

Committee where he demonstrated his firm commitment to the Constitution before an esteemed panel of lawyers, judges, and legal historians. I do not think that there was an American who, after they heard him speak, did not turn away with a profound respect for his convictions, his considerable intellect, and his passion.

With his baritone voice that drew the envy of singers everywhere, Judge Higginbotham was often said to be larger than life when he donned his judicial robes. "When he spoke from the bench you got the sense that God was speaking up there," said Edward Dennis Jr., who clerked for Higginbotham in the 1970's. And although I am sure Judge Higginbotham would have frowned on that comparison, I am sure there are many lawyers and clients who would not. While the thoughts and memories of his fierce questioning surely continue to instill fear and respect from those lawyers that advocated before him, I seriously doubt that any of them would ever challenge his judgement, or his fairness.

Judge Higginbotham championed equal rights and the Constitution with unmatched passion and energy. Rest assured, although there will never be another A. Leon Higginbotham, there remain many disciples who will continue to follow in his legal tradition. I can only hope to be considered amongst them.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, who recently passed away at the age of 70, was a highly esteemed jurist, renowned scholar, noted lecturer, and civil rights leader.

But the citizens of central New Jersey had a special connection to Judge Higginbotham. For them, particularly the African-American community, he served as a shining example of hope for the future.

A native of Ewing, New Jersey located in my Congressional District, Judge Higginbotham was widely known in his youth as a talented musician and excellent student. At a time when professional and academic possibilities for blacks were severely limited, his outstanding accomplishments represented hope that such success was within the reach of all our children.

The African-American community knew that he was forced to live in an unheated attic room because his college had no housing for blacks. They knew of the struggle he endured at Yale Law School and during his early years in the legal profession.

But his perseverance and refusal to settle for anything less than excellence made Leon Higginbotham a living symbol of the possibilities for all children.

I am proud to take this time to salute Judge Higginbotham, and on behalf of all the citizens of the 12th Congressional District, would like to express my condolences to his family.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a giant within American jurisprudence, Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. He was a civil rights champion who died with his

boots on; it was only a few weeks before his death that Leon Higginbotham testified before the House Judiciary Committee in protest of its impeachment process.

Judge Higginbotham's contributions to the law, both as a peerless judge and superb educator, were immense. His love for the cause of justice made him a colossus of the civil rights movement. In his impeccably coherent and flawlessly logical testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, Judge Higginbotham reminded the nation's lawmakers, and the American people, of his legal brilliance.

The achievements of Leon Higginbotham should serve as an inspiration to Americans of all ages. His legacy is a stellar example of a meritocracy at work, that diligence and opportunity can be an equalizing force against the vestiges of racism. After obtaining a brilliant record as a civil rights attorney, he was first appointed to a federal judicial post in 1964. His performance as one of the country's most consistent and fair judges led to his appointment to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. As a mediator in the 1994 South African elections, that country's first post-apartheid experiment with democracy, Judge Higginbotham shared with the world his judicial expertise and impartiality. The entire country paid him tribute in 1995, when President Bill Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. There is no question that Leon Higginbotham belongs to that group of exceptional people which any nation would be proud to call its own.

His outspoken courage and passionate opposition to racism were unceasing. Judge Higginbotham's condemnation of the damage that discrimination and disregard for individual civil rights does to the justice system made his "Race and the American Legal System" one of the most important and influential legal texts in the history of our country.

I am honored to join my colleagues in saluting the living legacy of Leon Higginbotham. His compassion and respect for the individual, combined with his unrivaled knowledge and love of the law, make him a person I am proud to have known. We shall forever be indebted to Judge Higginbotham for his superior commitment to justice and his impeccable example of judicial scholarship and service.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in paying tribute to one of the true heroes of our time, and a personal hero of mine, Judge Leon Higginbotham.

One of the proudest moments of my life was in January of 1989, after having won election to the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time, when Judge Higginbotham administered the oath of office to me at a ceremony in the Rayburn Foyer. Being sworn in as New Jersey's first African American Congressman by a man of Judge Higginbotham's stature, who had achieved such a place in history, is an honor I will always remember. Earlier in my career, Judge Higginbotham nominated me for President of the National Council of YMCAs and I remain grateful for that honor as well.

It was characteristic of Judge Higginbotham that no matter how high he rose, he was always available whenever anyone needed his help or guidance. He never missed an opportunity to encourage young people to achieve their goals.

Judge Higginbotham was a man of great intellect, ability and passion for justice. He was a native of my home state of New Jersey, where he grew up in the segregated society of Trenton. With determination and fortitude, he forged ahead, graduating from Yale Law School in 1952. During President John Kennedy's Administration, he was appointed as the first African American to head the Federal Trade Commission.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson nominated him to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He joined the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia in 1977, where he retired as Chief Judge in 1991.

President Clinton awarded Judge Higginbotham the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995 and in 1996, he was honored with the NAACP's Springarn Medal.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Higginbotham was truly larger than life. Let us honor his memory and carry forth his proud legacy.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this tribute to Judge Higginbotham.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas? There was no objection.

DISCRIMINATION CONTINUES AT AMERICA'S AIRPORTS

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, let me just begin by echoing the comments of the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) about a real giant in our history, Judge Higginbotham, who was a noted defender of civil rights; who went on to become one of the country's most prominent African American judges; and who, through his long and distinguished career, stood on the side of those who needed help.

He, as we have heard, was awarded numerous awards, including the Medal of Freedom for his work and also the Wallenberg Humanitarian award.

He was a giant, and he certainly will be missed, and I thank my colleagues for remembering him and bringing his spirit to light again so that the country can appreciate this remarkable man.

