

HONORING THE HONORABLE LINDEN FORBES SAMPSON BURNHAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on this the 34th anniversary of the independence of Guyana, I rise to honor the memory and celebrate the achievements of the Honorable Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, the former President of Guyana, and one of the most charismatic political personalities in the Caribbean region and in the Third World community. The Hon. Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, like his contemporary and compatriot, Cheddie Jagan, enjoyed a political career that was unique and unparalleled.

Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham was born on February 20, 1923, in the village of Kitty, in the County of Demerara, in the nation of Guyana. He was the son of James Burnham, a Headmaster and Rachael Sampson, a housewife. From his parents, he inherited a profound love of learning and an intimate knowledge of the Bible.

Forbes Burnham was educated at Queens College in Guyana, London University and Gray's Inn in London, England. Upon his return from London, he embarked upon a political career that was nothing short of remarkable. He was a co-founder of the People's Progressive Party and was appointed Minister of Education in the first democratically elected government in Guyana. After the split with the People's Progressive Party, he founded the People's National Congress and became Leader of the Opposition in 1957. In 1966, he became Prime Minister of an independent Guyana and, in 1980, became the first President of the Republic of Guyana.

From his early years, Forbes Burnham had exhibited signs of academic brilliance. His keen intellect, sharp wit, photographic memory and awesome gift of public speaking, made Forbes Burnham a formidable political figure in Guyana, in the Caribbean and in the Third World. Forbes Burnham was in many respects a larger than life figure—a voracious reader of books, a passionate lover of the arts, a connoisseur of fine food, exotic wines and expensive cigars. He was in many respects the Caribbean Renaissance Man.

However, Forbes Burnham was more than a Renaissance Man. He was a Guyanese nationalist committed to the political and economic empowerment of his nation. He remained a dedicated advocate for the working class and remained President of the Guyan Labor Union for most of his career. He was a passionate supporter of Caribbean integration and Third World empowerment. Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham remains one of the most remarkable political personalities in the history of the Caribbean.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. JOE SAMUEL RATLIFF FOR HIS 30TH YEAR IN THE MINISTRY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff, of Brentwood Baptist Church. Tomorrow, on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, the congregation of Brentwood Baptist Church will honor Pastor Ratliff for the many contributions he has made over the last 30 years in the name of the Lord.

Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff, a native of Lumberton, North Carolina, received his Bachelor of Arts in History, from Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. He received both the Doctorate of Ministry and Doctorate of Divinity degrees from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He has done post-doctoral work at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

It is difficult to imagine what the Houston community would be like today had Dr. Ratliff not been called to become Pastor of Brentwood in 1980. We have been truly blessed to have a man with his sense of dedication and selflessness among us. In 1993, Dr. Ratliff co-authored the book, *Church Planting in the African-American Community* (Broadman Press). He was named the first African-American Moderator of the Union Baptist Association . . . the nation's largest urban Southern Baptist body, consisting of 250,000 members in 1994. In March of 1997, his portrait was hung in the Hall of Fame in the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on the Morehouse College Campus. Under Pastor Ratliff's leadership, the Brentwood family has grown to 10,000 strong over the last 30 years.

Pastor Ratliff's time with the ministry has allowed him to develop a strong support network that extends outside the church. Dr. Ratliff currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Morehouse School of Religion and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Interdenominational Theological Center. Dr. Ratliff is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is married to Mrs. Doris Gardner Ratliff.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my fellow members of the 106th Congress to join me in saluting Pastor Joe Samuel Ratliff. Self-evident is his lifelong journey to enhancing the dignity and nurturing the spirits of all people. I am grateful that there are people like that who serve as examples of what we all should strive to be.

REGARDING THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN TAIWAN

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, Taiwan will inaugurate a

May 17, 2000

new democratically elected president and vice president. Mr. Chen Shuibian and his partner, Ms. Annette Lu, were elected president and vice president of Taiwan on March 18, 2000. Their historic victory marked only the second time that a direct presidential election was held on Chinese soil, and the first time in China's modern history that the opposition party candidates won. Together, Chen and Lu will relieve the ruling Nationalist party of its executive power.

This stunning victory directly resulted from Taiwan's unwavering progress toward democratization during the past fifteen years. Today, Taiwan validates itself as a mature, successful democracy. We should be proud of its political transformation, and wish Taiwan well in its future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to send Chen and Lu our congratulations, and would like to reaffirm the United States' pledge of support for the democratic ideals bravely achieved by the Taiwanese people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNET TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2000

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Chairman HYDE, Administrative and Commercial Law Subcommittee Chairman GEKAS and Ranking Member NADLER in introducing the "Internet Tax Simplification Act of 2000." We are introducing this legislation at the request of a group of Advisory Commission on Commerce Members led by Utah Governor Micahel Leavitt. Several weeks ago we introduced H.R. 4267 at the request of a group of Advisory Commissioners led by Virginia Governor James Gilmore.

This bill would amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act to extend by five years the moratorium on State and local taxes on Internet access and extend for two years the moratorium on multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. It encourages the States to work cooperatively with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to develop a simplified and uniform sales and use tax. The legislation also authorizes an interstate sales and use tax compact providing for a uniform sales and use tax system, authorizes the States to simplify their use tax rates, and authorizes those States which enter into the compact to collect use taxes on remote sales. Finally, the bill encourages States to work cooperatively with the telecommunications industry and other relevant groups to reduce the complexity of complying with State and local telecommunications taxes.

We will be holding hearings on this bill and H.R. 4460 tomorrow, and it is my hope and expectation that we can quickly move to markup and legislative action. There are few economic issues before our committee which are more important than simplifying the sales tax and failure to act on this issue will harm all interested parties—retailers (both electronic and otherwise), State and local governments and consumers.