

Since coming to Baltimore in 1949 as pastor of Douglas Memorial Community Church, Reverend Bascom has held leadership posts in a broad range of institutions critical to our community's growth and vitality. He has twice served as president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and with his fellow clergy in this wide ranging institution, Marian Bascom has been a force for economic, social, and civic progress leading the way to opening up access to our institutions to all people.

His inspired and committed leadership in the community has made him a leader in many ways—the first black commissioner of the Baltimore City Fire Department, first black to serve on the board of Baltimore City Hospitals, past president of the National Council of Community Churches, leader in support of working men and women, and vice president of Associated Black Charities.

Under his inspired leadership, Douglas Memorial Community Church has played a critical role in reaching out to the people of Baltimore and into the world. Under Reverend Bascom's pastorate, Douglas has developed and implemented programs which focus on youth, our senior citizens, and the homeless. There are camps for the youth, a Meals-on-Wheels service, apartments, a vibrant Sunday school and youth fellowship, and a ministry that touches people of all races and creeds throughout the community.

Mr. President, it has been my special honor and privilege to work with Rev. Marian C. Bascom over the years. I have found him to be an inspired leader, committed servant of his faith and tireless advocate for fairness and opportunity. His retirement will be only the next phase of involvement for this dedicated and inspiring clergyman, and I ask that all our colleagues join with me in wishing him every happiness. I also ask that a brief biography of the Reverend Marian Curtis Bascom, Sr., be printed in the RECORD.

The biography follows:

MARION CURTIS BASCOM, SR.: PREACHER,  
TEACHER, AND INNOVATOR

The growth of Douglas Memorial Community Church as a visible, viable compassionate force in the city of Baltimore is inextricably woven in the leadership of and by its minister, Rev. Marion Curtis Bascom, Sr.

Marion Curtis Bascom, Sr. was born in Pensacola, Florida and was blessed by the early influence of a religious life with his parents and grandparents. He soon became active as a child-preacher at the Mt. Olive Baptist church in Pensacola. As a young boy, he also lived in Chicago, Illinois, where he acquired his early education. Later he returned to Pensacola, and was graduated from High School.

In 1970 his Alma Mater, Florida Memorial College bestowed upon him the honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree. He also completed additional studies at the Wesley Seminary, Washington, D.C. In 1976, Dr. Bascom was selected to receive Howard University's coveted Distinguished Alumni Award at the 111th Anniversary of the founding of the institution. He has served the University fre-

quently as a resource person for the School. Dr. Bascom has been president of the Alumni Association.

Before coming to assume the pastorate of Douglas Memorial Community Church, he had served as pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida; Shiloh Baptist Church, St. Augustine, Florida; and the First Baptist Church, St. Augustine, Florida. In July, 1949, he accepted the invitation to become the pastor of Douglas Memorial Community Church in Baltimore, Maryland.

Under the astute leadership of Dr. Marion Curtis Bascom, Douglas Memorial Community Church has become known as the church whose people have an acute awareness of the religious, social and political problems inherent of the city of Baltimore and which extend into the world. His leadership in connection with outreach programs focused on youth, the aged and homeless has brought recognition to him as one who believes that "Love for one's fellowman reaches the highest pinnacle when we render service to others."

Since 1949, Dr. Bascom has attained innumerable religious and civil heights, attesting to his stature as an inspired and committed leader in the Baltimore community. His prodigious list of credits include: twice president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; first Black Commissioner of the Baltimore City Fire Department; a former chairman of the Task Force for Welfare Rights; and the first Black to serve on the Board of Baltimore City Hospitals. In addition, he is a Past President of the National Council of Community Churches; and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Baltimore Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He has actively supported the local labor movement, and participated fully in the political life of Baltimore City. He was also a trustee of the Roseland Gardens Culture Center. Community concern has been maintained and Dr. Bascom serves as Vice President of Associated Black Charities.

Dr. Bascom has constantly admonished the Douglas Congregation that instead of doing "church work" it should "do the work of the church." As a consequence with his foresight and guidance, Douglas has developed an enviable succession of outreach programs with four of its more prominent being: Camp Farthest Out, Inc., located in Barrett, Maryland, and serving four hundred under-privileged children for two-week periods throughout each summer; the Douglas Memorial Federal Credit Union, with assets over \$1,000,000; a Meals-on-Wheels Kitchen serving all creeds and Douglas Village, with 49 apartments, occupying the entire 1300 block of Madison Avenue.

He was responsible for leading the church into sponsorship of a Headstart program and also for establishing the "Seeker's House," a coffee house on Pennsylvania Avenue for area residents. Dr. Bascom was a local leader and activist during the civil rights movement, and marched in Selma with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Poverty marchers enroute to Washington were housed and fed at Douglas Memorial, as a small part of its awareness of the social problems of the day.

His battle for economic equality erupted in the development of a business thereby opening the entrepreneurial door in the minority community to the sale of fine papers—an arena previously closed in the Baltimore community.

