

new movement of half of the population. It took real leadership to come forward and clear up this confusion. Dorothy Height was among the foremost who forged unity. She even helped to make good feminists out of black men, who have ever since been in the forefront of women's rights.

All the while she has been carrying the great domestic issues of our time, Dorothy Height has carried an international portfolio. She indeed is recognized today as a world leader on matters of women of color.

I come to the floor this evening to salute Dorothy Irene Height, who has made the National Council of Negro Women one of America's great coalitions. Black women's groups of every variety are united under the umbrella of the Council. Together they work to improve the lives of African American women.

In celebrating women of color this evening, we would do well to begin with the life and times and work of Dorothy Irene Height.

U.S. IS EMBARKING ON VERY DANGEROUS AND WRONG COURSE IN KOSOVO

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, last August we bombed Afghanistan and Sudan, in bombing raids that most Americans have already forgotten. We rushed into that bombing without informing even the full Joint Chiefs of Staff and without congressional approval, and later found we had even bombed a medicine factory.

Last December we started bombing Iraq, once again bombing people that our own leaders tell us are not our enemies. Many press reports since then have confirmed that the White House rigged the UNSCOM report in a lame attempt to justify the Iraqi bombing.

Now we are going to drop bombs on Kosovo. We are spending billions and billions of hard-earned tax dollars in all these bombing campaigns. Yesterday I had a group of people in my office requesting \$100 million more for Alzheimer's research. I told those people to just try to get the President to stop bombing for part of one day.

We are dropping bombs and making enemies out of people who want to be our friends. And we are doing all this in places where there is absolutely no threat to our national security and no vital U.S. interest at stake.

The Christian Science Monitor said a few weeks ago that there are wars or military conflicts going on right now in 46 different places around the world. Many of these situations are just as bad or worse than Kosovo right now. There have been 2,000 people killed in Kosovo in the last year. As bad as this

is, columnist Charles Krauthammer pointed out on television Sunday that more people were killed recently in Ethiopia in just one day.

If we intervene in every place where there are human rights violations, we will have to go into even more places than the 46 where the Christian Science Monitor found military conflicts. We seem to be following a CNN foreign policy, going heavily into whatever situation is being emphasized on the national news at the moment.

We should try to be friends with all nations. But we do not have the resources to become the world's policeman, and we will make more enemies than friends if we become the world's bully.

And we cannot hide behind NATO. Everyone knows that this bombing in Kosovo would not be done if the U.S. did not insist on it. NATO was set up as a defensive organization. Now it is being turned into an offensive one, attacking a non-member nation that has not threatened us or any other country.

We are intervening in a civil war. It is as if one of our own States was attempting to secede and our military attempted to keep it in and some other country started bombing us. The Kosovo bombings have been attempted to be justified on the basis that the fighting will spread. This is ridiculous. Milosevic may be a tyrant, but he is not attempting to nor does he have the resources to spread worldwide. It is ridiculous to try to equate this situation to when we were fighting world communism. There is no similarity to Russia under Khrushchev or China under Mao Tse-Tung.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger wrote a few days ago that U.S. intervention in Kosovo is a mistake. He said, "The proposed deployment in Kosovo does not deal with any threat to U.S. security as this concept has been traditionally conceived." He pointed out that "ethnic conflict has been endemic in the Balkans for centuries."

David Broder wrote in the Washington Post last week, "Sending in the military to impose a peace on people who have not settled ancient quarrels has to be the last resort, not the standard way of doing business."

This is a religious or ethnic conflict that we cannot resolve unless we stay for a very long time at a cost of many, many billions. The President promised we would be out of Bosnia by the end of 1996. This is now March of 1999, and we are still there. I was told by another Member of the House recently that we have now spent \$20 billion in Bosnia.

We are about to get into a very dangerous situation. This is an European problem. It is not something that we should risk American lives over. Young Americans may be killed. We should not be so eager or willing to send our

troops into this situation. We cannot afford to spend all these billions just to show that the President is a great world statesman or to make sure that he goes down in history as a great world leader.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Thomas Friedman wrote recently in the New York Times these words:

Stop. Before we dive into sending American troops to sort out the Serbian-Albanian civil war in Kosovo, could we talk about this for a second? If ever there was a time for an honest reassessment of U.S. policy towards Bosnia and Kosovo, it is now. And what that reassessment would conclude is that we should redo the Dayton Accords, otherwise we are going to end up with U.S. troops in Bosnia and Kosovo forever, without solving either problem.

Mr. Friedman is right. We are embarking on a very dangerous and very wrong course.

HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND WOMEN OF COLOR

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to participate in the celebration of Women's History Month and women of color. I applaud my distinguished colleague from California (Ms. LEE) who will later on this evening be conducting an hour discussion on this celebration.

For more than 10 years, the month of March has been dedicated to the celebration of women in American history. This month affords us the opportunity to appreciate the accomplishments of women and the role they have played in history, American women and women of color who throughout history have proudly served in shaping the spirit of our Nation and shaping our lives, individually and collectively.

Today, empowered by this great legacy, American women serve in every aspect of American life, from social services to space exploration. The opportunities for American women are growing, and their efforts as mothers and volunteers, corporate executives and Members of Congress, law enforcement officers and administrators, construction workers and soldiers, educators and scientists, enrich all of us and make our country great.

□ 2000

Women continue to strengthen our Nation's social fabric as leaders in the home, the community, the workplace, and the government.

The challenges facing women in the next century are many. They are increasingly called upon to serve as caregivers to children and elderly relatives and must bear the weight of providing economically for their families. However, through their endeavors, women are producing a heightened national

consciousness to meet the needs of our people.

