

the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. Speaker, during the years in which Dr. King served as a leader of the civil rights groups like the Montgomery Improvement Association and the SCLC, he took out a tissue of truth and wiped away the dirt of discrimination from the American dream. Thanks to Dr. King, the American dream today is alive and accessible to millions of Americans who might otherwise been left out in the cold. This, too, is Dr. King's legacy.

Dr. King's legacy can also be found in our churches every week. Mr. Speaker, Dr. King was a believer in the power of God to change the lives of Americans for the better. He served as a pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. In short, Dr. King was a devout man of faith who believed that God had a place, a central place in American society.

That is important to recognize as part of Dr. King's legacy. Nowadays, there seems to be a serious effort under way to run God out of America. America without God's direction is like a man who does not have a heart. Neither entity can survive for very long.

Indeed, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., believed that laws were meaningless unless they had a moral component to them. In his Letter From the Birmingham Jail, Dr. King wrote, "A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law and a law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law."

Dr. King felt he was morally justified in fighting segregation and discrimination because he knew that Jim Crow laws violated God's law. Mr. Speaker, this evening, as we consider laws here in Congress, we should start holding each other up to the same standard Dr. Martin Luther King set for laws. We must ask, is this law we are considering a morally just law? Or, we must ask, would it be morally just if we did not pass this law?

Every Member of Congress should remember the words of Dr. King when he said, human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of men and women willing to be coworkers with God.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, if all of us as Americans will come together, Republicans, Democrats, liberal, conservative, red, yellow, brown, black, or white, we can make our schools places where children will shoot for the stars instead of making schools places where our children are shot at. If we as Americans will all reject our prejudices and stereotypes and work together, we can end this horrible drug epidemic which is killing our young people.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as we all consider this great resolution before us, let us each resolve to examine ourselves this evening. Let us ask ourselves what are we doing today to keep Dr. King's legacy alive.

We must ask ourselves, are we teaching our kids to respect and love people of all races? Are we leading by example in this area? How many hours have we spent with our kids this week? Are we actively encouraging our children in their studies and in talking with them about their problems? Are we showing our children that we care about them?

If we are falling short in any of these areas, Mr. Speaker, we are stomping all over the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. However, if we teach our kids right from wrong, spend time with them and encourage our kids to love others, we are keeping Dr. King's dream alive and, at the same time, preserving the American dream for our children, our children's children, and millions of new Americans to come.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 247

Whereas the life work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., serves as an inspiration to all people who believe in justice, equality, and human rights;

Whereas Dr. King advanced his goals and principles with determination, faith, dignity, and courage in the face of life-threatening opposition;

Whereas Dr. King raised the consciousness of the Nation to fundamental injustices and inequalities in American society and moved the Nation significantly forward on the long and unfinished road to racial harmony and reconciliation;

Whereas the work of Dr. King created a basis of understanding and respect for individuals, communities, and the Nation as a whole, to act cooperatively and courageously to establish tolerance, justice, and equality among all people;

Whereas Dr. King's life and political philosophy advocated the need for men and women to strive to overcome oppression without resorting to violence;

Whereas Dr. King was the recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for his unrelenting efforts to bring about social and racial justice;

Whereas Dr. King believed in, practiced, and urged others to achieve political change and social equality through nonviolent means and dedicated his life to achieving the goal of a fully integrated society;

Whereas there is still much work to be done in achieving full reconciliation among America's racial, social, and ethnic communities and in creating a colorblind society;

Whereas Dr. King's life was tragically ended on April 4, 1968, before completing his work and fulfilling his dream of a Nation where people are not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character; and

Whereas Dr. King's political philosophy and life's work shine as a guiding light for all people who would live peacefully together in freedom, both nationally and around the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the importance of the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the civil society and freedoms of the United States of America;

(2) recognizes that Dr. King's life was tragically taken before the full achievement of his goals; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to study, reflect on, and celebrate Dr. King's life and ideals in order to fulfill his dream of civil and human rights for all people.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 399

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of House Resolution 399.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

#### DESIGNATION OF THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE A. MORELLA OR HONORABLE THOMAS M. DAVIS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH APRIL 21, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 1, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable THOMAS M. DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through Tuesday, April 21, 1998.