Always available to growth prospects, the last five years have seen major efforts to renovate the Church House come to fruition. An elevator, long needed to care for more maturing congregants, has been installed to serve both the church and church house.

Plans to install a new organ are evident and growing.

The intrinsic, incalculable effects of his forty years at Douglas are reflected in a vibrant Sunday Church School, an active Youth Fellowship, an outstanding musical aggregation, responsible and committed circles and spiritual group fellowships—all hallmarks of the blessings visited upon the Douglas Family through the untiring efforts of its pastor, Marion Curtis Bascom, Sr.

In addition to his wife, Dorothy, immediate family members include their children, Bernadette M. Miller, Marion Jr., Peter and Singleton Bascom and Yiviane B. Yeadon and their grandchildren; Chokise L. Miller, Ellis and Gillian Yeadon. While his beloved mother, the late Mary A. Knutt, has joined his sainted grandmothers, Marion Bascom senses a welcoming bonding with his maternal heritage—the Andersons—Uncle Tom, Victoria, Thomas Jr., Corine and Harry—with Aunt Dorothy, Barbara and Meta.

Dr. Bascom's favorite scriptural passage, the 139th Psalm, embraces his most fervent prayer:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts . . ."

#### NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I rise today to join a number of my colleagues who are asking that hearings be held on the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster for Surgeon General.

Dr. Foster is widely recognized as one of the Nation's leading authorities on infant mortality, as well as preventing teen pregnancy and drug abuse. He has contributed a great deal during his career, and is clearly an excellent candidate for the position of Surgeon General of the United States.

It is important that we focus on Dr. Foster's credentials and look at how he has dedicated his career to helping others. After finishing his medical training, Dr. Foster returned to his native rural South and began his lifelong crusade against infant mortality. Dr. Foster developed a comprehensive approach to maternal and child health which involved teams of doctors, social workers, and nutritionists, with a goal of preventing health problems in mothers and newborn babies. The teams worked in rural communities to reach women early in their pregnancies, identify those women with a high potential for complication, and ensure they received specialized attention throughout their pregnancy and following the birth. Dr. Foster's approach was ahead of its time, becoming a national model for regionalized perinatal care.

In 1991 the "I Have a Future" program, which Dr. Foster developed, was named a "Point of Light" by President Bush for its innovative work to reduce teen pregnancy and build self-esteem for at-risk youth. This program works with parental and community involvement, to help teenagers learn skills needed to start a business or get an education, and to point out the consequences of teenage pregnancy.

These are only two of the successful, innovative programs which Dr. Foster

has developed, but they give a good indication of the great contributions that Dr. Foster has made.

Mr. President, there has been much discussion about Dr. Foster performing abortions. Abortion is a legal procedure that should not disqualify Dr. Foster or any other nominee from Federal appointment. In response to some remarks about this performing abortions, Dr. Foster states that he believes abortion should be safe, legal, and rare, "but [his] life's work has been dedicated to making sure that young people don't have to face the choice of having abortions." With efforts such as the I have a future program, Dr. Foster has shown this dedication.

Mr. President, there are several things that have been twisted and misinterpreted in looking at Dr. Foster's career. We must look at this total record, and his commitment to working with young people, parents, and teachers to ensure we do decrease teen pregnancies, do decrease the number of low birthweight babies, do decrease the number of children living in poverty, and do decrease the number of abortions performed in this country.

I have heard from numerous medical groups in support of Dr. Foster, including, the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American College of Preventive Medicine, and many more. His distinguished career, and his commitment to the health of women and children, eminently qualify Dr. Foster for the position of Surgeon General.

I look forward to his consideration by the full Senate.●

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO IMPOSE CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I find curious the delay in the filing of the Senate report on the constitutional amendment to impose congressional term limits. When this matter was first listed on a Judiciary Committee agenda back on January 18, our Republican colleagues seemed in a tremendous rush to proceed on this matter, one of the 100 or so constitutional amendments introduced so far this Congress. When the Judiciary Committee voted to report Senate Joint Resolution 21 to the Senate back on February 9, the rush continued. The fervor seems to have cooled for now here in the Senate. Indeed, it took the majority 3 weeks to circulate a draft report. The committee was asked last Thursday to reconsider the procedural manner in which the resolution was reported, and as far as I can tell, the committee report is still yet to be filed.

I have no problem with the majority putting off consideration of this matter, which I oppose. The proposal is, in my view, a limitation on the right of the people to choose their representatives. I am concerned that our House colleagues will not have the benefit of

our views when they take up this matter next week.

Because I have no assurance that the Senate report will be printed and available to them in time for their debate, I ask to include in the RECORD my opposition views, which were submitted to be included in the committee report back on March 3, and which I hope will appear in the Senate report, if and when it is printed.

The views follow:

#### ADDITIONAL OPPOSING VIEWS OF SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21, A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO IMPOSE CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS

I oppose this constitutional amendment. The Constitution does not set congressional term limits, trusting to the people to decide who will best represent them. Indeed, this proposal is, in essence, a limitation on the rights of the electorate. I reject it as such.

