

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, February 11, 1998

The House met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 11, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

With gratitude and humility, with praise and appreciation, we offer our words of thanksgiving, O God, and seek Your blessings upon us and what we do.

Most earnestly this day we pray for those in this assembly to whom great responsibility has been given and from whom the critical decisions must come. For wisdom in the right use of power, we pray; for insight into the serious judgments that must be made for the welfare of all people, we pray; for discernment and knowledge in the search for peace in our world, we offer our petitions and our hopes.

May Your abiding presence, O God, encourage us in all things, so that justice rolls down as water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUTIERREZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO CENSUS MONITORING BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 210(c)(1) of Public Law 105-119, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following individuals on the part of the House to the Census Monitoring Board:

Mr. J. Kenneth Blackwell of Ohio and Mr. David W. Murray of Virginia.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON MAINTAINING UNITED STATES NUCLEAR WEAPONS EXPERTISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 3162(b) of Public Law 104-201, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Commission on Maintaining United States Nuclear Weapons Expertise:

Mr. Robert B. Barker of California and Mr. Roland F. Herbst of California.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 955(b)(1)(B) of Public Law 105-83, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the National Council on the Arts.

Mr. DOOLITTLE of California and Mr. BALLENGER of North Carolina.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 491 of the Higher Education Act, as amended by section 407 of Public Law 99-498, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a 3-year term.

Mr. Henry Givens of Missouri.

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA WEINBRECHT

(Mrs. ROUKEMA asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise enthusiastically on behalf of the United States Congress and the people of New Jersey to congratulate the Olympic legend, Donna Weinbrecht of West Milford, New Jersey. Donna has been the foundation of the U.S. freestyle team for 11 years, and over her career she has won an Olympic gold medal, seven U.S. titles and 5 World Cup championships. These championship performances are what has earned her the international reputation as the Queen of the Moguls.

But Donna Weinbrecht is more than the winningest skier in U.S. history. She is a mentor and road model for our young people and a credit to our Nation for the excellence in all she does. This young woman from New Jersey is an inspiration to both athletes and non-athletes alike. Her sterling character, hard work, unending dedication and thorough mastery of her sport has made her a role model for young people across the Nation.

But her impact on her sport goes beyond trophies and honors. She has also served as a sports goodwill ambassador, and has brought the energetic promotion of freestyle skiing, or the "bumps," as they are known, to Olympians all around the world.

Carolyn and Jim Weinbrecht, her parents, had to stay home this time because of illness, but her brother and sister, Jim and Joy are there, and they are a family that has always been there for each other.

My colleagues and I now join Donna's family, the residents of West Milford, the citizens of New Jersey, and, indeed, of our whole Nation, in saluting our Olympic champion. Donna has always been a gold medal champion in our hearts, and always will be. She has carried our flag proudly.

ALLOW PUERTO RICO SELF-DETERMINATION

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 856, a bill allowing the people of Puerto Rico to exercise their right to self-determination.

After 99 years of being disenfranchised citizens, the 3.8 million U.S. Citizens of Puerto Rico have earned their right to define their relationship

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

with the rest of the Nation. Puerto Ricans have valiantly and honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces and have been involved in every major armed conflict, starting with World War I. Many Puerto Ricans have sacrificed their lives to preserve the goals of the United States. Currently there are 146,000 war veterans residing in Puerto Rico. The number of Puerto Rican men and women serving in the Armed Forces has exceeded the number of soldiers serving from many larger States.

The Korean War in particular highlights the noteworthy sacrifices of the people of Puerto Rico. In per capita terms, Puerto Rico ranks second in the Nation with respect to the number of men and women who died in that war. Moreover, the 65th Infantry Regiment, composed entirely of Puerto Ricans, was the most highly decorated regiment in the world, receiving the Presidential Unit Citation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Republic of Korea Presidential Citations, and the Bravery Gold Medal of Greece.

Clearly, Puerto Rico has made critical contributions with the blood and sweat of its own to defend democracy and freedom throughout the world.

The Puerto Ricans have been diligent in serving the Nation when called. Should not the U.S. Congress be diligent in granting their earned right to self-determination?

I urge Members to support H.R. 856.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AN AFFRONT TO AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, there are many reasons that I oppose the President's recently submitted budget request, but none more important than the fact that it raises taxes. It raises taxes a lot.

Mr. Speaker, you would think that the White House would have learned its lesson from the last time it raised taxes on the American people in 1993. You would think that the White House would have learned its lesson from the recent race for Governor in Virginia. You would think that the White House would have learned its lesson from the outrageous level of taxation in Europe and all the economic misery that has caused. You would think the White House would have learned its lesson from its own economic report, which shows that the current level of taxation in this country is at the highest peacetime level ever.

But I guess not. The budget contains billions and billions of dollars in tax increases.

Mr. Speaker, this budget is an affront to the American taxpayer.

VERIFYING CITIZENSHIP BEFORE VOTING IN CONGRESS

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are proposing to disenfranchise, degrade and demonize millions of American citizens. Under their legislation, H.R. 1488, certain voters will be singled out, purged from the voting rolls, and forced to prove that they are truly citizens.

I believe Members of Congress should go through the same humiliating exercise. After all, using the Republicans' own logic, we must assume that any votes cast in this body could be tainted until we check the status of those who vote here.

Therefore, I am urging that any further congressional votes be suspended until we verify the citizenship of every single Member of the U.S. House. I ask that the Sergeant at Arms revoke the voting card of any Member of Congress who cannot immediately produce an Immigration Service or Social Security document proving that he or she is indeed a citizen of the United States.

If the Republicans want to protect the integrity of the voting process in precincts around the country, we should start with the voting process here in Congress. It does not seem to bother the GOP when the rights of millions of American voters are at stake. Maybe they will think differently if their rights are at stake, at risk, and their character under attack.

ACCURACY IN CAMPUS CRIME REPORTING ACT

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago, USA Today, in its lead editorial, strongly endorsed the Accuracy in Campus Crime Reporting Act. This bill, H.R. 715, is one that I introduced, which now has 65 cosponsors, divided almost equally between Republicans and Democrats. As USA Today said, "As long as campus courts operate in secret, students committing crimes get a privacy right denied to the rest of adults."

That is what this bill is all about. It is about opening up the records of crimes being committed at campuses. A college or university that does not have a crime problem should have no objections to this bill. But parents and students should be allowed to know if certain colleges are lax about law enforcement.

Many colleges prefer to discipline student criminals in secret campus courts. They use a warped interpretation of Federal privacy laws to treat these crimes as private academic

records that may not be released to the public.

No one has any business knowing about a student's grades or financial aid records, but it is wrong, however, when the definition of privacy is used to protect rapists and murderers.

USA Today summed it up best by concluding "It is a sad state of affairs when an act of Congress is necessary for the Education Department to protect students' safety."

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 715, a bipartisan bill that will change the definition of privacy to exclude campus criminal activity.

USE AMERICAN TROOPS TO GUARD AMERICAN BORDER

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Immigration and Naturalization Service in some of their offices have error rates as high as 99 percent in reviewing applications, according to a recent study. In addition, 13,000 immigrants bought citizenship with illegal payoffs and bribes.

Now, if that is not enough to compromise your disgust, check this out: The INS says keep the military off the borders, Congress.

Unbelievable. These same bungling, incompetent nincompoops who have allowed heroin and cocaine to be easier to get than aspirin, who have our borders overrun with illegal immigrants, now want the border all to themselves.

Beam me up. The American people want Congress to secure our borders. Let me say this, Congress: If American troops can guard borders for the United Nations all over the world, American troops can guard the American border at home for the American people.

I think we should investigate those bungling nincompoops at the INS.

I yield back the 1 percent positive rate they have.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, after more than a year of stalling, the Republican leadership has finally agreed to schedule a vote on campaign finance reform this spring. I am thrilled about that. The question, though, is a vote on what? Will it be a vote on real reform, which includes a ban on unregulated soft money and more disclosure, like the American people want? Or will it be a vacant or destructive bill that is soft pedaled as reform?

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge you to do the right thing by bringing a bill

that includes real reform to the floor for a vote. The American people will not settle for anything less.

CALLING FOR A VOTE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from Oregon, (Ms. HOOLEY) for her tenacity on an issue that I think is one of the most important issues that this body, this Congress, in this session should be working on, and that is campaign finance reform.

We have had numerous conversations with the Speaker, trying to get a promise from him to bring this measure up. TRENT LOTT in the Senate has agreed to allow the McCain-Feingold bill to come forward.

We have the perfect vehicle on the House side. A freshman task force has been working for the better part of a year, six Republicans, six freshman Democrats, in trying to get the poison pills out of a good finance reform bill, and believe we have done that.

We have numerous cosponsors from across the aisle, and I am asking today for the Speaker and the leaders in this House to at least allow us to bring this issue up for a full debate and for consideration and for a vote on this bill this spring.

I hear from my constituents in western Wisconsin that they do not expect me to take no for an answer, and figure out a way to get big money and the influence of money out of politics.

□ 1515

I think now is the day that we should act. The time has come, and I commend my freshman colleagues who have been working for the better part of a year to make that day a reality.

"1-800-CAR-FIND ACT"

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, this morning New Jersey's families woke up to a story in the Bergen Record newspaper that is becoming all too familiar. Car thefts are up once again. This time it is at Newark Airport, a growing international airport that we are counting on to spur North Jersey's economy well into the 21st century.

The 83 percent increase in stolen cars at Newark Airport means that 83 percent more New Jersey families traveling via Newark Airport are dealing with the possibility that their car will be stolen. Beyond the personal trauma and the hassles of getting their lives back in order, these families will have

to bear significant costs. That is why I am urging my colleagues to take up the "1-800-CAR-FIND" bill that is currently awaiting action in the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Committee on the Judiciary.

As a member of that subcommittee, I can assure my colleagues that I will strongly support the "1-800-CAR-FIND" bill. It sets up a national system to track stolen cars more efficiently, and the bill will return the cars to their rightful owners more quickly. It will provide lower insurance premiums for our families.

The rise in car thefts at Newark Airport and the other of our Nation's airports is a serious matter, it is a national concern, and it requires a national solution. Congress must not delay any further action in taking up "1-800-CAR-FIND" any longer.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, this morning on a local radio station a little girl called in with the joke of the day and the joke was, "What do you call a boomerang if it doesn't come back? A stick."

We are confronting here the issue of campaign finance reform, and the fear of many people in America and the fear of many people in this House, is that we will have a bill presented before this body that will be called campaign finance reform but will, in fact, be just an empty stick with none of the clout of a true campaign finance reform bill. I am one of the cosponsors of the freshman campaign finance reform bill, and, at a minimum, it must be one that bans soft money and severely restricts these huge, unlimited donations to the parties.

In addition to that, our campaign finance reform bill must have no poison pills, and by that I mean to have provisions in the bill that would mean large numbers of this body would have to vote against it. There are options out there with bipartisan support that this House and the American people would support without such poison pills and I encourage the Members of this body to support them.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IS ON A ROLL

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, expect to see me on the floor often reporting on the condition of our capital city. An extraordinary turnaround is in the making. At a hearing today, the District reported an almost \$200 million

surplus. My colleagues heard me right: surplus.

This signifies another breakthrough. The District has balanced its budget 2 years ahead of the congressionally mandated year. This progress comes before the historic revitalization package we passed last summer has been felt. I will be coming to the floor on a regular basis in what are sure to be similar improvements on the way. This progress sets in motion the day when the District will soon regain the home rule it has lost. Get ready for it. We are on a roll, Mr. Speaker.

NO BAILOUT FOR THE IMF

(Mr. SANDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this Congress voting 1 penny of future funding for the IMF, let alone the \$18 billion requested unless a number of conditions are met:

First, the taxpayers of this country should not be forced to bail out the large multibillion-dollar banks like Chase Manhattan, Citibank, and Bank America, who have made billions of dollars investing in Asia, but now that their loans have gone sour, they are running to the United States Congress and the taxpayers of this country to be bailed out. That is wrong.

Further, we should not be bailing out people like General Suharto, the dictator of Indonesia, whose family is worth \$30 billion. The taxpayers of this country should not be bailing him out.

Further, I believe that we need a study to determine how effective the IMF has been in developing the global economy. My impression is that the middle class of this country is shrinking, unemployment is too high in Europe, poverty is increasing in Latin America, the economy remains dismal in Africa, and now we are seeing an economic collapse in Asia. I think we need to question the whole concept of the centralized global economy and the role that the IMF is playing.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, we are back in session and some of the stories in the paper are the same old stories. There are stories about too much money in politics, about investigations that go on and on.

The Washington Post editorial this morning said it well. Many of the Senate Republicans who have criticized the Democratic fund-raising in 1996 will now vote against significant campaign finance reform. We cannot let that happen in the House. We need a

campaign finance reform bill on the floor of this House in March. It should be a bipartisan bill.

The Republican majority has been questioned as to whether or not they are really serious about campaign finance reform, but there are some Republican freshmen who have stood with Democratic freshmen to put together a bill, H.R. 2183, the bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1998. It bans soft money, it improves issue advocacy disclosure, it tightens candidate reporting requirements.

That is the bill we ought to bring to the floor of this House, a bipartisan campaign finance reform bill with no poison pills, no effort to get one side or the other, or the backers of one side or the other. We need real campaign finance reform; we need it now.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) laid before the House the following communication from the President of the United States:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, February 10, 1998.

HON. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1022, attached is the Economic Report of the President together with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-176)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Joint Economics and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

For the last 5 years this Administration has worked to strengthen our Nation for the 21st century, expanding opportunity for all Americans, demanding responsibility from all Americans, and bringing us together as a community of all Americans. Building a strong economy is the cornerstone of our efforts to meet these challenges.

When I first took office in 1993, the Federal budget deficit was out of control, unemployment was unacceptably high, and wages were stagnant. To reverse this course, we took a new approach, putting in place a bold economic strategy designed to bring down the deficit and give America's workers the tools and training they need to help them thrive in our changing economy.

Our strategy has succeeded: the economy has created more than 14 million new jobs, unemployment is at its lowest level in 24 years, and core inflation is at its lowest level in 30 years. Economic growth in 1997 was the strongest in almost a decade, and the benefits of that growth are being shared by all Americans: poverty is dropping and median family income has gone up nearly \$2,200 since 1993. We also saw the biggest drop in welfare rolls in history. Many challenges remain, but Americans are enjoying the fruits of an economy that is steady and strong.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY

From the beginning, this Administration's economic strategy has had three crucial elements: reducing the deficit, investing in people, and opening markets abroad.

Deficit reduction. In 1993 this Administration's deficit reduction plan set the Nation on a course of fiscal responsibility, while making critical investments in the skills and well-being of our people. When I took office, the deficit was \$290 billion and projected to go much higher. This year the deficit will fall to just \$10 billion and possibly lower still. That is a reduction of more than 95 percent, leaving the deficit today smaller in relation to the size of the economy than it has been since 1969. And this year I have proposed a budget that will eliminate the deficit entirely, achieving the first balanced budget in 30 years.

Beyond that, it is projected that the budget will show a sizable surplus in the years to come. I propose that we reserve 100 percent of the surplus until we have taken the necessary measures to strengthen the Social Security system for the 21st century. I am committed to addressing Social Security first, to ensure that all Americans are confident that it will be there when they need it.

Investing in our people. In the new economy, the most precious resource this Nation has is the skills and ingenuity of working Americans. Investing in the education and health of our people will help all Americans reap the rewards of a growing, changing economy. Those who are better educated, with the flexibility and the skills they need to move from one job to another and seize new opportunities, will succeed in the new economy; those who do not will fall behind.

That is why the historic balanced budget agreement I signed into law in 1997 included the largest increase in aid to education in 30 years, and the biggest increase to help people go to college since the G.I. Bill was passed 50 years ago. The agreement provided funds to ensure that we stay on track to help 1 million disadvantaged children prepare for success in school. It provided funding for the America Reads Challenge, with the goal of mobilizing a million volunteers to pro-

mote literacy, and it made new investments in our schools themselves, to help connect every classroom and library in this country to the Internet by the year 2000.

The balanced budget agreement created the HOPE scholarship program, to make completion of the 13th and 14th years of formal education as widespread as a high school diploma is today. It offered other tuition tax credits for college and skills training. It created a new Individual Retirement Account that allows tax-free withdrawals to pay for education. It provided the biggest increase in Pell grants in two decades. Finally, it provided more funds so that aid to dislocated workers is more than double what it was in 1993, to help these workers get the skills they need to remain productive in a changing economy.

But we must do more to guarantee all Americans the quality education they need to succeed. That is why I have proposed a new initiative to improve the quality of education in our public schools—through high national standards and national tests, more charter schools to stimulate competition, greater accountability, higher quality teaching, smaller class sizes, and more classrooms.

To strengthen our Nation we must also strengthen our families. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which I signed into law in 1993, ensures that millions of people no longer have to choose between being good parents and being good workers. The Health Care Portability and Accountability Act, enacted in 1996, ensures that workers can keep their health insurance if they change jobs or suffer a family emergency. We have also increased the minimum wage, expanded the earned income tax credit, and provided for a new \$500-per-child tax credit for working families. To continue making progress toward strengthening families, the balanced budget agreement allocated \$24 billion to provide health insurance to up to 5 million uninsured children—the largest Federal investment in children's health care since Medicaid was created in 1965.

Opening markets and expending exports. To create more good jobs and increase wages, we must open markets abroad and expand U.S. exports. Trade has been key to the strength of this economic expansion—about a third of our economic growth in recent years has come from selling American goods and services overseas. The Information Technology Agreement signed in 1997 lowers tariff and other barriers to 90 percent of world trade in information technology services.

To continue opening new markets, creating new jobs, and increasing our prosperity, it is critically important to renew fast-track negotiation authority. This authority, which every President of either party has had for the

last 20 years, enables the President to negotiate trade agreements and submit them to the Congress for an up-or-down vote, without modification. Renewing this traditional trade authority is essential to America's ability to shape the global economy of the 21st century.

SEIZING THE BENEFIT OF A GROWING, CHANGING ECONOMY

As we approach the 21st century the American economy is sound and strong, but challenges remain. We know that information and technology and global commerce are rapidly transforming the economy, offering new opportunities but also posing new challenges. Our goal must be to ensure that all Americans are equipped with the skills to succeed in this growing, changing economy.

Our economic strategy—balancing the budget, investing in our people, opening markets—has set this Nation on the right course to meet the goal. This strategy will support and contribute to America's strength and providing our people with the skills, the flexibility, and the security to succeed. We must continue to maintain the fiscal discipline that is balancing the budget, to invest in our people and their skills, and to lead the world to greater prosperity in the 21st century.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 10, 1998.

RANDOM DRUG TESTING FOR MEMBERS AND STAFF

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from the Republican Members' retreat at Williamsburg, Virginia, and at that retreat the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH), unveiled goals for our generation, of which the No. 1 issue is a drug-free America.

To honor that goal, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) and I have been attempting for the last year to institute random drug testing for Members of Congress and their staffs, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) and myself intend in the next month and a half to actually implement the rule that was established at the start of this Congress that there shall be such a random drug testing plan for Members of Congress and their staffs.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to have a drug-free America, the House of Representatives must set the positive example and must take such measures as necessary to ensure that the Congress itself is drug free, and in my opinion, random drug testing must be a part of that plan.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 4 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 4 p.m.

□ 1604

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) at 4 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2604

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule XXII, clause 4, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2604.

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

There was no objection.

WELCOME BACK TO MS. HELEN SEWELL

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as we welcome everybody back, I would like to make note that back in the kitchen, in the Republican cloakroom on this side, we have a wonderful woman who has been an employee of this House of Representatives for more than 65 years. Sixty-five years. She was sick over the break and she has returned in good health and we just want to welcome Mrs. Helen Sewell back. A wonderful, wonderful woman.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 352 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 352

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time on Wednesday, February 11, 1998, or on Thursday, February 12, 1998, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the minority leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from my State of New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield my-

self such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the rule before us today makes in order at any time on Wednesday, that is today, February 11th, and Thursday, February 12th, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The resolution further provides that the Speaker or his designee shall consult with the minority leader or his designee on any suspension considered under this rule.

This rule is necessary in order to provide for the expeditious consideration of some noncontroversial legislation which is before the House this week. It would be impractical to bring this legislation up under separate resolutions from the Committee on Rules.

Mr. Speaker, the majority attempted to work with the minority to reach a unanimous consent agreement to allow for suspensions, that means the expediting of noncontroversial measures today and tomorrow. However, the minority objected to that request, for whatever reason, and without the unanimous consent agreement, this rule is necessary to allow us to take up this legislation today and tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week many Members of both the majority and the minority participated in legislative planning sessions for this coming year. Members used this time to thoughtfully come up with solutions to many of the challenges our Nation faces this year.

Republicans are intent on achieving a drug-free America, which is very, very important to me, make a safer and healthier environment for all of our children and our grandchildren. We plan on providing the best education system for America's students by providing parental choice in education, education savings accounts, and opportunity scholarships for students in the District of Columbia. But above all, we intend to make sure that this Federal Government does not dictate educational curriculum to States and local school districts.

We will also take a careful look at America's retirement system by creating a national commission on retirement, thus providing greater security for the future of our retirement system.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Republicans intend to modernize, we intend to privatize and to downsize government in order to reduce the total tax burden. For starters, this Congress will complete consideration of the Portman-Kerrey IRS bipartisan reform bill and send the legislation to the White House for the signature of the President.

In addition, we will address the difficult tax burden Americans face, particularly by providing marriage tax relief and death tax relief. There will also continue to be a debate on what

type of tax system is the most fair for the American people. We may even consider a proposal to sunset the entire Tax Code. And won't that be exciting, Mr. Speaker?

The passage of this rule simply allows the House to move forward with a compelling agenda for this second session of the 105th Congress. I urge support for the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from my home State of New York (Mr. SOLOMON) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 352 would allow the House to consider bills on the suspension calendar on Wednesday and Thursday of this week instead of the normal Monday and Tuesday consideration. Because both the Democratic Caucus and the Republican Conference held their annual retreats on this week's normal suspension days, the resolution seems like a reasonable housekeeping rule.

However, the resolution itself does not include the usual protection for Members that is often included in such resolutions; the requirement that Members be notified at least one hour in advance that a bill would be called up on the suspension calendar. While the majority has given us a list of three bills to be considered, we have no assurance that we will not be surprised by additional legislation.

Two of the three bills on the calendar do not meet the usual criteria for suspension of the rules, which is non-controversial bills with agreed-upon language, thereby obviating the need for floor amendments.

H. Con. Res. 202 was introduced less than a month ago. The committee of jurisdiction held no hearings and had no markup. The Children's Defense Fund has sent a memo to each House office outlining factual errors in the resolution's original language. We are now told that there may be a manager's amendment which may or may not correct these errors, but as of midday today, Members have not been given the final language on which they will be asked to vote this evening.

As important as the care of our children is to each of our families, why are we rushing to pass this sense of Congress resolution? Would not the usual process of hearings in a markup by the committee of jurisdiction help to ensure that we are not forced to vote on a resolution which may contain factual errors? Is the issue it attempts to address a new or time-sensitive issue? Is it so pressing that the committee could not have had the benefit of public testimony and perfecting amendments? I think not.

H.R. 1428, another bill to be considered under suspension, is a more egre-

gious example of shoddy legislative work. Referred to three committees, none have marked up this bill. Only one of the three held hearings. Again, as of midday, the final text of the bill on which we will ask the House to vote tomorrow was not available to Members, yet this bill could make unprecedented changes in our electoral system and overturn citizens' privacy act protections.

This kind of far-reaching change should certainly be carefully scrutinized and subject to amendments both at the committee level and on the floor, yet we are told it will be brought up on the suspension calendar, which allows no amendments and only 40 minutes of debate. Why use this process on a bill that is so controversial? Why are we putting at risk a core right of our citizenship, the right to vote, without having a full and free debate?

The lack of due deliberation on this bill is shameful and not worthy of this House. The scheduling of these controversial, flawed bills on the suspension calendar is damaging both to the comity of the House of Representatives and its legislative procedures. Mr. Speaker, I ask Members to carefully consider the important process issues that I have outlined before voting on this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the inclusion in the rule of H.R. 1428 and to the process, or lack thereof, by which this bill was brought to the floor.

This is a very sad day in the history of the House. Although on even relatively simple bills we have generally taken time to carefully deliberate on issues and ensure that ample committee and subcommittee review has taken place in order to prevent excessively flawed bills from taking up our limited floor time, unfortunately, the process by which this bill has been considered has been markedly different.

There has only been one hearing in the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims and this bill is now on the floor. There have been no hearings on the Subcommittee on the Constitution to determine what effects this bill may have on Voting Rights Act protections. There have been no hearings before the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security to determine if citizenship verification proposed in the bill is a practical idea.

Because this bill has been not properly considered, we have no idea where the money will be found to create what some have estimated to be a multibillion-dollar bureaucracy.

□ 1615

Does this mean that we are so interested in solving a problem that may not even exist that we will have to make major cuts in Social Security

programs for the elderly and disabled? None of these questions have been answered, and we are still proceeding head over heels into a land of uncertainty and frolic. This process has been extremely irresponsible with the tax dollars and Social Security benefits of the American people.

Considering our negligent lack of process, it is very difficult to dignify the substance of this bill. However, I will do my best to add my voice to the colleagues of mine who will be speaking against the bill tomorrow.

First of all, considering that turnout for elections is now at an all-time low in this country, I find it odd that we put so much fervor into creating new barriers to voting instead of strengthening motor voter and other voter encouragement initiatives which actually inspire people to take part in this great democracy.

Furthermore, this country's not-so-distant past of discriminatory enforcement, of facially neutral election laws should give pause to any knee-jerk efforts to strike important parts of the Voting Rights Act, the only shield we have from our despicable heritage of poll taxes, literacy tests, and a host of over facially neutral schemes that are designed for one reason, and one reason only, to intimidate and prevent minorities from voting.

Although we had anti-discrimination laws and the 15th Amendment in the Jim Crow south, it still took the 24th Amendment, which banned poll taxes, and the Voting Rights Act to finally arm citizens with an ample set of tools to fight against discrimination in the fundamental exercise of voting.

Today we stand poised to eradicate a delicate and important part of our hard-fought voting rights protections for an unworkable system supposedly intended to fix a nonexistent problem. Both the Social Security Administration and the INS have said that the information necessary for this proposed verification system does not exist. Moreover, who would want to empower some new, big government bureaucracy with the almighty ability to say who can vote and who cannot, based on records which do not exist or are inaccurate? We can do better than this.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, we should not include H.R. 1428 in this rule.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to perhaps respond a little bit.

I was surprised to hear both my good friend the gentlewoman from Rochester, New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), and my good friend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) stating that this rule brings certain bills to the floor. That just is not the case. This bill does not bring any bill to the floor. This rule does not. It simply creates two suspension days.

Suspension days means that bills can be brought to the floor without necessarily having gone through a committee or through our Committee on Rules. It can be brought to the floor for debate, they cannot be amended and have an up-or-down vote. There can be a manager's amendment, but that is subject to a vote of this House. So every Member has to approve that.

Secondly, I am just surprised to hear people complaining about a bill like day care fairness for stay-at-home parents. That is so terribly, terribly important today. As a matter of fact, I have 5 children and 6 grandchildren, and my wife was good enough to voluntarily stay home with those 5 children all through their life until they went away to college; and that was the best thing that ever happened to those children. Because I was away more than half the time during the week all that time. And I think if we had more spouses that could stay at home and take care of children like that, I think we would have a better America and a better world today.

This one bill simply states that day care fairness for stay-at-home parents will be brought to this floor. Even if these bills are voted on today, it is going to take a two-thirds vote. That is the difference when you go through the regular process, go through our Committee on Rules, and then bring it to the floor. Then a simple majority of 50 percent plus 1 vote can pass a bill. But these bills cannot pass with 50 percent plus 1; they require two-thirds. So it is fair.

So I point out again that this rule does not waive any other rules whatsoever. All it does is create a suspension day, and then the bills that my colleagues were just referring to come to the floor under regular order. Nothing is changed.

Now, having said that, let me just keep my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), waiting here for just a minute to talk about the question of utilizing this day. All of this week, both the Republican and Democratic parties have been in private caucus among themselves talking about their priorities for their legislative agenda.

Next week we will be in recess, in work periods back in our districts, and that will take us through about two-thirds of the month of February. We will then return. And as my colleagues know, committees are meeting, but they have not had a chance to generate really important legislation on this floor yet.

So I want to point out to the membership just how short this legislative period is between now and the October 1st scheduled deadline for adjournment for the end of this Congress, the 105th Congress. We will actually be considering legislation on this floor from March 1st until October 1st. How many weeks is that? Twenty-eight weeks.

Now, 10 of those 28 weeks we are going to be back in the districts; we are going to be back for work periods just like the one coming up this week. We will be back for Easter. We will be back for Memorial Day. We will be back for the 4th of July. Ten of those 18 weeks we are going to be back home, where we should be, with our constituents. That leaves 18 weeks.

