

and to put it all together in a package so that my grandchildren will have the ability to have Btus available to them so they can live, yes, a better way. I believe that is crucially important.

Mr. GEKAS. The national goal under the energy policy which is embodied in the bill that we propose calls for our being energy independent in 10 years.

What do we have to do? Increase by any means possible the correct and environmentally safe drilling on domestic properties, on domestic lands, on our Federal lands or wherever it is possible in the western part of our Nation or in Alaska, as the gentleman has outlined, and utilizing all the other devices we may have, our technologies, for solar, for hydroelectric that are our own, waiting for us to use for our own purposes.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest that many people are very much unaware of the new demand on electrical power.

Twenty-five years ago we did not have that demand. The power being generated today, which we are now using mostly fossil fuels, natural gas, coal, no oil, but those two things, now the demand comes from that which we all take for granted, and that is the computer, the Internet.

The Internet alone, just the Internet, not the total, the Internet alone increased the consumption of electrical power 7 percent this year. Seven percent of our energy now is being used by the Internet.

Mr. GEKAS. Our bill, called the NRG bill, NRG, national resource governance, NRG, energy, calls for the establishment of a commission, a blue ribbon commission, which will put together all these various facets that we are talking about and balance them with conservation, good conservation methods, and provide for us within 10 years no longer to have to depend on OPEC oil or any foreign oil. That is a Declaration of Independence in energy that is on the horizon if only we will seize the opportunity.

What worse kind of position can the United States be in than to have to kneel in front of the OPEC countries to beg them to produce more oil, beg them to send us more oil, beg them to sell us more oil?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. If the gentleman will yield one more moment, I said before that the only energy policy the administration has had is a set of knee pads so they can beg. The inappropriate conduct of trying not to allow us to produce energy, all forms of energy, in the last 8 years, has brought us to this point.

We have to wake up. The gentleman's bill does it. I am proud to be a sponsor of it. I hope everybody that is listening, and I know I am not supposed to say this, but all my colleagues who are listening, I hope they understand we

had better approach this with the positive side of production.

We cannot, as we listen to AL GORE, conserve our way into self-sufficiency. That is impossible. Everybody knows it. As long as we are growing, and we are growing, our economy is growing, we have to have energy. That means all the forms of energy that we know, mankind is realizing today. To say no is wrong.

By the way, if I may, gas, natural gas, \$2.15 last year, \$5.40 today, it is going to \$6 because demand is so great. Many of the great fields that would have been drilled, should have been drilled, have been put off limits by this President and this Vice President.

Let us have a policy of energy development and deliveries to our people so we do not have to go back. Instead of issuing knee pads to every American so they can beg for energy, let us have the ability to say, I am American and we have our own power.

Mr. GEKAS. I ask our colleagues to cosponsor the NRG bill for self-sufficient energy in the United States.

#### THE PROBLEM OF HIV/AIDS AND METHODS TO COMBAT IT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the esteemed gentleman from California (Mr. DIXON) for joining me this afternoon as we discuss one of the most serious problems facing our country and, indeed, our world today, that is, the problem of HIV/AIDS and all of the problems associated with it, as well as talk about ways in which we can combat it.

Earlier today we passed the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Relief Act, which provides resources to fight this dreadful disease. I think our passage of this act today is further indication of how serious this Congress takes this problem and the approaches that we have begun to use in terms of providing resources to deal with it.

Although money is needed, and resources is one way of impacting positively the situation, there are other things that people can do that do in fact cost money, but sometimes not as much as we think. There are many agencies, organizations, and groups throughout America and throughout the world who are making use of themselves in every possible way to do what it is that they can to arrest this disease.

One of the areas that we have the most difficulty with is in teenagers. Despite the fact that most American teenagers are aware of methods for preventing pregnancy and STD infection, reports indicate that nearly half of

teenagers engage in unprotected sexual activity. In turn, morbidity and infection rates due to HIV continue to rise as young adults become one of the fastest-growing populations contracting HIV/AIDS.

In addition, recent reports estimate that at least 20 to 30 percent of young men may be infected with herpes simplex virus, regardless of sociological demographic background.

As a matter of fact, in some manner, we are all affected by the hardships of these diseases because they have placed hardships on our communities, no matter where we are or who we are. Consequently, programs dedicated to informing young adults about safe sex practices in an appropriate and effective manner are vital.