I urge my colleagues not to be afraid to do the right thing, even if it does not appear from certain polls to be the currently popular thing, and stop demagoguing constitutional amendments as the cure to our ills. Our Constitution has served us well, over more than 200 years. It is the cornerstone of our vibrant democracy. It has been amended only 17 times since the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1791—and two of those were prohibition and its repeal.

The Constitution is now under attack. The fundamental protections of separation of powers and the First Amendment are under siege. In the opening days of this Congress almost 100 constitutional amendments have been introduced. One, the so-called balanced budget amendment, has already been passed by the House and been narrowly defeated in the Senate. We risk making a mockery of Article V's requirement that we deem a constitutional amendment "necessary" before proposing it to the states.

One way to consider the impact of this proposed amendment is to look at who would not be here currently were this 2-term limit already part of the Constitution. The 2-term limit contained in S.J. Res. 21 would eliminate all of us who have been returned to the Senate by our constituents after standing for reelection more than once.

Think for a moment what imposing such a limitation would mean to the Senate. For example, are Senators Thurmond, Hatfield, Stevens, Packwood, Roth, Domenici, Chafee, Lugar, Kassebaum, Cochran, Simpson and Hatch, and Senators Byrd, Pell, Kennedy, Inouye, Hollings, Nunn, Glenn, Ford, Bumpers, Moynihan, Sarbanes, Biden and others not possessed of judgment and experience on which we all rely and on which their constituents depend? What of the Majority Leader, Senator Dole, should he have had to retire in 1980 after serving only two terms?

Consider what this type of measure would have meant over our history. Those who have served beyond two terms include among their ranks some of our most distinguished predecessors. Each of our Senate Office Buildings, in fact, is named for a Senator whose service would have been cut short by the type of term limit being proposed as a constitutional amendment: Richard Russell, Philip Hart, Everett McKinley Dirksen. It is a loss when illness takes such leaders from us; it would be a tragedy to have denied the country and their constituents their service through an arbitrary rule limiting congressional terms.

Think about Kentucky's Henry Clay; South Carolina's John C. Calhoun; Missouri's Thomas Hart Benton; Ohio's Robert Taft; Iowa's William Allison; Michigan's Arthur

Vandenberg; Arizona's Carl Hayden and Barry Goldwater; Maine's Margaret Chase Smith and George Mitchell; Vermont's Justin Morrill and George Aiken; Massachusetts' Daniel Webster and Charles Sumner; Montana's Mike Mansfield; Washington's Scoop Jackson; North Carolina's Sam Ervin; Arkansas's William Fulbright; New York's Jacob Javits; Wisconsin's William Proxmire and the LaFollettes; Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey; Tennessee's Howard Baker, Jr. Such lists invariably leave out many who distinguished themselves through their service into a third Senate term.

Voters have not had any trouble electing challengers in the last several years. In 1978, 1980 and 1986, numbers of incumbents were defeated in primaries and general elections for the United States Senate. From the last election, one-third of those elected to the Senate are serving in their first terms. In the House of Representatives fully one third of the Members are beginning their first or second terms. The electorate does not seem to have a problem deciding whom to elect and whom not to reelect.

Indeed, rather than debating a constitutional amendment to impose term limits, our time might be better spent thinking about why more and more of our respected colleagues are choosing to abandon this body. Our friend from Colorado, the Chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee, has already announced that he will not seek reelection in 1996, after five terms in the House but only one here in the Senate. The senior Senator from Illinois, the Ranking Democrat on the Constitution Subcommittee, has also announced that he will not seek reelection after five terms in the House and two terms here in the Senate. The distinguished Ranking Democrat on the Energy Committee, the senior Senator from Louisiana has announced his intention to return to Louisiana.

Last year, George Mitchell and a total of nine of our colleagues in the 103rd Congress chose not to seek reelection. The Congress has become less and less a place where Members choose to run for reelection.

I respect my colleagues for doing what they think is right for themselves and their families. I commend those who like Hank Brown and our freshman colleagues believe strongly in term limits and conform their own actions to that rule. I urge them, however, to stop short of seeking to impose their view on all others and upon all other States for all time by way of this constitutional amendment.

The reality is that this is an institution that is called upon to deal with many important and complex matters, where judgment and experience do count for something. Some sense of history and some expertise can, from time to time, be helpful in confronting our tasks and fulfilling our responsibilities to our constituents and the country. Thus, I do not believe that a one-size-fits-all limit on congressional service makes sense.

Further, as the representative of a small State, I am acutely aware that we fulfill the purposes of the Senate and sometimes best represent our States when we have a bit of seniority and a track record on the issues. I believe, as did our Founders, that it is up to the people to let us know if we seek to overstay our term of service.

Before we embark on this course to rewrite the work of the Founders and impose an artificial limit on the length of congressional service, we should know what evil this constitutional amendment is intended to reach? On this the proponents speak in conflicting voices—some urging that term limits will make us more responsive to the electorate