How many days are there, floor days, in 18 weeks? Seventy-eight. So now we are down to only 78 days on this floor when we can pass important legislation. But my colleagues have to remember that Tuesdays are suspension days, like this one that we are considering today. So no controversial matters will be coming up on those Tuesdays. There are 21 Tuesdays and other suspension days out of those 78. So subtracting 21 from 78 leaves 57, Mr. Speaker.

Now, that means that we are going to spend an awful lot of time back in our districts, where we should be finding out how our constituents feel about legislation, but we have only 57 days on this floor to pass a budget, to pass a supplemental, to pass a reconciliation bill, and to pass 13 appropriations bills.

Now, we all know these appropriators can use 57 days all by themselves just to pass 13 bills. So then comes all the other legislation that my colleagues and I are interested in. Whether it deals with education, whether it deals with a drug-free America, whether it deals with the very important issue of Iraq or Bosnia or these other issues, we have got to squeeze all that into 57 days on this floor. That is why we are here today, asking to create these 2 suspension days so that we can get by some of the noncontroversial issues.

So I hope I have given my colleague a little education lesson here, my good friend from Rochester (Ms. SLAUGHTER), just how important this is.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN).

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) for yielding.

I came down to the well today to express my concern about this rule. I am concerned because this rule makes in order H.R. 1428, a bill that I think is probably one of the worst examples of legislation that I think I have seen since I have been here. I say that not as a matter of overstatement, but really just stating a fact.

The fact is, number one, the bill is unnecessary. We have current laws regarding voter eligibility. When a voter registers or when a prospective voter registers, he signs at the bottom that he is a U.S. citizen. That system of self-certification has worked for decades. We have a system to create criminal penalties if, in fact, someone is

lying. It is called voter fraud. It is punishable today. We do not need a new law. This bill is unnecessary.

But second and probably most important, what I think repels me the most is that this bill is vindictive. It is an attempt by the Republicans to intimidate and discourage Hispanic, Asian, and other minority voters. Under this bill, it is not enough that we sign and say that we are American citizens. Now this bill would allow local boards of elections to, quote, "verify us."

How does this verification process work? Well, it works like this: The local board can decide who and whether they want to verify individuals. They do not have to verify everyone; that might make some sense. They can pick and choose who they want to verify. When do they verify that is not specified in the bill. Potentially, we could come up on election day seeking to vote and be told, "Well, we have got to verify you first."

That is why it intimidates, that is why it discourages voters. And it is mainly being done because they tried to oust one of our own Democrats, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ), and they were unsuccessful in doing so. They tried to suggest that there was voter fraud and they were not able to prove it. So now they come back with this vindictive bill to say, "Well, what we need to be able to do is verify people's eligibility."

Well, they say what we could do is, we could get the INS and Department of Social Security to verify people. Well, I have had experience with these agencies, and I can tell you that, though they do good work, they are ill-equipped.

My experience with INS and Social Security is that they are both well-intentioned agencies, but that they are ill-equipped to perform this verification process. They already have a backlog performing the duties associated with their legitimate tasks.

INS certainly has more work than it can handle, seeking to find illegal aliens. We do not need them to be voter patrols, and that is what they would become.

Under this system, Americans would be intimidated, just as African Americans were intimidated years ago by attempts to thwart their voting rights. We do not need a bill like this. It is totally unnecessary.

People can certify themselves as Americans under the threat of criminal penalties. That is sufficient. It has worked in the past. I believe it will continue to work.

The only reason the Republicans are addressing this bill and advancing this bill is because they want to try to get back at a group of people that they could not defeat at the polls, and I think that is shameful.

So I hope today that we will, if we accept this rule, certainly when this

bill comes up, H.R. 142, send it back where it belongs, and that is back to the back room of politics.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, one of the outstanding Members of this body is the chairman of our Education and Workforce Committee. He is the gentleman hailing from Pennsylvania (Mr. BILL GOODLING).

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I wanted to point out that, as a matter of fact, the resolution that I am bringing here today has been around for at least 2 weeks, and the fine-tuning of the statistics were in the hands of the Democrats as of 6 o'clock last evening.

But the fine-tuning from statistics really does not amount to anything anyway because the resolution simply says, if this Congress is going to discuss child care, they will discuss it in relationship to all children. It does not tell how they should do it. It just says, since 70 percent of preschool children are not in a formal day care setting, we should also think about the parents of those 70 percent.

So even if we fine tuned the statistics, it does not matter because the resolution simply states that if the Congress is going to consider child care in this particular session, it should consider all children, it should consider all parents. The resolution is that simple.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) has 20½ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) has 19½ minutes remaining.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, that is what I have always admired about the gentlewoman from New York. She gets the job done in a hurry, and I appreciate that. And, therefore, I am not going to let her outdo me. I am going to get the job done, too.

So, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this resolution are postponed until 5 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED NEW TAX INCREASES

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I will not bother taking the well, but I just wanted to say that last week President Clinton proposed a budget with \$106 billion of new tax increases in it.

While all taxes punish personal thrift and freedom, the President's proposal to raise taxes on financial products which encourage long-term investment and savings are particularly ill-conceived.

It is incredible that the President, who is fully aware of the impending crisis in Social Security, would propose to hike taxes on the products that American families and businesses use to plan for their own retirements. Millions of American families use this very life insurance product to save for retirement, adding to the supplemental Social Security check that they might receive.

Mr. Speaker, surveys show that many moderate-income families use private sector retirement products such as annuities to plan for their future. In fact, many of the owners of annuities are women. They are women, 55 percent of whom are married, while 28 percent of them are widowed.

□ 1630

They are the people that control most of these small annuities in America.

The President proposes to increase the tax burden on these same annuities—annuities that 85% of the owners intend to use as the fundamental source of their retirement savings. Why should government discourage these families from saving their money?

Mr. Speaker, this is an irresponsible and ill-advised proposal for the many Americans struggling to get by and yet still plan for the future.

I urge my colleagues to reject President Clinton's tax increases on America's families and their future. The future of the American family deserves better.

EDUCATING AMERICA ON COLORECTAL CANCER

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I filed a resolution with 20 of my cosponsors, a bipartisan resolution, connected with colorectal cancer. We have spent a lot of time in the House talking about breast cancer and other forms of cancer and how important it is to be screened, but we have neglected colorectal cancer.

Mr. Speaker, in my State of New York, we are ninth in the number of fatalities. We have 55,000 people that die each year from an absolutely curable or preventable disease.

We think it is terribly important. We have asked Secretary Shalala of HHS if they will help formulate an educational process for both medical professionals and their patients to make sure Americans are screened for this disease. It is terribly important for women, because women have a feeling that this is a man's disease, but it is an equal-opportunity killer. We have some Members of this House who are recovering from colorectal cancer who are sponsoring this bill, and I invite all my colleagues to join us in what I think is one of the most important health issues facing America. This disease is over 92 percent preventable. No one need die from colorectal cancer. It is up to us to educate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1701

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) at 5 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of agreeing to House Resolution 352, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 191, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 12]

YEAS—217

Aderholt	Blunt	Chabot
Archer	Boehler	Chambliss
Armey	Boehner	Chenoweth
Bachus	Bonilla	Christensen
Baker	Brady	Coble
Ballenger	Bryant	Coburn
Barr	Bunning	Collins
Barrett (NE)	Burr	Combest
Bartlett	Burton	Cook
Barton	Buyer	Cooksey
Bass	Calvert	Cox
Bateman	Camp	Crane
Bereuter	Campbell	Crapo
Bilbray	Canady	Cubin
Bilirakis	Cannon	Cunningham
Bliley	Castle	Davis (VA)

Deal	Jenkins
DeLay	Johnson (CT)
Dickey	Johnson, Sam
Dreier	Jones
Duncan	Kasich
Dunn	Kelly
Ehlers	Kim
Ehrlich	King (NY)
Emerson	Kingston
English	Klug
Ensign	Knollenberg
Everett	Koibe
Ewing	LaHood
Fawell	Largent
Foley	Latham
Forbes	LaTourette
Fossella	Lazio
Fowler	Leach
Fox	Lewis (CA)
Franks (NJ)	Lewis (KY)
Frelinghuysen	Livingston
Gallegly	LoBlondo
Ganske	Lucas
Gekas	Manzullo
Gibbons	McCollum
Gilchrist	McCrery
Gillmor	McDade
Gilman	McHugh
Goode	McInnis
Goodlatte	McIntosh
Goodling	McKee
Goss	Metcalf
Graham	Mica
Granger	Moran (KS)
Greenwood	Morella
Gutknecht	Nethercutt
Hall (TX)	Neumann
Hamilton	Ney
Hansen	Northup
Hastert	Norwood
Hastings (WA)	Nussle
Hayworth	Oxley
Hefley	Packard
Herger	Pappas
Hill	Parker
Hilleary	Paul
Hobson	Paxon
Hoekstra	Pease
Horn	Peterson (PA)
Hostettler	Petri
Houghton	Pickering
Hulshof	Pitts
Hunter	Pombo
Hutchinson	Porter
Hyde	Portman
Inglis	Pryce (OH)
Istook	Quinn

NAYS—191

Abercrombie	Davis (FL)	Holden
Ackerman	Davis (IL)	Hooley
Allen	DeFazio	Hoyer
Andrews	DeGette	Jackson (IL)
Baesler	Delahunt	Jackson-Lee
Baldacci	DeLauro	(TX)
Barcia	Deutsch	Jefferson
Barrett (WI)	Dicks	John
Becerra	Dingell	Johnson (WI)
Bentsen	Dixon	Johnson, E.B.
Berman	Doggett	Kanjorski
Berry	Dooley	Kaptur
Bishop	Doyle	Kennedy (MA)
Blagojevich	Edwards	Kennedy (RI)
Blumenauer	Engel	Kennelly
Bonior	Etheridge	Kildee
Borski	Evans	Kilpatrick
Boswell	Farr	Kind (WI)
Boucher	Fattah	Klecicka
Boyd	Fazio	Klink
Brown (CA)	Flner	Kucinich
Brown (FL)	Ford	LaFalce
Brown (OH)	Frank (MA)	Lampson
Cardin	Frost	Levin
Carson	Furse	Lewis (GA)
Clay	Gejdenson	Lipinski
Clayton	Gephardt	Lofgren
Clement	Gordon	Lowe
Clyburn	Green	Luther
Condit	Gutierrez	Maloney (CT)
Conyers	Hall (OH)	Maloney (NY)
Costello	Hastings (FL)	Manton
Coyne	Hefner	Markey
Cramer	Hilliard	Martinez
Cummings	Hinche	Mascara
Danner	Hinojosa	Matsui

McCarthy (MO)	Payne	Spratt
McCarthy (NY)	Pelosi	Stabenow
McDermott	Peterson (MN)	Stark
McGovern	Pickett	Stenholm
McHale	Pomeroy	Stokes
McIntyre	Price (NC)	Strickland
McKinney	Rahall	Stupak
McNulty	Rangel	Tanner
Meehan	Reyes	Tauscher
Meek (FL)	Rivers	Taylor (MS)
Meeks (NY)	Rodriguez	Thompson
Menendez	Roemer	Thurman
Millender	Rothman	Tierney
McDonald	Roybal-Allard	Torres
Miller (CA)	Rush	Towns
Minge	Sabo	Turner
Moakley	Sánchez	Velázquez
Mollohan	Sanders	Vento
Moran (VA)	Sandlin	Viscosky
Murtha	Schumer	Watt (NC)
Neal	Scott	Waxman
Oberstar	Serrano	Wexler
Obey	Sherman	Weygand
Olver	Sisisky	Wise
Ortiz	Skaggs	Woolsey
Owens	Skelton	Wynn
Pallone	Slaughter	Yates
Pascarell	Smith, Adam	
Pastor	Snyder	

NOT VOTING—22

Callahan	Miller (FL)	Sensenbrenner
Diaz-Balart	Mink	Smith (OR)
Doolittle	Myrick	Smith, Linda
Eshoo	Nadler	Stearns
Gonzalez	Poshard	Waters
Harman	Ros-Lehtinen	White
Lantos	Sawyer	
Linder	Schiff	

□ 1723

Mr. MURTHA changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the second motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

If a recorded vote is ordered on the first motion, relating to House Concurrent Resolution 202, that vote will be taken after debate has concluded on that motion.

If a recorded vote is ordered on the second motion, relating to Senate 927, that vote will be postponed until Thursday, February 12, 1998.

DAYCARE FAIRNESS FOR STAY-AT-HOME PARENTS

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 202) expressing the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government should acknowledge the importance of at-home parents and should not discriminate against families who forego a second income in order for a mother or fa-

ther to be at home with their children, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 202

Whereas studies have found that quality child care, particularly for infants and young children, requires a sensitive, interactive, loving, and consistent caregiver;

Whereas most parents meet and exceed the aforementioned criteria, circumstances allowing, often parental care marks the best form of child care;

Whereas the recent National Institute for Child Health and Development study found that the greatest factor in the development of a young child is "what is happening at home and in families";

Whereas a child's interaction with his or her parents has the most significant impact on their development, any Federal child care policy should enable and encourage parents to spend more time with their children;

Whereas nearly 1/2 of preschool children have at-home mothers and only 1/3 of preschool children have mothers who are employed full time;

Whereas a large number of low- and middle-income families sacrifice a second full-time income so that the mother may be at home with her child;

Whereas the average income of 2-parent families with a single income is \$20,000 less than the average income of 2-parent families with two incomes;

Whereas only 30 percent of preschool children are in paid child care and the remaining 70 percent of preschool children are in families that do not pay for child care, many of which are low- to middle-income families struggling to provide child care at home;

Whereas child care proposals should not provide financial assistance solely to the 30 percent of families that pay for child care and should not discriminate against families in which children are cared for by an at-home parent; and

Whereas any congressional proposal that increases child care funding should provide financial relief to families that sacrifice an entire income in order that a mother or father may be at home for their young child: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress recognizes that—

(1) many American families make enormous sacrifices to forgo a second income in order to have a parent care for their child at home;

(2) there should be no bias against at-home parents;

(3) parents choose many legitimate forms of child care to meet their individual needs -- an at-home parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, neighbor, nanny, preschool, or child care center;

(4) child care needs of at-home parents and working parents should be given careful consideration by the Congress;

(5) any quality child care proposal should reflect careful consideration of providing financial relief for those families where there is an at-home parent; and

(6) mothers and fathers who have chosen and continue to choose to be at home should be applauded for their efforts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ), each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Concurrent Resolution 202, the equitable child care resolution, which I introduced on January 27, 1998, to ensure that any child care proposal that this Congress may consider this year addresses the needs of parents who choose to stay at home to care for their child. Almost all of the child care proposals in Congress focus solely on expanding commercial child care, despite the fact that only 30 percent of preschool children are cared for by paid child care providers. And of that 30 percent, an even smaller percentage are in commercial child care. We know the majority of preschool children are cared for by their mother or father who stay at home for that purpose. Yet Federal child care proposals would indicate that we should not consider those who stay home as child care providers. It is inconceivable to me that the Federal Government would tell families that institutional care is the only way to rear their children.

If we want to help families with their child care needs, we should help give parents more time to spend with their children and give them back more of their own money so parents can afford the child care that best meets their needs.

This resolution, the Equitable Child Care resolution, sends a clear signal to the American people that we, the Congress, recognize there are a lot of families out there making huge sacrifices so that one of the parents can remain at home to care for their child.

□ 1730

Federal child care policy should no longer discriminate against at-home parents. We already have the problem with the marriage penalty in our income tax. Federal child care policy should not discriminate. Parents make big sacrifices if they stay at home in order to rear their children. It is time we recognize those sacrifices.

The resolution does not deny or discredit families where both parents are working hard to support their families, rather the purpose of the resolution is to simply recognize that at-home parents are child care providers also and should not be forgotten in any kind of child care discussion that may go on this year.

No child care proposal that discriminates against families based on their particular choice of child care should be actively considered. Families should be treated equally, and I would urge my colleagues to make sure all families with child care needs are treated fairly and to make sure that at-home parents are not forgotten in any child care debate.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a nice resolution but it is just a resolution, not a solution. I rise in protest not to the content of the resolution but to the manner it was brought to the floor.

The bill itself is innocuous. Mr. Speaker, we have a bill before us today which has never been marked up in a committee; has never been the subject of a hearing. Only 2 weeks ago the resolution was scheduled to be marked up by the Committee on Education and the Workforce. In fact, just prior to the consideration of the bill, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the chairman of the committee, postponed the markup subject to the call of the chair.

Unfortunately, people on that side of the aisle are now disregarding the committee process by rushing this resolution to the floor. I think that is very wrong. It puts us in a position of this side and that side. Consideration of this bill should be bipartisan in nature. Our consideration of this bill under suspension of the rules denies the members of the committee and the House an opportunity to amend this legislation and include other child care priorities.

I am confident that all the Members in this body are deeply concerned about the quality of child care received by our Nation's children, and discussions about this topic are a worthwhile endeavor. However, the narrow theme of this legislation is certainly one of the many topics which should be discussed when we are talking about child care. This resolution's narrow focus highlights none of the vital issues which should be a part of a national debate on child care.

I, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), had intended to offer amendments to the bill which would include those topics. We were not able to because it was not marked up in the committee.

The families that we consider for child care are not those who choose to have one parent at home, as the resolution deals with; these are families in which both parents must work in order to afford the expenses of daily life. There are families coping with the transition from welfare to work who need child care. These are the families truly in need of child care assistance; these are the families to which we should be directing our attention. Unfortunately, the procedures under which this legislation has been brought to the floor denies us an opportunity to discuss that.

Our committee has traditionally operated in a bipartisan fashion, but the consistent manner and movement in which the majority is now moving legislation to the floor, without proper committee consideration, is becoming a frequent practice. I can assure the chairman that I consider this a blatant override of the committee's process,

and it is irresponsible and unjustifiable. I can only assume Election Year politics has once again gripped the majority and incited their need to create an agenda.

I urge all Members, whether the majority or minority, to protect the process which this House uses for thoughtful consideration of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), a gentleman I worked very closely with last year to make sure that Republicans provided far more money than the President asked to make sure that child care was available so that the transition from welfare to work would work.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very generous words.

President Clinton's \$22 billion child care initiative creates the impression there is a national child care crisis and that the Federal Government needs to intervene even further than it has in local child care markets. The facts are that 73 percent of preschool children are cared for primarily by their parents or relatives and that the Federal Government already sponsors a host of child care programs. Five of these programs also provide direct payments or subsidies for child care totaling about \$11 billion this year. At the same time only about 30 percent of American families with preschool children use paid child care while parents work. Consequently, around 70 percent of the families, many with low incomes, who are struggling to provide quality care for children at home, would receive no support from the Clinton child care initiative.

If there is money to spend, it should go to all families with children. We should acknowledge that all mothers work, whether they decide to work at home with their children or remain employed outside of the home.

As part of the 1996 welfare reform law, we made two major reforms to child care programs: First, block grants totaling several major programs so that the States and localities would have flexibility in using Federal child care money; second, giving States \$20 billion over 6 years to help pay for child care for poor and low-income families.

CBO estimates that between 1997 and 2002 spending on child care will increase by 38 percent without any additional legislation. In response to the changes made by the welfare reform, States are now revamping and expanding their child care programs, especially to make them more effective in helping mothers who leave welfare. Let us give the States a chance to get their child care systems in place.

The child care credit in the Tax Code is open-ended spending available to all

Americans who pay Federal taxes. This source of Federal support for child care is also expected to grow substantially without the need for additional Federal legislation.

The child care market is working well. Most parents report that they are satisfied with their current child care arrangement. The bottom line is that if there is money to be spent by helping families raise their children, it should be available to all families with children and not mandated from Washington.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), the ranking member of our committee.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Once again the Republican majority is running roughshod over House procedures. The resolution before us today was never considered by the Committee on Education and the Workforce. It was rushed to the floor to produce sound bites for the 6 o'clock news.

This resolution focuses on the child care needs of at-home parents, parents that, as the resolution states, have foregone a second income to stay at home with their children. Certainly the issue is worthy of discussion, however it ignores the great needs of working families where both parents work, it ignores the need to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act, and it ignores parents who are transitioning from welfare to work.

If this resolution were fair, it would reflect the priorities of working parents as well as the at-home parents. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the majority's abuse of the legislative process bars us from having this discussion today.

Last Congress, Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority voted to cut Head Start, to cut child nutrition programs and to eliminate the school lunch program. The Republican majority on our committee last Congress actually voted to cut child care by \$2.5 billion, despite the chairman's boasts of the Republican accomplishments in the field of child care.

Mr. Speaker, now the Republican majority offers only empty resolutions instead of real solutions to the Nation's child care needs. Instead of just passing resolutions, this Congress should be acting to ensure that all children, including those children whose parents must work, receive affordable, high quality day-care. Instead of passing empty resolutions, we should be taking up President Clinton's call for investing \$21 billion in helping all Americans meet the challenge of raising a family.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds, just merely to say that the free lunch program continues primarily because of the present chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce who had to fight

constantly to make sure that they did not do away with the amount of money that comes from, quote, the paying customer. Otherwise the school lunch program ends if providers do not get that money and then there are no free lunches. So I want to make sure of that.

And secondly, again I want to repeat, we Republicans gave \$4 billion more than the President asked for in the whole child care effort last year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS), a member of the committee.

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I want to respectfully and politely take issue with the comments of the ranking member of the full committee who just a moment ago said Republicans are not concerned about helping working parents.

To the contrary; that is why we made the House's top priority House bill 1, the compensatory time bill, which would allow working parents to exchange overtime for time off in lieu of wages or income. It would give them more flexibility to meet the demands of their personal family situation and would give them the same rights that their public sector counterparts have had for years.

Secondly, the Republican-led Congress have provided tax relief for working families through a \$500 per child tax credit that we would like to expand in this session of Congress, at the same time eliminating the marriage penalty in the Tax Code.

But the real reason for this resolution, Mr. Speaker, being on the floor tonight, is the Clinton administration's proposal shows a predisposition in favor of institutionalized day-care, a continuation of paternalistic government, nanny government, and a discrimination against families, working families where one spouse chooses to be at home.

We submit, Mr. Speaker, that as a matter of public policy we want to make it more simple, not more difficult, for families who choose to have one spouse remaining in the home for the benefit, for the welfare, for the nurturing, for the upbringing of their children, we want to make it a little easier for families to do that rather than to continue this dependency on big government; rather to continue to believe that paternalistic nanny government is the solution rather than policies that are truly family friendly.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today we are being offered a resolution in support of parents who stay at home with their children who are young. There is no dispute about the benefits a parent staying at home with his or her children can bring to

that family, and on that basis alone this resolution should, and will, pass with a bipartisan majority.

What is most notable and most troubling, however, are the issues not addressed in this resolution. First and foremost is the issue of wages. Too many Americans are not earning enough to support their families with just one income. Half of America's families with young children earn less than \$35,000 per year. This includes families in which both parents work full time at the minimum wage and earn only \$21,400.

These are the families who have been left behind in the boom economy, families whose salaries have been flat-lined and benefits have been cut back while the stock market and the CEOs' salaries have skyrocketed. These are the families who are forced to send both parents into the work force, the many single parents who are forced to work more than one job.

Temporary employment agencies report that most of our employees are second breadwinners in the family and that 75 percent of the people they employ are working because they have to.

□ 1745

Families are in a bind over child care because they simply cannot earn enough despite working so hard. It is true that where the second family income is marginally helpful to the family, then a small boost in a tax credit or some other form of assistance may help. But since the reality for most families is that a second income is essential, it is essential for buying basic needs like food, rent, and health care, than a small payment to stay-at-home parents will not resolve the problem of most working families, that both parents must work, and that child care is either too expensive, too far away, or too low quality, there are only two places that workers can go to get assistance and basic family needs, either from the wages their employers pay to them or from the government.

But with this resolution, the Republicans once again are opposing the requirement that wages be sufficient to provide for the essentials of a family.

This resolution is also further puzzling because in recent actions of the Congress to eliminate Federal welfare assistance, Congress voted last year to stop paying poor mothers to stay at home with their children, instead to go out and get a job, because we believe that the mothers of the children of our country would be better off. But now the Republican majority wants to use another tax-based subsidy to pay mothers or fathers to stay at home, and these are parents that are much better off than the working poor or those mothers that are on welfare. Somehow there is a consistency gap here.

Focusing on stay-at-home parents is part of an effort to deceive the public

into thinking that providing a small taxpayer subsidy to parents to stay at home is the equivalent of providing a small taxpayer subsidy to working parents that need that money to provide for child care so they can stay in the work force.

In the first solution, the additional income is not enough to keep parents from having to work. But in the second instance, the additional support is crucial if these parents are going to be able to hold on to the jobs that provide the wherewithal for their families.

So while I welcome this opportunity to work together on child care, I wonder why it is that the majority cannot grasp the larger picture of the child-care needs of America's families.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS), my neighbor.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my neighbor and colleague from Pennsylvania for yielding this time to me, and I congratulate him on bringing this issue to the floor.

It is an important issue. And if we accomplish nothing more during this debate than to notify the public and to spread the word that we are concerned about child care, and particularly about those families that sacrifice in order to have one parent remain home with the children, then we have succeeded. No matter what the opposition might say or what final vote may be cast against this resolution, the American people will know more following this about our concern about child care than would otherwise be the case.

In every issue that we have ever had concerning taxation or its subordinate tax credits, the cry of the American people is, is it fair, is there an element of fairness in what you are about to do? Well, when we start to consider tax credits for child care, the American people will immediately recognize that those individuals who choose to have their children at home who will not be benefiting from a child-care tax credit program immediately will cry foul, it is not fair play. After all, a family who sacrifices should not be put in a worse position than a family who chooses a professional, commercial child-care situation to care for their children.

In the name of fairness, in the name of avoiding foul play, we ought to support this resolution.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to see this resolution on the floor today because I think that it would have benefited from the Committee on Education and Workforce markup that was scheduled and then canceled.

Since other members of the committee and myself had amendments to offer to H.Con.Res. 202, I truly had assumed that the committee would mark

up and have it rescheduled. Silly me. I should have known that the majority would not give members of the committee an opportunity to improve the resolution so that it would actually acknowledge the importance of all families.

Certainly we should honor families who can choose to have one parent at home with their young child. Certainly we should honor families where parents get up and go to work every day, but cannot afford child care. And we should also honor the people that were covered in my amendment, those who give up or would be forced to give up their sole source of income because of the lack of child care, keeping them from fulfilling their work requirements under the new welfare law.

Had there been a committee markup, I would have offered an amendment expressing the sense of Congress that we must increase from age 6 to age 11 when a single parent would be forced to leave a child home if they were unable to find an appropriate child care.

Mr. Speaker, our current law allows this exception only for single parents with children under 6 years of age. This means that some parents with children as young as age 6 are forced to leave their children home alone before and after school, during school vacations, and all summer long. Or if the parents choose to stay at home with their young children, they lose their temporary assistance for needy families.

As we take time today to applaud the lucky parents who can stay at home with their children, I wish we were also protecting working parents who risk the loss of their sole source of income because they do not have child care.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I rise in support of this resolution.

Let us review some facts about child-care options available to today's parents and what they are choosing. Fifty percent of parents choose to have one parent stay at home to raise their children, most often the mom. Twelve percent of parents tag-team by staggering their jobs so one parent is always at home. Thirteen percent of parents have grandparents, aunts, or uncles care for their children. Eleven percent pay neighbors, nannies, and informal day-care providers. Only 16 percent of parents choose formal day-care centers.

Washington must not discriminate against the 50 percent of parents who sacrifice a second income so one parent can stay home to raise their children. These parents are making financial sacrifices. Two-parent families, where one parent stays home to care for the children, have an income that is \$20,000 per year below their two-earner counterparts. But those families choose to pay that price because they know it is

important to their children. Clearly, most parents prefer informal day care or staying at home with their kids.

I am troubled by the President's proposal. It discriminates against stay-at-home parents.

A December 12th, 1997, New York Times article discusses new trends in the 1990s that we must take into account. The article states, "While the story of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s was married women stampeding into the labor market, the demographic sea of change is now in the process of reversing." There are still twice as many two-income marriages as one-earner families, but the gap is narrowing and "it is a long-term trend." Richard F. Hokens, chief economist at the brokerage firm Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, believes that growth already has been substantial enough to explain some otherwise puzzling business developments. After the last fall in mortgage rates, in his view, families used the savings to allow one earner, usually the wife, to work part-time or leave the job market altogether.

Let us give parents what they want. Let us reduce the tax burden so parents can care for their children as they see fit.

If the child tax deduction had kept pace with inflation over the past 30 years, it would be worth more than \$7,500 per child today instead of \$2,400. Let us pass this resolution.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this resolution draws our attention to an important need. Unfortunately, it could divide instead of uniting us. Our purpose should be to ensure that all children should have the best care, whatever the economic and family situations of these children are.

