and the Eagles put Ten
- 25 Commandments all over because it would be good for the

- 1 morality of people, and also it would help promote the
- 2 movie. All right? Is that true -- is that the actual
- 3 description here?
- 4 MS. HARRIS: This is part of the same Eagles
- 5 project --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Okay.
- 7 MS. HARRIS: -- that was --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: So -- so if that's the
- 9 history of it, what does that mean? I mean, where do we
- 10 go with that? Then this is in fact partly an attempt to
- 11 promote morality, partly an attempt to be civic, partly
- 12 an attempt to promote a movie. So, what do we do with
- 13 that?
- MS. HARRIS: It's all a private message, and
- 15 it may be a private message that has many different
- 16 elements, but nothing about that suggests Government
- 17 speech. And even if all the Government is doing in its
- 18 public part is promoting one version of the Cecile
- 19 DeMille movie, it can't do that on a content basis.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Why not? Why not? Why --
- 21 suppose that there -- there are certain messages that
- 22 private people had like "eat vitamins" --
- MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh.
- JUSTICE BREYER: -- and so they say -- you
- 25 know, whatever those are; and then somebody comes along

- 1 with a totally different content, "ride the roller
- 2 coaster," and they say this part of the park is designed
- 3 to get healthy children, not put children at risk. So
- 4 therefore we like messages to eat vitamins, and we don't
- 5 want messages, "ride the roller coaster." This is all
- 6 private. It's the -- you know -- now what?
- 7 MS. HARRIS: The problem is that it's a
- 8 public park, and content --
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: So in other words, they --
- 10 the --
- 11 MS. HARRIS: Eating vitamins and roller
- 12 coasters are not --
- 13 JUSTICE BREYER: They can't do either.
- MS. HARRIS: No.
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: Is there any case that says
- 16 -- can they have playgrounds in the park?
- 17 MS. HARRIS: They can have playgrounds, yes.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Okay, so we have right in
- 19 the playground, we have "eat vitamins," "eat your --
- 20 clean up all your -- all the food in your plate, " "don't
- 21 throw food at your brother, "okay?
- 22 So -- I mean --
- MS. HARRIS: Those are private messages.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Yes, all private.
- MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh. Okay.

- 1 JUSTICE BREYER: Because there are various
- 2 groups that feel that's important; the city says yes, it
- 3 is; and we don't want things like pull the dog's tail,
- 4 or --
- 5 (Laughter.)
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: -- whatever. So -- so
- 7 what's wrong with that? Where does the First Amendment
- 8 forbid that? You promote -- they want in this corner,
- 9 promoting in the playground good things that they like
- 10 and not bad ones. Where does it permit it? What's the
- 11 case that says that the Government couldn't do that?
- MS. HARRIS: It's all the cases that say the
- 13 Government can't do it.
- 14 JUSTICE BREYER: Give one and I'll read it.
- 15 Give me three; I'll read them.
- 16 MS. HARRIS: I'll give you Pinette. The
- 17 Government can't make content based decisions in a
- 18 public forum. And there is not a limit --
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: But the children's
- 20 playground isn't the public forum.
- 21 MS. HARRIS: Oh, but the Government -- a
- 22 public park is a public forum. If the Government wants
- 23 to set aside part of that park -- change the physical
- 24 characteristics, change the principal use and bear the
- 25 attendant cost, it can definitely do that. That is in

- 1 fact the answer to the sculpture garden; that's what
- 2 happened there. The Government waived part of what it
- 3 been a public forum; it put up fences; it changed the
- 4 principal use; it limited the public access. It is no
- 5 longer a park. It is now a museum.
- 6 I'm sorry. I misunderstood. The Government
- 7 can --
- JUSTICE BREYER: I see where you're going.
- 9 Thank you.
- 10 MS. HARRIS: Okay.
- 11 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Are you taking this line
- 12 because you say if the city council votes for it, then
- 13 the voters can know those people voted to put up the Ten
- 14 Commandments; we don't like that; so we are going to
- 15 vote them out? Is that -- what underlies this notion
- 16 that it isn't good enough for them to approve the
- 17 placement of the monument, but it has to be some kind of
- 18 formal declaration?
- 19 MS. HARRIS: What underlies it is that the
- 20 Government speech -- the Government speech doctrine is
- 21 an exception to normal First Amendment, and very
- 22 important First Amendment constraints. And what
- 23 underlies the distinction is that that exception is
- 24 justified only when the Government is speaking for
- 25 itself. The Government needs to be able to promote its