One such national effort is Project Alpha, which is a creation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, founded in 1906 at Cornell University, has the distinction of being the first intercollegiate fraternity established for African Americans. Since its inception, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity has provided voice and vision to the struggle of African Americans and people of color around the world.

Today Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, has approximately 150,000 members. Past and present members include noted sociologist W.E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., former Senator Ed Brooks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, former Congressman and ambassador Andrew Young, former Representative Bill Gray, who heads the United Negro College Fund, the noted author and activist, Paul Robeson, the gentleman from California (Mr. DIXON), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the gentlemen from New York (Mr. MEEKS and Mr. RANGEL), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

I, too, Mr. Speaker, am pleased to be a member of the Mu Mu Lambda chapter of this illustrious group, Alpha Phi Alpha, Incorporated.

Project Alpha, in the spirit of this powerful legacy, was established to address the major social, economic, and health problems related to troubling trends in teen pregnancy and STDs.

Since the early 1980s, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity has implemented the Project Alpha Program, along with the March of Dimes Foundation, and has taught thousands of young men about the consequences of STDs and teenage pregnancy from a male perspective.

Over the past 20 years, members of Alpha have worked with the staff and volunteers of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation to reach hundreds of communities and thousands of young men throughout America and the world.

In an effort to herald this program to the entire Nation, the second week of

October has been declared Project Alpha Week, and from October 7 to October 14 each chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha will devote time to reviewing the medical, legal, and socioeconomic issues involving teen pregnancy and STD infection with teens while encouraging responsible behavior.

I want to commend the brothers of Alpha and the Alpha Project, for without preventative programs such as this successful one, we will pay greatly in the future with higher rates of teen pregnancy and birth defects, higher rates of HIV and other STDs, and ultimately, a lower quality of life for all members of our society.

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Now, it is my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DIXON), the ranking member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, my brother, and fellow Alpha member.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois very much for yielding to me, and I am very pleased to join with him in this tribute, not only to the Alpha fraternity, but the fight and the cause.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to commemorate Project Alpha Week and to honor the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the March of Dimes for their efforts over the past 20 years on this project.

Project Alpha is a collaboration between Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the March of Dimes to reduce teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases by engaging young men before they have established risk-taking behavior patterns.

During the week of October 7 through 14, young men in communities across this Nation will participate in Project Alpha conferences.

Project Alpha is one of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's three national programs. These national programs, "Project Alpha," "Go to High School—Go to College," and "A Voteless People Is a Hopeless People" exemplify Alpha Phi Alpha's focus on assisting communities through leadership, scholarship, and service.

The curriculum at the Project Alpha conferences will stress three main elements, knowledge building, motivation and taking the message back.

In my hometown of Los Angeles, more than 200 young men are expected to benefit from Project Alpha programs this year. I would like to commend the 12 Southern California chapters who are participating in this year's program.

The program's financial supporters and presenters also should be recognized for their contributions to the community. This year's program will include Michael Cooper, former L.A. Laker star, and State Senator Teresa Hughes. Support is also being provided by the Magic Johnson Theater Cor-

poration; the New Leaders, an organization of young African-American professionals; and the Holman United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight another project that the Alpha Phi Alpha has spearheaded, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial project. I am honored to have worked with Alpha Phi Alpha to enact legislation to allow the King Memorial project to move forward.

In 1996, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and I carried the bill to authorize the memorial. In 1998, we passed legislation approving a permanent site on the National Mall for the King Memorial.

The fraternity has since established an independent foundation to coordinate this project and is engaged in raising funds for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. I am very proud that the effort to honor Dr. King, a man of unique national stature, with a memorial in the Nation's capital has transcended the fraternity and become a project of national significance.

The commitment to community that Alpha Phi Alpha instills in its members is exemplary. I am honored to be a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and I am pleased to commend both Alpha Phi Alpha and the March of Dimes for their efforts on Project Alpha.

From Project Alpha to the King Memorial to helping to shape generations of great African-American men, Alpha Phi Alpha has contributed so much to our Nation. I am very proud of the brothers that serve in the Congress of the United States with me who are members of the Alpha Fraternity.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, let me just ask the gentleman from California (Mr. DIXON), we know that HIV-related illness and death now have the greatest impact on young people. As a matter of fact, AIDS is the leading cause of death among Americans 25 to 44 years old. In this same age group, AIDS now account, on an average, for one in every three deaths among African-American men and one in five deaths in African-American women.