The administration has shown its commitment to quality care for children. In 1996, early versions of welfare reform bills were vetoed in part because of inadequate attention to child care. This year, the administration has proposed a series of child-care initiatives. It has signaled its willingness to work together on a bipartisan basis to address the issue of stay-at-home parents. Indeed, a number of us are working on ways to provide further assistance to families that would make it easier for a parent to stay at home with a young child.

Perhaps because the Democrats' report on the importance of family care for children is clear, the real purpose of this resolution may be to protect a weak political flank of the majority.

One example of this vulnerability occurred when we battled over the long-standing program of SSI for families with severely disabled children. All of us agreed that we needed to get rid of abuse in the program, but there were some in the majority who tried to end

a modest cash payment to families with a truly handicapped child, even when the clear effect of that modest help allowed one parent to stay at home with the child.

Let us not create an artificial wedge that pits working parents against those who stay at home with their children. I urge Democrats to vote for this resolution, but I also urge Republicans to join us in trying to improve child care wherever it is needed.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact meaningful, comprehensive child-care legislation that addresses the needs of both working and stay-at-home parents and their children. This is not an either/or proposition. In this respect, America should be one family.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, just again to remind everyone in the Chamber and anyone listening that it was the Republicans last year who saw the need to increase funding for child care in order to make the transition from welfare to work. We provided \$4 billion more than the President asked for. And you cannot rebut that no matter how many times you go down in the well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 202 introduced by my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Chairman BILL GOODLING. And I commend him on this important initiative in behalf of America's families.

For millions of American families where both parents work or single parents work, finding quality day care is always a great challenge and often a great expense. When parents make the day-care choice, it is not done lightly or without serious financial planning. That fact is clear or should be clear to every Member of this body.

However, the fact that we are often not clear on this is when parents elected the other option. The other option is taking care of their children at home, the option that most American families choose. That decision is also not made lightly, nor is it made without serious financial planning, because in most cases, this is the most expensive option. Giving up a second income is a great financial burden to any family.

So I strongly agree with my colleague and friend from Pennsylvania that when we talk about providing financial relief to parents of young children, we must not discriminate against those who bear the greatest cost.

And House Concurrent Resolution 202 recognizes the importance of at-home parents and their financial sacrifices. And I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 6 min-

utes remaining. The gentleman from California has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mrs. KENNELLY).

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us suggests that those who choose to stay at home with their children, do so, and I agree. But we should remember that some parents just cannot do that.

We have single heads of households that have to go to work and have to leave their child in day care. In fact, it was not that long ago that we all agreed and decided to have our people who were on welfare go to work and have to use day care.

We should also remember that an increasing number of couples both work because they want to carry out that American dream of owning their own home.

□ 1800

In short, what we are talking about, what we really need to do, is make sure we have child care safer, better, and more affordable. If you doubt this, consider the figure that I think is absolutely correct, and that is 60 percent of mothers who have children under the age of 6 do work outside the home. I am planning on introducing legislation for day-care to improve access to quality child care for parents in my home State and across the Nation. What we really should be talking about here is care for children, good care for children, safe care for children, whether they are at home or in day-care.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield one minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. FOX).

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the intent of the Goodling resolution is to ensure that any future child care initiatives recognize that all parents have child care needs regardless of whether they choose to have an at-home parent, grandparent, neighbor, nanny or day-care center, care for their child.

The intent is to simply bring at-home parents into the child care dialog. There is no intent to favor at-home parents over child care centers.

Seventy percent of preschool children are in families that do not pay for child care. Many of these children are low- to middle-income families that struggle to provide home care for their children. Child care initiatives should focus on families that pay for child care as well as at-home parents who provide child care.

Parents should not be penalized for the type of child care they choose. Circumstances do not always permit many parents, especially low-income parents, to be at home with their children, and Republicans have supported and were successful in earmarking \$4 billion more over the 6 years, \$20 billion total,

for States to provide for child care. This is a great first step.

The House, of course, will revisit this issue with regard to tax credits and, of course, the child development block grant, but the Goodling resolution is a great first step, and I hope Members will support H. Con. Res. 202.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, we were so fortunate in our family that my wife Libby could stay home with our two young daughters during their youth, pursuing her graduate degree and devoting most of her time to them. There is no doubt that that is the most important investment that our family has ever made. There is absolutely no complete substitute for the care of a loving parent to a child.

But, increasingly in this country, we find single parent families and we find two parent families where both parents face economic barriers, and the only way they can provide for their children is to both be out in the work force. And I know very few families in this country, certainly not mine, where a spouse is willing to stay home, and able economically to stay home for 18 years.

So it is that we come to this very strange resolution. You see, the President and our Democratic Caucus has had the courage to come forward and recognize that not all American families are like mine or any other individual family. There are many families with diverse needs, but there are few families in this country who do not at some time in their life need child care. And there is a vast void in America and shortage across America in quality child care to meet the needs and to support loving parents.

Mr. Speaker, this particular resolution has one thing in common for all parents, whether they are stay-at-home, single-parent, or two working-parent families: This resolution will do absolutely nothing for any of those families. It is a true do-nothing resolution. It seeks to create a false dichotomy between families in this country and to pit one group against another, which is your typical Republican approach. It does nothing in terms of assuring families, whatever their status, any additional support or assistance, direct or indirect.

We have nearly a child care crisis in parts of this country. It is a crisis for any working family that cannot find quality child care, as is true of millions of families across this country. Instead of dealing with this crisis in a bipartisan way, this Republican leadership is simply coming through with another phony resolution instead of a real solution.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Delaware, (Mr. CASTLE).

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. I

have some prepared remarks, but I would just like to focus for my minute on what we are dealing with here, because I am becoming increasingly concerned about what the Federal Government's role in child care should be.

I support the intent of this resolution to make sure stay-at-home parents are part of the child care debate, but I am increasingly bothered by the fact that the President will come forward and say that we need to spend an additional \$21.5 billion on child care, and we just spent some \$22 billion over 5 years in the welfare reform bill. I am concerned that we are putting stay-at-home parents with child care needs up against those that have out-of-home child care needs, and we are going to get into some sort of battle which we are going to escalate higher and higher in terms of the cost of what we are doing.

I hope we as a Congress will sit down and not get divided on a political basis in this particular circumstance, but sit down and try to determine what the real child care needs of Americans are, both at home and those who are not in the home, with respect to helping the kids. Keep it within a cost basis that we can manage within our balanced budget and go forward from there. I urge all of us to think carefully about what we promised to deliver, lest we raise expectations unrealistically or throw our balanced budget out the window.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind Members that the welfare bill reported out of our committee in 1995, under the leadership of the chairman, would have left 800,000 children without child care and cut \$2.5 billion in funding.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the mothers and fathers who have the financial means or who make the financial sacrifice necessary to stay at home with their children. I regret that this resolution has chosen to focus on one group of parents, while excluding the families who, in order to provide for their children, must have both parents in the work force. This resolution sets up a false conflict between working parents and stay-at-home parents.

More than 3 million children whose parents stay at home choose to send their young children to preschool. They want their children to benefit from the social and intellectual growth that preschool can provide. Talk to most any parents, whether working or at home. Their concern is about finding and affording safe, high-quality educational care for their children.

We need to support all parents in their child care choices. Helping parents who need to find good child care so they can work and helping parents

who stay at home should be complementary and not competing efforts.

Last October, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and I introduced a resolution honoring the child care givers who provide safe, educational care for children of working and stay-at-home parents. Its companion was introduced in the Senate by, among others, Republican Senators ROBERTS and JEFFORDS. That bipartisan resolution, which has twice as many House cosponsors as the resolution we are discussing today, is designed to recognize and promote high-quality care used by stay-at-home and working moms and dads.

Why has the Republican majority refused to move that resolution forward? Why has it chosen to pit one group of parents against another?

Whether parents stay at home or go to work, quality child care is a crucial issue. Parents know their children need safe educational care. CEOs know that high educational care must be important for their work force and a strong economy. Police officers know that high-quality child care provided early in life and before and after school reduces juvenile delinquency and chronic crime. Across our Nation, churches and synagogues donate classrooms to make quality child care more affordable and more accessible to millions of families. Parents, business leaders, law enforcement officers and religious communities across this country recognize the importance of safe, educational child care. We in this Congress must do that as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to stop the divisive practice of setting up parents against each other. Let us work together. Let us pass legislation this year that helps provide parents with the best possible educational care for all of the children in this country who need it.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Mrs. JOHNSON.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, this is an important resolution because in the process of making public policy in Washington, we have focused a lot of time, attention and resources on the cost of day-care, making day-care affordable for women coming off of welfare, helping families with the cost of day-care through, for example, the dependent care tax credit, but we have given entirely too little attention to the struggle of young families to try to stay home and take care of their own children.

For those of you interested in this resolution, I hope you will take a look at the tax bill I introduced that would provide to stay-at-home moms during the years when their kids are 0 to 3, 50 percent of that tax credit for staying at home, so they get some economic relief for staying at home and providing that very important educational qual-

ity of care that is necessary to the strong development of children in their early years.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, and thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) for bringing it to the floor.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 2 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is pain in this Chamber today. The reason being, there are gentlemen here, and women, who have come and advocated on behalf of families and children. We would want to be able to stand on the floor of the House and say that any resolution that comes before us dealing with the need of millions and millions of American families, those that work and those who have made the sacrifice to stay home, is the kind of resolution that we would like to support.

But, frankly, I am disturbed, because what this resolution does, albeit Members will decide for themselves, is it pitches one group against another. It pitches those single parents and working families who cannot do anything else but work hard, long hours and get up on the buses at 4 a.m., and they need child care.

Do you know who else it talks about? It talks about those welfare mothers that we debated 2 years ago when we said they do not need to stay home with their children, they simply need to get up and get out.

Now all of a sudden, Mr. Speaker, we are concerned about those parents who want to stay home with their children, and I am as well. As a member of the Congressional Children's Caucus, we join together to say we promote children as a national agenda. Therefore, I support the idea of making sure we have the right kind of child care.

This resolution, however, is a divisive one. I would much prefer that we came to the floor of the House and had the kind of structure and structures to make sure we have quality child care, so that anyone who works part-time, stays at home, who may ultimately need child care, cannot worry about their child having a loss of life or being injured.

Yet what we say in this one is we negate what the President has done with the billions of dollars for child care for working parents, and we put a resolution that falsely represents to those that this is something good for them if they stay home.

I want parents to be able to stay home. I applaud those who can stay home and sacrifice. But I find it divisive that we did not give the same care and tenderness to those welfare mothers who need to stay home as well.

I hope we can resolve this in a manner that promotes child care and families and children and mothers together in unity and not dividable.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close this discussion.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to make sure that it was not the author of this resolution that pitted one group against another; it was the President of the United States. It was the President of the United States who proposed \$22 billion additional dollars only for paid day care. He said nothing about the parent that stays home.

□ 1815

My resolution does not tell anybody we must do something about child care. Nor does it say we should not do anything about child care. It does not say, this is the way you do it. All this resolution says is that if someone is going to discuss child care, if there is going to be child care legislation, then let us think about all parents, let us think about all children. That is all the resolution says. Since the President only talked about those families who pay for child care, this resolution merely says think about the families also.

So I would hope everyone would support the resolution because it has nothing to do with much of what we have heard; it has only to do with the fact that all parents and all children should be considered in any debate, any discussion, any legislation that we may enact this year.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, Congress will vote on DayCare Fairness for Stay-at-Home Parents, a resolution recognizing the importance of stay-at-home parents and the care they give their kids.

I plan to support H. Con. Res. 202, because I believe that the Federal Government has for too long discriminated against parents who choose to stay at home to raise their children. We as lawmakers need to recognize the sacrifices these parents make to be at home with their kids, and encourage the kind of care that only they can give.

But a sense of Congress means nothing unless we back these words up with action. We should pass legislation that brings real tax relief to parents who stay at home.

The keystone of our child care effort should be to reverse current federal tax policy which effectively discriminates against parents who choose to stay at home to raise their children.

That is why I am introducing legislation today that will universalize the Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC) to give stay-at-home parents tax relief equal to that received by parents who choose to leave their children with an outside caregiver. Under my bill, parents who stay at home with their pre-school age children will receive credit on \$2,400 of expenses for one child, and \$4,800 for two or more children.

The Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC) is currently available only to working parents for

expenses related to non-parental child care. In effect, the DCTC subsidizes parents to leave their children in the care of others. In my view, this is a fundamentally misguided and harmful policy.

While I support H. Con. Res. 202, parents who sacrifice a second income to stay at home with their kids deserve more than just a pat on the back. Let's show stay-at-home parents that we mean what we say. Support extending the Dependent Care Tax Credit. American's families and our children will be better off for it.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I support H. Con. Res. 202, legislation designed to ensure that parents who choose to stay home and provide child care are not excluded from any future child care tax credits.

Our children are our most important resource for the future. Studies show that quality child care from a loving and interactive caregiver is imperative to the growth and emotional development of infants and young children. Parents are the most significant influence on their children. They are often the best caregivers, combining love and attention in the comfort of the child's home.

Parents who choose to stay at home and care for their children often sacrifice a much needed second full time income. The average income of two parent families with a single income is \$20,000 less than the average income of two parent families with two incomes. At least 70 percent of preschool children are in families that do not pay for child care and many of these families are struggling to make ends meet. These families should not be discriminated against for their decision to put their children first. Any congressional proposal that increase child care funding should also provide financial relief to families that choose in order that a parent stay home and care for their young child.

Therefore I support H. Con. Res. 202, a resolution that will protect a families' choice to have one parent stay at home and care for a small child. I urge my colleagues to join in support of H. Con. Res. 202.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution offered by Chairman GOODLING.

Each and every day, Americans struggle to balance the competing demands of work and family. That's why this Congress has a responsibility to address the growing child care crisis in America in a common-sense, fiscally prudent, "real-world" way.

But as we move to craft legislation that addresses the needs those families who must have both parents work due to economic necessity, we also must be careful to recognize those families who have decided to pursue on another course.

This resolution makes sense for the American people. It is important that we acknowledge the importance of stay-at-home parents and we should not discriminate against families who make the economic sacrifice to stay at home with their children.

There can be no doubt. In this day and age such a decision carries and economic price. If a mother stays at home there has got to be some recognition in the tax code for her contribution.

For my way of thinking, we need to make it more attractive for a family to make the deci-

sion for one parent to stay at home. It is a struggle, but one that is worthwhile.

Stay-at-home parents are carrying on the traditions of our mothers and grandmothers. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have enjoyed the luxury of having our mothers stay-at-home realize what a great gift this was. This is our opportunity to show the value we place on the loving care that only a parent can provide.

I chose to stay-at-home full time with my children. We need to help make such a choice available. While there are many who are not able to afford allowing one parent to stay-at-home, we must help make it more equitable for those trying to be full time homemakers.

We need to remember both the parents who must place their child in care outside the home, and the parents who are struggling to afford keeping their child in care in the home. This is only the beginning of what I believe will be a constructive debate on this subject of those who need affordable quality child care.

Support the Goodling resolution.

Lets not forget the stay at home moms.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 202, the Equitable Child Care Resolution, which ensures that all families with children will be included in future discussions on child care proposals.

It is important to recognize that all parents have child care needs, whether they choose to stay home, depend on a family member or utilize a day care center for their child. The fact that more than seventy percent of children are cared for by an at-home parent or relative, while most of the proposals before Congress focus solely on commercial child care, reveals the need for such a resolution.

Furthermore, this resolution states that any financial relief considered for parents who work outside the home should also be contemplated for families with at-home care givers. There should not be a bias against at-home parents, who many times forego a second salary to be home with a child.

This resolution will start the child care debate off on the right path by emphasizing the fact that there are many forms of child care. In seeking a federal policy, we should not favor one form of child care over another.

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, as a working mother, I can identify with the millions of parents across this country who find themselves torn between the competing responsibilities of work and family. For many families, there is no choice harder to make than whether to work, and put your child in the care of others, or to forego a second income to care for your child yourself.

The majority of mothers I have talked with would prefer to work part time, or not work at all, in order to care for their children. Unfortunately, that choice is not financially feasible for most Americans. High taxes limit parents' freedom and ability to address the needs of their families. Mothers and fathers don't need experts and polls to tell them what they already know in their hearts to be true. What parents really need is more time to spend with their children, and more money to meet the financial needs of their family.

President Clinton has proposed a child care package that ignores these fundamental concerns of parents. His plan creates a bias

against mothers who have sacrificed an income to raise their children at home. Instead, we should make it possible for as many children as possible to enjoy the benefit of full-time parental care during their early years. Non-parental care is second-best for young children and in some cases can even be harmful. This resolution is a first step toward making sure Congress passes laws that are good for children, not bureaucrats.

Families should not be penalized by Washington, DC for the personal choices they make, since parents—not bureaucrats—know what is best for their children.

As responsible legislators, we should not take away the choice of parents to stay home and take care of their children. We ought to enable an average family to survive in ordinary comfort on a single income. We can no longer guarantee this choice, however, because of the crushing tax burden on families raising children. To the extent that our tax policies are squeezing parents and forcing both into the work place, we are inflicting real harm on children.

I encourage this Congress to continue in our efforts to give all families the flexibility, choice, and freedom they need to provide for their families and raise their children in the manner they see fit, and we can only do so by promoting policies of equity that place value and trust in the ability of parents to do what is right for their children.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise some concerns I have regarding House Concurrent Resolution 202. This year President Clinton has brought to public debate the most pressing dilemma for American families. That dilemma is finding and affording appropriate child care. In the State of New Jersey, an estimated 56 percent of all women with children ages 6 and younger are employed and 75% of mothers with children between the ages of 6 and 11 work outside the home. Unfortunately, the cost of affordable care can be between \$4,000 and \$10,000 annually. We must also take into account the fact that if both parents work at full time minimum wage jobs they together will earn only \$21,400 a year. The need for some type of guidance and relief could not be more apparent in New Jersey and nationwide.

Unfortunately, the resolution we will consider today does not address the issue of access to quality child care. Instead it requires that we focus our attention on parents that choose to stay at home rather than go to work. I am pleased that some parents have such an option and I salute their commitment to their families. However, this resolution does not address the real problem that most concerns parents which is affordable child care. I believe we must first address the need of those parents who do not have a choice to stay home and supply them with the best options to find appropriate child care. I am also concerned that this resolution includes a misrepresentation of facts that does not accurately reflect the reality of the child care dilemma in this country. It also largely ignores those who are committed to caring for children who are relatives but not immediate family members. These individuals are also important and deserve recognition by Congress in child care legislation. For example, a study con-

ducted by the Department of Commerce found that grandparents and other non-parental relatives provide about 35% of the primary care for African American and Hispanic families. This resolution only focuses on stay at home parents and ignores other individuals that have a need to be compensated for their commitment to caring for children.

I must finally remind my colleagues that the U.S. House of Representatives voted to send millions of stay at home parents back into the workforce only three years ago by passing welfare reform legislation. This resolution sends the message that while we will encourage middle and upper class parents to stay at home we do not believe that the value of a stay at home parent is as important for low income children. This message is a disturbing one and not one that I will support.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, before we take the vote, if this resolution passes, what would be the next step in this legislation?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If the concurrent resolution is adopted in the House, it will go to the Senate.

Mr. HEFNER. It will go to the Senate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Yes, it will. This is a concurrent resolution.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 202, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, answered "present" 3, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 13]
YEAS—409

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Arney
Bachus
Baesler
Baker
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett

Barton
Bass
Bateman
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Berry
Bilbray
Billrakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Billiey
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehliert
Boehner

Bonilla
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Bunning
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Cook
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crapo
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Ensign
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Fawell
Fazio
Filner
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Fox
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Furse
Galleghy
Ganske
Gedjenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Green
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hansen
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Hefley
Hefner
Herger
Hill
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Ingalls
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (WI)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kim
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Klink
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowe
Lucas
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manton
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McDermott
McGovern
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (CA)
Minge
Moakley
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Neal
Nethercutt
Neumann
Noy
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pappas
Parker
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Paxon
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Redmond
Regula
Reyes
Riggs
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryun
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer, Dan
Schaffer, Bob
Schumer
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions

Shadegg	Stearns	Upton
Shaw	Stenholm	Velázquez
Shays	Stokes	Vento
Sherman	Strickland	Visclosky
Shimkus	Stump	Walsh
Shuster	Stupak	Wamp
Sisisky	Sununu	Waters
Skaggs	Talent	Watkins
Skeen	Tanner	Watt (NC)
Skelton	Tauscher	Watts (OK)
Slaughter	Tauzin	Waxman
Smith (MI)	Taylor (MS)	Weldon (FL)
Smith (NJ)	Taylor (NC)	Weldon (PA)
Smith (TX)	Thomas	Weller
Smith, Adam	Thompson	Wexler
Smith, Linda	Thornberry	Weygand
Snowbarger	Thune	White
Snyder	Thurman	Whitfield
Solomon	Tiahrt	Wicker
Souder	Tierney	Wolf
Spence	Torres	Wolfsey
Spratt	Towns	Wynn
Stabenow	Trafcant	Young (AK)
Stark	Turner	Young (FL)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—3

Frank (MA)	Martinez	Payne
------------	----------	-------

NOT VOTING—18

Callahan	Lantos	Obey
Conyers	Linder	Poshard
Doolittle	Miller (FL)	Schiff
Eshoo	Mink	Smith (OR)
Gonzalez	Myrick	Wise
Harman	Nadler	Yates

□ 1836

Mr. BERMAN and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government should acknowledge the importance of at-home parents and should not discriminate against families who forgo a second income in order for a mother or father to be at home with their children."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I was called away on a family matter and was unable to be here to vote on H. Con. Res. 202, the Daycare Fairness for Stay-At-Home Parents.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been here I would have supported this measure and voted "aye."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 202.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 927) to reauthorize the Sea Grant Program, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 927

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ACT.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment or repeal to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

(a) Section 202(a)(1) (33 U.S.C. 1121(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

"(D) encourage the development of forecast and analysis systems for coastal hazards";

(b) Section 202(a)(6) (33 U.S.C. 1121(a)(6)) is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "The most cost-effective way to promote such activities is through continued and increased Federal support of the establishment, development, and operation of programs and projects by sea grant colleges, sea grant institutes, and other institutions."

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

(a) Section 203 (33 U.S.C. 1122) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking "their university or" and inserting "his or her"; and

(B) by striking "college, programs, or regional consortium" and inserting "college or sea grant institute";

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) The term 'field related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources' means any discipline or field, including marine affairs, resource management, technology, education, or science, which is concerned with or likely to improve the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, or conservation of ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes resources.";

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (15) as paragraphs (7) through (17), respectively, and inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) The term 'Great Lakes' includes Lake Champlain.

"(6) The term 'institution' means any public or private institution of higher education, institute, laboratory, or State or local agency.";

(4) by striking "regional consortium, institution of higher education, institute, or laboratory" in paragraph (11) (as redesignated) and inserting "institute or other institution"; and

(5) by striking paragraphs (12) through (17) (as redesignated) and inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

"(12) The term 'project' means any individually described activity in a field related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources involving research, education, training, or advisory services administered by a person with expertise in such a field.

"(13) The term 'sea grant college' means any institution, or any association or alliance of two or more such institutions, designated as such by the Secretary under section 207 (33 U.S.C. 1126) of this Act.

"(14) The term 'sea grant institute' means any institution, or any association or alliance of two or more such institutions, designated as such by the Secretary under section 207 (33 U.S.C. 1126) of this Act.

"(15) The term 'sea grant program' means a program of research and outreach which is administered by one or more sea grant colleges or sea grant institutes.

"(16) The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

"(17) The term 'State' means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States."

(b) The Act is amended—

(1) in section 209(b) (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)), as amended by this Act, by striking "the Under Secretary,"; and

(2) by striking "Under Secretary" every other place it appears and inserting "Secretary".

SEC. 5. NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

Section 204 (33 U.S.C. 1123) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 204. NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

"(a) PROGRAM MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary shall maintain within the Administration a program to be known as the national sea grant college program. The national sea grant college program shall be administered by a national sea grant office within the Administration.

"(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The national sea grant college program shall consist of the financial assistance and other activities authorized in this title, and shall provide support for the following elements—

"(1) sea grant programs which comprise a national sea grant college program network, including international projects conducted within such programs;

"(2) administration of the national sea grant college program and this title by the national sea grant office, the Administration, and the panel;

"(3) the fellowship program under section 208; and

"(4) any national strategic investments in fields relating to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources developed with the approval of the panel, the sea grant colleges, and the sea grant institutes.

"(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

"(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the panel, sea grant colleges, and sea grant institutes, shall develop a long-range strategic plan which establishes priorities for the national sea grant college program and which provides an appropriately balanced response to local, regional, and national needs.

"(2) Within 6 months of the date of enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998, the Secretary, in consultation with the panel, sea grant colleges, and sea grant institutes, shall

establish guidelines related to the activities and responsibilities of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes. Such guidelines shall include requirements for the conduct of merit review by the sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes of proposals for grants and contracts to be awarded under section 205, providing, at a minimum, for standardized documentation of such proposals and peer review of all research projects.

“(3) The Secretary shall by regulation prescribe the qualifications required for designation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes under section 207.

“(4) To carry out the provisions of this title, the Secretary may—

“(A) appoint, assign the duties, transfer, and fix the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary, in accordance with civil service laws;

“(B) make appointments with respect to temporary and intermittent services to the extent authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

“(C) publish or arrange for the publication of, and otherwise disseminate, in cooperation with other offices and programs in the Administration and without regard to section 501 of title 44, United States Code, any information of research, educational, training or other value in fields related to ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes resources;

“(D) enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, and other transactions without regard to section 5 of title 41, United States Code;

“(E) notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, accept donations and voluntary and uncompensated services;

“(F) accept funds from other Federal departments and agencies, including agencies within the Administration, to pay for and add to grants made and contracts entered into by the Secretary; and

“(G) promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary and appropriate.

“(d) DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.—

“(1) The Secretary shall appoint, as the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program, a qualified individual who has appropriate administrative experience and knowledge or expertise in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The Director shall be appointed and compensated, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, at a rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) Subject to the supervision of the Secretary, the Director shall administer the national sea grant college program and oversee the operation of the national sea grant office. In addition to any other duty prescribed by law or assigned by the Secretary, the Director shall—

“(A) facilitate and coordinate the development of a long-range strategic plan under subsection (c)(1);

“(B) advise the Secretary with respect to the expertise and capabilities which are available within or through the national sea grant college program and encourage the use of such expertise and capabilities, on a cooperative or other basis, by other offices and activities within the Administration, and other Federal departments and agencies;

“(C) advise the Secretary on the designation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, and, if appropriate, on the termination or suspension of any such designation; and

“(D) encourage the establishment and growth of sea grant programs, and coopera-

tion and coordination with other Federal activities in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

“(3) With respect to sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, the Director shall—

“(A) evaluate the programs of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, using the priorities, guidelines, and qualifications established by the Secretary;

“(B) subject to the availability of appropriations, allocate funding among sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes so as to—

“(i) promote healthy competition among sea grant colleges and institutes;

“(ii) encourage successful implementation of sea grant programs; and

“(iii) to the maximum extent consistent with other provisions of this Act, provide a stable base of funding for sea grant colleges and institutes; and

“(C) ensure compliance with the guidelines for merit review under subsection (c)(2).”

SEC. 6. REPEAL OF SEA GRANT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM.

Section 3 of the Sea Grant Program Improvement Act of 1976 (33 U.S.C. 1124a) is repealed.

SEC. 7. SEA GRANT COLLEGES AND SEA GRANT INSTITUTES.

Section 207 (33 U.S.C. 1126) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 207. SEA GRANT COLLEGES AND SEA GRANT INSTITUTES.

“(a) DESIGNATION.—

“(1) A sea grant college or sea grant institute shall meet the following qualifications—

“(A) have an existing broad base of competence in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;

“(B) make a long-term commitment to the objective in section 202(b), as determined by the Secretary;

“(C) cooperate with other sea grant colleges and institutes and other persons to solve problems or meet needs relating to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;

“(D) have received financial assistance under section 205 of this title (33 U.S.C. 1124);

“(E) be recognized for excellence in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources (including marine resources management and science), as determined by the Secretary; and

“(F) meet such other qualifications as the Secretary, in consultation with the panel, considers necessary or appropriate.

“(2) The Secretary may designate an institution, or an association or alliance of two or more such institutions, as a sea grant college if the institution, association, or alliance—

“(A) meets the qualifications in paragraph (1); and

“(B) maintains a program of research, advisory services, training, and education in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

“(3) The Secretary may designate an institution, or an association or alliance of two or more such institutions, as a sea grant institute if the institution, association, or alliance—

“(A) meets the qualifications in paragraph (1); and

“(B) maintains a program which includes, at a minimum, research and advisory services.

“(b) EXISTING DESIGNEES.—Any institution, or association or alliance of two or more such institutions, designated as a sea grant college or awarded institutional program status by the Director prior to the date of enactment of the National Sea Grant College

Program Reauthorization Act of 1998, shall not have to reapply for designation as a sea grant college or sea grant institute, respectively, after the date of enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998, if the Director determines that the institution, or association or alliance of institutions, meets the qualifications in subsection (a).

