

away from our kids and our grandkids to have the same kind of opportunity, to have the same kind of standard of living that we have had.

I have introduced a Social Security bill. It makes a lot of modest changes. It does not increase the tax. It does not affect existing retirees. In fact, it does not affect anybody over 57 years old. But it gradually slows down the increase in benefits for the higher income recipients. It adds one more year to the time that you would be eligible for Social Security benefits.

It makes a couple other small changes. I say, and it has been scored to keep Social Security solvent forever; I say, let us run this proposal up the flag pole. Let us start looking at ways we can improve it, but let us not any longer pretend that the problems, that the problem does not exist. I say, if we have any regard for our kids, we are going to do two things: We are going to give them a good education and a good opportunity. We cannot give them a good opportunity if we continue to go deeper and deeper in debt and expect them to pay for it. We cannot give them the opportunity if we continue to increase taxes, thinking that Government can spend a worker's money better than they can.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ON TAXES

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to say some last words on taxes.

In 1947, the Federal budget represented 12 percent of the total economy in the United States. In other words, the Federal budget was 12 percent of GDP. We have expanded that. As politicians find that they are more likely to get elected and reelected if they make a bunch of promises to people, we have had too many promises, because what it takes to keep those promises is increasing taxes and increasing borrowing.

Though young people today should be up in arms about what Congress is doing to their future, everybody should be looking at what they are paying in taxes at the local, State and national level.

Look at payroll deductions. If we did not have automatic deductions on paychecks, the people of America would not stand for the kind of taxes they are paying to let somebody else decide how to spend their money when they could make a much better decision to help their family.

□ 1630

H.R. 864, THE MARIAN ANDERSON CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 7, 1997, the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman in the well, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for his eloquence in maintaining the floor for such a period of time to protect me and my interest in getting here.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include therein extraneous material on the subject of my special order this afternoon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the centennial of the birth of Marian Anderson, one of the world's greatest singers, a champion for civil rights, and a leader in the advancement of global peace.

One hundred years ago, on February 27, 1897, Marian Anderson was born to a poor family in Philadelphia, PA. She died at the age of 96, on April 8, 1993. She was a master of repertoire across operatic recital and American traditional genres.

When one of her music teachers first heard her sing, the richness of her talent moved him to tears. One of the greatest conductors of opera and symphonic music who ever lived, Arturo Toscanini of Italy, claimed Marian Anderson had a voice that came along only once in a hundred years. But because of her race, her prospects as a concert singer in the United States seemed limited.

However, the magnitude of her talent eventually won her broad recognition all over the world. She became the first black singer to perform at the Metropolitan Opera in 1955. By the time she retired in the mid 1960s, Marian Anderson was recognized as a national treasure.

No one could have foreseen such a destiny for this girl born of a poor family in Philadelphia. Her father, an ice and coal salesman, died when she was a child. When her mother could not find a job as a teacher, Marian Anderson became a cleaning lady. She scrubbed people's steps to earn enough money to buy a violin. There was no money for piano lessons, so she and her sisters taught themselves to play piano by reading about how to do it.

Marian Anderson received her first musical training in the choirs at the Union Baptist Church in Philadelphia. The members of her church raised the money she needed to study with good music teachers. By saving money and getting a scholarship, she was able to study in Europe.

A century after her birth, Marian Anderson remains a model for all citizens of the world and one of the greatest

treasures of our country. However, we should not forget that she had to fight hard to win her place in history. Although she won a first prize in a voice contest in New York in 1925 and made an appearance that year with the New York Philharmonic, she was still unable to find operatic engagements and within a few years her career came to a standstill.

It was only after she toured Europe to great acclaim in the early 1930's that the American public began to pay attention to her. Even after her artistry was recognized, in her home country she faced racial prejudice on a more mundane level. Well into her career, she was turned away at restaurants and hotels. America's opera houses continued to remain closed to her for a long time.

Yes, it was Marian Anderson who first broke the color barrier for Western classical musicians of African descent. There had, of course, been distinguished black musical artists before her, but it was she who accomplished what no one else had. With the gifts of her talent and determination, she established beyond dispute that African-American musical performers could be more than adequate to the task of excelling in the most demanding concert and operatic venues.

Marian Anderson not only played a vital role in the acceptance of African-American musicians in the classical music world but also made a valuable contribution to the advancement of the arts, the status of women, civil rights, and global peace.

In 1939, the Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR, refused to allow Marian Anderson to sing at Constitution Hall because of her race. As a result of the ensuing public outcry, Eleanor Roosevelt resigned from the DAR and helped to arrange a concert at the Lincoln Memorial that drew an audience of 75,000, an audience far larger than Constitution Hall could ever have accommodated.

Mr. Speaker, I have brought this Special Order to the House floor this afternoon because 58 years ago today, on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939, Marian Anderson gave that concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. No other occasion could be best suited for us to pay a tribute to the centennial of the birth of this great American.

In my opinion, the one event for which Marian Anderson is most remembered in the public mind is her 1939 concert at the Lincoln Memorial, which became a landmark in the fight for civil rights. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon on that day, a crowd of 75,000 people assembled at the feet of the Great Emancipator while radio microphones waited to carry her voice to millions across the land. As the sun suddenly broke through clouds that shadowed the scene all day, Marian Anderson began singing "America the Beautiful."

The concert has been likened in impact to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s