□ 1730

It is with that that I would like to make a transition to another issue, but the transition is easy because it is a civil rights issue, Mr. Speaker.

In the Washington Post today, I read that five workers, all Muslim women,

have filed a religious discrimination complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Apparently, according to this article, it was in the Metro section, I believe, of the Washington Post, they were fired from their jobs as screeners of passengers and luggage at Dulles International Airport because they refused to remove the head scarves they wear for religious reasons.

Their employer, Argenbright Security, Incorporated, told them they would have to give up their head scarves or give up their jobs. Now, faced with such a choice, they chose to honor their religious commitment.

As a result of the women's complaint to the EEOC, Argenbright Security is now backtracking. The company has issued a statement denying religious discrimination and inviting these five women to return to work.

What this incident does, though, is raise a larger issue, and, that is, of the widespread and systematic discrimination against Muslims and Arab Americans at airports all across this country. Under current procedures, security companies like Argenbright are used to enforce profiling standards to ensure airport security.

But you have to ask yourselves that if firms like Argenbright cannot even treat their Muslim employees fairly, how are we to believe they will treat Muslim passengers whom they do not even know in a fair and courteous manner?

Now, we all understand that airport security is a must. But the people who are responsible for it should be trained in a way that ensures cultural sensitivity and fairness as they carry out these important responsibilities. This profiling issue is a huge embarrassment and problem, especially in the Detroit metropolitan airport. We have, as many of my colleagues may know, in the State of Michigan a large Arab-American and Muslim population, almost 700,000, close to 8 percent of our State.

Because of the incidence of stopping these women and gentlemen as they come through the airport, I had a hearing at the airport, organized it, and I had Jane Garvey, the Director of the FAA, Federal Aviation Administration, come with her top people, and she heard stories from folks who told how

they were stopped, denied passage because they fit a certain profile.

One family, a good family, friends of mine, Dr. Basha and his family have been stopped on several occasions as they traveled on vacation to the Middle East. Another woman told of her son who was an Olympic rower going to a meet for a trial for the Olympics in Cincinnati and he was detained, missed the flight, missed the opportunity for the Olympics, because he fit a certain profile. We had another person who was a police officer in the Detroit area who was stopped and detained because he fit a profile.

Now, let me say that this is not the first airport and this is not the first incident that led me to believe that airport security is being contracted out to companies who do not have a commitment to treat all Americans with fairness and dignity.

I just want to applaud these five women for standing up for their religious beliefs and for their rights, for their rights on the job. I intend to contact the FAA about this situation and to insist that companies providing security at our airports do so without discriminating against Americans regardless of their religious faith or their ethnic heritage.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET REGARDING INTERIM BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES FOR FISCAL YEARS 1999-2003

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

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 2 of House Resolution 5, I submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD interim budget aggregates and allocations for fiscal year 1999 and for the period of fiscal years 1999 through fiscal year 2003. This submission includes the budget aggregates and allocations to the Committee on Appropriations that were not included in my submission on February 25.

These interim levels will be used to enforce sections 302(f), 303(a) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Section 303(a) prohibits the consideration of legislation that provides new budget authority or changes in

revenues until Congress has agreed to a budget resolution for the appropriate fiscal year. Sections 302(f) and 311(a) prohibit the consideration of legislation that exceeds the appropriate budgetary levels set forth in budget resolution and the accompanying report.

Without these interim levels, the House would be prohibited under section 303(a) of the Budget Act from considering legislation with even negligible budgetary effects in certain fiscal years because a budget resolution is not in effect for the current fiscal year. There would be no levels to make determinations under sections 302(f) and 311(a) for fiscal year 1999 and such determinations for the five year period would be based on the now-obsolete levels set forth under H. Con. Res. 84 (H. Rept. 105-116) in 1997.

The interim allocations and aggregates are essentially set at current law levels. They reflect legislation enacted through the end of the 105th Congress as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). In the case of the Committee on Appropriations, the allocations are identical to the levels set forth in H. Res. 477 (H. Rept. 105-585) except that they reflect adjustments for emergencies, arrearages and other items under section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act.

These levels are effective until they are superseded by a conference report on the concurrent budget resolution.

If there are any questions on these interim allocations and aggregates, please contact Jim Bates, Chief Counsel of the Budget Committee, at ext. 6-7270.

APPROPRIATE LEVELS

	Fiscal years	
	1999	1999-2003
Budget Authority	1,443,821	(1)
Outlays	1,392,861	(1)
Revenues	1,368,374	7,284,605

¹ Not applicable because annual appropriations acts for Fiscal Years 2000-2003 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

ALLOCATIONS OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO HOUSE COMMITTEES

Appropriations Committee

	Budget Authority	Outlays
Fiscal year 1999:		
Nondefense*	287,107	273,837
Defense*	279,891	271,403
Violent Crime Reduction*	5,800	4,953
Highways*	0	21,885
Mass Transit*	0	4,401
Total Discretionary Action	572,798	576,479
Current Law Mandatory	291,758	283,468

* Shown for display purposes only.

ALLOCATIONS OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO HOUSE COMMITTEES

Committees Other than Appropriations

Budget year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total 1999-2003
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE						
Current Law:						
BA	17,337	9,727	8,499	6,967	2,738	45,268
OT	14,885	5,927	5,729	4,374	51	30,966
Reauthorizations:						
BA	0	0	0	0	28,328	28,328
OT	0	0	0	0	27,801	27,801
Total:						
BA	17,337	9,727	8,499	6,967	31,066	73,596
OT	14,885	5,927	5,729	4,374	27,852	58,767