“(c) SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The Secretary may, for cause and after an opportunity for hearing, suspend or terminate any designation under subsection (a).

“(d) DUTIES.—Subject to any regulations prescribed or guidelines established by the Secretary, it shall be the responsibility of each sea grant college and sea grant institute—

“(1) to develop and implement, in consultation with the Secretary and the panel, a program that is consistent with the guidelines and priorities established under section 204(c); and

“(2) to conduct a merit review of all proposals for grants and contracts to be awarded under section 205.”

SEC. 8. SEA GRANT REVIEW PANEL.

(a) Section 209(a) (33 U.S.C. 1128(a)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(b) Section 209(b) (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Panel” and inserting “(b) DUTIES.—The panel”;

(2) by striking “and section 3 of the Sea Grant College Program Improvement Act of 1976” in paragraph (1); and

(3) by striking “regional consortia” in paragraph (3) and inserting “institutes”.

(c) Section 209(c) (33 U.S.C. 1128(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “college, sea grant regional consortium, or sea grant program” and inserting “college or sea grant institute”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (5)(A) and inserting the following:

“(A) receive compensation at a rate established by the Secretary, not to exceed the maximum daily rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, when actually engaged in the performance of duties for such panel; and”

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS.—Section 212(a) (33 U.S.C. 1131(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

“(A) \$56,000,000 for fiscal year 1999;

“(B) \$57,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

“(C) \$58,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

“(D) \$59,000,000 for fiscal year 2002; and

“(E) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

“(2) ZEBRA MUSSEL AND OYSTER RESEARCH.—In addition to the amount authorized for each fiscal year under paragraph (1)—

“(A) up to \$2,800,000 may be made available as provided in section 1301(b)(4)(A) of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4741(b)(4)(A)) for competitive grants for university research on the zebra mussel;

“(B) up to \$3,000,000 may be made available for competitive grants for university research on oyster diseases and oyster-related human health risks; and

“(C) up to \$3,000,000 may be made available for competitive grants for university research on *Pfiesteria piscicida* and other harmful algal blooms.”

(b) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN FUNDING.—Section 212(b)(1) (33 U.S.C. 1131(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—

"(1) LIMITATION.—No more than 5 percent of the lesser of—

"(A) the amount authorized to be appropriated; or

"(B) the amount appropriated,

for each fiscal year under subsection (a) may be used to fund the program element contained in section 204(b)(2).

"(c) NOTICE OF REPROGRAMMING.—If any funds authorized by this section are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the Appropriations Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, notice of such action shall concurrently be provided to the Committees on Science and Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

"(d) NOTICE OF REORGANIZATION.—The Secretary shall provide notice to the Committees on Science, Resources, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of the Senate, not later than 45 days before any major reorganization of any program, project, or activity of the National Sea Grant College Program."

SEC. 10. ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES.

Notwithstanding section 559 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to any marine resource conservation law or regulation administered by the Secretary of Commerce acting through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, all adjudicatory functions which are required by chapter 5 of title 5 of such Code to be performed by an Administrative Law Judge may be performed by the United States Coast Guard on a reimbursable basis. Should the United States Coast Guard require the detail of an Administrative Law Judge to perform any of these functions, it may request such temporary or occasional assistance from the Office of Personnel Management pursuant to section 3344 of title 5, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 927, a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program. This bill is very similar to the legislation that I introduced in January, 1997, and in fact, that bill passed the House with 422 votes on June 18.

Mr. Speaker, the bill that passed the House on June 18 by a vote of 422 to zero was virtually the same as this bill. The House bill had the bipartisan support of 107 cosponsors, including the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), Committee on Resources chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), ranking Democrat, and the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans.

The version of the bill adopted by the House was a compromise version adopted by the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Science.

The National Sea Grant College Program was established by Congress in 1966 to improve our Nation's marine resources and conservation efforts, to better manage those resources, and to enhance their proper utilization.

S. 927, the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1997, authorizes funding for Sea Grant through fiscal year 2003; simplifies the definition of issues under the Sea Grant authority; clarifies the responsibilities of State and national programs; consolidates and clarifies the requirements for the designation of Sea Grant colleges and regional groups; and assures that the Sea Grant research will be adequately peer reviewed.

It also authorizes funding for timely research on oyster diseases and oyster-related human health risks, Pfiesteria and other harmful algae blooms and zebra mussels.

Mr. Speaker, I have carefully reviewed the language in this Senate-passed legislation and find it substantially the same as that passed here; and I support the changes approved by the other body with the minor changes we are making today. By enacting this legislation, we will be sending a clear message supporting the conservation and researched-based management of our marine and coastal resources.

The Sea Grant program has been a big success, and I am pleased that after 3 years of hard work we are now poised to extend this most important environmental program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I too rise in strong support of the bill. S. 927 provides a strong reauthorization of the National Sea Grant College Program which, for over 30 years, has addressed important local, regional and national marine resource problems through education, research and public outreach.

The legislation before the House is a compromise with the other body. It reauthorizes Sea Grant for 5 years. It clarifies the roles of the national office and the Sea Grant colleges. It strengthens competitive peer review for grants and contracts for research, education and outreach, and generally brings Sea Grant up to date as a modern education and research program.

The authorization levels in the bill will fully fund Sea Grant's ongoing base program, while providing additional funding for certain research priorities, which include nonindigenous species, oyster disease, and toxic microbe Pfiesteria.

□ 1845

While I do not question the validity of research in these areas, I regret that

some Members have felt it necessary to question whether all of these research options are necessary. One of the sea grant's great strengths over the years has been its ability to respond rapidly and effectively to local and regional needs, Mr. Speaker. I think that that is something that is now involved in the program in a way that both the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and myself can support. There is no reason to think that it will not continue to do so; that is to say, respond effectively to local needs under its usual effective peer review processes.

I would like to express my appreciation for the cooperation that we in the minority have received from the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the staffs on this bill.

I can assure my colleagues that on this bill any partisan considerations were put to rest with respect to the thrust of the legislative activity under consideration. This is not, therefore, a bipartisan bill, this is a nonpartisan bill. I think all of us who represent coastal areas have long appreciated the benefits of this practical and non-controversial program. It is a good bill, reauthorizing a popular program. I am glad we are doing it at this time. I most certainly urge the House to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, to show the support of Texas for the sea grant reauthorization, I rise in support of the National Sea Grant College program. The National Sea Grant College program was established in 1966 to provide wide stewardship over our marine and coastal resources. It is a partnership between universities, States, communities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The mission of the sea grant program is to promote and sponsor research and education and outreach aimed at the wise use of resources and the development and effective management and conservation programs that target our Nation's coastal and marine resources.

Texas A&M university has a Sea Grant College at Galveston, Texas which is actually in the district of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON). The program has spread throughout the Gulf Coast of Texas and throughout the whole State. I represent the port of Houston. So my home State of Texas allows individuals to learn about the ocean and the coastal environments and innovative marine technologies.

The 29th district that I represent has the port of Houston and the port plays a vital part in our economy and the livelihood of our surrounding communities. Texas A&M's Sea Grant College provides business owners, fishermen and the community groups that live and work along the port of Houston with information on how to achieve the

most benefits economically while responsibly conserving the environment. Without the sea grant program, the citizens of Texas and our Nation will not stay current and be innovative and competitive with the rest of the world.

By reauthorizing the Sea Grant College program through the year 2003, we have ensured that we will train our future citizens, future citizens who will not only look to protect our oceans and coastal areas but also be trained to properly manage our marine resources.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill. This bill makes significant improvements in the sea grant program by streamlining the proposal review process, reducing the administrative costs and clarifying the Federal and university roles in the program. This program, in its 30-year history, has proven its value and worth to our country. I rise in support of the bill and I thank my colleague from Hawaii for yielding me the time and also the chairman of committee for bringing this bill forward.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Hawaii for yielding me the time and special thanks to our chair of our great committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON). I rise on this issue because I think oftentimes Members do not understand why a program like sea grant is so important to our Nation.

We are a Nation surrounded by water. This whole globe is covered by water. Essentially the future of the survival of this planet is going to be dependent upon how societies treat the ocean. When we think about the meeting of land and water, which is the coastal zones of this country, that is the most fragile ecosystem there is on the planet because most of the people on this planet live in the coastal zone. So what happens is, if we do not understand what the significance is of using the ocean, dumping in the ocean, relying on the ocean, we are going to be victims of something we do not understand.

We are already finding that as we find fisheries that are overfished, as we find global climate change, all of these factors are dependent upon a program that invests in collecting the best minds there are in the country to put some effort into studying the ocean. That is what the sea grant program is all about.

There are 26 colleges in the United States that receive grants from this. It benefits the coastal States, benefits the Great Lakes States. These programs encompass advisory services, public education for marine scientists and also for our kindergarten through the 12th grade. So it is a program that is essentially looking into private sec-

tor collaboration with the government, an aquaculture program, coastal and estuarine research, marine biotechnology, marine fisheries management, and seafood safety.

You add it all up and this is really a very important program. Frankly, the Federal Government puts very little money into it. We ought to put a lot more. This whole issue is so important that the world, other countries in the world are involved along with us with an International Year of the Oceans.

This issue about what are we doing with authorizing the sea grant program is essentially we have made the administration of it much cleaner, much more specific, much more, I think, to the interests of, broader interests of this country, but we are also realizing that this agenda of engaging the smartest minds in this country is essentially an issue about survival, not just survival of the United States but survival of the globe. This is money well spent. This program is well done.

Let me just tell you a little story. Last year I was able to get a fellow in my office, Jennifer Newton. She has been so good at being a sea grant fellow that I hired her when her fellowship ended up to be in my program. So it brings people into the Capitol who would not otherwise be here and allows us access to good scientific minds. This reauthorization is a step well taken. It has no partisan differences. It is what we do here in Congress best.

I am very proud to rise in support of it and to thank my learned colleagues for their support and particularly the leadership of our chair and ranking member the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

This legislation particularly impacts those of us in the coastal area of Texas and as a Member of Congress that has an adjoining district near the Houston port as well as the Galveston coastline, we advocate clearly the need for legislation that provides for such improvement. I would argue that this is very important legislation and also legislation that is long overdue. I would like to thank both the chairman and ranking member for promoting this legislation and I might say to have it on the suspension calendar so that we might easily have it passed. I join my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), in advocating its importance for not only Texas but our local regional area.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND).

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and the gentleman

from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) for bringing this legislation before us. It truly has bipartisan support. It is a wonderful program. It is a great piece of legislation. As many of the previous speakers have mentioned, it does really affect so many different States, those of us that are on the ocean, those of us in the Great Lakes.

But as the ocean State, Rhode Island has a very proud and rich maritime heritage. Not so coincidental the State has also had a proud and rich heritage with the sea grant program. My State's history with the National Sea Grant program dates back to 1968 when the first funds were awarded to the graduate school of oceanography at the University of Rhode Island in Narragansett. In 1971, the university was established as a Sea Grant College, one of the first four in the country. The university was recertified as a sea grant institution most recently in 1985. Rhode Island also serves as the proud host of the National Sea Grant Depository. Housed in the Pell Marine Science Library at the university, it houses over 55,000 scientific, technical and advisory and education and public information reports on sea grant supported work throughout the world.

The sea grant program has allowed many valuable research and educational projects to be funded in my district, in my State and indeed throughout the country. Rhode Island alone has been the recipient of many programs that have been valuable in terms of providing new safety techniques for fish harvesting and environmentally sensitive beach erosion techniques, pollution mitigation for Narragansett Bay and other estuaries and streams and also valuable aquaculture that affects our State's economy.

Similar projects throughout the country have been wonderfully received, have been very valuable not only to the research in and the education that goes on at our universities but, importantly, to the economy and the economic well-being of our States.

These programs are aimed at not only saving our wonderful resources but also improving the businesses that use those resources. That is why it is so significant that we have been able to marry those two together in a very effective way to provide great preservation of our resources while at the same time recognizing its valuable input to our economy.

I join my colleagues in recommending and supporting passage of this legislation. I would like to thank the two managers of the legislation, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), for their effort to bring this to the floor.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would like to express once again my gratitude to the gentleman

from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and express my very fond aloha to him and to the committee staff. Mr. Speaker, I do not think anyone in the Congress is as devoted to the subject matter over which he has jurisdiction than the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON). The ocean resources over which this Nation has sovereignty and the concern that he expresses for this most valuable of all resources is something that sets the benchmark, I think, for all of us regardless of party.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would like to thank the gentleman for his very kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, this is good legislation and I am sure it is legislation that every Member of the House will want to support. But this legislation is just an example of what can be done when we work on a bipartisan basis. The gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), who has served for 3 years as the ranking member of the committee, has been a major, major contributor to the bipartisan spirit that has permitted us to move through issue after issue and, frankly, without rancor, and frankly I cannot think of a time that we have come to the floor with major legislation since the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) has been the ranking member when we have had a disagreement. We work things out ahead of time. We do it in an amicable way. As a result of that, we have been able to pass legislation that deals with the marine environment, been able to pass a major legislation that deals with fisheries resources, major legislation that deals with the marine mammal, the Marine Mammal Protection Act. We passed legislation on protection of coral reefs. We reformed the national refuge system with new legislation last year.

□ 1900

We were able to pass a bill to promote volunteerism in the refuge system. We were able to pass coastal estuary issues to protect wetlands and so on along many coastal areas of our country, all because of the bipartisan spirit that has been exhibited by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and what he has brought to the committee.

Also, the gentleman is never at a loss for words when he is speaking up for the sea grant program, which also exists at the University of Hawaii, I would point out. He has been an outstanding advocate for his home, the humpback whale sanctuary and, of course, the National Undersea Research Laboratory, which is also in Hawaii.

So I would just like to say it is not aloha, probably. He will still be a member of the committee, even though it will not be the ranking member, and I will look forward to working with the

gentleman on these issues as they come back to visit us and many others, I am sure, along the way.

It has been a pleasure over these past 3 years serving with the gentleman from Hawaii, and I will look forward to continuing our relationship.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, for over three decades, the National Sea Grant College Program has performed an extraordinary service not only to the State of New Jersey, but also to the nation. Sea Grant is a competitive, merit-based, aquatic science program that benefits marine and freshwater industries, environments, and communities of the United States by applying science and technology to problems of day-to-day concern.

Few federal programs have achieved the exceptional economic impact that the Sea Grant College Program has shown since its inception in 1996. Research conducted through the Sea Grant Program is crucial to meeting important objectives in the areas of aquatic resource conservation and management, sustainable development, technology innovation, and coastal and inland water quality. Furthermore, the program has proven to be very effective in transferring its scientific and technical results to industry as well as identifying and communicating local needs and problems to Sea Grant program managers and researchers.

Recent examples of Sea Grant supported research and outreach activities that have positively impacted the lives of New Jersey residents include:

Sponsoring a commercial fisherman's safety training program. Techniques learned in this course enabled a first mate on a Cape May fishing vessel to save the life of his captain's son during an accident at sea;

Supporting a "red tide" research effort to examine nitrogen inputs into estuaries. This project has already developed into a full-scale, water quality monitoring and management project with potential for national applications; and

Coordinating a partnership of the New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland Sea Grant Programs with the Public Service Gas and Electric Company (PSE&G) for a massive marsh restoration effort on the Delaware Bay. This effort is the largest of its kind in the country and represents a unique collaboration of government, industry, academic and scientific interests.

To be competitive in the future, it is essential that the U.S. develop a skilled workforce that is scientifically literate and environmentally sensitive. The National Sea Grant College Program has been a leader in science education from "hands-on" science experiences at the K-12 level, to supporting thousands of graduate students in aquatic and environmental science. Informal education of the general public and technical advice for businesses are also important aspects of Sea Grant's education objectives.

The National Sea Grant College Program is truly a program worthy of our investment. I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this issue as the appropriations process moves forward.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, as many of you know, this year has been designated the International Year of the Oceans. I am pleased that so early on in our legislative agenda, we have the chance to vote for something which so positively affects our understanding, and wise management of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

These resources are of great importance not only to our economy and the environment, but to our social and cultural vitality, and even our national security. But we put incredible pressures on these environments. Over half of our population lives in the 10% of land area defined as coastal. We have over-harvested many of the fish and other living resources. We alter the physical environment, filling in wetlands, dredging our harbors, and bulkheading our shorelines. We pollute. We introduce alien species into our ecosystems. We're adding substances to the atmosphere that increase ultraviolet radiation and alter the climate. We are inundated with news of disasters that affect our oceans and coasts, from harmful algal blooms such as the *Pfisteria* outbreaks this past summer, to medical wastes washing up on our shores.

I hope to be standing up in front of you soon to urge your support of the Oceans Act of 1997, H.R. 2547, legislation which I have put together with my colleagues to help ensure that our coasts and oceans are properly taken care of for generations to come.

I believe that Sea Grant is, and will be, an integral part of efforts to better understand, properly conserve, and sustainably use our marine resources. For over 30 years Sea Grant programs have supported high quality, competitive, peer reviewed science to better understand these dynamic resources, our effects on them, and to propose ways to minimize negative impacts while enhancing economic benefits. This information is then distributed to the public and user-groups through educational and advisory programs, so that they can manage and utilize these resources in a sustainable manner.

And these programs are fiscally responsible. Federal funding for Sea Grant must be matched by non-federal contributions, and over half of the funding for Sea Grant programs comes from non-federal sources.

Sea Grant provides virtually the only funding for the study of marine resource policy, and is a major contributor to efforts in aquaculture, coastal and estuarine research, marine biotechnology, marine fisheries management, and seafood safety.

Funded at about \$50 million dollars annually, a Sea Grant funded industrial pollution model has already led to over \$480 million dollars in savings for State pollution clean-up costs in the Great Lakes alone.

Sea Grant efforts have led to enhanced fisheries management and production, with direct economic benefits. In my own district, Sea Grant research is being conducted on how coastal upwelling affects larval survival in rockfish, a study important to properly managing the \$10 million-a-year rockfish fishery.

There's another project also underway to try to isolate medicinal products from marine algae. Sea grant programs have led to the discovery of more than 1,000 new compounds from marine organisms, and 14 new product patents to date.

A third project in my district is dealing with the important topic of preserving marine biodiversity, comparing the current diversity of the rocky intertidal in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, one of the most biologically diverse regions known, to diversity levels recorded in the 1970's. This research will put into perspective issues of long-term ecological stability and community persistence in the face of natural and human impacts.

And in my office this past year we had a Sea Grant fellow, a graduate student who was learning how to apply her scientific background and research to effective policy making.

This is a tremendously valuable, fiscally responsible program, and I urge you to support its reauthorization, as well as increased appropriations to the authorized amount in FY99.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 927, the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act. This is a long-awaited measure that reorganizes the nation's foremost aquatic educational grant program for the challenges of the Twenty-First Century.

We have only begun to understand the depth of knowledge that our oceans can yield to us. What little we have learned has done much to change humanity's perspective on its relationship with the sea. And I am proud to say that Sea Grant has had a major role in the progress made in aquatic research at the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, located in Port Norris, New Jersey.

In noting the provisions contained in S. 927 that authorize grants for oyster disease research, I am excited by the prospect of one day seeing Southern New Jersey watermen shovel bushels of oysters from the Delaware Bay, as they did many years ago. Research undertaken in this area by Rutgers University, through the financial assistance of New Jersey Sea Grant, will hopefully resurrect an industry that has all but disappeared from the Second Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support S. 927.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, reauthorizing the National Sea Grant College Program is not only an investment in the future of our

nation's marine resources, it is also sound public policy. The various ingredients, such as scientific research, educational training, and community application, mixed into the complex operation of a sea grant college benefit not only regions close to marine resources, but the global population as a whole. For example, Sea Grant developed the first systematic attempt to locate and establish new drugs from marine components.

The development of our coastal regions means an increasing reliance on marine research to generate intelligence policies. Contributions in the area of aquatic resource management and sustainable economic development has made Sea Grant a vital link between scientific findings and local resource implementation. For Guam, this aspect is vitally important as we continue to attempt to fully utilize our Pacific resources.

I also emphasize the National Sea Grant College Program's contributions to science education. Through various activities, such as the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program, thousands of students are introduced to the wonders of marine science and research. Annually, Sea Grant supports 450 graduate students by employing them in research ventures. In addition, students from K-12 increase their marine knowledge through various Sea Grant sponsored activities.

The University of Guam collaborates in the Sea Grant Program through the University of Hawaii. However, the people of Guam look forward to a separate Sea Grant status. The Marine Laboratory in the University of Guam has evolved into an important marine research center serving not only Guam, but the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. Guam has the support of the Office of Insular Affairs in the Department of Interior in this issue.

Clearly the National Sea Grant Program is essential not only to our understanding and utilization of our marine resources, but for our economy, our environment and our students. I urge my colleagues to support its reauthorization.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House, today, to express my support for S. 927, a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program through FY 2003.

Established by Congress in 1966, the National Sea Grant College Program has fostered the wise use, conservation, and management of marine and coastal resources through practical research, graduate student education, and public service.

I am proud that the University of Delaware has been a part of Sea Grant since 1976 when it became the 9th institution to join. In particular, the University of Delaware's program conducts research in environmental studies, fisheries, marine biotechnology, marine policy, seafood science, and coastal engineering.

Graduates from its program have gone on to make impressive contributions at the National Academy of Sciences, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Boston University School of Medicine, the U.S. State Department, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and a host of cutting-edge corporations.

The National Sea Grant College Program is much more than a research institution. Its staff reaches out to business owners, schoolteachers, and government agencies to provide them with objective information and assistance in addressing coastal problems and developing technology that benefits all of us.

For example, the National Sea Grant College Program conducted important research on mosquito-eating fish that help curb disease-carrying mosquito populations naturally. They also developed technology both to recycle crab shells into bandages and animal feed and to harvest pollution-free energy from ocean waves.

One of the most important services the National Sea Grant College Program provides is assistance in protecting beaches, roads, buildings and wildlife along our fragile coastlines. The sea Grant Program's research is responsible for developing a novel sand bypass system that protects coastlines from beach erosion.

Unfortunately, the Clinton Administration has not followed through on the investment this country made in the National Sea Grant College Program. In Delaware, the Administration has commissioned study after study that shows the tremendous need to construct the coastal protection technologies developed by the National Sea Grant College Program, but it refuses to honor its commitment to pay its share of the construction costs. As a result, in the last two weeks, Delaware has suffered tremendous damage in the wake of violent nor'easters.

Mr. Speaker, every coastal state can boast the achievements of its Sea Grant College Program and every state benefits from its work. The Senate passed this legislation by unanimous consent and the House passed similar legislation, H.R. 437, last June, by a vote of 422-3. Therefore, please join me in reauthorizing this worthy program.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support S. 927, and I am very pleased to see that we are considering it today. We began the process of reauthorizing the National Sea Grant College Program more than three years ago, and I hope we can now conclude it quickly.

Sea Grant was established in 1966 in order to improve our Nation's marine resource conservation efforts, to manage those resources more effectively, and to enhance their proper use. The program is patterned after the highly successful Land Grant College Program, which is familiar to many of our non-coastal members.

For over 30 years, Sea Grant has successfully achieved its goals through a unique combination of research grants, marine advisory services, and education. This year, Mr. Ron Dearborn, who does an excellent job as Director of the Alaska Sea Grant College Program, is serving as President of the Sea Grant Association. Alaska's Sea Grant program has improved our understanding of commercial fish stocks, the factors affecting the size and health of those stocks, and the best economic uses for fishery resources. Using this information, we have developed effective management regimes, and we continue to create more jobs while minimizing long-term impacts to our fisheries.

Alaska Sea Grant also supports a comprehensive Marine Advisory Service, which has provided industry training programs on topics ranging from marine safety and seafood technology to business management for fishermen and shoreside support facilities. Through proper training, we ensure that our industries, businesses, and individuals who depend on productive fisheries can continue to do their jobs effectively.

Sea Grant is a perfect example of the type of program that we should support. The program produces tangible results that help solve local and regional problems and, most importantly, it maximizes immediate and long-range returns by matching Federal investments with State and private funds.

The Resources and Science Committees were unable to reach agreement on reauthorizing legislation in the last Congress. In this Congress, H.R. 437, which was introduced by my colleague, Jim Saxton, and a number of other Members last year, and upon which S. 927 is based, passed the House by a vote of 422 to 3.

S. 927 is similar to H.R. 437, it enjoys widespread support, and I am confident that by voting for it now we can finally reauthorize this important program. Mr. Speaker, I urge an aye vote on S. 927.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 927, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 927, the Senate bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 354) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

S. RES. 354

Resolved, That the following Members be, and they are hereby, elected to the following

standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on the Judiciary: Mr. Rogan of California.

Committee on National Security: Ms. Granger of Texas.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD V. DELLUMS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, last week many Members took the floor to pay tribute to Representative Ron Dellums. My schedule was such that I did not get an opportunity to do so at that time but I decided that I would come on this day so as not to miss the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, to every man there is a way, a ways and a way, the high souls take the highway, and the low souls take the low. While on the misty flats all the rest drift to and fro. To every man there is a way, a ways and a way, and each man decideth each way his soul shall go.

Such has been the life, career and work of the Representative Ron Dellums, who has served his family, community, country and, yes, the world with elegance and distinction. He has demonstrated courage and commitment and has been loyal to those causes which he deemed to be just. Ron has been an ambassador of democracy and a serious promoter of peace, recognizing and realizing the difficulty of its attainment.

One of my colleagues recently said of Ron Dellums that he has made a difference. I agree with that assessment and go a step further. I say not only has Ron made a difference but he is different. Ron marches to the beat of a different drummer. He is a thoroughbred, a long-distance runner, tough and tenacious. He is certainly one of the best. He is in a class by himself.

When describing Ron, some people like to refer to his stature. The young fellow on the block where I live says, "He is tall like pine, black like crow, talk more noise than WVON radio." Ron reminds me of the words of Sir Issac Watts when he said, "Were I so tall as to reach from poll to poll or grasp the ocean with my span; I must be measured by my soul, for the mind is the standard of the man."

Ron Dellums. What a mind, what a man. A creative, piercing, probing, in-

cisive, thought-provoking, inspiring, charismatic, careful, considerate and deliberative mind. The mind to stand up when others sit down. The mind to act when others refuse to act. The mind to stand even when you stand alone, battered, bruised and scorned, but still standing. Standing on principle, standing tall and standing for the people.

And so, Ron, as you leave to look after the needs of your family and pursue other endeavors, take with you the words of this Irish proverb, "May the roads rise up to meet you, may the wind always be at your back, may the sun shine warmly upon your face, and until we meet again, may the good Lord hold you in the hollow of his hand."

A Luta Continua!

IN SUPPORT OF MEDICARE VENIPUNCTURE SENIORS PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, first let me say that I would like to commend my colleague, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), for his leadership on the issue of Medicare coverage for venipuncture.

Since Christmas, I have received hundreds of letters and numerous phone calls at both my home and office on home care and the health of our elderly. Most of these people calling and writing are scared. They are afraid for themselves and for their loved ones. Why are they afraid? Because the recently passed Balanced Budget Act will change their lives in a way that could be devastating.

This change in coverage under Medicare for a service known as venipuncture or, more simply, the drawing of blood, was made without even a score from the Congressional Budget Office. No hearings were held; no specific clinical examples were used. We are being told that this will not have a strong impact on the lives of those who receive this service because they can qualify in some other way for venipuncture services.

But what if they cannot? What if even a handful cannot get the services they need anymore? People could die. People could actually die if we are not sure about the impact of this change which became effective last week. In the court system in this country the jury must have evidence that can leave no reasonable doubt of guilt to make a decision. How can we sentence our seniors to this harsh change if we do not have assurance that they will be protected from harm?

For this reason I have introduced H.R. 3137, the Medicare Venipuncture Seniors Protection Act, which will

delay the implementation of this legislation for 18 months, giving us more time to study the impact of this change in coverage on our elderly and frail. This bill will also request specific information from Health and Human Services on the hardships of those in rural areas and what they will endure due to the effect of this new law.

I fear that those who recommended this change were thinking more of places like New York City than rural parts of Alabama, West Virginia and Texas, where people may not be physically able to get to a doctor's office or to have their blood drawn. This small 29-word provision that was inserted into the Balanced Budget Act rather hastily did not take into account the situation of States like Tennessee, for instance, where under their State law lab technicians by law cannot leave the health care facility, leaving any homebound person truly in need of venipuncture with very limited options.

We are all in favor of cutting out waste, fraud and abuse, but let us not throw the baby out with the bathwater by punishing the elderly and the frail who have come to depend on these services. Waste, fraud and abuse in a Medicare system that has just been saved from the brink of bankruptcy cannot be tolerated, but a truly homebound elderly Medicare recipient should not be punished for the fraud their health care provider is engaged in.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in fighting to protect our seniors.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the representative of Mississippi 2nd Congressional District in support of H.R. 2912, the Medicare Venipuncture Fairness Act of 1997. This bill will delay the implementation of the Venipuncture provision in the Balanced Budget Act 1997, Section 4615. The service is greatly needed for elderly people who utilize home health services solely for venipuncture. Patients on Coumadin, a blood thinning agent, need repetitive blood sampling and monitoring to determine if their treatment is effective. The loss of this venipuncture service for patients on certain medications such as Coumadin could result in life threatening episodes.