Between 1990 and 1995, AIDS incidents among people 13 to 25 years old rose nearly 20 percent. While AIDS incidents among both young gay and bisexual men and young injecting drug users was relatively constant during this time period, AIDS incidents among young heterosexual men and women rose more than 130 percent.

In a project like Project Alpha, what is it that one can say or what does one say to young people to try and impact upon them the serious consequences of certain kinds of behavior?

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I think that one does two things, and Project Alpha reaches to both of them. One, one can explain

to them the impact on the community as it relates to health, as it relates to future planning for a young person. Two, one can explain to them and make clear to them that this kind of epidemic can be avoided if they control themselves and practice what is traditionally called safe sex.

There is probably no greater threat to minority communities today than the national health problem of HIV infection. So to reach out to young men 16, 17, of college age to spread information and to make them realize the danger I think is a great public service.

But just as important, I think that we have to make the entire minority community aware of this danger, and we cannot stress it too much because, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) indicated from his facts, it is a growing concern; and the facts continue to show that the spread in the minority communities is running ahead of the spread in the majority communities.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank the gentleman from California, not only for his participation and his leadership here in the Congress but also his willingness in the community where he lives to be involved, to be interactive with young people, and to try and help them to understand how they can improve the quality of life, not only for themselves, but for others. We certainly appreciate his assistance.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for taking the time to spread the word. It is an honor for me to serve with him and my other colleagues, not only as I said in the House of Representatives, but as members in the same fraternity.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure now to yield time to the distinguished gentleman from the City of Brotherly Love, Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), who not only provides great leadership in the field of education, which means that he is a natural to be involved in this kind of project, but who is an inspiration to all of those who have known and worked with him for years.

I am proud to call him, not only my colleague, but also my Alpha brother.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the City of Chicago, who is a fraternity brother of mine.

I come to the floor just ever so briefly just to add my voice in support for this effort. It really is a substantial effort that, even if I was not a member of this great fraternity, I would be supportive of it, because it really gets at the heart of where we need to be, and that is communicating with individual young men and with our young people in a way which is relevant in terms of the choices that they have to make, the choice points that they confront,

that will have an impact on their life chances in a way that they cannot even imagine at 12 and 13 and 14 and 15 years of age.

So I just want to thank the gentleman from Illinois for carving out this special order for a very special message. I want to thank all of my fraternity brothers throughout this country and, in fact, beyond the national borders of this country who are committed to education and committed to this effort in particular in terms of raising the awareness of young people about the choices that they have to make, and the fact that, if they make the right choice, they stand to reap the reward, and if they make the wrong choice, not only do they suffer the consequence, but our entire community and our society suffer the consequences of the choices, assuming they make the wrong one.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and my other Alpha brothers.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, listening to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), there is no one that I know of who is more concerned about education. I remember one of the incidents that happened that sort of reinforced that. I remember the President had invited the gentleman from Pennsylvania and his family to the White House as he was about to sign one of the gentleman's bills. The gentleman from Pennsylvania decided that his son needed to go to school that day, that he could not come.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, our fraternity had the "Stay in School and Go to College." That was one of the very early programs of the Alphas. My son had a perfect attendance up through his high school graduation, and it was an important choice. But, nonetheless, his record of a perfect attendance was important to him and acknowledgment of the importance that we place on education. So now he is a freshman in college. He is doing well.

I think it is important that we as adults indicate to young people where they need to place their value. Hobnobbing at the White House is one thing, but learning and earning a diploma and eventually a degree so that one day one can be in the White House as the resident of it, as the Chief Executive, is a much more important goal in life.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), one who does, in fact, also have perfect attendance, especially perfect attendance when it comes to representing the needs, hopes and aspirations of his people and representing the effort to make America a better Nation in which to live.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my colleague and Alpha brother, for scheduling this

special order this afternoon. I am delighted that we have an opportunity through this special order to talk about the proud history of Alpha Phi Alpha and its ongoing nationwide efforts to meet some of the critical needs of the African-American community.

We have already heard, men of Alpha Phi Alpha have had a strong positive impact on our society in every profession and in every field of endeavor. I am fortunate to serve with many of our Alpha colleagues: The gentleman from the 15th Congressional District of New York (Mr. RANGEL), the gentleman from the 32nd Congressional District of California (Mr. DIXON), the gentleman from the 7th Congressional District of Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD), the gentleman from the 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the gentleman from the 6th Congressional District of New York (Mr. MEEKS).

