

Together, we can take the steps toward a 21st century full of appreciation and hope. Much has already been done; however, I am sure you know that much more must be done.

And may we remember the words from Abraham Lincoln's last great speech—his second inaugural address—when he tells us even today:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish to work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

I appreciate and commend each of you for your leadership within the African-American community, and I want to challenge you to never forget how great this democracy is. It is up to us to reach beyond our differences and pain and hold on to the strength to stand for what is right and what is good so that we are truly united. May God bless and strengthen us all. By his help, we will not fail!

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, it is once again an honor for me to take part in this Special Order for African-American History Month. I know I join with every American in this continuing effort to educate both ourselves and our children about African-American culture and history.

One of the most underappreciated segments of American history are the scientific achievements by African-Americans. For the past one hundred years, African-Americans have made crucial inventions in engineering, performed great scientific feats, and have served as inspirations to all Americans through their perseverance and determination, yet such accomplishments go widely unnoticed.

One of those inventors was Granville Woods. Mr. Woods was a great electrician and inventive genius who developed and patented a system for overhead electric conducting lines for railroads, which aided in the development of the overhead railroad system found in contemporary metropolitan cities such as Chicago, St. Louis and New York City.

As well, in the late 1800's Woods patented the Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph, which allowed train stations as well as moving trains to know each others whereabouts. Train accidents and collisions were causing great concern at the time because train stations had no way of tracking their moving trains. This invention made train movements quicker and prevented countless accidents and collisions.

Garrett Morgan, who was born in 1875, also deserves wide recognition for his outstanding contributions to public safety. Firefighters in many cities in the early 1900's wore the safety helmet and gas mask that he invented. The gas mask Morgan invented in 1912 was used during World War I to protect soldiers from chlorine gas fumes.

In 1923, Morgan received a patent for his new concept, a traffic signal to regulate vehicle movement in city areas. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this event to our country's history. This single invention helped bring order out of the chaos of regulating pedestrian and vehicle traffic on city streets.

In more recent times, Dr. Mae Jemison was our nation's fifth African-American astronaut, and the first African-American female astronaut. In August 1992, she participated in a

successful joint U.S. and Japanese science mission that made her the first African-American woman in space. Dr. Jemison's perseverance and success as an astronaut should serve as an inspiration to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, when we honor great achievements in science by African-Americans, we inspire the next generation of Americans to achieve great things. I hope that all of our young people take a moment during African-American History month to reflect on what they can do in their communities and in their lives to make a difference.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the Special Order regarding Black History Month.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 355, DISMISSING THE ELECTION CONTEST AGAINST LORETTA SANCHEZ

Mr. THOMAS (during the special order of Mr. STOKES), from the Committee on House Oversight, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-416) on the resolution (H. Res. 355) dismissing the election contest against LORETTA SANCHEZ, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by saluting my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOUIS STOKES). This is an annual Special Order that he has sponsored for many years, and we regret the fact that this is the last time that he will do it. We thank him very much for keeping the torch alive, and I assure him that in his memory the caucus will continue this tradition for years to come.

The gentleman from Ohio goes home to Cleveland, where there is the whole public library, a brand new pace setting state-of-the-art library, named after him. Cleveland also is a place where there is a new kind of macroeconomics reaching out to encourage and embrace all business, but certainly offering a great opportunity for black businesses, African-American businesses. Cleveland is setting an example with a progressive mayor, I suppose one of the protégée of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOU STOKES), and the whole tradition of the Stokes family there in Cleveland.

So I salute the gentleman. I think the theme of this year's Black History Month is very fitting and proper for

him and the leadership in Cleveland, Ohio.

I also would like to note, Mr. Speaker, that I will take only 30 minutes of the hour, since none of my colleagues are here, and I want to thank the other side of the aisle for agreeing to allow us to do this back to back to give us more time to finish the Special Order on Black History.

I would like to continue in the same vein as my colleagues have proceeded before, saluting black business as a continuation of empowerment. Not a new thrust of empowerment. It is a continuation toward empowerment and it is inseparable.

What is happening with the African-American business community cannot be separated from political leadership and the history of civil rights and political developments related to the struggle for freedom of the African-American people in America. We cannot separate the two. I would like to bring that perspective to my discussion of the importance of this Black History observance this year.

We ought to become more economic minded. We should focus more on economics. We should understand we cannot separate economics from politics. They cannot be separated. They are inextricably interwoven in the history of this country. A lot of people have made a great attempt to separate economics from government, but that is not the case. That cannot happen. It is not true history when we try to do that.

The impact of the transcontinental railroad on the economic development of America is one example of how government, assuming a very aggressive position, created a situation where the industrial and business development of a nation certainly jumped forward by leaps and bounds. If the government had not taken the initiative, if the people in Washington had not said that we will subsidize the building of a transcontinental railroad, a railroad that will link the East with the West, if they had not paid so much per mile and been willing to undertake that giant project, encouraging, of course, contracting with and encouraging private enterprise to do it, it would never have happened. We would not have had the linkage between the East and the West, which made this Nation one nation in terms of business and industry.

And government, of course, has taken the initiative in many other ways, and I want to talk a little bit tonight about one of the latest initiatives. It is very small compared to the transcontinental railroad, or the building of the Tennessee Valley Authority, or the great leap forward we took when we passed the Morrill Act, the act which created the land grant colleges in every State.

Those land grant colleges were very practical institutions. They had the theoretical instruction in the classroom. I say had, but they still exist. They have the agricultural experiment stations; they have county agents that