The Mississippi Association for Home Care estimates that eliminating the venipuncture provision will affect Ten to Twelve thousand patients in Mississippi alone. Punishing the frail and elderly recipients who depend upon home health services is not the intent of this change, but will be the ultimate effect.

According to the Health Care Financing Agency (HCFA), the venipuncture provision was placed into law under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) in order to fight fraud and abuse of the Medicare system. Mr. Speaker, I am committed to ending fraud and abuse. However, I do not support fighting fraud and abuse to the detriment of the Nation's elderly. I am also greatly concerned about this provision due to the fact that: There were no hearings on the inclusion of this provision in the Balanced Budget Act, there was

no Congressional Budget Office estimate given on the venipuncture provision, and the provision was based on anecdotal evidence and there were no specific clinical examples used as a justification for the provision.

Therefore, I am in full support of H.R. 2912, which calls for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to delay the implementation of Section 4615 of the Balanced Budget Act for 18 months from the date of the enactment. This delay will also allow further study on the impact of the provision on the homebound frail and elderly.

As I close, I would like to once again express my support for H.R. 2912 and thank Representative RAHALL and Representative ADERHOLT for their work in bringing this legislation forth to protect the interests of venipuncture patients. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject matter of my special order.

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

There was no objection.

H.R. 2912 MEDICARE VENIPUNCTURE FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I feel like the old farmer who was being severely chastised by his fellow farmers for beating his mule over the head because he wouldn't respond to a simple "gitty-up." The farmer gave the stubborn old mule one final whap, and the beast of burden began moving swiftly ahead, pulling his load. The old farmer looked at his fellow farmers, as he tossed the two-by-four on the back of the wagon for future use and said:

First, you have to get their attention.

Last week I sent out a Dear Colleague about the termination of the Venipuncture home health benefit to get everyone's attention by asking: Have we No Shame?

While it may have felt like a two-by-four to many, hopefully it went to the heart of this body so that it can move toward doing something about the fact that the wildly applauded, history-making Balanced Budget Act contained language did, on February 5, 1998, terminate the 13-year old Venipuncture or blood drawing procedure as a skilled home health benefit under Medicare.

I hoped a two-by-four would alert them that this lost benefit is having a severe, life-threatening impact on seniors, and that we need to fix it.

We can and have spent hours on this floor renaming our National airport, but we have not spent any time on this floor talking about the gross and severe hardships caused by the loss of venipuncture as a home health benefit. I happen to think Venipuncture is more important.

My colleagues, we have a dire situation here.

We have HCFA promising that venipuncture can still be allowed, but we don't have HCFA explaining how difficult that could be.

We don't have HCFA spelling out that patients need to get to their doctors and ask for a reevaluation leading to a new authorization for them to receive a NEW skilled care so that venipuncture can continue.

And we don't have a lot of doctors out there willing to take a chance on being audited themselves if they actually do re-qualify a former venipuncture patient for a new skilled care.

We don't have HCFA spelling out that while most areas, and assuredly not rural areas, don't have laboratory technicians that make house calls—HCFA still insists that these elderly, frail disabled patients contact a lab technician and ask them to make house calls in order to draw blood—for which HCFA will pay the princely sum of \$3.

And it is a little known fact—but some States have laws AGAINST lab technicians leaving their labs for any reason to perform blood work in a patient's home.

Now if venipuncture patients CAN'T re-qualify through their doctors for a NEW skilled care benefit, and if the patients CAN'T find a local lab technician willing to travel 50 to 100 miles in rural America to make a house call for a paltry \$3, then venipuncture ISN'T available—is it?

So, while it is technically correct for HCFA to say that patients can still get venipuncture, they don't spell out the two big "IFs"—and so the REALITY is that for the most part, Venipuncture patients are out in the cold and without services and unlikely to obtain them ever again.

And my colleagues, if you think doctors are afraid of the wrath of HCFA's auditors, listen to what Medicare's Fiscal intermediaries are saying.

Fiscal intermediaries are saying: venipuncture better not show up on ANY new claims received after February 5, 1998, even in conjunction with another new SKILLED benefit, because they will be denied. Fiscal intermediaries are afraid of audits too.

But the most offensive thing I've heard yet is that one fiscal intermediary official stated that in fact he believed that without venipuncture services, some of the patients could end up in the MORTUARY—his word—not mine—end up in the mortuary.

And this same official also stated it was "too bad, so sad . . ." about patients ending up in mortuaries.

No wonder you need a two by four to get folks' attention—when those in charge of processing home health benefit claims for the homebound, elderly, sick and terminally ill can state publicly that it's "too bad, so sad . . ." about former patients ending up at the local morgue—AND NO ONE RAISES AN EYEBROW?

I wish we could get a hearing on this matter. I wish we could get a hearing and bring in this intermediary to the witness table and ask him to repeat his offensive statements for the public record. I wish we could get the intermediary to tell us why he thinks people might die without venipuncture.

I believe it is true that patients might die without this benefit—but I guess as long as they don't die in epidemic proportions—no one will care.

Well, I care.

I know of 71 Members of this House that care because they cosponsor H.R. 2912.

My colleagues who are speaking during this special order tonight—they care, and I thank them for caring.

There are alternatives to terminating the benefit. Congress could grandfather in those patients now receiving venipuncture, but not allow any new patients to be covered by the benefit except as described in the BBA.

Or, Venipuncture could be retained as a skilled care, but placed under the requirement, also in the BBA, that it be administered by HCFA using normative standards as is required for other home health benefits under Medicare.

I am listening and I am ready to work with the committees of jurisdiction, or with the Administration including the President, should he wish to use his executive order powers to remedy this gross injustice against the frail elderly, disabled and terminally ill Medicare enrolled patients throughout this entire country.

And while we are waiting to see how many patients end up in the mortuary for a lack of venipuncture benefits I ask you:

ARE WE ASHAMED YET?

FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE OF SENIORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Los Angeles Times and the Orange County Register this weekend reported on one of the fastest growing crimes in our communities: financial and physical abuse of seniors. And according to Orange County's adult protective services, most elder abuse is money motivated. Seniors are the victims of various financial scams, many of which occur within the privacy of their own homes by entrusted caretakers.

Financial and physical abuse against seniors is on the rise. Last year, Orange County logged 3,419 elder abuse calls and predicted that about only one in six are reported.

□ 1915

And in most of these cases the abuse occurs within the privacy of their own homes. As many people grow older, remaining in their homes should increase the level of comfort and security and peace of mind, not threaten them. That is why I fear the potential for abuse in shared housing arrangements. Let us prevent this abuse before it happens.

Shared housing agencies provide living arrangements for seniors who wish to remain in their homes, but require some additional care. An example of a shared housing arrangement would be, for example, if my mother had a vacant room in her house and needed someone

to help her pay the bills and do her shopping, she could seek out someone in a shared housing arrangement. The agency would refer a potential caretaker, who would live with her and care for her in lieu of rent. Unfortunately, we live in a society where violent crimes occur every day, and we can no longer guarantee safety within our own homes. But we can increase our level of safety through continued preventive efforts.

I believe that the problem of crime is, at least in part, a problem of resources. Until now, shared housing agencies have not had the resources necessary for proper safety for their clients. And without the ability to check the backgrounds of clients, they confront constraints that hinder them from increasing public safety.

Therefore, I have introduced H.R. 3181 to assist shared housing agencies in preventing crime. This bill authorizes shared housing agencies to run background checks on potential caretakers. And this bill is not just about background checks and fingerprinting, it is about making our communities safer for all of us to live, it is a tool that shared housing agencies can use to prevent violent crimes and to help protect our loved ones.

This bill provides the appropriate mechanism to be proactive in stopping abuse and fraud. But most importantly, it gives us all the peace of mind to know that our loved ones will be safely cared for within the privacy of their own homes. My bill establishes the necessary process to help combat the potential for abuse in shared housing.

It is important to recognize that the bill does not mandate, does not mandate, an agency to run FBI checks on their clients; it is merely a tool that they can use if they choose to. It is flexible and voluntary. It allows each agency to determine whether or not it is beneficial for them to use the FBI in order to guarantee protection for their clients. And by allowing the State and FBI to run background checks, service within housing arrangements will only improve. Administrators will receive comprehensive reports and will be able to better determine what is a most suitable and safe match for their clients.

I have been working very closely with the FBI and local police departments, who agree that this bill can significantly reduce fraud and physical abuse. Currently there is no national standard, no operating procedure to screen potential home-sharers. Many States have begun to run checks for child-care providers and for school teachers. Just as it is our responsibility to protect our youngest citizens, it is also our responsibility to ensure the safety of our seniors.

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 3181.

MEDICARE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we inform the public in terms of a specific on the Medicare legislation that we passed last year. Many of our citizens are seeing articles in Newsweek Magazine and other magazines about the rampant fraud and abuse in Medicare, and so we have been working on ways to try fix that.

The Balanced Budget Act, which was enacted last year, incorporated a provision regarding eligibility for home health care benefits. Previously, a Medicare recipient who received venipuncture, drawing of blood, automatically qualified for a full range of other home health services, including skilled nursing care, physical therapy, medical social services, and home health aide services for assistance with bathing, cooking and cleaning just for having a blood draw.

Under the new law, a Medicare recipient requiring venipuncture services at home can still receive those services; however, the receipt of a venipuncture alone will not make that individual eligible for other home health services. Medicare will continue to provide home health services for those who are homebound if the physician has certified that home care is necessary and has established a plan of care.

The new law removes the "venipuncture loophole," unquote, which resulted in the provision of home care to seniors who were not homebound or who did not have a demonstrable medical need for home health services. Now, the reason for this is that once a very small part of Medicare spending for home health care has increased at a very rapid rate in the last decade. Even accounting for inflation, home health care spending jumped more than fivefold between 1985 and 1996. While some of that expansion has been the result of an increase in the number of seniors taking advantage of home health benefits, an alarming amount of the home health budget is lost to various forms of fraud and abuse.

In hearings last year, the Committee on Commerce, on which I serve, heard from investigators from the General Accounting Office and the Office of the Inspector General about the fraud rampant in the home health benefits. One review, which included more than 3,700 services in 4 States, found that 40 percent, that is 40 percent, did not meet Medicare reimbursement requirements.

Another review of high-dollar home health claims in one State found that 43 percent should have been partially or totally denied. Equally troubling was an antifraud initiative by the Department of Health and Human Services that found that taxpayers were

footing the bill for the venipuncture loophole. Many physicians were found to use blood monitoring as the sole reason for ordering home health services, resulting in numerous health aide visits from Medicare beneficiaries with no medical need for skilled nursing or therapy. The average cost of drawing blood for these individuals was over \$100 because the visit was billed as a skilled nursing visit.

If these same services were performed as a blood draw under Part B of Medicare and the individual did not receive additional home health services for which they were not qualified, Medicare would only pay \$3 for that specimen collection. Medicare could separately pay for the cost of a technician to travel to the home of an individual needing a venipuncture service if the beneficiary is unable to travel to a doctor's office or travel to a lab for a blood draw. But that would still be significantly less costly than the \$100 billed because of a skilled nursing visit.

Mr. Speaker, the reforms passed by Congress will help keep Medicare solvent until about the year 2010. The wave of baby-boomers will begin retiring that year and will place severe financial strain on the program. Today there are about 4 workers for every retiree. By 2030 there will be just a little over 2 for each retiree.

Congress has to make fundamental changes in the Medicare program to make sure it is there for recipients in the future, and one way to do that is to root out fraud and waste in the Medicare system, and one way to do that is to make sure that those who need a venipuncture, but only a venipuncture, can get those services through a draw but not necessarily get additional services that are very, very costly. People need to consider that when they look at this provision.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE'S PRICING PRACTICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the events of recent years have taught us time and again that we should rely as much as possible on the private sector functioning in the competitive marketplace to provide commercial-type services, particularly services sold to business firms.

Where there is a Federal agency that provides those types of services, we must closely examine its activities to determine if it is competing fairly with its private-sector competitors. This becomes more important when the agency both competes directly with private-sector firms and regulates those competitors.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Reserve is using its role as competitor and regu-

lator in the check processing system to unfairly undercut the private sector. They are using an accounting device called the "pension cost credit" to subsidize the prices they charge banks, resulting in an unfair handicap to the private sector.

When people hear the phrase "Federal Reserve," they think about interest rates, inflation, and other aspects of monetary policy. However, the Fed is not just about monetary policy and banking supervision. Much of what the Fed does simply involves the processing of paper checks. The Fed charges its banks a fee for the service it provides.

In 1980, Congress passed the Monetary Control Act so that private sector companies could fairly compete with the Federal Reserve in providing banks with these and other services. Accordingly, the Fed must fully recover the cost of its services, which means it cannot use subsidized prices.

The Act specifically orders the Fed to establish the prices it charges based on the costs which it incurs in providing its services plus the costs a private company would also have to consider, such as the taxes it would have to pay.

But instead of following the intent of the Monetary Control Act, the Federal Reserve is using the "pension cost credit" to lower the prices it charges banks for these services. That is, it is effectively using a portion of the large surplus in its pension fund to reduce the operating costs of its priced service activities, which in turn enables it to charge lower prices than it otherwise would.

Let me explain specifically how it works. At the end of 1996, the pension fund for the employees of the Federal Reserve System had excess funding of \$1.9 billion. This incredible excess, nearly double its pension liability, is due primarily to the so-called irrational exuberance of the stock market.

The Fed then uses an accounting device to effectively take a portion of this excess funding in the pension fund to create an expense offset. This is the pension cost credit.

Instead of sending the whole of this cost credit back to the Treasury, the Fed uses approximately one-third of it to reduce the expenses of its priced services. That reduction then allows the Fed to charge lower prices than it otherwise would.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter that Federal Reserve Vice-Chairwoman, Alice Rivlin, sent to me. The letter referred to is as follows:

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM,
Washington, DC, October 3, 1997.

Hon. CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
House of Representatives
Washington, DC.

DEAR CAROLYN: I am pleased to forward additional materials in response to your letter of September 5 regarding payments system

issues. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

ALICE M. RIVLIN,
Vice Chairman.

Enclosures.

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD STAFF'S ADDITIONAL RESPONSES TO CONGRESSWOMAN MALONEY'S SEPTEMBER 5, 1997, QUESTIONS

1. Please send a monthly record of ITS cost-recovery matching before and after the application of the private sector adjustment factor for the years 1990 to date.

Internal reports from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston that showed monthly cost recovery numbers for 1987 through early 1995 were enclosed with Chairman Greenspan's letter of April 28, 1995, to Congressman Gonzalez.

Attachment 1 shows monthly cost recovery for commercial check portion of the ITS network from 1995 through the first half of 1997. The Federal Reserve does not typically allocate imputed costs and revenues to input components of its services. As requested, the cost recovery data are shown with and without imputed expenses.

2. Please supply a breakdown of prices services income, by Federal Reserve Bank for 1996. The breakdown should include revenue by specific commercial check product, such as NCS, RCPC, fine sort, consolidated shipments, and direct sends.

The priced services income for 1996 and the first two quarters of 1997, which you requested in question 5, was provided in Vice Chair Rivlin's letter of September 16, 1997.

Attachment 2 shows the Reserve Banks' revenues for the Reserve Bank check products you requested. Revenue for consolidated shipments includes only transportation revenues based on ITS surcharges. Consolidated shippers, that is, banks that use ITS to ship checks to a nonlocal Reserve Bank office for processing, use a wide variety of checks products. We do not separately track and identify the products into which these shipments are deposited and, therefore, cannot provide the associated revenue data. Similarly, we do not separately track the check processing revenue associated with "direct send" deposits shipped to the Reserve Banks by banks that arrange for their own transportation.

3. How is the Federal Reserve's pension cost credit (\$140.57 million for 1996) reflected in (a) measurement of priced services profitability and (b) in the pricing of specific priced services, such as check processing and transportation? What accounts for the \$63 million difference in 1996 between operating expenses for priced services, as reported on page 271 of the 1996 Annual Report of the Board of Governors and the sum of the operating expenses reported in the 1996 PACS expense report. Please supply financial reports for the Federal Reserve pension plan(s) for 1992 through 1996.

The System endeavors to capture all of its costs applicable to the provision of priced services into its pricing formula and measurements of its profitability through explicit recognition in the Reserve Banks' cost accounting systems or through implicit allocations where appropriate. For transactions relating to the provision of priced services, the Federal Reserve System applies generally accepted accounting practices (GAAP). Prior to changes in GAAP in 1987 and 1993 for employers accounting for pensions and retiree medical benefits, respectively, the System accounted for these costs on a cash, or "pay as you go" basis. The System, like other services providers, changed accounting practices to conform to GAAP. This change resulted in the recognition of a pension asset

that generates net credits and a retiree medical liability that generates net expenses for the System.

As with any accounting change, the System compared the effect of the GAAP changes with the effect on the largest bank holding companies used in determining the PSAF. We believe that the System's pricing formula properly recognizes the effect of these changes to GAAP. My staff can provide you or your staff with additional detail on the technical issues involved with these GAAP changes at your convenience.

The table below shows a reconciliation, for 1996, of operating expenses as reported in PACS with the pro forma financial statement in the Federal Reserve's 1996 Annual Report.

PACS Expense to Pro Forma Expenses for 1996

<i>PACS operating expenses</i>	<i>(Millions)</i>
Cash (3020)	\$5.1
Funds (3250)	71.6
ACH (3260)	83.9
Check (3360)	551.4
Book-Entry (3520)	43.3
Non-Cash (3810)	4.6
Total PACS expenses	760.0
Less non-priced costs	(51.5)
Priced PACS costs	708.5
Pro forma items not in PACS:	
Proceed pension credit	(45.3)
Imputed Board expenses	2.8
Total items not in PACS	(42.5)
Pro forma operating expenses ..	666.0

The letter shows that, in 1996, the pension cost credit was \$45.3 million.

This is \$45 million of taxpayer money which the Fed should have returned to the Treasury, but instead, it used this sum to artificially cut its prices. This is \$45 million which, instead of going towards deficit reduction, went to help the Fed undercut its private sector competitors, many of whom they also regulate.

Any other agency of the government cannot justify using a pension cost credit to subsidize their own prices.

Mr. Speaker, as the only source of oversight for the Federal Reserve, Congress has a duty to police this activity in the Federal Reserve.

We must recognize that there is inherent conflict with the Fed being both the regulator and the largest competitor in check processing. This is why we need to pass legislation which clarifies the Fed's role and relationship with the private sector, such as my own bipartisan bill, H.R. 2119, "The Efficient Check Clearing Act."

□ 1930

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate African American History Month and those of us

who are not African Americans recognize the importance of education, we further recognize the importance of facilities that are conducive to learning for those young people who are in the inner city. So, Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the need for school construction and repair throughout the country, but, most importantly, in the inner cities, and especially in the 37th Congressional District, which I represent.

Mr. Speaker, today's youth cannot learn in an environment that is surrounded with decrepit walls, that are crumbling from neglect, roofs that are leaking into classrooms, broken windows that have not been repaired for months on end, buildings that are painted with toxic levels of lead paint, and the list goes on.

These young students face the hazards of asbestos, poor indoor air quality, nonexistent air conditioning systems and heating units which barely warm the buildings throughout the winter months. These schools are literally in decay.

Mr. Speaker, these are the schools that represent the inner city that our children are asked to be educated in.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the critical importance of placing our children and the Nation's children in an environment that is conducive to learning. The Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest public school district in the country and where I served as an educator for several, is one of the many public schools in need of school repair.

In the entire State of California, 87 percent of schools report a need to upgrade or repair on-site buildings to just good condition, and the majority of these schools are in the inner city. Seventy-one percent of all California schools have at least one inadequate building feature, ranging from lead paint to lack of heating units.

So today I ask my colleagues to think about the larger issue when it comes to educating our children. I ask my colleagues to consider the more than 60 percent of the Nation's 110,000 public, elementary and secondary school facilities that need major repair in order to function as an effective education institution.

This Nation's youth not only deserve it, but they cry out for schools that represent a conducive learning environment. Mr. Speaker, this must be at the top of our priority as we begin the second session of the 105th Congress.

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN BUSINESS: THE PATH TOWARDS EMPOWERMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as African-Americans, we have known for quite

some time that our professional and personal achievements would come through business ownership and participation in the economy. 'The path towards empowerment' has been a struggle, but we are seeing the rewards.

The 'path toward empowerment' begins with a sound education and personal commitment. With these key ingredients, our young men and women can achieve their goals and make a difference in the areas of science, business, finance, and education.

I am pleased to recognize Bethune Cookman College as a school in my district that is building a state of the art hospitality center for minorities. I have testified for several years to get funding for the Mary McLeod Bethune Fine Arts/Hospitality Training Center, which will create an economic stimulus from Jacksonville to Orlando. The Center will train minorities for management and leadership positions in Florida's tourism industry.

Historically, African-Americans have been limited to non-management positions in the tourism industry. This complex once finished will provide hands-on hospitality management training for careers in the hotel, restaurant, tourism, business travel, conference and convention industries.

The center will not just be a complex of classrooms and training facilities—it will be a tribute to one of America's foremost champions of civil rights and public education for African-Americans.

In addition to mentioning Mary McLeod Bethune, I would also like to mention the literary contributions of Zora Neale Hurston an Eatonville, FL native who represents a dominant voice of the Harlem Renaissance period. Hurston was a prolific writer, and her writing style has inspired famous poets and novelists. Her contributions to the twenty-first century have inspired the Zora Neale Hurston Society at Morgan State University and the annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of Arts and Humanities in Eatonville.

African-American, men and women, have carved a noticeable place in the fabric of our Nation. And, heroic pioneers like Mary McLeod Bethune and Zora Neale Hurston represent famous Americans who have shaped and enriched our lives. Their legacy lives on and generations to come will be educated and nurtured at Mary McLeod Bethune/Cookman College, and ambitious young writers will read Zora Neale Hurston's novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God" for inspiration and literary guidance.

Note that the heroines I have referenced are just a fraction of the great African-Americans who have shaped this country. Their contributions laid the foundation for myself and younger generations.

In closing, I would like to recognize Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) like, Bethune Cookman College, Edward Waters College, and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University—located in Florida—because they represent a light of hope for young African-American men and women. These colleges and universities represent approximately 3 percent of American institutions of higher learning, but they award one-third of all bachelor's degrees as well as a large share of graduate degrees earned by African-Americans every year.

Our HBCUs protect, support, educate, and nurture students and they give them the tools needed to compete in business and life.

As we approach the twenty-first century, I know HBCUs across America will continue to be a light of hope for young African-Americans traveling on their paths toward independence and financial empowerment.

In my opinion, this special order passes on the light of hope to young African-Americans and beckons them to continue their quest for knowledge and wisdom.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL BENJAMIN O. DAVIS

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, February has for some time now been recognized as Black History Month, during which time we recognize the contributions of African Americans throughout the United States and throughout the world.

As a member of the Committee on National Security, I want to call attention tonight to General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., one of our American heroes, one of the true contributors to the end of World War II, and the contributions of the military in the world for 20 years after that.

General Davis was the first black graduate of West Point. As we now have become familiar with our military academies and the fine opportunities for education, the opportunities for men and women of all races in America to participate in the military and have long and distinguished careers, we also pay attention to the fine collegial atmosphere at the military academies.

When General Davis first went to West Point, that was not the situation. Many of us are familiar with the terrible time and hazing he was given there. He literally spent four years with no other member of West Point being allowed to speak to him, not one word. But he graduated from West Point and went on to have a long and distinguished career.

As a Member of Congress, we get to participate in helping to make nominations. We get to send in names of candidates to the different military academies. It is a tremendous opportunity for men and women in America to take on a very distinguished career in the military.

Frankly, in my district I do not think I got enough applicants for all the slots we have. I think that perhaps there are many students, black, white, Hispanic, other races, men and women, who perhaps do not consider the opportunities which General Davis paved the way for in the military academies.

So tonight, during Black History Month, I pay tribute to General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., and I hope the

youth of America will also consider the opportunities to lead such a distinguished career in the military.

1998 CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to reserve this special order this evening. I would also like to thank my colleagues who are gathered in the Chamber with me. We take special pride in coming together for the 1998 Congressional observance of Black History Month.

Since 1976 when Congress adopted the resolution designating February of each year as Black History Month, we have utilized this opportunity to highlight and pay tribute to the notable accomplishments of black men and women who helped to build our great Nation.

From Garrett Morgan's invention of the traffic signal, to Mary McLeod Bethune's founding of a university on \$1.50, black men and women have made enormous contributions to the development of this country.

With this in mind, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus proudly take this time to share with our colleagues and with the world black history, our history.

As we move forward with our special order, I want to commend the chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for her unfailing leadership of this organization. Her strong leadership guarantees that the Congressional Black Caucus will continue to be a tireless advocate on behalf of minorities, the poor and the disadvantaged of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the theme for the 1998 observance of Black History Month is "African Americans in business: The path towards empowerment." The theme is particularly significant as we pause to review our history and highlight some of our accomplishments in the business arena.

In the field of business, it is important to note that some free black Americans managed and owned small businesses during the period of slavery. For example, Fraunces Tavern was a well-known dining place and tavern popular in New York City during the latter half of the 18th century. It was owned and operated by Samuel Fraunces, a migrant from the British West Indies. Both British and American troops patronized the tavern, and George Washington came there to draw up terms with the British regarding their evacuation of New York in the 1770's.

Paul Cuffe, a free black man, was a shipper and merchant in New England in the 1790's. James Wormley was a well-known hotel proprietor in Washington D.C. in the 1820's.

After gaining their freedom from slavery, many black Americans set up businesses that rendered personal services to blacks who were the victims of discrimination and segregation imposed by white businesses.

For example, barbering was a source of both black employment and business. Two of the earliest fortunes among black Americans were made by Annie T. Malone and Madame C.J. Walker in the manufacture and marketing of hair products for black Americans. Funeral services were another personal service business almost exclusively under black ownership and control.

As we celebrate the success of African American businesses, we mark the founding in 1888 of the True Reformers Bank of Richmond, Virginia, and the Capital Savings Bank of Washington, D.C., the first black-created and black-run banks in America. We also mark the historic achievements of Maggie Lena Walker, who, in 1903, became the first black woman to be a bank president. She founded the Saint Luck Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, in another field of business, the African Insurance Company of Philadelphia was the first known black insurance company, founded in 1810. It was not incorporated, but had capital stock in the amount of \$5,000. The North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, founded in 1893 in Durham, North Carolina was the first black insurance company to attain \$1 million in assets.

In celebration of Black History Month, we note the achievements of D. Watson Onley, a black businessman, who in 1885 built the first steam saw and planing mill owned and operated entirely by blacks. We also recognize the contributions of Ruth J. Bowen, the first black woman to establish a successful booking and talent agency. Bowen began her business in New York in 1959 with a \$500 investment. Within 10 years, her firm became the largest black-owned agency in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I will at this time recognize a number of my colleagues gathered here in the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York, Mr. Engel.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for having this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Black History Month. Although I have only a few minutes to honor hundreds of years of struggles and achievements of black Americans, I must share my feelings of how much the African American community has added to our country.

In 1782, Thomas Jefferson, a slave holder himself declared that "the whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions, the most unremitting despotism on one part, and degrading submission on the other."

A Founding Father to whom our Nation looked for moral guidance, his hypocrisy only underscored the terror our Nation was inflicting on generations of African Americans at that time.

Yet, even with slavery placing in bondage hundreds of thousands of Africans, some black Americans had already begun to make their mark. For instance, 200 years ago, in 1798, James Forten, Sr., established the first major black-owned sail-making shop in Philadelphia, achieving a net worth of more than \$100,000, a massive sum at the time. Forten went on to become a leader of the abolitionist movement and the organizer of the Antislavery Society in 1833.

The heights of Forten's achievements only remind us what our country lost due to the depths of slavery and subsequent years of oppression. This country at one time erected every conceivable legal, societal and cultural roadblock to prevent African Americans from getting an education, wealth and power from our society.

As we commemorate Black History Month, the people of the United States must recognize what injustices were perpetrated through the years. We must recognize that our society still suffers the results of the oppression of African Americans.

It has only been within the last half century that our country has made real progress to guaranteeing to black Americans the basic civil rights that other citizens have for so long taken for granted. Within that time, America has only begun to see the tip of the iceberg, the tremendous potential of this community. It is only during this period that we have come to realize the dream of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that "Children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the contents of their character."

As a Jewish American, Mr. Speaker, I believe I share a sense of understanding with African Americans. Not only do our two communities face a history filled with severe cruelty and discrimination, but we also fought together for decades to overcome bigotry in this country.

