

being held as human shields by Saddam Hussein and political prisoners from Cuban jails. Hold your head up Brother Jackson. You are somebody! Keep the faith! When you are feeling a little unappreciated, just remember.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thought that I should go to Andrews Airport Air Force Base yesterday to welcome Jesse Jackson home. Reverend Jackson had helped raise the consciousness of the nation to freedom concerns in the District of Columbia when he was statehood senator and lived here a few years ago. I thought that I should be there to greet him for bringing a freedom message to President Slobodan Milosevic, who heard Jesse Jackson and freed the three American servicemen.

I listened intently to Rev. Jackson's comments at the airport. He detailed how he had managed to free the three soldiers, and it was clear that he had done it with great care and skill without undermining U.S. foreign policy concerns and military aims. Reverend Jackson carried the NATO four conditions and urged them on Milosevic at the same time that he urged our country to look for diplomatic openings. Through the efforts of the former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who coincidentally arrived at Andrews shortly after the Jackson delegation, these openings are beginning to appear now. Rev. Jackson's work has not hurt our goals, and may have helped in ways we cannot yet know. What we do know is what Jesse Jackson, through an act of will and skill, has produced the three young men before the war's end. Jesse Jackson deserves credit not only for what he did but for the way he did it. Today's special order is a well deserved tribute.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize my good friend and colleague, Reverend Jesse Jackson, for his diplomacy in Yugoslavia and his work to bring an end to the crisis in Kosovo. Thanks to the work of Reverend Jackson and his delegation, three servicemen who had been held in Yugoslavia have been freed and allowed to return home safely. We must continue to take every measure possible to ensure the safe and expeditious return home of all the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have been dispatched to Yugoslavia.

In the same spirit, I hope that we can seize upon this moment to further these diplomatic efforts to bring about an immediate end to Slobodan Milosevic's campaign of terror. At this juncture, I am convinced that our best hope for peace and stability in the region is the negotiation of an immediate cease fire and the dispatch of an international peace keeping force. It is my strong belief that the United

States and NATO must reach out to the United Nations, Russia, China, and others to work together toward a new internationally negotiated peace agreement and to secure Serb compliance with any and all of its terms.

As a person who strongly believes in the teachings and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I profoundly subscribe to the principles of nonviolence and implore us to consider the teachings of Dr. King as we address the crisis in Kosovo. In speaking about the Vietnam war in his speech A Christmas Sermon on Peace found in his last book, *The Trumpet of Conscience*, Dr. King wrote: "But one day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means. All of this is saying that, in the final analysis, means and ends must cohere because the end is pre-existent in the means and ultimately destructive means cannot bring about constructive ends."

Based upon these principles of non-violence, it is with enthusiasm and pride that I applaud Reverend Jackson and his delegation for opening important, new diplomatic channels. While I have not seen Milosevic's letter to President Clinton, I am very hopeful that our President will view the letter as a possible opportunity to renew dialog to seek a political settlement to this horrific crisis. I pray that this will set in motion a process that ends the bloodshed in Yugoslavia and leads to sustainable and long-term peace in the Balkans.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 156, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Resolution commending the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. on securing the release of Specialist Steven Gonzales of Huntsville, Texas, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez of Los Angeles, California, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone of Smiths Creek, Michigan, from captivity in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### "WE, THE PEOPLE, CITIZEN AND CONSTITUTION PROGRAM"

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week more than 1,200 students from across the United States were here in Washington to compete in the national finals of the "We, the People, Citizen and Constitution Program."

I am proud to announce that a high school class from Polson High School in Polson, Montana, represented the State of Montana in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and, through this experience, have gained a deep respect and a greater knowledge and a greater understanding of the fundamental principles and the values of our constitutional Republic.

"We, the People" is the most extensive education program in the country that was developed to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. This program has provided classroom materials at elementary and middle and high school levels for more than 26½ million students across the country.

I am proud of the students from Polson, Montana, and I commend them for their dedication to a better understanding of their Government.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following newspaper article for the RECORD:

NONTENURED TEACHERS CUT: BOARD VOTES TO SLICE 60 POSITIONS TO HELP SAVE \$1M

(By Leslie McCartney)

The teaching contracts of more than 60 nontenured teachers will not be renewed, Helena School District trustees reluctantly voted Tuesday night.

The district is facing serious financial problems. The district is seeking ways to slice \$1 million expenses from its 1999-2000 school year budget.

"This is an unpleasant task," said Bill Razor, personnel program manager for the district.

Many of the trustees lamented the necessary move—by contract the district must give teachers notice—but it was not unexpected.

Tuesday's meeting included more proposed considerations for reductions as part of the ongoing budgeting process that has been consuming the district and the trustees for at least a month.

A new consideration presented to the board Tuesday included eliminating a \$15,000 contract for high school students with the Montana Science Institute, based at Canyon Ferry Lake.

Also discussed were a few revised proposals, including that of the gifted and talented program. The program would not be completely eliminated as was suggested earlier this month.

Under a new model, the district would retain two gifted and talented staff members to coordinate services and consult with classroom teachers.

"We're regrouping . . . maybe we're not quite ready to hand it off entirely." Superintendent Bruce Messinger noted.