We follow the proud footsteps of Adam Clayton Powell who was elected in Congress in the late 1940s and many other Alpha brothers who have served in Congress and prepared the pathway for numerous other Alpha brothers who serve in public office at the local, State and Federal levels.

Alphas can also claim three of the big four Civil Rights movements. So when one considers the members of this distinguished fraternity, it should come at no surprise that Alpha brothers would be in the leadership of addressing some of our most serious social problems. Whitney Young, Martin Luther King, Floyd McKessick were also in the forefront as Alpha brothers in the civil rights movement. They focused on the right to vote. As has already been indicated, one of the early slogans of the fraternity was "A voteless people is a hopeless people." Because of this focus, the Martin Luther King Memorial is so appropriate, and we are proud to have an Alpha member so honored.

We also must not forget the late Thurgood Marshall who argued the Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*, which desegregated public schools and led to the fall of Jim Crow laws everywhere. That is important to note because education has been such a critical issue in the Alpha history.

"Go to high school, go to college" was another early slogan, an early program in Alpha Phi Alpha. Project Alpha is another one of those important projects.

Young African-American males today face many challenges, truancy, illiteracy, drugs, violence and teen fatherhood. And those needs need to be addressed. That is why the week of October 7 through October 14 will be Project Alpha week, focusing on Project Alpha.

For some 20 years, now, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity has worked with the March of Dimes in an effort to respond to the challenges facing young black males. Project Alpha is a result of this

project, and its mission has been to create a national program to prepare young men for the roles that they will be expected to assume in their adulthood.

In communities throughout this country, Project Alpha has created safe havens for young men to learn about and explore ways to develop protective factors to minimize the impact of the social hazards which are present today.

Project Alpha provides education on sexuality, fatherhood, and the role of men in responsible relationships. It motivates young men to make smart decisions about their future and to take an active role in achieving their desired goals. It is a daunting task that Project Alpha has taken on.

Young black men today face many obstacles on their road to adulthood. African-American males continue to lag behind their female counterparts in most measures of academic progress. It is particularly unfortunate to note that 25 percent of all black men can expect to have some contact with the criminal justice system.

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We know already that nationally 3 out of every 10 young black males are in jail, prison, on probation, or otherwise involved in the criminal justice system. While unemployment levels for African Americans are at an all-time low, the rate continues to be unacceptable in many urban communities, and this presents yet another risk factor for young African American males.

By focusing on those 12 to 15, Project Alpha lays the groundwork early for developing the protective factors that reduces the likelihood of teen fatherhood and the associated risks that result from teen pregnancy. By providing positive role models from the community, Project Alpha teaches the participants about the social, economic and personal consequences of early fatherhood. And by reducing the rate of teen pregnancy, we are improving the likelihood that these young men will stay in school, stay away from drug use and other negative behaviors.

That is why we congratulate the Alpha Phi Alpha in designating October 7 through 14 as Project Alpha Week. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my brother Alpha member, for holding this special order this afternoon. I applaud the members of Alpha Phi Alpha and the March of Dimes for their continued commitment to improving the lives of young African American males in the African American community and again congratulate the gentleman on holding this special order.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the gentleman very much, and I would like to get the gentleman's reaction, if I could, to how much on target Project Alpha is.

A study by the National Cancer Institute confirms existent data which reveals that as each generation comes of

age, there is a substantial increase in the rate of infection as individuals enter their late teens and early 20s, with infection peaking in the mid to late 20s. Sustained, targeted prevention for each group entering young adulthood is what will keep these waves from developing.

Behavioral science has also shown that a balance of prevention messages is important for young people, and that total abstinence from sexual activity is the only sure way to prevent sexual transmission of HIV infection. Despite all of the efforts, some young people may still engage in sexual intercourse that puts them at risk for HIV and other STDs. For these individuals, the correct and consistent use of latex condoms has been shown to be highly effective in preventing the transmission of HIV and other STDs.

How important does the gentleman think it is for older, and I would not necessarily say that all the Members of Alpha Phi Alpha are old, but more mature members of our society to share concepts, ideas and experiences with younger people, as this project kind of attempts to do, in steering them in a more appropriate direction? And would the gentleman have any challenge for other groups and organizations as to how they can be more helpful?

Mr. SCOTT. Well, I think the gentleman's question really answers itself. The course in Project Alpha, and I have participated in many of the activities at the national convention and in classes in Project Alpha in my own home community in Virginia, and they teach responsibility, they teach abstinence, they teach safe sex; and it is done in such a way that they have the role models from the community coming in and explaining the importance of avoiding teen pregnancy and avoiding the sexually transmitted diseases.