As we honor the courageous legacy of our Nation's women of color and celebrate the diversity of their backgrounds, talents and contributions, I reflect upon one great woman that has placed her stamp on public service and who played an important role in my life, the Honorable Lena K. Lee, former Maryland House of Delegates member.

A coal miner's daughter, Delegate Lee earned her prominence in Maryland through her indomitable intellect, compassion and character. Ms. Lee was the third woman to receive a law degree from the University of Maryland Law School, a founder of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, and a member of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

Teacher, principal, union leader, lawyer and legislator, Delegate Lee created a new vision of what African-American women could hope to achieve in Maryland and across this Nation. However, her impact would be much broader. She has touched the lives of many. Her leadership and noteworthy contributions in the fields of education, law and politics are well known in our State.

In the summer of 1982, I received a call from this woman known only to me by reputation. She praised my work in assisting young African-American law graduates in their efforts to pass the bar exam, as well as my community involvement. I had been working in my small law practice wondering how my career would proceed when this renaissance woman and legend in our community was calling to compliment me. As the one that influenced my decision to begin a political career in the Maryland House of Delegates, Lena K. Lee was my teacher in public life.

"Mentor" is defined as a wise and trusted guide. I can proudly say that Lena K. Lee is a mentor. I have served the citizens of the 44th District in Maryland as a member of the House of Delegates and then as Speaker Pro Tem of the Maryland General Assembly and now I stand on the floor of the United States Congress today as a Member of this body.

She exemplifies the very idea that no matter what your background or circumstances, one can achieve great success. However, upon arrival, she believes that one is a public servant, with a first and fundamental responsibility to those who are unknown, unseen, unappreciated and unapplauded. Her life is a model of the old adage that "to whom much is given, much is required."

She is a champion of justice and a dynamic legislator that was instrumental in getting Morgan State College changed to Morgan State University and saving the Orchard Street Church, a site of the underground rail-

road, from destruction. When we needed a black caucus and a women's caucus in the Maryland legislature, a new Provident Hospital or any other improvement in our community, it was her unselfish public service that was at the creation. Whether the cause was the health of Maryland prisoners or rebuilding of Orchard Street Church or Morgan State's university status, it was public service that was at the forefront of her agenda.

Martin Luther King Sr. said, "You cannot lead where you do not go and you cannot teach what you do not know." She may not have known her influence on other people's lives but Delegate Lee has led and taught a countless number of Baltimoreans how to stand and fight for justice. And so tonight I publicly thank her for all that she has done not only to touch my life but to touch the world.

BUDGET BLUEPRINT KEEPS FAITH WITH ALL GENERATIONS

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, President Lincoln said, "You may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all of the people all the time." That observation is still true today. As complicated as our Federal budget is, most Americans know that the budget is not truly balanced until we take all of those extra Social Security taxes and no longer use them to make the deficit look smaller. The Republican budget which we will announce tomorrow and debate on this floor stops the practice of cooking the books with Social Security money and it does a lot more. I would like to present some of the highlights:

First, our budget blueprint ensures that every penny of Social Security taxes will be spent only for Social Security. For years, the conventional wisdom in Washington was that Social Security money in excess of current benefit payments could be used to finance deficit spending. So, while the baby boomers inched closer to retirement, folks in Washington were spending dollars borrowed from Social Security on other programs. And, worse, they were still running up big deficits, even counting Social Security money.

This has to stop. Under the Republican budget plan, it would. The President has promised to reserve 62 percent of the surplus for Social Security. This means that for a time, Social Security money would be spent on things other than Social Security. For example, the President's 30 new programs. In contrast, the Republican budget seals away every bit of the Social Security surplus.

Second, our budget blueprint keeps faith with the spending caps set in the

Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997. When I came to Congress, forecasters were predicting \$200 billion deficits growing to \$600 billion by the year 2009. Now, strong economic growth and spending discipline mandated by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 are projected to create ever-increasing surpluses, at least under the old way of keeping the books. But this is no time to let up. We must protect those surpluses by restraining the growth of Washington spending. The administration has been talking lately about a new virtuous cycle of surpluses and declining interest rates. There is no quicker way to return to a vicious cycle of deficit spending and higher interest rates than to abandon the hard-won spending caps from 1997. The Republican budget maintains our commitment to fiscal restraint.

Third, our budget blueprint begins the process of actually paying down the debt we are passing on to our children. Everyone would agree that we have a moral obligation to take care of our children. Part of this obligation is relieving our kids of the nearly \$6 trillion Federal debt. This is what I call generational fairness. The Republican budget plan would maintain our commitment to generational fairness by continuing the start we made last year on paying down some of the debt.

How would this work? Under our plan, Social Security taxes would be collected and locked away until a reform plan was enacted that would actually preserve the Social Security system. Until a specific fix is worked out, those excess funds would be used to pay off bonds owned by the public. This means it would be easier to meet future obligations to Social Security. And, Alan Greenspan tells us, it means lower interest rates.

Fourth, our budget blueprint makes possible reductions in the tax burden on American families as additional revenues become available. Americans are overtaxed. The average American family pays more in taxes than they do for food, clothing, shelter and transportation combined. That is wrong. The Republican budget plan makes strengthening Social Security our first priority. Then, as more surplus dollars become available, we believe Americans should start getting some of their excess taxes back. They should be given back as an overpayment, because that is what they are. Our plan recognizes that extra taxes left in Washington will get spent on new government programs that most folks neither want nor need. When we allowed Washington to start taking taxes out of our paycheck, we never said to Washington, "You can keep the change."

In sum, our budget plan reflects the priorities of the American people. It safeguards 100 percent of the Social Security money, unlike the President's plan, and keeps faith with our Nation's