When I commemorate Black History Month, I am reminded of a civil rights movement where Jewish Americans and black Americans stood shoulder to shoulder to fight racial prejudice.

Today black Americans, more and more, are represented in leadership positions in our society, from black members of the President's Cabinet, to edu-

cators, athletes, scientists and members of the clergy, African Americans of today have begun to take their rightful positions in the United States, and our country as a whole has benefited.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we must never forget the injustices inflicted upon African Americans through the years. We honor those who suffered by recalling the circumstances through which they lived. At the same time, we must recognize that our Nation has finally begun to unlock the great untapped potential of the black community.

□ 1945

It is my hope that when we celebrate Black History Month in the future, circumstances facing black Americans will continue to improve, and that someday we will achieve true freedom and equality for all citizens of this great Nation. If we recognize what happened in the past, it will help us to build a better future for all of our citizens.

I very much feel very close to Black History Month, having been born in the month of February, and I think it is very, very important that all of us in the Congress pause and reflect, because until, as we say, all of our citizens are free, all of us are not really totally free.

So I thank my colleague from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for this commemoration, and I think it is very, very fitting that this Congress commemorate Black History Month.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished friend from New York, (Mr. ENGEL), for his comments.

At this time I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

I rise to join with my colleagues and to share with them and with America our appreciation for the contributions made to African Americans in the history and development of this Nation.

This year's theme, African Americans in Business: The Path Toward Empowerment, is the most appropriate one, and I am pleased to have in my own congressional district some of the most well-known and productive businesses in America.

I represent Harpo Studios, which is owned by Oprah Winfrey and is known all over the world. In my congressional district is the First Baptist Congregational Church, which was a stop on the underground railroad, and is now building houses and a community under the leadership of its pastor, Dr. Authur Griffin.

I have in my district the Johnson Publishing Company, which was put together and developed by Mr. John H. and Mrs. Eunice Johnson and is now operated by their daughter, Mrs. Linda Johnson Rice, and is home to many

great writers like Lerone Bennett and Alex Poinsett. In my district I have the Parker House Sausage Company and its esteemed president, Mr. Daryl Grisham. It is also my pleasure to represent and to use Rabon's High-Tech Automotive Center at Kostner and Roosevelt Road in Chicago, which is known and owned by Mr. Lee Rabon, and is known for its precision automotive work.

I also represent Shine King, the best shoe shine shop in America, owned by Mr. James Cole who has parlayed his original shoe shine shop into two shops, part ownership of a bank, a construction company, King Construction, and vast real estate holdings. Mr. Cole's shine boys are known to earn between \$400 and \$500 a week, shining shoes. Many of them have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, policemen, school teachers and businesspersons in their own right. The most famous of this group is the renowned National Basketball Association star and businessperson, Isiah Thomas, or Zeke, as he was known around the shop and throughout the NBA. Mr. Cole was recently featured in the Chicago Sun Times and WGN Channel 9 television as a result of the work that he has done through his businesses with young boys growing up in his community.

I also pay tribute, Mr. Speaker, to the many members of the public housing community in my district, Ms. Martha Marshall, Shirley Hammonds, Cora Moore, Mattie McCoy, Mamie Bone, Mary Baldwin, and Mildred Dennis, for the outstanding leadership they are providing as they manage the recently developed businesses that public housing residents in the city of Chicago are putting together, managing, owning, and carrying out the duties and responsibilities of redeveloping their own communities. So they are a part of this great legacy that we know as African-American history.

I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) of this event for the leadership that he has displayed throughout the years, but in taking out this Special Order, and pay tribute to the leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, the erstwhile gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS). As a result of her leadership, the gentleman's leadership, the work of people all over America, the legacy and the history will continue.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind remarks and his eloquent statement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE).

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for taking out this hour. As the gentleman said in the beginning, this is an hour to honor the contribution of black leaders across the world. I would like to pay tribute to some

great South African black leaders whose names I believe should be part of our history books, who the gentleman, through his work and the work of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from California, (Mr. DELLUMS) these people have brought the possibilities of the freedoms that occurred.

I would like to remind of us Chief Albert Lithuli. He received the Noble Peace Prize, but he was not allowed to travel to Sweden to collect that prize, because the apartheid government of South Africa refused to allow him to do that, but Chief Lithuli is remembered in South Africa as such a great leader.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Desmond Tutu shown the light of religion on the horrors of apartheid. He made those who said that they were Christian look clearly at what was happening in South Africa in the South African apartheid policy.

Deputy Premier Tabo MBeke. Taboo MBeke spent decades in exile from his homeland because he could not live in any kind of safety in South Africa. He is now the deputy premier of South Africa. His father, Mr. MBeke, Senior, Mr. MBeke was in the dreadful prison that Nelson Mandela spent so many years. Madam Speaker, Together they studied and they kept the faith of the South Africa to-be.

Oliver Jhambo, the ANC leader who traveled tirelessly around the world to light the fire in the world that we needed all of us to be involved in the struggle of South Africa.

Then of course the great premier of South Africa, President Nelson Mandela. President Mandela spent 29 years in a dreadful prison in South Africa and he never, ever lost sight of the goal, that goal which was realized in 1994 on a sunlit day in Pretoria, South Africa, where President Mandela became the first President of a truly multiracial government in South Africa, the first premier, without violence, who led his country to democracy.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this history, this history of those great African leaders should join the proud list of African-American leaders who together have so shaped our common history. We are all in this world so lucky indeed to have had such mentors in our lifetime. I thank the gentleman for this opportunity to speak about those great South African leaders.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her participation in this Special Order.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY).

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three Arkansans who have made a difference in their community: Arkansas State Representative Joe Harris, Jr., Mr. Terry Woodard, and Mr.

Fredrick Freeman. They are three African Americans who have worked to make a difference in their communities and in our State and in my congressional district. They are people who have risen to the challenges handed them.

They grew up in the Arkansas Mississippi River delta, one of the poorest regions in the country. Not only did they withstand adversity, but they have decided to remain in the delta to make it a better place to live and work and raise a family.

State Representative Joe Harris is a lifelong resident of Mississippi County, Arkansas, which he now represents in the State legislature. He is also the founder and owner of a successful business, Joe Harris Jr. Trucking and Demolition Company. He has worked for the community by serving on boards and commissions, by chairing the Board of Deacons of the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, and participating in Chamber of Commerce work.

Terry Woodard is another African-American leader in Arkansas' First Congressional District who is a successful businessman and makes significant contributions to his community. He is a tireless worker for the betterment of the community in which he lives. He is the president of Woodard Brothers Funeral Services in Wynne, Arkansas, and currently serves as chairman of the Arkansas Funeral Directors Association.

Fredrick Freeman is a native of Forrest City, Arkansas, where he still resides. Since graduating from North Carolina A&T State University with a degree in business and finance management in 1981 and returning to Arkansas, he has started and successfully managed two family owned businesses. He focuses much of his time on community and business development. He serves as a member of the State of Arkansas Aviation and Aerospace Commission, as chairman of the St. Francis County Workforce Alliance, president of the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus, and is active in his local NAACP chapter.

These are the kinds of community leaders the First District of Arkansas and communities across the Nation should feel very fortunate to have. They are people who grew up economically deprived in economically deprived areas. They got the education they needed, and they have worked hard and played by the rules.

Mr. Speaker, the African-American businessmen I have mentioned deserve to be commended for the service they have given to their communities. It is important that as this Congress addresses the needs of public education and community assistance we make decisions to empower a new generation of leaders for all constituencies. It is a privilege for me today to pay honor to

these leaders in the First Congressional District of Arkansas and say thanks to them for the great contribution they have made.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for his participation in this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES), for having the insight to organize today's Black History special.

Certainly, the history of the people of African descent is interwoven with the history of America. The theme of African Americans in Business: The Path Toward Empowerment, is particularly significant. Since African Americans have been on American soil since 1619, black Americans have played an important part in the development of this great Nation. We helped to build this Nation. We helped to fight for America, and we helped America to gain its independence. We helped to build this country's thriving cities and farmed its fields and settled the West.

□ 2000

As we celebrate Black History Month, I am mindful of this month's theme again, "Black Americans in Business." And I can think of many that have been mentioned, like Madame C.J. Walker, Percy Sutton, John Johnson, Robert Johnson, and Cathy Hughes.

And then I cannot forget that blacks have owned and managed businesses since slavery. In the 1770's, Samuel Fraunces was a successful tavern owner in New York.

During this period, many blacks also owned well-to-do barber and beauty shops and dry goods stores. After slavery, blacks began to acquire more property and capital, and increasing numbers began to set up businesses. Two of the earliest of those were Annie Malone and Madame C.J. Walker.

Funeral services was one area where blacks had a significant number of businesses and other personal services. Blacks have ventured into other forays. Maggie Lena Walker became the first black woman in 1903 to become a bank president. She founded the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, Virginia, and the bank became so very strong that it survived the Depression.

Mrs. Walker's bank was by no means the first black-owned bank. That distinction belongs to the True Reformers Bank of Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot overlook the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company founded in 1893 in Durham. In 1789, James Forten, Sr., established the first major black-owned sailmaking shop. We could go on and on talking about the good highlights of black

Americans who have distinguished themselves in the area of business.

There is a growing crowd of black men and women who have taken their seats at the tables of business power here in America. People like American Express President Kenneth Chenault; Maytag President Lloyd Ward; Richard Parsons, President of Time Warner; Toni Fay, Vice President at Time Warner; Elliott Hall, Vice President of Ford Motor Company; and Ben Ruffin, Vice President at Philip Morris.

They are well-educated, highly motivated and strong-willed business leaders who have raised the glass ceiling beyond any level that their parents dared imagine. They are sharp and unapologetic. They are influencing hiring and promotion at their companies. They are gaining access to capital and creating unprecedented partnerships with large companies. In short, they are obliterating the myth that blacks cannot prosper at the highest level of industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES), our wonderful chairperson of this event tonight, as more blacks experience corporate success, more and more are expanding and creating their own businesses as well. Between 1987 and 1992, the number of black-owned businesses rose 46 percent compared to the 26 percent increase in U.S. business overall.

As we honor the legacy of achievement of blacks in business today, I, for one, am comforted to know that history is still being made by a new generation of blacks in business for themselves and at the highest levels of some of our Nation's largest corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving this time to help America understand the significant contributions of African Americans.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida for her statement and her participation in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio for organizing tonight's special order to commemorate Black History Month. I have been privileged to serve with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) on the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education of the Committee on Appropriations, and I would like to say what an honor it has been to work with him and that he will be truly missed in this body. This country is a better place for his having served in this body.

Black History Month is a time for us to join together to salute the accomplishments of African-American men and women who have contributed so much to make our Nation strong. I would like to take this opportunity to remember some of the key events that

took place in my home State of Connecticut.

I guess I must deviate just a bit from the specific topic of businesspeople, but I think that New Haven, Connecticut, has a specific historical fact that it is important, I think, for people to understand about the city. And I think there are so many young people in the City of New Haven who do not realize the history of African Americans in this city.

These young people do not realize that their city was an important station on the underground railroad. In fact, the Varick AME Episcopal Church and Dixwell Avenue Unitarian Church of Christ were both way-stations for escaped slaves traveling through New Haven toward freedom in the North.

New Haven found itself in the center of the dispute between the forces supporting slavery and those working for freedom when the Amistad ship arrived in Long Island Sound in the summer of 1839. The Amistad has become a household word, thanks to a blockbuster movie this year, and we are grateful to Steven Spielberg for making such a movie. But before the movie, very few people knew about this event, even people living in the City of New Haven, where much of the action occurred.

After the Amistad was captured in Long Island Sound, the Africans on the ship, led by Sengbe Pieh, were put in a New Haven jail while a court battle was waged to determine whether they would be slaves or free men and women. The dispute forced the country to confront the moral, social, political and religious questions that were surrounding slavery.

Many members of the New Haven community pulled together to work for the freedom of the Africans, including the congregation of the Center Church on Temple Street and students and faculty from the Yale University Divinity School. Finally, in February of 1841, the Africans, who were defended by former President John Quincy Adams, were declared free by the United States Supreme Court.

Today there are several memorials in New Haven commemorating the Amistad and the story of the brave Africans who fought for their liberty on its decks. A statue of Sengbe Pieh, who was also known as Joseph Cinque, sits in front of the city hall in New Haven, and I was there for the dedication, along with our sister city from Sierra Leone. Plans are under way for a life-size working replica of the ship to be docked on Long Wharf with exhibitions and programs on African-American history and the long fight for true freedom.

This is a month that gives us the opportunity to remember these events and the people behind them. Unfortunately, in our lives, we compartmentalize and we have a month where we talk with these things. It ought to be

the topic of conversation and discussion and just woven into our everyday lives. But we are grateful that we have a time to single out the opportunity for the conversations, where we remember people with the courage to stand up and fight against tyranny and oppression, and we also have the opportunity to talk about those who have been such a tremendous success in business and academics and the arts and all the parts of our society.

Mr. Speaker, America is strong because we have been successful at molding our different backgrounds into a strong Nation. We are a diverse, tolerant and constantly changing country that has been enriched by our differences. We celebrate our rich history, not just in Black History Month, but throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for organizing this event tonight.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut for both her eloquent statement and her participation in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON).

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in commending the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for doing this annually and for his leadership. This hour gives us an opportunity to put in the RECORD some reflection and attributes of black history. This month as a whole gives the Nation an opportunity to reflect, but also gives an opportunity to assess what is going on.

Mr. Speaker, last night I attended an event at which Vice President AL GORE and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, Aida Alvarez, announced a new major initiative aimed at increasing loan approvals to minority entrepreneurs.

The announcement of this initiative is most appropriate as we pause to celebrate Black History Month. I was particularly struck by the Vice President's remarks as he discussed the historical debate between the value of political power as compared to economic power. The Vice President recognized that this debate has spanned the years past and acknowledged that it would likely continue into the years ahead. We actually need both economic development and political power if we, as a community, are to sustain a quality of life.

Whatever the view one may hold on this issue, it cannot be denied that the initiative announced last night, once implemented, would benefit the black community and, in particular, the black businesses in ways that would be felt into the future.

This lending assistance and marketing campaign is designed to support blacks who are interested in starting or expanding their own small businesses. Under the campaign over the

next 3 years, SBA plans to more than double its annual level of loan guarantees now provided to blacks.

In the fiscal year 1997, SBA provided 1,903 guaranteed loans valued at \$286 million. Those funds were provided to black entrepreneurs from the 7(a) and the 504 lending program.

By fiscal year 2000, SBA expects the annual loan guarantees to black businesses to reach 3,900 with an estimated value of \$588 million from these 2 programs. And for the next 3 years combined, SBA expects to provide some 9,300 loan guarantees with an estimated value of \$1.4 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of this kind of infusion of capital into black enterprise is inestimable. But the true brilliance of this initiative rests with the fact that the SBA has enlisted a number of prominent black American groups to assist in facilitating this process to make sure that these loan guarantees are known and indeed get out to those entrepreneurs who may need them.

Those groups include the National Urban League, the National Black Chamber of Commerce, the National Council of Negro Women, the Minority Business Enterprise, the National Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Organization for a New Equality and the Phelps Stokes Fund.

The initiative represents an important and significant step forward. We are indeed making progress. In recent years, the number of black-owned businesses grew by nearly 50 percent from 424,000 to almost 621,000 new businesses, according to the Census Bureau. But at the same time, the average black firm generates an annual income of less than \$52,000 while the average small business annual income is \$193,000, some \$141,000 more each year.

We are progressing, however. But yet we have a long way to go. This is a journey we must make.

America's 200 million small businesses employ more than half of the private work force. But that is not all. America's small businesses generate more than half of the Nation's gross domestic product and are the principal source of the new jobs in the United States economy and the reason that we are enjoying prosperity today.

But in the end, Mr. Speaker, this new initiative will work best if entrepreneurs who take advantage of it have the same daring and pioneering spirit as the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, which is in my State, headquartered in Durham, North Carolina. North Carolina Mutual, with determination and hard work, has become one of the Nation's largest insurance companies and the largest black-managed insurance company in the world.

Since its founding in 1898, just a few years after the doctrine of "Separate but Equal" was pronounced, North

Carolina Mutual has been the symbol of progress and a symbol of success and entrepreneurial achievement, of leadership and economic vitality and the strength of the black community.

North Carolina Mutual has achieved this triumph despite overwhelming and seemingly insurmountable odds. Today, with assets over \$228 million and insurance in force of over \$9 billion, it ranks among the top 10 percent of the Nation's life insurers. North Carolina Mutual has offices in 11 States and the District of Columbia and is licensed to operate in 21 States and the District of Columbia.

It is fitting, Mr. Speaker, that the company has its headquarters atop the highest hill in Durham, because indeed it is at the top of its industry. Poised for the 21st century and all the promise that it holds, North Carolina Mutual deserves our respect, our notice, our appreciation, our admiration and our thanks for their leadership.

With this new initiative SBA is doing, we can only be hopeful that there will be many, many more North Carolina Mutuals in the future being multimillion dollar firms being run and managed by African Americans.

□ 2015

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her participation in this special order. It is a pleasure to have her participate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his leadership on this very special order and tribute to black history and appreciate very much my colleagues who have come to the floor of the House to acknowledge this very special month. By their presence, I glean from their words that although we have this month to commemorate black history, the contributions of black Americans are so very important as it relates to the history of this Nation. The Preamble to the Constitution of this great Nation aptly begins, "We the people."

As I take my place on the floor of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to African Americans, I am reminded of the fact that those who first took their place in this very spot did not include me nor my people and their vision of "We the people."

To "secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity" is one of the basic reasons that the Constitution was "ordained" and "established." These are basic tenets of freedom. This portion of the Preamble to the Constitution reminds us of the economic empowerment that surrounded the push towards the establishment of this great country. That is why it is so apropos that we celebrate African Ameri-

cans in business, the path towards empowerment. There is no doubt that African Americans and Black History Month are one and the same. They recognize the importance of providing the pathway for evidencing what we have done for this country. African Americans have made unique contributions to the significant scientific and technological advancement of this country and to the growth and popularity of American culture around the world. Many of the modern conveniences that we enjoy today were invented by African Americans. Where would we be without the stop light invented by Garrett Morgan; the incandescent light bulb invented by Lewis Latimer; Dr. Charles Drew, a pioneer in blood research who established the first blood bank; and George Washington Carver, who so often we found as youngsters enjoyment in studying, maybe one of the few African Americans that our teachers allowed us to know? He revolutionized the agricultural economy of the South with his novel ideas on crop rotation.

Today African American scientists and astronauts are expanding our knowledge of space. How many of us know the names of these African American astronauts who have led the way for our country to be the leader in space exploration and space-based science? Major Lawrence, the first African American astronaut, Ron McNair, Guion Bluford, first African American to actually fly in space and Ron McNair who lost his life in the tragic *Challenger* accident, General Fred Geary, Charles Bolan, Mai Jaimson, first African American woman in space, Robert Curbeam, Winston Scott, Evon Cagle, Joan Higginbotham, Stephanie Wilson, Bernard Harris and Mike Anderson, an African American astronaut who flew in January on the last mission of the space shuttle *Endeavor* to *Mir*.

The economic benefits gained from the work of these African Americans has proved monumental. Our path towards economic empowerment has forged its way even through the hard times. And yes, even our African American farmers, our small businesses and large businesses to pay tribute to. For it was after slavery when we were told that we would receive 40 acres and a mule. I am sad to say that to this day, we have not received the full measure of the 40 acres and a mule. But our African American farmers in the deep South, the Midwest and other parts have held steady and strong, keeping up the good fight, providing that enhancement of economic opportunity that has kept this country going.

I hope as we proceed to celebrate this day and as well as we celebrate African American history throughout the years to come, we will pay tribute to our African American farmers and the justice that they deserve.

Now let me simply say this, Mr. Speaker. I too wanted to acknowledge the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for her leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus, and certainly since we are talking about minority businesses and in this instance African American businesses, let me acknowledge Mr. Minority Business or African American Business in the United States Congress, Parren Mitchell, and thank him for his leadership on these issues of opening the doors of opportunity. Kweisi Mfume followed him with his interests in small business, and now the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN).

None of these individuals gave particular interest for their own self-aggrandizement, but they knew that it was important for us to be strong economically. So they championed, along with other members of this Caucus, affirmative action.

I would simply say that now is the time, as we celebrate this month, that we recognize that the struggle is not over. Affirmative action is under siege and many of our African American businesses that are successful today are successful because of African American effort in promoting affirmative action that has helped so many in this Nation, the rule of two that has provided for opportunities for small businesses and, yes, the Community Reinvestment Act that forced many of our Nation's banks to recognize that they could not do business by taking in money from the African American community and not investing money in the African American community. The creation of BET, one of the most well watched national stations has also been a recipient and beneficiary of affirmative action.

Lastly I would say, Mr. Speaker, that the important thing is what our young people believe and how they will carry the torch into the 21st century. I hope and my challenge is that although they may not have lived through the time frame of Dr. Martin Luther King or Stokely Carmichael or any of the others who so aptly raised their voices for equal opportunity and freedom, I hope that they will never forget. I hope there is a sense of loyalty and understanding and guts that they would feel that the work that they do, wherever it might be, those who may work in the United States Congress, with many of the Members and particularly those of the Congressional Black Caucus, understand that they have a mission, that it is a challenge and an honor to be so associated, that many of the strides that have been made by African Americans have come from the Congressional Black Caucus.

I challenge our educators and teachers: Teach our children about their history, do not have them scratching to find out about African American history because school boards and schools

refuse to include those very important subjects in our curriculum. We all have a challenge. And to our African American businesses across the Nation, not to the exclusion of small businesses or Hispanic businesses or women-owned businesses, you have a special responsibility to give back to your community. I know that you live there. I know that you are giving. Let that be your cause.

My final word is to simply say that black history must be lived and not spoken. That means that we are all challenged to live African American history and the contributions to this Nation every single day. God bless you.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the theme for this year's special order to commemorate Black History Month is "African Americans in Business: The Path Towards Empowerment." There is no doubt that the path towards empowerment includes economic empowerment—the ownership of businesses, as well as the creation of and participation in business opportunities. However, this assumes the freedom and liberty to do so.

To "secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity" is one of the basic reasons that the Constitution was "ordain[ed]" and established." These are basic tenets of freedom. This portion of the preamble of the Constitution reminds us of the economic empowerment that surrounded the push towards the establishment of this great country.

There is no doubt that African Americans have always believed in the principles set forth in both the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Our contributions to the preservation of American liberty even extends to the beginning of this country, when Crispus Attucks was the first to die for the cause of American freedom and liberty in the Revolutionary War.

From the activism of Frederick Douglas, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman during the abolitionists movement, to the heroic efforts of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Thurgood Marshall and Fannie Lou Hamer during the civil rights movement, African Americans have never lost faith in this country to expand democracy and provide true economic freedom for all Americans.

African Americans have been entrepreneurs from the very beginning of this country. During Reconstruction, African American businesses flourished in black neighborhoods largely due to the fact that we were not welcomed in majority stores and business establishments.

When African Americans were barred from purchasing life and health insurance coverage, African American entrepreneurs established their own life insurance companies. Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Co., North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co., and Atlanta Life Insurance Co. are only a few of the companies that were started by African Americans. These companies exist even today.

In Houston, Unity Bank serves as a model of African American empowerment. It is the only African American owned bank in Houston and serves as a beacon for African American business and commerce.

In the present era, our African American elected officials, along with the presidents of the various civil rights, fraternal, religious and

business organizations continue to encourage our Nation to keep its commitment to freedom, equality and economic well-being and empowerment for all Americans.

Black History Month celebrations provide excellent opportunities to inform young and old alike of African American contributions to America and the world. The origins of the celebrations of black history as Black History Month date back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage, achievements and contributions of African Americans. It has only been since 1976 that we officially designated February as Black History Month.

African Americans have made unique contributions to the scientific and technological advancement of this country and to the growth and popularity of American culture around the world. Many of the modern conveniences that we enjoy today were invented by African Americans.

Where would we without the stop light, invented by Garrett Morgan; the incandescent light bulb, invented by Lewis Latimer; Dr. Charles Drew, a pioneer in blood research who established the first blood bank; and George Washington Carver who revolutionized the Agricultural Economy of the South with his novel ideas on crop rotation.

Today, African American scientists and astronauts are expanding our knowledge of space. How many of us know of the names of these African American astronauts who have led the way for our country to be the leader in space exploration and space based science:

Major Lawrence—the first African American astronaut; Ron McNair; Guion Bluford—The first African American to actually fly in space; Gen. Fred Goery; Charles Bolan; Mai Jaimson; Robert Curbeam; Winston Scott; Evon Cagle; Joan Higgenbotham; Stephanie Wilson; Benard Harris; and Mike Anderson, an African American astronaut who flew in January on this last mission of the space shuttle Endeavor to Mir.

The economic benefits gained from the work of these African Americans has proven monumental. Our path towards economic empowerment has forged its way even through space.

After the enslavement of Africans in this country, we were promised 40 acres and a mule. This, for many, would have provided a means by which newly freed slaves could work the land in order to provide for themselves. It was to allow for economic empowerment. That dream did not come true. It was readily apparent that the path towards economic empowerment for African Americans was littered with lies, deceitfulness, and Jim Crow laws that were designed to stifle the ability of African Americans to own business and in turn "secure the blessing of [economic] liberty."

African Americans built this country with their sweat and blood. They served as the economic backbone of the southern economy and helped to develop the West. During the migration from the South to the North in the first half of this century, African Americans played critical roles in the factories that energized the Industrial Revolution.

It is widely understood that education improves one's quality of life. African Americans have always believed in the importance of

education. During the Reconstruction period, African Americans pooled their resources to form schools and colleges that still exist and thrive. Today, historically black colleges and universities are producing the doctors, lawyers, business persons, dentists, pharmacists and professionals that help to construct a better path to economic empowerment.

The accomplishments of African Americans are too numerous to actually list. From the tumultuous birth of our great Nation to this present day, African Americans have contributed to all that is good about America.

Black History Month is an ongoing celebration of victory. It is a celebration of our very survival and rise from oppression to recognized accomplishments and achievements.

Our challenge today is to become economically empowered through the ownership of business and the aggressive participation in business opportunities.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her eloquent statement on this occasion.

I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus. Over the number of years I have taken out this special order annually to celebrate Black History Month, I have always done so in conjunction with whomever was the chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus. And I am delighted this year to have my name associated with that of our distinguished chairperson, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), who is doing such an outstanding job in giving leadership not only to the Congressional Black Caucus but here in the House of Representatives. It is an honor to yield to her.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I am delighted to be a part of this very special time that is taken out and directed by a very special man. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) has led this House in celebrating Black History Month and this will be the last year that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) will be here to do this for us. While we are all saddened by the fact that he will not be here to guide us on this and in many other efforts that we have to put forth, we are delighted that he is here once again this evening to make sure that we take time out from our very busy schedules to pay attention to the contributions of African Americans to this society.

This year we have as our theme African Americans in business, the path towards empowerment. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with all my colleagues in celebrating this Black History Month. Each year during the month of February we consciously take time to acknowledge and celebrate the history and accomplishments of African Americans in this country and worldwide. As we reflect on our history, I am more convinced now than ever that economic development through black entrepreneurship is a

key to creating jobs, wealth and opportunities in our communities. Our history is rich with African Americans who created economic opportunities for others by owning, operating and building their own businesses. The early trailblazers include black entrepreneurs like Madam C. J. Walker, A. G. Gaston and John Johnson.

Madam C. J. Walker, the first woman self-made millionaire of any race built an economic empire starting with \$1.50 in capital. In 1905, Madam Walker founded Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company, the Nation's first successful black hair care products company. Madam Walker's company trained thousands of black women in her beauty schools and colleges. Her company sales force eventually exceeded more than 20,000 agents in the United States, the Caribbean and Central America.

Arthur G. Gaston founded the Booker T. Washington Burial Society in 1923. He parlayed his company, which guaranteed African Americans a decent burial, into a conglomerate of 10 companies that included two radio stations, a construction company, a bank, two funeral homes, a motel and a nursing home. When he died in 1996, he sold several of his businesses, valued at \$34 million, to his employees.

John Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer of Johnson Publishing Company, pioneered one of the Nation's largest black-owned businesses and the world's largest black-owned publishing company. In 1942, with a \$500 loan secured by his mother's furniture, Mr. Johnson started his company, which now includes *Ebony*, *Jet*, *EM*, that is *Ebony Man*, and other enterprises. Today Johnson Publishing Magazines employ over 2,700 people and reach more than 20,000 readers in 40 countries.

While C. J. Walker and A. G. Gaston and John Johnson paved the way, Reginald Lewis and Robert Johnson raised black entrepreneurship to another level. They used savvy deal-making and Wall Street financing techniques to create two of the largest publicly traded African American controlled companies in America. Reginald Lewis, a Wall Street lawyer, used his financial and legal savvy to buy Beatrice International Food Company, a global giant of 64 companies in 31 countries. With that acquisition, he parlayed TLC Beatrice into the largest African-American controlled business in the United States. In 1992, TLC Beatrice had revenues of \$1.54 billion. When he died in 1993, he had a net worth of \$400 million. His wife Loida N. Lewis currently runs the company.

