

Most of the initiatives that we are going to undertake relate to activities which are designed to mobilize the African-American community. I held this press conference. I called in these leaders of labor and the private sector at the beginning of the Congressional Black Caucus legislative weekend, because I wanted to send the message not only to the people out there in the communities, the parents and the community leaders, but I wanted to send a message to my fellow caucus members. We are not doing enough.

In the spirit of James Farmer, we should seize the initiative and come to grips with the problem of school improvement, education improvement. At the heart of that is a physical facility. If one has a religion, and the temple, the church, the physical facility is allowed to crumble and decay and obviously be neglected, then it sends a message to all that the people who are advocates of that religion, the heritage of that religion are not serious.

Ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia became a bloody, burning, nasty set of atrocious activities that made the whole world want to vomit. Thousands have been confirmed as murdered and the estimates continue to climb. The Serbs attempted to drive out the Albanians in obvious and crude ways. African-America cleansing in America is moving forward to a far less alarming but more subtle and certain manner. It is moving forward in a far less alarming, but more subtle and certain manner.

Listen. African-American cleansing. One can destroy the education for the children of a group, and one can destroy the group without firing a single shot. In a complex world today, people can be destroyed by the act of refusing to provide a relevant education for their children.

The present movement toward the abandonment of the public school system greatly endangers the survival of the African-American community. We are going to be reauthorizing Title I of the Elementary Secondary Education Assistance act this week. This Wednesday it is scheduled for the calendar. It is one more series of attempts to abandon the public school system that has to be fought.

Education is critical for survival. The oppressed South African blacks clearly understood this truth when they rebelled against Bantu Education. The famed uprising at Soweto was led by school children who understood that they were being systematically crippled in their classrooms. In America, there is no official conspiracy to intellectually deform African-American children. But benign neglect, bureaucratic bungling and the savage inequalities like the one described by Jonathan Kozol, accidentally accomplish the same devastating results.

The current emphasis on privatization and vouchers, coupled with education budget cuts and the refusal of both Republicans and Democrats to

support meaningful school modernization and construction appropriations by the Federal Government will produce a massive Soweto-like impact in the large cities where the majority of African-American youth live.

In too many local education agencies, the schooling process is already merely a ceremony. Routinely assumptions are made that black students cannot emerge from the standard 12-year education regiment with a level of accomplishment which enables them to cope with present-day occupational and personal management challenges.

School systems go through enough motions to justify the economic activity which finances teachers salaries, custodial personnel, supplies, equipment, and administrative bureaucracy. But in too many instances, they are content not to focus on the end product and what they are achieving there.

The current acceleration of this minimal, of fraudulent education process as a result of less resources and highly visible decaying infrastructure has produced an unrecognized crisis for African-Americans. In full view, the commitment to meaningful public education is steadily being withdrawn by elected officials.

New York City had a \$2 billion surplus, and not a penny was spent on trying to refurbish, renovate, or build any new schools. New York State had a \$2 billion surplus, and they refused, and the Governor vetoed a \$500 million proposal for school repair.

So at the local level, we have a steady withdrawal of support for public schools. The clearest reflection of this danger is this brick and mortar disaster. Crumbling school buildings send a loud message stating that pedagogical and administrative infrastructure is also collapsing. If the buildings are collapsing, then do not expect much to be happening inside them. There is no commitment in there either.

A total abandonment of public education in America is a possibility. While private alternatives are shuffled around, a generation of students could be lost. More than African-American children of course would be placed at risk by this public policy blunder. The education of all children of working families who cannot afford private schools is at stake.

But I appeal, especially to the African-American leadership to get moving. In the spirit of James Farmer, come to grips with the problem, focus on it as being the number one survival problem in our municipalities.

In the spirit of James Farmer, the leadership has to shun or understand that there are no headlines out there for people who work in the vineyard trying to improve schools and trying to get funds for school construction. They have to understand that right out from under them, while they think that they are leaders, right out from under them, the people who matter most, our constituents, are discouraged. They feel vulnerable. They feel abandoned.

I want to end with a few quotes from Jim Farmer, and I do this in the spirit of urging that the leadership of the African-American community, starting with my colleagues in Congress, remember Jim Farmer as a man of action and a man who provided the opportunity to act for the people who were suffering.