NEWT GINGRICH,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is agreed to. There was no objection.

□ 2200

#### CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF S. 419, BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT OF 1997

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 87) to direct the Secretary of the Senate to make certain corrections in the enrollment of the Senate bill, S. 419, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as Members recall, the House passed S. 419, the Birth Defects Prevention Act, on March 10, 1998. Since that time, we have become aware that certain corrections are required in the enrollment of the bill. This concurrent resolution directs the Secretary of the other body to make those changes. The concurrent resolution has been cleared with the Minority on the Commerce Committee, and I am not aware of any objection to its approval.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 87

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).* That, in the enrollment of the bill (S. 419) to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at prevention of birth defects, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 1 of the bill, strike "1997" and insert "1998".

(2) In section 2 of the bill:

(A) In subsection (d) of section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (as proposed to be amended by such section 2) strike "1998" and insert "1999".

(B) In subsection (f) of section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (as proposed to be amended by such section 2) strike "1998" and all that follows through "2001" and insert "1999, \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2001 and 2002".

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation just adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, during Rollcall Vote No. 82 on H.R. 34 I inadvertently recorded my vote as yes when I intended to vote no.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE TO HAVE UNTIL 5 P.M. APRIL 20, 1998, TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 6, HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and the Workforce may have until 5 p.m., April 20, 1998, to file a report on the bill, H.R. 6, the Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

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

There was no objection.

GRANTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO EXTEND THEIR REMARKS IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD TODAY

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for today all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in that section of the RECORD entitled extension of remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER, MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Tuesday, April 21, 1998, the Speaker, Majority Leader and Minority Leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1998

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, April 22, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3627, BROWNFIELD COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today to outline the Brownfield Community Empowerment Act, H.R. 3627, which I introduced today along with my colleague the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE).

The Brownfield Community Empowerment Act will provide financial assistance to local governments and citizen organizations. Grants will be given to local governments and local citizens' organizations in the amount of \$100 million for fiscal years 1999 through 2003. Thirty percent of this money will be made directly available to local citizens' organizations.

In addition, my legislation will establish a revolving loan program which will allow local governments to provide money to persons or entities who wish to develop potential Brownfield sites. This revolving loan fund will insure that development continues into the future.

Public housing entities, which have been overlooked when it comes to eco-

economic development, will be able to apply for grants. Twenty-five million dollars will be made available for fiscal years 1999 through 2001. Public housing developments are oftentimes in the most dire need of economic development. As a representative of one of the highest concentrations of public housing residents in the Nation, I feel it is incumbent upon me to address the needs of those who have been overlooked.

Community involvement is also vital to sustaining any community. When it comes to economic development, the need for the input of those who would be most directly effected is even more vital. The Community Empowerment Act will give voice to the citizens of each and every community. It will ensure that meaningful public participation not merely perfunctory gestures will occur. Local citizens' organizations will be given full participation in assessment, remediation and cleanup.

The voices of the masses must not ever be quelled. It is my hope that this legislation will raise those voices to octaves never heard before. This legislation will guarantee the local citizens' organizations will receive 30 percent of the grants.

The reality of life, whether we want to acknowledge it or not, is that those who have the least are often left out in the cold. Environmental justice is yet another principle my legislation will address. Low-income and historically disenfranchised areas will be given priority when it comes to the awarding of grants. In addition, cleanup methods must be cognizant of the needs of certain populations such as the elderly, children and persons with AIDS. Quick fix approaches will not do when it comes to cleaning up our environment. We must invest in the long term. We must invest in everyone's future.

Empowerment zones were once thought to be the vehicle that would restore prosperity to economically stagnant areas. In many communities across this Nation, such has not been the case. I recognize the need for these economically thriving areas. That is why empowerment zones and enterprise communities will be given priority in the awarding of grants. A viable and effective Brownfield program can breathe life into economically wounded communities.

Winston Churchill once said, and I quote:

"Some people regard private enterprise as a predatory tiger to be shot. Others see it as a cow they can milk. Not enough people see it as a healthy horse, pulling a sturdy wagon."

I say let the Brownfield Community Empowerment Program be one of the reins which guides the healthy horse, and let economic revitalization and opportunities be the load of the sturdy wagon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.