These kinds of role models, I think, can show that they do have a future. One of the high risk factors of getting into trouble is when young people do not feel that they have a future. They tend to involve themselves in more risky behaviors because they think they have nothing to lose. When they see role models and can see a path, particularly a continuum of role models, some of the older ones, like the gentleman, and younger ones, like me, and even younger ones, they can see that they have a future within their life. They see that there are jobs available and careers available. And to the extent that they involve themselves in risky behaviors, they place that future at risk.

So we challenge other groups to get involved in the same kinds of interaction with our young people, because we can have a significant impact in keeping them out of trouble to begin with and keeping them on the right track, and that is why Project Alpha is so important.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Let me just thank the gentleman for his response and for his participation. People throw out accolades, and sometimes they are meaningful and sometimes not as meaningful; but when it comes to role modeling, I would certainly think that the gentleman has been and continues to be one, not only as a Member of Congress but also in the community where the gentleman lives and works. So I want to thank the gentleman for coming and for sharing with us this afternoon.

Mr. SCOTT. I thank the gentleman as well, and I would want to point out that the gentleman himself has been a stalwart advocate of civil rights and voting rights. Just yesterday, we had a special order involving voting rights and the importance of voting, and my fellow fraternity brother has been one of the leaders in that effort.

I want to congratulate the gentleman on his leadership. He has a long history of public service, going back to local government in Chicago, and that certainly shows that the gentleman is a role model and an Alpha that everyone can be proud of.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Well, I thank the gentleman. As we have discussed this afternoon and we have pointed out, all of our speakers have, the impact of HIV and AIDS in the African American community, we know that it has indeed been devastating. As a matter of fact, through December of 1998, the Center for Disease Control had received reports of 688,200 AIDS cases. And of those, 251,408 cases occurred among African Americans. Representing only an estimated 12 percent of the total United States population, African Americans make up almost 37 percent of all AIDS cases reported in this country.

Researchers estimate that 240,000 to 325,000 African Americans, about one in 50 African American men and one in 160 African American women, are infected with HIV. Of those infected with HIV, it is estimated that more than 106,000 African Americans are living with AIDS. So when we see a program like Project Alpha, there is no doubt about its importance in mentoring, educating and encouraging young adults to be responsible during their teen years and beyond.

According to the CDC, 10 national studies have shown that education programs increase safer sex practices among young people who are sexually active. These programs also lead to abstinence, fewer sexual partners, and increased and more effective use of contraception among young men and women.

The other major objective of Project Alpha is teen pregnancy reduction from a male perspective. And although teen birth rates experienced a decline between 1991 and 1996 across all ethnic and economic groups, the country is

beginning to see a new surge in pregnant women under 20 years of age. Some important facts to consider are: the United States has the highest pregnancy rate of all developed countries. About 1 million teenagers become pregnant each year, of which 95 percent are unintended. Public cost as a result totaled \$120 billion between 1985 and 1990, a circumstance that may resume if current trends continue. It is estimated that \$48 billion could have been saved if birth had been postponed.

Eleven States are implementing comprehensive integrated youth programs to prevent teen pregnancies. While others have assistance programs, the Department of Health and Human Services' recent annual report reveals that 32 States have no specified goals regarding this issue. However, Project Alpha has vision with long-range benefits: to reduce teenage pregnancy, thereby reducing child poverty; reducing high school dropout rates and boosting the probability that young adults can fully achieve their potential.

Furthermore, realizing that these programs are traditionally targeted towards raising awareness in young women, Project Alpha focuses on reaching young men, an important yet often overlooked factor in the teen pregnancy problem. By educating young men about contraception and emphasizing personal responsibility, positive changes in attitude and behavior can make a positive difference.

Finally, again, I would like to congratulate Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the March of Dimes for recognizing the need for Project Alpha and holding a week that not only serves young Americans in our communities nationwide, but also fulfills the alpha pledge: First of All, Servant of All. Does the gentleman have any other comments?

Mr. SCOTT. I would just like to thank the March of Dimes and Project Alpha for providing this guidance to our young citizens, and I thank the gentleman for organizing this special order.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman once again, and First of All, Servant of All, we shall transcend all.

#### REPUBLICAN PLAN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, what I would like to do is to take a few minutes this afternoon and to begin a discussion with those Members who have been a part of what we have been doing with economic development, a plan by the Republican Party, House and Senate. This plan gives us an opportunity