Robert Johnson also recognized early on the power of Wall Street to create economic opportunities. In 1980, he created Entertainment Television, the largest black cable television and entertainment network. In 1991, BET be-

came the first African-American owned and controlled company traded on the New York Stock Exchange. BET has revenues in excess of \$132 million.

Several African-American entrepreneurs and entertainers have continued the legacy of ownership and empowerment for African-Americans. These include among others: Edward Lewis, J. Bruce Llewellyn, Earl Graves, Berry Gordy, Bill Cosby and Oprah Winfrey.

Edward Lewis, the publisher, chairman and CEO of Essence Communications, heads one of the country's most successful and diverse African-American owned communications companies. In May 1970, Lewis and partner Clarence O. Smith published the first issue of *Essence Magazine*, a fashion magazine for black women. Today Essence Communications Incorporated is synonymous with black womanhood.

I cannot go into Mr. James Bruce Llewellyn, Mr. Earl Graves, Mr. Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey, and of course Berry Gordy. But I have mentioned them and we shall continue to make this information available to all.

I thank the gentleman very much for this opportunity to share the contributions of these wonderful African-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in celebrating Black History Month.

Each year during the month of February we consciously take time to acknowledge and celebrate the history and accomplishments of African Americans in this country and worldwide.

As we reflect on our history, I am more convinced now than ever that economic development through Black entrepreneurship is a key to creating jobs, wealth and opportunities in our communities.

Our history is rich with African Americans who created economic opportunities for others by owning, operating and building their own businesses. The early trailblazers include black entrepreneurs like Madam C.J. Walker, A.G. Gaston and John Johnson.

Madam C.J. Walker, the first woman self-made millionaire of any race, built an economic empire starting with \$1.50 in capital. In 1905, Madam Walker founded Madam C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company, the nation's first successful black hair care products company. Madam Walker's company trained thousands of black women in her beauty schools and colleges. Her company's sales force eventually exceeded more than 20,000 agents in the United States, the Caribbean and Central America.

Arthur G. Gaston founded the Booker T. Washington Burial Society in 1923. He parlayed his company, which guaranteed African Americans a decent burial, into a conglomerate of 10 companies that included two radio stations, a construction company, a bank, two funeral homes, a motel and a nursing home. When he died in 1996, he sold several of his businesses valued at \$34 million to his employees.

John Johnson, Chairman and chief executive officer of Johnson Publishing Company, pioneered one of the nation's largest black-

owned businesses and the world's largest black-owned publishing company. In 1942, with a \$500 loan secured by his mother's furniture, Mr. Johnson started his company, which now publishes *Ebony*, *Jet*, *EM* (*Ebony Man*), and other enterprises. Today, Johnson Publishing magazines, employ over 2,700 people and reach more than 20 million readers in 40 countries.

While C.J. Walker, A.G. Gaston and John Johnson paved the way, Reginald Lewis and Robert Johnson raised black entrepreneurship to another level. They used savvy deal-making and Wall Street financing techniques to create two of the largest publicly-traded African-American controlled companies in America.

Reginald Lewis, a Wall Street lawyer, used his financial and legal savvy to buy Beatrice International Food Co., a global giant of 64 companies in 31 countries. With that acquisition, he parlayed TLC Beatrice into the largest African-American controlled business in the United States. In 1992, TLC Beatrice had revenues of \$1.54 billion. When he died in 1993, he had a net worth of \$400 million dollars. His wife, Loida N. Lewis, currently runs the company.

Robert Johnson also recognized early on the power of Wall Street to help create economic opportunities. In 1980, he created Black Entertainment Television, the largest black cable television and entertainment network. In 1991, BET became the first African-American-owned and controlled company traded on the New York Stock Exchange. BET has revenues in excess of \$132 million dollars.

Several African Americans entrepreneurs and entertainers have continued the legacy of ownership and empowerment for African-Americans. These include, among others, Edward Lewis, J. Bruce Llewellyn, Earl Graves, Sr., Berry Gordy, William Cosby and Oprah Winfrey.

Edward Lewis, the publisher and chairman/CEO of Essence Communications, heads one of the country's most successful and diverse African-American owned communications companies. In May, 1970, Lewis and partner Clarence O. Smith published the first issue of *ESSENCE Magazine*, a fashion magazine for black women. Today, *ESSENCE Communications Inc.* is synonymous with black womanhood.

James Bruce Llewellyn has built several multimillion dollar companies. He currently is the president of the Philadelphia Coca-Cola bottling companies of one of the largest Coca-Cola Bottling distributorships in this country. The Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company currently employs over 1,000 people.

Earl G. Graves, Sr. launched *Black Enterprise* magazine in 1970. His magazine set the standard for informing African-American entrepreneurs "how to" start and grow a successful business. *Black Enterprise* magazine now boasts more than 3.1 million readers and has a controlled subscriber base of 300,000.

Bill Cosby is one of the most highly-paid TV personalities in America. After cutting his first comedy album in 1964, Cosby went on to star in several television series, including "I Spy," "The Cosby Show"—NBC's top-rated program through most of the late 80s and the new sitcom "Cosby." Cosby also is known for his Jell-o commercials with children; as the nar-

rator of the "Fat Albert" cartoons and as a producer and creator of other television shows. Cosby and his wife, Camille, have been active in education circles through their donations amounting to over \$20 million to black women's colleges. Mr. Cosby's earnings exceeded \$33 million last year.

Oprah Winfrey, queen of the afternoon talk shows, worked her way up from a local TV reporter to a morning talk show host. Her lively, aggressive, intelligence and streetwise common sense made her a popular television personality who earns top ratings and numerous television awards. Winfrey is also a savvy business woman. In 1988, Winfrey purchased a Chicago-based movie and television production facility that she renamed Harpo Studios. She has used Harpo Studios to produce her own television dramas and series. She made over \$200 million last year.

We have made tremendous strides in creating black-owned businesses. Between 1987 and 1992, the number of black-owned businesses grew by 46 percent. Revenues also rose by 63 percent from \$19.8 billion to \$32.2 billion. *Black Enterprise* reports that the leading black industrial and service firms created more than 4,000 new jobs between 1995 and 1996.

However, in 1992, African-Americans and other minorities, collectively, owned only 11 percent of all businesses in America. Annual sales receipts for minority-owned businesses averaged only \$202,000, compared with an average of \$3.3 million for white-owned businesses.

To bridge those gaps and build economically sound communities, the development of more black businesses is essential. Economic power today will mean jobs, creation of wealth, and continuing political clout in the future.

As Madam C.J. Walker was fond of saying, "I am not merely satisfied in making money for myself, for I am endeavoring to provide employment for hundreds of women of my race." "I had to make my own living and my own opportunity! But I made it! That's why I want to say . . . don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come . . . Get up and make them!"

□ 2030

Mr. Speaker, I thank our distinguished chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus for her statement and her participation in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES). It is an honor to be here tonight with him.

Today I honor the accomplishments and advancements of African-Americans, and I join the celebration of Black History Month. It is fitting that we honor African-American business pioneers this year, as we are in the midst of record economic growth. Many African-American businesses have indeed made strides in the business world.

The Reverend Martin Luther King saw the economic potential of the Afri-

can-American community and called for the use of that power. He said:

We are a poor people individually. Collectively, we are richer than all the nations in the world, with the exception of nine. We have an annual income of more than \$30 billion a year. That is power right there if we know how to pool it.

In my home city of Milwaukee, and across the Nation, African-American businesses have made the sacrifices necessary to achieve success in the business world. These efforts have paved the way for today's African-American businesses and entrepreneurs and established a solid business environment in which minority-owned businesses now grow and prosper.

One of these businesses, the Columbia Building and Loan Association, was the first African-American financial institution in Milwaukee. The business has been located at Fond du Lac and 20th, in the heart of Milwaukee, since it was founded in 1915. The founders, Wilbur and Ardie Hayland, were committed to development in the African-American community and used their business to invest in and develop homes and businesses. They saw that African-Americans could not secure loans from white institutions and the housing situation in their community was bleak. They decided to do something. As a result, great strides were made in this community. The Columbia Building and Loan is still in business today as the Columbia Savings and Loan.

Another Wisconsin African-American pioneer, William Green, was the author of Wisconsin's first civil rights legislation, the Wisconsin Civil Rights Act of 1895, which outlawed discrimination in public places. Mr. Green came to Wisconsin in 1887 and graduated from the law school there in 1892.

Wisconsin's first African-American newspaper, the *Wisconsin Enterprise-Blake*, founded in 1916, paved the way for many of today's successful businesses.

Wisconsin now has a number of African-American radio stations and newspapers, including the *Community Journal*, the *Milwaukee Time*, and the *Milwaukee Courier*. These publications and outlet serve as a window on the community, highlighting the achievements of the community they cover.

But these businesses are just the tip of the iceberg when we talk about African-American businesses in Wisconsin. African-American entrepreneurs have established grocery stores, child care centers, health care centers, law firms, eye care centers, engineering firms, data centers, sales and marketing services, and many more. Some of these businesses have succeeded in securing contracts and investing millions of dollars in community development projects. Just last summer an African-American-owned contracting company secured the largest 8(a) contract

awarded by the U.S. Small Business Administration in Wisconsin's history. Bowles Construction of Milwaukee received a \$6.1 million contract for a flood control project over the Wisconsin River.

This month, during Black History Month, we can all take pride in the success of both past and present African-American businesses. These businesses have become a growing, integral part of the healthy economy America is enjoying today. They deserve this recognition, and we should all be proud of what has been accomplished.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his participation tonight, and at this time I am pleased to yield to the distinguished former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOU STOKES) again for his effort of bringing forth our African-American history to the Nation. We will certainly miss him when he departs from this great body.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues this evening in commemorating Black History Month, which is celebrating the achievements of African Americans in the field of business. This year's theme, "African Americans in Business: The Path Towards Empowerment," is very fitting at a time in history when so many talented African-American men and women are playing leading roles in our Nation's business sector and taking their rightful place in national and international economic affairs.

According to the Census Bureau's survey of minority-owned business enterprises, the number of black-owned businesses has increased 46 percent in recent years. The 100 largest black-owned companies in the United States generated revenue of over \$14 billion.

Last summer Fortune Magazine profiled a new generation of African Americans who are achieving phenomenal success on Wall Street. Among them are John Utendahl, a bond trader who founded Utendahl Capital Partners, the largest black-owned investment bank in the United States. His firm has been involved in over \$250 billion worth of transactions.

Another success story, a friend of mine, young Ron Blaylock from New Jersey, a young man in his thirties, founded Blaylock and Partners, the first minority firm to manage a corporate bond underwriting. His firm supervised the \$150 million issue on behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

We all know Marianne Spraggins, the top achieving African American woman on Wall Street, who took on the challenging position of CEO for W.R. Lazard, a black-owned firm.

One African American caught in downsizing of Occidental Petroleum,

William Davis, started his own company, Pulsar Data Systems. This \$166 million business is now the largest owned black computer firm.

In addition to large-scale companies, successful small businesses are being started every week in communities throughout the Nation. I am very proud of the entrepreneurs in my congressional district in New Jersey, who have worked hard to build their businesses.

Our local communities are enhanced by the presence of successful businesses in the 10th district. Starting very quickly with the City National Bank, a minority-owned bank, chaired by Mr. Lewis Prezau; Dunn and Sons, a janitorial service owned by Malcolm Dunn; Bradford and Byrd, also a janitorial service, owned by Avery and Trina Byrd; Ke'Dar Books, a store that sells books on Bergen Street, owned by a former student of mine, Jack Martin; P.C. Pros, a computer company owned by an outstanding businesswoman, Avis Yates; Johnson Publication Company of New Jersey, which produces many publications, including the popular newspaper City News; and Evan Bow Construction, owned by the Bowser brothers; Justin's Mens Clothing in South Orange, NJ.

And so during this Black History Month, as we celebrate, I conclude by saying that even during the era of slavery, free blacks were successful business owners. Records show back in the 1700s, as we have heard, Paul Cuffe was a shipper and merchant in New England; James Wormley owned a hotel right here in Washington, DC; William Johnson owned a string of barber shops in Natchez, MS. And after the Civil War many African Americans were established in businesses.

So as I conclude, I do want to mention this is the 100 anniversary of the birth of Paul Robeson, a Jersian, a 12-letter man in every athletic event that they played at the time, an outstanding singer, but who had to fight to get on the chorus, on the glee club, and who was not allowed to play football initially when he first went out. He ended up with a broken rib and destroyed his hands, but he went back to say he was going to play. He became an all-American. And with that I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey and, Mr. Speaker, I express my appreciation to all the Members who have participated in this special order.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and join my friends and colleagues in celebrating and honoring Black History Month. As we observe and reflect on the achievements of African-Americans in our Nation, I enthusiastically support and salute this year's theme, "The Path Towards Empowerment."

The African-American business community has been the hallmark of empowerment efforts in my congressional district. This year marks

the fifth consecutive year that I will host a Small Business Conference in my congressional district in San Diego. These conferences have already opened the doors of opportunity to many African-American businesses which lacked such access in the past.

These seminars have been concentrated in the African-American community and have produced significant achievements. Bryco Distributing Co., one of San Diego's largest paper goods distributing companies, has relocated into my congressional district. We are also developing both a business improvement district and a micro-business district in the heart of San Diego's African-American community.

Government contracting has also increased opportunities for the African-American business community. The Navy exchange system has enabled an African-American baking goods company to acquire a Navy vendor contract. Construction contracts for Navy housing and other facilities have given African-American contractors, subcontractors and vendors valuable opportunities of historic proportions.

My own efforts have also attempted to provide local empowerment through the business community. I am working with local African-American leaders to foster a strong working relationship with the African-American Chamber of Commerce in my district. I regularly review actions of the Small Business Administration [SBA] and that of local banks to monitor adherence to California's Community Reinvestment Act passed to guarantee investment in traditionally red-lined communities. I have also supported efforts of the Economic Community Magazine to create an entrepreneurial training center.

Our efforts here and at home on behalf of African-American businesses work to further strengthen this community and create additional opportunities. It is this community empowerment which will ultimately sustain ongoing efforts to ensure equality, guarantee justice and maintain hope in the future.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, LOUIS STOKES, in celebration of black history month. This special order is a time honored tradition in the House, and I always enjoy participating.

For the past 17 years, I have celebrated black history month with the families, community leaders and elected officials of the Fifth Congressional District in Maryland, together, we reflect the memory of African-American leaders past, honor the leaders and activists in the present, and encourage the development and education of future leaders: the children.

One of the reasons I celebrate Black History Month is because I believe that African-American history is the foundation of American history. They are indeed one in the same. African-American history is a celebration of the journey of a people from which all Americans are able to witness the meaning of strength, perseverance, resilience, talent, faith, leadership, economic empowerment, and vision.

Strength was what the African ancestors drew upon when they were stripped from their native land, chained in the bowels of a slave ship, and forced to make the traumatic transatlantic voyage into the unknown.

Strength was the African slaves' will to survive in a foreign land, under violent, torturous and deplorable conditions for over 260 years.

Perseverance was when Harriet Tubman, "the Moses of her people" led slaves to freedom countless times, dubbed "the underground railroad" in the face of danger and exhaustion. I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of Mr. STOKES' bill, H.R. 1635, the "National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998." This legislation would authorize the National Park Service to link together in a coordinated and cohesive fashion the many sites, structures, activities, museums and programs that commemorate and celebrate this African-American triumph.

Resilience is Booker T. Washington, who, after walking from West Virginia to Hampton Institute located in Hampton, VA, swept the floors of a classroom as his admissions test, and went on to become the principal of Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, AL. Washington played a defining leadership role in American politics in the early 1900's.

Talent is defined by the great storytellers of the Harlem renaissance era, like Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Nella Larsen, and Claude McKay—writers who drew upon their own experiences and societal African-American culture as the basis of their compelling text.

Talent is the musical genius of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, who developed the wonders of jazz music and laid the foundation of America's appreciation for many genres of contemporary music.

Faith is what the late Jackie Robinson had when he became the first black player in modern major league baseball in 1947, an act which helped break down racial barriers in professional sports. We just celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his feat last year, marking this triumphant point in history and reminding our youth of how far we have come and how far we have yet to go in fighting discrimination.

Faith is what Rosa Parks had when she denied a white person a seat on a bus, which helped lead us into the greatest movement in American history—the civil rights movement.

Faith is what nine students in Little Rock, AR had when they integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957, becoming symbols of educational equality.

The late Thurgood Marshall demonstrated leadership when he became the first black Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1967. The vital role he played as counsel in *Brown v. Board of Education* Topeka, Kansas left an indelible mark on the history of education in America, eliminating the cruel ruse of "Separate but equal"—overturning *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was and will remain one of America's most revered and honored leaders as an advocate for racial harmony. Like many other leaders of the 1960's, Dr. King's assassination took him from us physically, but his spirit of leadership and his vision for racial equality still lives.

Economic empowerment is what all of us here are seeking to sustain and create. We all want to develop and strengthen our communities economically by creating jobs and other opportunities to make sure that our neighborhoods are prosperous and our children are provided for.

All of these attribute I have touched upon lead us to vision. African-Americans have al-

ways had a vision, whether it was of freedom, equality, voting rights civil rights, economic stability or justice. It must be noted historically that, when reviewing the visions of African-Americans from one point in history to another, one thing rings true: The vision is always realized.

As we approach the year 2000, we should all take a long, hard look at the journey that our ancestors have taken, that we have taken—and how, we need to look at the road we have left for our children to take on their journey.

We leave our children with a rich history full of leaders and innovators, of men and women who made a difference and ensured the survival of a race of people in the face of adversity.

Yet, as we prepare to pass the legacy of a people to the next generation, it is still incumbent upon us to tell the story, to celebrate the history. We must impress upon our children not to give up, but to always hope. They must hold onto the vision for their journey, and stick with it until it is realized—as our African-American forefathers and mothers did.

It is impossible for me to recognize all of the African-Americans throughout history who have influenced our lives. However, I am truly thankful that, with the leadership of Representative STOKES and others here today on the floor, we take the time to recognize Black History Month.

Today, we are celebrating the African-American journey and are passing the legacy onto the next generation. I am proud to have participated in this special order commemorating Black History Month in 1998.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this the 11th day of Black History Month to salute African-Americans in business. In Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, he spoke of a promise that America made to its people:

A promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, should be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Today as more and more young black women and men graduate from colleges and business schools, medical and law schools across this land, they are taking Dr. King's dream and turning it into a reality. In 1960, 141,000 African-Americans attended college, in 1988, 785,000 African-Americans attended. Two decades ago, only a handful of African-Americans graduated from MBA programs whereas in 1995, 4,000 African-Americans graduated. There is a strong correlation between higher education and African-American business success. By utilizing their hard-won knowledge and mixing it with their strength and perseverance, African-Americans are becoming more empowered through entrepreneurship each day.

According to "Banking on Black Enterprise" a new community of African-American businesses are emerging. From 1987 to 1992, African-American businesses grew by over 45 percent. Between the years of 1984 and 1994, African-American pilots and navigators increased 650%, dentists 311% and black engineers 173%. Other factors such as corporate procurement plans and municipal plans have led to empowerment for African-Americans.

Programs of this nature such as the General Motors African-American empowerment forum for small minority-owned business and the Michigan Minority Business Development workshops and conferences have also opened doors for African-American businesses.

We must fight to maintain these gains and ensure the growth of the African-American middle class into the next century. Every time that a little black boy or black girl takes their first step into a school, Dr. King's dream takes one step closer to becoming reality and every time that a new African-American business opens, Dr. King's dream takes yet another step closer to reality. Our successes in entrepreneurship are numerous, our chances for further growth, limitless.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month and its 1998 theme, African-Americans in Business, I would like to draw your attention to seven distinguished residents of Indiana's First Congressional District. These business people have achieved stunning success while generously giving of themselves to the community.

Nathaniel Z. Cain is a native of Gary. With his wife, Jacqueline, they raised 3 children, Fred, Jeff and Natalie, and now have 3 grandchildren. Nate started his business career in the automobile industry after serving 4 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and 2 tours of duty in Vietnam. He began working at a Ford dealership in Gary in 1969, began buying stock ownership in dealerships in 1986, and, in 1996, bought the same Ford dealership in Gary in which he had begun his career in 1969. He currently serves as President and Dealer-principal of Tyson Ford and Tyson Lincoln-Mercury and Vice-President of Melrose Lincoln-Mercury.

Nate has been recognized and rewarded for his outstanding achievements throughout his career. He was awarded 4 medals for his service in Vietnam: the National Defense Service medal, two Vietnam service medals (1st & 2nd awards), and the Vietnam campaign medal. He received numerous awards at the Tyson Motor Corp. in Joliet, Illinois, and in 1996 received the "100 Champions Award" for the top 100 Lincoln-Mercury Dealers. He has also been listed on Black Enterprise magazine's Top 100 Black Auto Dealers List since 1990. Throughout his career, Nate has been involved in his community, serving on various boards and councils, including the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana, the Gary Mental Health Association, the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, the Board of Trustees of the Gary YWCA, the National Auto Dealers Association, the Ford-Lincoln-Mercury Minority Dealers Association, and the Chrysler-Plymouth Minority Dealers Association. His story is clearly a tribute to economic success and civic devotion.

Sharon L. Chambers is an insurance agent with State Farm in Gary, where she lives with her daughter, Sheena. Sharon received a degree from Indiana University and started her own insurance agency in 1984. Sharon has received the "Outstanding Young Women of America Award," and, last year, she was inducted into Gary's first Women's Museum of Cultural Development. Sharon started her own agency with no customers and, for years later, was the number one insurance agent in the

State of Indiana. She truly made it on her own. However, Sharon does not focus the story of her success on herself. She talks about the support of Gary citizens, and about the numerous young African-American women who have worked in her office as Marketing Representatives, five of whom have started their own businesses and four of whom have returned to college.

Imogene Harris is a Gary native, who earned her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and undertook graduate studies at Valparaiso and Purdue Universities. She was a teacher with the Gary School Corporation for 12 years and became President and Publisher of the family-owned Harris Printing Co. and INFO News in 1978. She and her husband, James T. Harris, have worked at their business for nearly 48 years. Imogene is actively involved in the community and works with the Gary Chamber of Commerce Board, the Urban League of Northwest Indiana Board, the Gary Accord Board, and the NAACP. Additionally, she holds membership in numerous organizations, including the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Great Lakes Broadcasting Board, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Delaney United Methodist Church. She has been honored by the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the NAACP (nationally and locally), NCNW and many other organizations. In addition, Imogene has received the Gary Frontiers' "Drum Major Award" and the "Distinguished Hoosier Award." She has continually distinguished herself as an individual committed to equality, actively working to eradicate racism and prejudice through providing a forum in which issues can be addressed in a productive manner. She has been committed to the improvement of Gary for 50 years and much of the progress that has been made can clearly be attributed to her.

Roosevelt Haywood came to Indiana from Mississippi in 1948, and he attended Indiana University. He has a wife and seven children and is currently the owner of Haywood Insurance Agency in Gary. Before going into the insurance business, Roosevelt was a member of the United Steelworkers' Local #1014. Roosevelt built his successful business on his own, but he has been an active member of the community while doing so. He is currently Vice-President of the Gary branch of the NAACP, Vice-President of the Gary Black Insurance Agents and Brokers Association, a Deacon-Trustee at his Baptist Church, and a Board Member of the Brothers' Keeper. His record of civil service is extensive. Roosevelt worked as a State Chairman of the Fair Share Organization, a civil rights group that broke down the discrimination barrier over a decade ago in Gary, Michigan City, and East Chicago, Indiana. He founded and served as President of both the Gary United Council of Midtown Businessmen and the Gary Toastmasters International. He also served as Vice-President of the Minority Business Steering Committee and on the Advisory Board of the Urban League. He served as President of the Ambridge-Mann Community Board and the Indiana Association of Black Insurance Professionals. Finally, he served as a member of the Gary Library Board, the Gary Parks and Recreation Board, the Lake Country Economic

Opportunity Council, Inc., and the Gary Common Council.

The Reverend F. Brannon Jackson and his wife, Doris, are another Northwest Indiana success story. Reverend Jackson came from Mobile, Alabama in 1946, and became pastor of his church on December 1, 1965. Doris graduated from East Chicago Washington and studied fine arts at the Chicago Art Institute. She opened her own boutique in downtown Gary, and has been in business for almost 17 years. While Reverend Jackson has served as President of the Ordinary General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Indiana, Chairman of the Office of Convention and Meetings for the National Baptist Convention, USA, and Treasurer of the City of Gary's Commission on Economic Development, Mrs. Jackson has supported his efforts in a tangible way by keeping her own shop in downtown Gary, while many of her neighbors moved their businesses elsewhere. Both Reverend and Mrs. Jackson have stood by and sustained downtown development and committed many hours to making Northwest Indiana safe for worship and shopping. They are two beacons in the Gary Community, providing both economic and spiritual leadership.

Dorothy Leavell is the Editor and Publisher of the Crusader Newspapers, which are published in Gary and Chicago. Dorothy attended public school in Arkansas and Roosevelt University in Chicago. In June of 1998, the Chicago Crusader will celebrate 58 years of continuous publishing, and the Gary Crusader will celebrate 37 years of operation. Dorothy took over the newspapers upon the untimely death of her first husband, Balm L. Leavell, Jr. She had been working there for 7 years as an Office Manager and Business Manager before taking over the helm of the Crusader Newspapers in 1968. Dorothy's newspapers have never missed a single issue.

Dorothy has been involved in numerous civic and humane organizations. She founded and sponsored the "Odyssey Club," a teen club at her church, dedicated to raising funds and items necessary for teens to further their educational and career goals. Her contribution to community service has earned her many awards over the years, and she has been recognized with distinction by: the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago; Holy Name of Mary School Board; Prospair Ladies Social Club, and the National Association of Black Media Women. She has received the Operation PUSH "Family Affair Award"; "Fourth District Community Improvement Association Award" in Gary; "Dollars and Sense Award"; Mary McLeod Bethune Award"; the "Publishing Award" from the National Association of Negro Business and Profession Women's Club, and the "NNPA's Publisher of the Year Award" in 1989. Dorothy has been a member of the National Newspaper Publisher Association (NNPA), for more than 25 years, and she is currently serving her second term as president of NNPA, which represents more than 215 African-American newspapers in the United States. Dorothy has always had a keen interest in art, and she donated her personal art collection valued at over \$50,000 to the DuSable Museum of African-American History in Chicago in the 1970's. Dorothy is currently married to John Smith, and she has two

grown children, Antonio and Genice Leavell. She also raised a niece and nephew, Sharon and Leonard Gonder, and has four grandchildren.

Mamon Powers' college education at Campbell College in Mississippi was interrupted when he was drafted to serve in the European theater during World War II. He served for almost three and a half years, and was discharged as a Sergeant Major in April 1945. He then followed his sweetheart north, and settled in Gary to work in the steel mills. But Mamon did not end up working in the mill, instead deciding to try carpentry. Relying on the experience he had gleaned through his father's long association with the trade, he joined the Carpenters' Local #985, and was the first black carpenter's apprentice in the program. He worked at Means Brothers Construction Co. during the day and at night worked at getting his degree from Horace Mann, from which he graduated in 1949.

He was then noticed by his long-time mentor, Andrew Means, who offered him a Vice-Presidency at Means Developers. Mamon studied Mr. Means' building techniques and financial planning, and in 1955 formed his own partnership with drywall contractor, Hollis Winters. Winters Powers Construction Co. built homes for 9 years before Mamon decided he wanted a company that was truly his own. In 1967, Powers & Sons Construction Co. began. Amidst a city that was changing economically and politically, Mamon changed with the time, branching out into commercial construction, and bringing two of his sons into the business with him. In 1971, Powers & Sons won its first million-dollar contract, and, in 1987, it was named one of the top businesses in the Nation. Black Enterprise magazine has recognized this feat for eight years. Mamon has contributed to many civic and charitable organizations and continues to volunteer and donate his time by lecturing at the various Gary schools on careers in the construction industry. Powers & Sons continues his personal commitment on a professional level by providing scholarships to area youths.

These people are remarkable not just for their astounding business success. They are doubly remarkable for having achieved such success in arenas which were just beginning to open up for African-Americans. Marcus Garvey's prediction, that African-Americans could accomplish what they willed, has been borne truthful by people like these fine citizens of Northwest Indiana.