- 1 own messages, its own ideas. But if it's not doing
- 2 that, if it's disclaiming the content of the monument,
- 3 saying those are not our own ideas, those are not our
- 4 own messages, then there is just no justification for
- 5 allowing it to prefer one form of private speech over
- 6 another. The justification for allowing that exception
- 7 is missing.
- 8 JUSTICE SOUTER: But it's not disclaiming it
- 9 here. The Government isn't disclaiming it. And the
- 10 difference it seems to me between you and your friends
- 11 on the other side is you want this clear statement. You
- 12 want a statement -- for example if you took Justice
- 13 Scalia's statement, that would satisfy you, and it would
- 14 also be the poison pill in the Establishment Clause.
- 15 Isn't that what's -- I mean, that's okay with me. I
- 16 don't see that as an illegitimate object. I was a Van
- 17 Orden dissenter -- I mean, but isn't that what is
- 18 driving this?
- 19 MS. HARRIS: Well, I do think that the --
- 20 the city is a bit on the horns of a dilemma because it
- 21 wants to have it both ways. It wants to be able to say
- 22 this speech is governmental for purposes of blocking
- 23 equal access rights; but not so governmental at that
- 24 it's a big Establishment Clause problem. So yes, I
- 25 think there is a dilemma here for the city.

1	Thank you, Your Honors.
2	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
3	Mr. Sekulow, you have two minutes remaining.
4	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF JAY A. SEKULOW
5	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
6	MR. SEKULOW: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice.
7	With regard to the hypothetical about the
8	Senator McCain or President-elect Obama signs, there is
9	another factor that's important here; and that is those
10	signs are created by those usually by the campaigns.
11	So the fact that it's created by a third party doesn't
12	in any way diminish the speech aspect of an individual
13	who has put that sign in their home. Also with regard
14	to the adopt the monument, governments don't adopt
15	monuments; they adopt resolutions that accept monuments.
16	That's the way it worked here; that's the way it works
17	in most municipalities. That's this the trigger of
18	allowing the monument to be displayed. Here there are
19	two. The city it was approached and made a formal
20	acceptance, and it was noted later in their minutes as
21	well, so in two different places.
22	With regard to the adoption of the speech
23	problem, Justice Alito, under the hypothetical or not
24	hypothetical, the factual situation that you talk about,
25	under the Tenth Circuit's theory, the case, in

- 1 Respondent's theory of the case, al-Qaeda sympathizers
- 2 could come in and say we want to erect a monument
- 3 praising the value of the terrorists, and unless there's
- 4 a compelling governmental interest, there would be no
- 5 basis on which to deny it. That's why the whole public
- 6 forum analysis on this, in our view is absolutely
- 7 incorrect.
- 8 And finally on the adopt a speech, there are
- 9 monuments and memorials that incorporate a variety of
- 10 message, including Holocaust memorials, and they will
- 11 often have in place Nazi-era propaganda, the signs from
- 12 the Nazis that were designed to draw hatred towards
- 13 Jews; and they will incorporate those into the monuments
- 14 and the displays. They are not adopting the message of
- 15 the Nazis; they are showing the history of what took
- 16 place during an era. That's very, very different.
- 17 The Statute of Liberty, which was donated to
- 18 the United States, was from the Franco-American Union, a
- 19 private organization. The United States -- and it's
- 20 found in the appendix to our reply brief -- specifically
- 21 accepted the monument, authorized the president to
- 22 accept and they erected the pedestal. All privately
- 23 funded in that regard, and it was originated by a third
- 24 party. The Government was speaking when they erected
- 25 that monument; the fact that the Antiquities Act came

1	into play, which just means you cannot harm those
2	monuments, it's no different than Pioneer Park, which is
3	a national historic treasure.
4	And last point, Mr. Chief Justice, if I man,
5	is the reliance on Pinette is misplaced because as this
6	Court said, Pinette is an Establishment Clause case, and
7	the reliance here by the Respondent has been on the Free
8	Speech Clause. We think the Tenth Circuit is wrong,
9	both under the Government speech analysis and under the
10	forum approach, and for that reason should be vacated.
11	Thank you.
12	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
13	The case is submitted.
14	(Whereupon, at 11:14 a.m., the case in the
15	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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