Jim Farmer, after the attacks on the Freedom Riders said, "When dogs bite in Birmingham, we bleed everywhere." Evil societies always kill their consciences. The NAACP is the justice department, the Urban League is the state department, and Corps members are the nonviolent marines.

□ 2100

"The time is not for jail-going and bleeding heads, but for long-range planning and sophisticated strategizing. There will be fewer demonstrations and more celebration. Our Nation deceives itself with the fiction that the task is complete and racism is dead and all is well. The myth surrounds us that America has suddenly become color blind and that all that remains is our economic problem. No greater lie has ever been told, and the tellers of it, if they have eyes to see and minds to think, must know it."

That comes from the epilogue of the James Farmer book, which I mentioned before, Lay Bare The Heart. "Our Nation deceives itself with the fiction that the task is complete and racism is dead and all is well. The myth surrounds us that America suddenly has become color blind and that all that remains is our economic problem. No greater lie has ever been told, and the tellers of it, if they have eyes to see and minds to think, must know it."

African-American leaders are the people who ought to know it, and we urge them very much to open their eyes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WAMP). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2149

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 68, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 106-342) on the resolution (H. Res. 305) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 68) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MASCARA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of family business.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and September 28 on account of a funeral.

Mr. WU (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of the birth of Sarah Elizabeth Wu.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and September 28 on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. CLAYTON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHOWS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEMINT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEMINT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 28, 1999, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4475. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Milk in the Central Arizona Marketing Area; Suspension of Certain Provi-

sions of the Order [DA-99-05] received September 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4476. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Revision of the Sampling Techniques for Whole Block and Partial Block Diversions and Increasing the Number of Partial Block Diversions Per Season for Tart Cherries [Docket No. FV99-930-2 FIR] received September 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4477. A letter from the Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—General Administrative Regulations; Submission of Policies and Provisions of Policies, and Rates of Premium (RIN: 0563-AB15) received September 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4478. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the annual report on conditional registration of pesticides for 1997 and 1998, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 136w-4; to the Committee on Agriculture.

4479. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the OMB Sequestration Update Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2000, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-587); to the Committee on Appropriations.

4480. A letter from the Office of the Under Secretary, Department of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's decision to study certain functions performed by military and civilian personnel in the Department of the Navy (DON) for possible performance by private contractors, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4481. A letter from the Senior Civilian Official, Department of Defense, transmitting a Plan for Development of an Enhanced Global Positioning System: A Report To Congress July 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4482. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting the TRICARE Prime Remote Report to Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4483. A letter from the The Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a Report Regarding Use of Tagging Systems to Identify Hydrocarbon Fuels Used by the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4484. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a Report on the Audited Fiscal Years 1998 and 1997 Financial Statements of the United States Mint [OIG-99-078]; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

4485. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Secretary-Office of Lead Hazard Control, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Requirements for Notification, Evaluation and Reduction of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Federally Owned Residential Property and Housing Receiving Federal Assistance (RIN: 2501-AB57) received September 15, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

4486. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance Programs Statu-

tory Merger of Section 8 Certificate and Voucher Programs; Correction [Docket No. FR-4428-C-03] (RIN: 2577-AB91) received September 15, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

4487. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Public Housing Agency Plans; Change in Plan Submission Dates [Docket No. FR-4420-F-04] (RIN: 2577-AB89) received September 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

4488. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to India, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

4489. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 1996 Community Services Block Grant Statistical Report; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4490. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting an annual report to the President and to the Congress on the audit of the Telecommunications Development Fund, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 614; to the Committee on Commerce.

4491. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Internal Dosimetry Program Guide [DOE G. 441.1-3] received August 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4492. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Radiation Safety Training Guide [DOE G 441.1-12] received August 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4493. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Nitrogen Oxides Budget and Allowance Trading Program [CT-053-7212a; A-1-FRL-6443-1] received September 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4494. A letter from the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Oceanside and Encinitas, California) [MM Docket No. 99-170 RM-9545] received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4495. A letter from the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Berlin and North Conway, New Hampshire) [MM Docket No. 97-216 RM-9153] received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4496. A letter from the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Dove Creek, Colorado) [MM Docket No. 99-203] (Hazelton, Idaho) [MM Docket No. 99-205 RM-9624] (Flagstaff, Arizona) [MM Docket No. 99-210 RM 9629] (Kootenai, Idaho) [MM Docket No. 99-213 RM-9641] received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.