

a bipartisan manner to curb this looming energy crisis.

#### HONORING DR. MARTIN OF GREAT BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM

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 rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Elmer Martin, cofounder and president of the Great Blacks in Wax Museum located in my district of Baltimore.

Dr. Martin can very well be described as an educator and historian. In fact, he was well-educated, earning a Bachelor's Degree in sociology from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri in 1968, a Master's Degree from Atlanta University in 1971, and a doctorate in social welfare from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1975. Dr. Martin was a professor at Morgan State University and also an author of several books dealing with the African American community.

The adjectives that I believe most aptly describe Dr. Martin's spirit are "visionary" and "dreamer." Dr. Martin had a vision of how to breathe life into African American history. He envisioned a museum that would tell the story of a people stripped of their culture, language, families and religion and brought to a foreign land to survive as slaves; the story of a people that, despite this injustice and years of continued racial strife, has still triumphed. Dr. Martin's dream was to instill pride in African Americans while at the same time educating this Nation about our history and culture.

His dream became reality in early 1980 when he bought a store front with \$30,000 he had saved to purchase a home and opened the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, the first wax museum dedicated to African American history. He initially commissioned four wax figures—Frederick Douglass, Mary McLeod Bethune, Harriet Tubman, and Nat Turner—which were hauled to schools, churches and malls for history lessons. The figures were popular at the museum and the museum was on its way.

What better way to memorialize the story of African Americans than through life size wax figures and scenes of historic events. From slave ships to enslavement, through reconstruction and Jim Crow, before and after segregation and throughout the present civil rights era, every period of African American history is presented. The museum honors African Americans that played key roles during each of these periods, slaves, abolitionists, educators, religious leaders, politicians, civil rights activists and inventors.

Not only did he found a museum, but Dr. Martin's mission included youth

advocacy, classroom and cultural awareness programs. Further, employment and job training programs are sponsored to encourage at-risk youth to develop their entrepreneurial skills. Community service is also a focus, providing citizens the opportunity to improve their neighborhoods while taking part in cultural activities.

Today, the museum is a 10,000 square foot facility located in a community rich with its own African American history and attracts about 275,000 visitors annually. It is a tribute not only to African Americans but now to its founder, Dr. Martin. Sadly, last week Dr. Martin passed. However, his dream still lives on.

Every person that visits the Great Blacks in Wax Museum will get an education not only in African American history but the history of this Nation, for our history is this Nation's history. Every person that visits the museum will feel the aura that exudes from the realistic figures of those persons that made significant contributions to the African American community and this Nation. And every person that visits the museum will leave with an understanding of how a race of people turned strife and struggle into victory. Yes, Dr. Martin's dream of educating us about African Americans will live on.

In paying tribute to this great dreamer and visionary and his family, I encourage all Members of this body to visit the Great Blacks in Wax Museum and personally experience Dr. Martin's dream. Finally, I say thank you to a great dreamer. And, as he stated, "Thank you to that higher power that grants all dreamers the courage to dream."

#### STANDARD TRADE NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY, LABOR AND ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, during the last 2 weeks, I have introduced the House to my Standard Trade Negotiating Authority Act that I have introduced which in my view offers a new approach to trade promotion authority.

I have highlighted the portion of the bill which provides for a congressional preauthorization process, increasing accountability and transparency in trade policy. Beyond that, H.R. 1446 allows for full and appropriate consideration of labor and environmental issues as important trade agreements are negotiated.

We know that not every trade agreement raises blue and green concerns. For example, labor and environmental provisions are not appropriate to append to financial services or competition policy agreements. However,

where serious disparities exist between America and a potential trading partner in the scope or enforcement of workplace protections, labor rights or environmental regulation, so much so that normal social costs become a significant competitive disadvantage in attracting or retaining jobs, under these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, our trade negotiators should be allowed to encompass basic labor and environmental standards as part of an enforceable agreement.

Most Americans recognize that some of our trading partners do not give workers the right to strike or the right to organize. Some do not give workers livable working conditions or guarantee workplace safety. We need to be able to establish a level playing field for our workers competing in the global marketplace through agreements that will protect the environment and workers and promote a healthy economic competition that strengthens and promotes and expands American values.

My bill ensures that no country could engage in a race to the bottom in order to lure jobs by sacrificing the environment or debasing the common rights of its citizens. This bill provides for an assessment of labor and environmental issues with every potential trading partner when the President indicates to Congress he would like to begin negotiations. By establishing a commission made up of representatives of government and private agencies with real expertise in these areas, my bill addresses blue and green concerns at the start of the process instead of as an afterthought.

The commission, once created, will assess the labor and environmental standards of the countries involved, the enforcement and implementation of those standards, and make recommendations on how to comply with the objectives set forth by Congress. Congress and the President would then review the commission's findings and include applicable language in the preauthorization that as a part of its scope would address specific labor and environmental concerns with that country.

Mr. Speaker, this fundamental reform of fast track brings labor and environmental issues into the appropriate focus in trade policy. It represents a conceptual compromise on how to incorporate these very real issues into trade policy. We should be confident that a voluntary exchange of goods and services will buttress our values and strengthen the rights of workers in countries that do business in our market and create an economy that in the long run financially supports environmental challenges.

I urge my colleagues to think about trade policy reform outside of the box, avoiding a debate of sterile extremes that all too often has blighted fast