Also revised was the issue of increasing class size, which of district hoped to boost to save money. Under a new proposal, class sizes in the early primary grades (kindergarten through second grade) (kindergarten through second grade) would stay small.

However, class sizes would be raised to 26 students in third grade, 28 in fourth grade and 30 in fifth grade. The changes in staffing, coupled with savings in physical education and the music program, could save \$116,000, according to district projections.

Trustees also mulled a revision in the "significant writing" program to cut four full-time positions at a savings of \$116,000.

This year's budget crunch is not an anomaly. Messenger presented a glimpse of a budget picture for the next four years that points to a further decline in enrollment. Enrollment in Montana is directly linked to the amount of funding a district receives.

"It's not going to get any prettier," said trustee Brenda Nordlund.

Many trustees also had strong words for the Legislature, which they accused of not paying attention to the plight of many of the state's larger districts that are unable to legally raise additional funds.

"We're pushing hard against the ceiling and it's coming down on us," Messenger noted.

The district's difficulties—along with the hours spent poring over numbers and finances—brought at least one trustee to near tears at the board meeting.

"I find this a tremendously humbling experience," said trustee Julie Mitchell.

She added that she realizes the district must pare its expenses, but the task is unpleasant and unavoidable.

"In the end we have to decide and someone's going to be mad," she said.

But she admonished both the public and trustees to remember that the district delivers a quality education and will continue to do so, in spite of the financial crunch.

"There are some incredibly cool things going on . . . we give our kids a fantastic education."

Trustees also reminded the public that none of the proposed reductions have been decided and urged continued public input.

"This is not set in concrete," Trustee Rich Moy said.

A public hearing on the budget is set for March 16.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that time allocated to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the time allocated to me be reversed on the schedule.

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

There was no objection.

#### IDEA FUNDING

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, today the House passed House Concurrent Resolution 84, which I think is important for a number of reasons. There is no higher priority, I believe, than our children's education.

I have a third grader and a fifth grader who attend Oscar Howell Elementary, the public school system in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in the Sioux Falls School District. The school board elec-

tion is coming up in June. There are no fewer than 12 people running for one position on the school board, and we will have the opportunity to choose a very qualified member of the school board. I am delighted to have that many people who are interested in seeking and holding that very important position.

The concurrent resolution that we passed today in the House was a non-binding resolution. But, nevertheless, I think is important, for several reasons. It compels the will of this House that special education be funded before any other new education initiatives are funded. That makes basic sense. The special education mandate, IDEA funding, is a Federal mandate and, therefore, should be federally funded.

Twenty years ago the Congress committed to fund special ed at 40 percent of the total funding level. We are not even close to that today, not even close. I am pleased that the Republican Congress in the last years has begun moving in that direction. In fact, we have backed up our rhetoric with our action.

If we look at where the President's budget has been in the last several budget years, in fiscal year 1997 the Republican Congress upped the President's request for IDEA funding for special ed by 19 percent. In 1998 we increased the funding level for special ed by 17 percent over the President's request. And in 1999 the Congress increased the level of spending over the President's request by 13 percent.

There is a pattern and a history and a commitment on the part of this Congress to see that the Federal Government honors the commitment that it has made to local school district across this country. So it is very important, I think, that this resolution expresses the will of the House that we will fully fund special ed and move in that direction.

The other thing I think is important with respect to this resolution is that whenever the Federal Government imposes mandates on local school districts and school boards, we take away and deprive them of critical decision-making authority.

I just mentioned that we have 12 people seeking the school board position for one position in the Sioux Falls School District. Using the resources that they have to fund the special ed mandate deprives them of using resources that could be allocated for other important things like building new schools, hiring new teachers, reducing class sizes, or buying more computers.

I will use my State of South Dakota as an example. If we were fully funding the mandate on special education today, we would be looking at an additional \$18 million coming into South Dakota. And if each State would look at their own statistics, I think they

would find similar types of relationships between the current funding levels and where it should be if the Federal Government was living up to the mandate.

As I said earlier, there is no higher priority than providing quality education to children with disabilities and at the same time freeing up resources that local decision-makers can use to improve the quality of education for all of our students across this country.

And so I believe that the vote that we made today in the House is important, as we move down that direction and look at what we can do to further increase the funding level, to honor the commitment that the Federal Government has made to the local school boards across this country, to see that those Federal mandates that we impose upon local school boards are fully funded so that our school districts and those decision-makers at the local level have an opportunity to do what they do best, and that is try and give our children the very best education possible.

And I again would simply say that, as a matter of principle, I believe that this Republican Congress is committed to seeing that more of that decision-making authority is retained at the local level and that our parents, our teachers, our administrators and our school boards are those who are in the best position to make decisions about the quality and the funding of our children's education. And that frankly, in my view, is where we ought to put the point of control.

And so the resolution that we acted upon today, I think, speaks loud and clear that this Congress will continue to move in the direction of seeing that the Federal mandate special education, which we have a responsibility for 40 percent of, that we continue to move in the direction, as we have here in the past few years in this Congress, to see that we honor that commitment to all of our students across this country and particularly to those who have disabilities.

I look forward to working toward that end and as we go through the appropriations process within the confines of a balanced budget agreement to see that that gets done.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 833, BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-126) on the resolution (H. Res. 158) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 833) to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.