But the 'bootstraps' mentality is only one aspect of Garveyism, and these people's success can be measured in more than just professional terms. These Northwest Indiana leaders exemplify the true extent of success African-American business leaders have achieved; these men and women have not only made successes out of themselves, they have, and continue to, make successes of their communities, by devoting as much of their time and energy to others as they do to themselves. Sharon Chambers talks about the African-American women she has mentored, Mamon Powers talks about the man who mentored him. Roosevelt Haywood talks about participating in organizations which broke down the racial barriers facing African-Americans in the area, and Dorothy Leavell describes donating art in order to inspire other to

achieve. The Reverend and Mrs. Jackson couple their work for economic growth with a devotion to community spiritualism. Nate Cain followed his career in the military with a long history of devoting his time to local youths. And Imogene Harris followed a career in teaching children with a career in teaching the community as a whole. George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these." These seven people have indeed been tender, compassionate, sympathetic and tolerant. And they have met with great success, both personal and professional, because of it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my esteemed colleagues, LOU STOKES and MAXINE WATERS, for arranging today's Special Order on Black History Month. LOU and MAXINE truly lead the House of Representatives in promoting racial consciousness, and their tireless work on behalf of African-Americans is unparalleled. With his recent retirement announcement, LOU promises to leave a significant void in the House of Representatives. We will miss him, but I look forward to others benefitting from the example he has provided, as well as continuing his legacy.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join our Nation in celebrating Black History Month. In keeping with this year's theme of "African Americans in Business: The Path Towards Empowerment," I want to take this opportunity to honor African-American publishers in Houston who are business leaders themselves and play a critical role in helping other businesses to succeed.

Part of this year's theme is empowerment, and certainly the African American press is invaluable in empowering businesses to succeed, both in providing them with important community information and linking them to customers through advertising. I have seen the value of the African American press firsthand in Houston, which benefits greatly from a healthy number of African American community newspapers.

Today, I want to take the opportunity to honor the publishers of these newspapers, including Sonceria "Sonny" Messiah Jiles of The Houston Defender; Dorris Ellis of The Houston Sun; Lenora "Doll" Carter of The Houston Forward Times; Francis Page, Sr., of The Houston NewsPages; and Pluria Marshall, Jr., of The Houston Informer. These newspapers and their publishers were honored when the National Newspaper Publishers Association held their annual convention in Houston in 1996, and it was rightly noted how remarkable it is that Houston has so many members of the Association. This is a testament to the strength of the African-American community in our city and to the diversity of voices heard in Houston's marketplace of ideas.

I want to take the opportunity to honor each of these newspapers and their publishers.

The Houston Defender was founded in 1930 by C.F. Richardson Sr., a journalist who used his newspaper to fight racism and was often

the target of death threats and beatings by the Ku Klux Klan. Since becoming the publisher in 1981, Sonny Messiah Jiles has steered the paper back to its roots, focusing on economic and political issues while striving to promote positive images of African-Americans.

Sonny Messiah Jiles is a 20-year veteran of Houston media, having worked in public relations and radio, as well as hosting two long-running talk shows on minority issues. She bought the Houston Defender at the age of 27 with money she had saved and borrowed from family and friends and practically ran it by herself during her first year of ownership. Since then, the Houston Defender has won numerous awards, including an NAACP Carter G. Woodson Award in the early 1990s for the paper's focus on equity issues, and Sonny Messiah Jiles was selected as publisher of the year in 1991 by the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

The Houston Sun provides extensive coverage of community, local, and national news, with a goal, as stated by publisher Dorris Ellis, "to provide news and information the community could use and trust." Dorris Ellis began publishing The Sun out of an extra room in her home, and it has since grown into much larger offices and a respected role in Houston's African-American community.

Dorris Ellis has long been active in a wide range of community activities, dating back to her work as a poll-watcher at age 14 after elimination of the poll tax enabled more African-Americans to vote. Today, she is president of the Houston League of Business and Professional Women and of the Houston Association of Black Journalists, working successfully to double the membership of each organization. A former kindergarten teacher, Dorris Ellis has always made education and youth high priorities. She has led many efforts to improve literacy, volunteers often in public schools, and publishes articles by student journalists in The Houston Sun.

The Houston Forward Times has been a family affair since its founding in 1960 by Julius Carter. His wife, Lenora "Doll" Carter, joined the paper in 1961 as its advertising director and office manager. After the death of her husband in 1971, she became the publisher, and her children grew up working at the paper.

The Houston Forward Times has sought to serve as an effective watchdog and voice for African American concerns in Houston, providing tough reporting on critical government and community issues. Relying on a staff of 15 full-time employees, the Houston Forward Times plays a specific role in keeping the community informed on such issues.

The Houston NewsPages began publishing in 1986 as a newsletter in which retail tenants could advertise their businesses. Publisher Frances Page, Sr., remembers the painstaking and time-consuming process of taking each article individually to the typesetter after it was written by his wife Diana Fallis Page, who is co-publisher and editor-in-chief. Today, the paper is published utilizing state-of-the-art computer technology.

The Houston NewsPages seeks to highlight the achievements of African-Americans and is known for its uplifting stories and eye-catching covers. From its humble beginnings, the paper

has grown tremendously and won numerous journalism awards, including the 1990 John H. Stengstacke National Merit Award for General Excellence, the most prestigious award given to African-American publications by the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

The Houston Informer & Texas Freeman is the oldest African-American newspaper in Texas and the third-oldest in the nation. While it has changed ownership several times in its 105-year history, this weekly paper has never missed an edition or lost its commitment to firebrand journalism.

Pluria W. Marshall, Jr., the current publisher of The Informer, has inherited a piece of Texas history. The first issues of the paper focused on eradication of Jim Crow laws, equal pay for black teachers, and other race related issues. In the 1920s and 1930s, the newspaper became a strong advocate for civil rights and grew into a chain—since disbanded—that reached all major Texas cities and New Orleans. For more than two decades, George A. McElroy, a former Texas Southern University journalism professor, has served as editor-in-chief, leading the paper to numerous honors from the Texas Publishers Association and other organizations.

These five newspapers and their publishers play vital roles in Houston's African-American community, creating jobs and business opportunities themselves, helping other businesses to succeed, and improving our community for all Houstonians. I am pleased to honor them as we celebrate Black History Month.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I rise to recognize the contributions of my fellow Los Angeleno William Kennard, the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, to the expansion of minority entrepreneurship in the telecommunications industry. As we observe 1998 Black History Month's theme of "African Americans in Business: The Path to Empowerment," it is important to highlight the unique opportunity that Bill Kennard will now have as FCC Chairman to influence the path of minority entrepreneurship in the modern technological age. Bill is in a position to promote a prosperous business climate through his stewardship of FCC actions impacting the communications and broadcasting industries. As we near the end of the 20th Century, there will be few businesses unaffected by changes in telecommunications, internet and wireless services. As chairman of the FCC, this distinguished African American will play a significant role in ushering in these changes.

Bill Kennard became chairman of the FCC on November 7, 1997, after having served several years as General Counsel of the Commission. A native of Los Angeles, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford and received his law degree from Yale Law School in 1981. Before joining the FCC as its first African American general counsel, a primary focus of his law practice was committed to assisting minority business entry into the communications marketplace. Bill served on the FCC's Advisory Committee on Minority Ownership in Broadcasting and was instrumental in expansion of the FCC's minority tax certificate program adopted by the FCC in 1982. When members of Congress targeted the tax certificate program for elimination, Bill Kennard became the only senior FCC official to publicly

defend the program and advocate for its retention.

As general counsel of the FCC, he actively recruited minorities to serve in policy making positions, helping to place African Americans in charge of four of the Commission's 16 operating bureaus and offices. Bill Kennard's recruitment efforts resulted in significant increases in the number of minority lawyers throughout the commission. Prior to his arrival, few minority attorneys had ever served in the Office of General Counsel in its 60 year history; during his tenure, the office hired over 15 minority attorneys, including 12 African Americans. In addition, Bill created a Commission-wide mentoring program for new attorneys.

Outgoing FCC Chairman Reed Hundt said this about William Kennard: "Bill Kennard has been the best General Counsel in FCC history and has successfully run the most difficult cases this commission has ever encountered. Under his leadership, we have dramatically improved our win record in the Court of Appeals. We have also greatly expanded the depth and breadth of our recruiting and instilled in all our audiences an awareness of fairness and impartiality of our rulemaking."

As Chairman of the FCC, Bill continues to demonstrate his commitment to assisting minorities and small businesses through the Telecommunications Development Fund (TDF), authorized under the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The TDF promotes access to capital for small businesses to enhance competition in the telecommunications industry, stimulate new technological growth and development, and promotes universal service. TDF is an important tool for minority entrepreneurs to access the capital necessary to participate in the communications revolution. He is a strong advocate for universal service, an essential part of the 1996 Act that seeks to ensure that communities and consumers are not negatively impacted by telecommunications deregulation.

In talking of Bill's accomplishments, I want to knowledge the role that his parents, Robert and Helen played in raising this important member of our community. I was a friend of Robert Kennard, and greatly respected his accomplishment in creating the largest black-owned architectural firm in the western United States. He started his Los Angeles firm shortly after returning from service in World War II, at a time when it was particularly difficult for African Americans to break into this business. Clearly his dedication and commitment to excel has been passed on to his son. His mother, Helen, worked in the Los Angeles school district, teaching English to non-English speaking students. It is noteworthy that in his FCC biography, Bill credits his parents with teaching him the power of communication and the importance of building communities.

With our help and support, the potential impact that Bill Kennard can have on minority business development in the telecommunications industry cannot be underestimated. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his accomplishments, and wishing him much success in a complex, often controversial, and powerful role as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, when Dr. Carter Woodson established the first black history ob-

servance in 1926, he had several goals in mind.

As a historian, he wanted to make American history as accurate and as complete as possible. As an African-American who worked his way up from poverty to become a renowned teacher, writer and scholar, he wanted to give black people, particularly young people, a better sense of their heritage and a more hopeful vision of their own future and the country's future.

These goals are being fulfilled. Americans everywhere recognize that African-Americans have made substantial contributions in the sciences, in exploration, in business, in education, in the arts, in politics and government, in entertainment and sports, in the military, in religion, in citizenship, in every endeavor that has made our country what it is.

As we observe Black History Month, I would like to recognize several African-Americans from the area of middle and south Georgia that I have the honor of representing who have achieved greatness—greatness not only because they have been extraordinarily successful in their own lives, but because they have reached out and uplifted many others.

One of these Georgians is Apostle Isaiah Revills, a man of great stature physically who is also a giant spiritually. He was born in Moultrie, Georgia, in humble circumstances, 66 years ago, and was called to the ministry at age 21. Since then, he has extended his ministry in tent crusades throughout the United States and has preached in Africa, Israel, Haiti and much of the world. He attracts thousands to his services at the First Albany Deliverance Cathedral in Albany, Georgia. He has been named one of Georgia's 10 most prominent black pastors and has been honored by governors, legislators, mayors and members of Congress. But most of all, his positive, visionary ministry has changed the lives of thousands and thousands of God's children.

Brady Keys, Jr., a native of Austin, Texas who attended Colorado State on a football scholarship and went on to become an all-pro defensive back for the Pittsburgh Steelers, is now a businessman in Albany, Georgia who oversees an empire that includes restaurant outlets, hair styling salons, a steel company, real estate, oil and coal interests, and a vending company. He was the first African American to own and operate a franchise company. His firm, The Keys Group Company, is ranked as one of the largest black-owned businesses in the country. He has served in many leadership positions, including membership on President Nixon's Advisory Council on Minority Business Enterprise. His greatest success story, however, is the opportunities he has given to young people. He has hired and trained more than 150,000 youth, giving many their first real job opportunity.

John R. Harris was an educator who stayed close to home, serving as a teacher and principal for 40 years in his native Early County Georgia—19 years as principal of Early County Middle School in Blakely. He has been an inspiration to thousands of young people and a leader in his community for many years. He has served with the Chamber of Commerce, worked on literacy projects, and served as a gubernatorial appointee on the Georgia Agrirama Development Authority, which has

meant so much to his area of Georgia. In 1981, the Early County Board of Education named and dedicated the Middle School Media Center in his honor in recognition of the many contributions he has made to the community.

America has produced many heroes. They are not limited to any race, or creed, or national background. We find examples of greatness among all people in this patchwork of cultures that has become the strongest, freest, and most productive nation the world has ever known. Black History Month gives us an opportunity to learn from their lives.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Black History Month for 1998. I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES] for arranging this special order.

It is appropriate at this time that we call to mind the outstanding black men and women who have contributed so much to our national prosperity. Many of these men and women are yet to be properly recognized in history texts, and as we approach the next millennium we must continually work towards correcting this great injustice, and towards acknowledging the role African Americans have played in making America the great nation that it is today.

For example, Crispus Attucks, a free black man of Boston, Mass., was the first American to die for the revolutionary cause. After we achieved our national independence, a black man by the name of Benjamin Banneker was an integral planner in the lay-out of the Capital city, working to assist and expand upon the ideas of Pierre L'Enfant.

In our nation's fight to achieve civil rights and equality black men and women always took a leadership role. In the late nineteenth century—when our nation stood divided, and many black slaves were being massacred as examples to their peers—heroes such as Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth organized the underground railroad, leading thousands of black men and women to freedom, and ensuring that the lives of those murdered were not spent in vain.

When the Civil War was brought to its end, and racial discrimination was de jure abolished, black leaders such as Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois fought to bring discrimination to its de facto conclusion, speaking out against the hypocritical, racist Jim Crow laws of the South.

These heroic pioneers of the civil rights movement brought about a new way of thinking in our nation. In the twenty-first century the movement reached epic proportions, and the goals of national equality and non-discrimination were further advanced through the heroic actions of black men and women.

As Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in professional major league baseball, Marian Anderson became a symbol of equality in the world of music. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. opened the public's eyes to the horrors of racial discrimination through his policy of "peaceful demonstration," and inspired our hearts through his ideas of American unity and brotherhood. Mrs. Rosa Parks became a symbolic hero around which an entire nation rallied when she refused to move "to the back of the bus."

In modern-day America, the barriers which once separated black men and women from

pursuing their dreams have virtually disappeared. The worlds of entertainment, politics, scholarship, sports, arts and literature have all been significantly improved by the contributions of African Americans. Men and women such as Dr. Mae C. Jemison, our first female astronaut; Akua Lezli Hope, a poet and Amnesty International leader; Zora Neale Hurston, anthropologist; and William Brown, the mayor of San Francisco, are the modern day pioneers who lead our nation towards the twenty-first century in the hopes of full racial equality.

Black History Month is also an appropriate time to look forward, and as we pause to recall and recite the actions of the innumerable black men and women who changed our Nation's policies and attitudes, we must also remind ourselves to look ahead, and vow to work harder towards resolving the struggle for equality which persists not only in the United States but also abroad.

Our society's strength is a direct result of its great diversity. It is this diversity which we rightfully honor today and all throughout this month. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to recognize the contributions African Americans have made to our nation.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during the month of February our great Nation's schools, businesses, churches, and civic organizations are making a special effort to proclaim the importance of African-Americans to this Nation's progress and success.

We make this special effort for two fundamentally important reasons:

First, Black people of this Nation have suffered unfairly through generations of slavery and oppression. Today, I am grateful that we are working together to ensure that all people are treated equally, both in word and deed.

The second reason we mark this time with Black History Month is that African-Americans have made substantive and vitally important contributions to this Nation's progress and success. Quite simply, we would be much diminished as a nation if it were not for the hard work, insight, activism, leadership, and excellence found within the African-American community.

At the base of the Statue of Freedom on the Capitol Dome in Washington is the Latin phrase "E Pluribus Unum"—Out of many, one. This motto expresses very simply the key to success for our great Nation. Out of the many citizens of the United States, we must come together to form one America. Building a united America is vital to the success of our great democracy.

This phrase—"Out of many, one"—is also a great challenge. If we meet the challenge to build a better America, we must face three very important questions:

How should we unite as a people?

What is our purpose in seeking a united American people?

And what kind of partnership do we need to achieve our purpose?

PEOPLE: RECOGNIZING WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR AMERICA

President Woodrow Wilson, who led our Nation during the first half of this century, has a message for us as we enter the 21st century:

It was . . . an historical accident . . . that this great country was called the "United

States;" yet, I am very thankful that it has the word "United" in its title, and the man who seeks to divide man from man, group from group, interest from interest in this great Union is striking at its very heart!

His words remind us that people matter and that we are doomed as a nation if we allow one race to oppress the other.

However, unity has not always been the case in America. For too long, issues of unfair treatment have divided the citizens of the United States. If we are to ever be united in the good sense of the word, we must ensure that all individuals, regardless of race, share the same rights and are granted equal protection under the law.

The African American people—whose heritage we celebrate here and now—have fought long and hard for fair treatment and equal opportunity while working to make a better united America.

The great Black leader Frederick Douglass was right when he said, "Liberty given is never so precious as liberty sought for and fought for." The founders fought for their freedom from Britain during the American Revolution, but they left the American people less than totally free. It is up to us to work for liberty for all people in this Nation. To accept anything less diminishes the greatness of our Nation.

As your federal representative in Washington, I want to tell you about several important pieces of legislation that I am cosponsoring that will provide long overdue recognition to the African-American community. Recognition of the varied and numerous contributions of the African-American people to this country is crucial to achieving our goal of unity and understanding the complete—not partial—history of our Nation's African-American citizens.

H.R. 773, the National African-American Museum Act, seeks to remember the people who have shaped this country's history. This bill would authorize the establishment of the National African-American Museum within the Smithsonian Institution and thereby provide a center for scholarship and location for exhibits related to African-American art, history, and culture.

That museum will be a wonderful starting point for recognizing and respecting the African-American people and their history of suffering and accomplishment.

Consider the impact African-Americans have had in politics and civil rights. Of course, Blacks have always been politically active. Today, we should call special attention to Blacks who serve their Nation and communities in ways unimaginable one hundred years or even fifty years ago. Blacks now serve in unprecedented numbers in elected and appointed positions at all levels of government. In our Congressional district, several black leaders have served on the city council, school board, board of county commissioners, community college board members, state board of transportation, numerous other state boards and commissions, state legislature, and in government positions at all levels, including Congress, for many years with distinction. The civil rights advances in our nation could not have been made without these fine citizens. We must recognize the importance Blacks have in shaping our political lives.

We should also recognize Blacks for their contributions to advancing American science and technology. Blacks have been vitally important inventors and scientists from our nation's earliest days. Did you know that Onesimus, a black slave, was experimenting with smallpox vaccines in the 1720s? This pioneer of modern medicine was followed by others such as Dr. Charles Drew, who engineered blood transfusions; and Samuel Kountz, who made kidney transplants more successful. Elijah McCoy's perfection of the locomotive engine led to people saying they wanted his product—not some cheap imitation. They wanted "the real McCoy"—a saying which became popular in society for those who want the real thing, the best there is! In technology, Blacks have invented the incandescent light bulb, truck refrigeration, polymer fabrics, and automated manufacturing machines used in making shoes, telephones, and other items essential to our daily lives. In space, Lt. Colonel Guion Bluford was the first Black to fly in space. Hoping to advance human sciences, astronaut Ronald McNair tragically died in the Challenger shuttle explosion. These individuals and many many other African-Americans must be fully recognized for their contributions to American life.

Once we recognize African-Americans for their accomplishments, we must respect them as valuable contributors to American society. In North Carolina, the African-American community emerged from the shadows of slavery to quickly take positions in government, education, entertainment, and media.

Take, for example, two North Carolinians who should have our respect. First, in the early 1900s Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown founded a school for African-American children. Although she was attacked and oppressed with Jim Crow laws, her faith in God and her commitment to her community gave her the strength to ensure that her school, known as the Palmer Institute, educated Black children in the sciences, language, and culture. She received many honors, and was a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, W.E.B. DuBouis, Booker T. Washington, and other leaders of the day. I have nothing but respect for people like Dr. Hawkins, who spend their lives committed to God and community.

There is one more person who exemplifies the sort of success that we should respect. Hiram Rhoades Revels is especially significant to me for three reasons. First, he committed his life to God and proclaiming the truth of the Christian Gospel. Second, he was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, only 30 miles from where I was born. Third, he was the first Black member of the United States Congress. It is remarkable that his adult life spanned the Civil War, Reconstruction, and ended in 1901 during the Progressive Era. He was a true pioneer of American political life.

All the people I have mentioned today—the scientists, teachers, inventors, politicians, and every African-American—should be respected members of our Nation. And they would make wonderful additions to our nation's official African-American museum.

PURPOSE: LIVING UP TO AMERICA'S IDEALS

As we have seen, it is critically important that we work to make America a united country of diverse people. Yet it is also important

that our work have a worthy purpose. We cannot satisfy ourselves with a united America that fails to live up to our guiding ideals.

As the great American President Abraham Lincoln told the nation at Gettysburg in 1863, "we are here highly resolved that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

In the 133 years since the end of slavery in America, all of the races in America have had to confront the struggles and successes of a nation working to better itself in difficult times. We joined together to defeat the racist rulers of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, and African Americans were emboldened to insist that America live up to our values.

On September 25, 1957, nine African-American children pioneered the civil rights movement by voluntarily integrating the all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 2560, which seeks to award the Congressional Gold Medal to each of those nine brave souls.

Later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led the mass civil rights movement that gave us a chance to redeem our nation's soul by embracing freedom and opportunity instead of hate and oppression. Our nation's ideals made Dr. King love America. He often spoke about the "great glory of America, with all its faults." On the night before his assassination, Dr. King prophetically said, "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land . . ." Today we remain committed to fulfilling Dr. King's dream of reaching the promised land—a land where all citizens regardless of their race—are treated equally. We have come a long way in reaching this land, but we still have a long way to go.

Today, we live in a country where African Americans are narrowing the gaps in salaries and education between themselves and the majority of Americans. Today, African-American employment is at its highest level in history, and African-American poverty is at its lowest in history. Yet black people still earn about 40% less than most whites, unemployment for blacks is still about twice the level for whites, and fewer blacks graduate from college than whites of similar backgrounds.

Clearly, we must stay true to America's purpose because we still have work to do.

PARTNERSHIP: BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

Once we recognize the importance of the African-American people, we must continue to live up to America's purpose. But our great Nation's purpose will never be realized unless we enter into partnership with one another to build a better America.

A partnership can be a powerful and positive influence on our lives when it is between people who are able to bring their own unique gifts to our nation's progress. God has given the people of this nation a mission to prove to men and women throughout the world that people of different races and ethnic back-

grounds can not only work and live together, but can enrich and ennoble both themselves and our common purpose.

In the 7th Congressional district, we have the great opportunity to bring into partnership all the different peoples who live here: African and Native Americans, new immigrants, and whites. Together—and there are over a half million citizens in this district—we can make a real difference in America's future.

With a strong people, a guiding purpose, and a powerful partnership, we can create better schools, better families, and better jobs for everyone.

My very first job while in college was a delivery boy for a black-owned business, Wesley's Florist, in Lumberton. Not only did I need that job, I found that being the only white employee required a special partnership between me and his family!

When I was a student at Lumberton Senior High School, I worked in partnership to help the first black female be elected as president of the student body.

I have had the honor to coach black boys and girls on local sports teams and to work with children of all races as a volunteer in the schools for the last 17 years.

The first person I hired on my congressional staff was a black woman. Why? Because she was the most experienced caseworker on Capitol Hill that I knew, and she deserved it!

Today, as your Congressman, I know full well how powerful partnerships can be. That is why I am fighting to recognize the importance of African-Americans, working to build better schools, and striving to bring fair treatment and economic security to every American in our district.

Education and the best public schools possible are at the foundation of our efforts to build a lasting and positive partnership for America. That is why I am committing my time and energy in Washington and at home in North Carolina to better schools, better teachers, and better opportunities for our students. I have cosponsored:

HR 1154, The Partnership to Rebuild America's Schools Act. This bill would provide \$77.1 million for school construction in North Carolina. Our district would be eligible to receive nearly \$21 million. The money would go toward paying up to 50% of the interest on school bonds.

I am also an original Cosponsor of the State Infrastructure Bank Act. This legislation would establish State Infrastructure Banks (SIBs) for school construction. The proposal is based on the SIBs for the transportation program established through the National Highway System Act during the 104th Congress and is also similar to the widely successful State Revolving Funds (SRFs) used for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act infrastructure improvements.

The Computer Donation Incentive Act, HR 1278, will allow companies to donate computer equipment and software, as well as training related thereto, to elementary and secondary schools for use in their educational programs. It will also allow donations to organizations that work with the disabled. This bill is designed to provide an incentive for businesses to donate equipment to local public schools.

I also supported HR 2264, the bill that appropriates funds for Education programs. Impact Aid was funded at \$796 million, \$66 million more than FY 1997. \$1.1 BILLION for education reform programs. \$531 million in block grants for Safe and Drug-Free Schools Programs. Over \$1.5 BILLION for higher education programs such as work study and Pell Grants. \$435 million for Education Technology programs and installing computers in our schools.

On November 3, 1997, I hosted parents, teachers, school administrators, and local leaders at a summit entitled "Successful Schools for the 21st Century." Three themes that focus our attention on critically important factors in education—commitment, construction, and computers—were highlighted.

I am excited about what the future holds for our district and our schools. But we should not lose sight of schools and colleges as places where we learn about character and values. Respect, responsibility, and hard work are all things that our schools can help us better understand and experience. In fact, the concern and commitment required for success, which begins in our families, should be nurtured in our schools.

With God's help, we can not only share His love, but also have His strength: to continue to recognize and respect our country's unique people, to re-commit ourselves to America's purpose, and to work together in partnership for a better future.

Will you join me in respecting America's people?

Will you join me in living up to America's purpose?

Will you join me in the partnership for a better America?

Together, we can take the steps toward a 21st century full of appreciation and hope. Much has already been done; however, I am sure you know that much more must be done.

And may we remember the words from Abraham Lincoln's last great speech—his second inaugural address—when he tells us even today:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish to work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

I appreciate and commend each of you for your leadership within the African-American community, and I want to challenge you to never forget how great this democracy is. It is up to us to reach beyond our differences and pain and hold on to the strength to stand for what is right and what is good so that we are truly united. May God bless and strengthen us all. By his help, we will not fail!

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, it is once again an honor for me to take part in this Special Order for African-American History Month. I know I join with every American in this continuing effort to educate both ourselves and our children about African-American culture and history.

One of the most underappreciated segments of American history are the scientific achievements by African-Americans. For the past one hundred years, African-Americans

have made crucial inventions in engineering, performed great scientific feats, and have served as inspirations to all Americans through their perseverance and determination, yet such accomplishments go widely unnoticed.

One of those inventors was Granville Woods. Mr. Woods was a great electrician and inventive genius who developed and patented a system for overhead electric conducting lines for railroads, which aided in the development of the overhead railroad system found in contemporary metropolitan cities such as Chicago, St. Louis and New York City.

As well, in the late 1800's Woods patented the Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph, which allowed train stations as well as moving trains to know each others whereabouts. Train accidents and collisions were causing great concern at the time because train stations had no way of tracking their moving trains. This invention made train movements quicker and prevented countless accidents and collisions.

Garrett Morgan, who was born in 1875, also deserves wide recognition for his outstanding contributions to public safety. Firefighters in many cities in the early 1900's wore the safety helmet and gas mask that he invented. The gas mask Morgan invented in 1912 was used during World War I to protect soldiers from chlorine gas fumes.

In 1923, Morgan received a patent for his new concept, a traffic signal to regulate vehicle movement in city areas. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this event to our country's history. This single invention helped bring order out of the chaos of regulating pedestrian and vehicle traffic on city streets.

In more recent times, Dr. Mae Jemison was our nation's fifth African-American astronaut, and the first African-American female astronaut. In August 1992, she participated in a successful joint U.S. and Japanese science mission that made her the first African-American woman in space. Dr. Jemison's perseverance and success as an astronaut should serve as an inspiration to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, when we honor great achievements in science by African-Americans, we inspire the next generation of Americans to achieve great things. I hope that all of our young people take a moment during African-American History month to reflect on what they can do in their communities and in their lives to make a difference.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the Special Order regarding Black History Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 355, DISMISSING THE ELECTION CONTEST AGAINST LORETTA SANCHEZ

Mr. THOMAS (during the special order of Mr. STOKES), from the Com-

mittee on House Oversight, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-416) on the resolution (H. Res. 355) dismissing the election contest against LORETTA SANCHEZ, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by saluting my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOUIS STOKES). This is an annual Special Order that he has sponsored for many years, and we regret the fact that this is the last time that he will do it. We thank him very much for keeping the torch alive, and I assure him that in his memory the caucus will continue this tradition for years to come.

The gentleman from Ohio goes home to Cleveland, where there is the whole public library, a brand new pace setting state-of-the-art library, named after him. Cleveland also is a place where there is a new kind of macro-economics reaching out to encourage and embrace all business, but certainly offering a great opportunity for black businesses, African-American businesses. Cleveland is setting an example with a progressive mayor, I suppose one of the protégée of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOU STOKES), and the whole tradition of the Stokes family there in Cleveland.

So I salute the gentleman. I think the theme of this year's Black History Month is very fitting and proper for him and the leadership in Cleveland, Ohio.

I also would like to note, Mr. Speaker, that I will take only 30 minutes of the hour, since none of my colleagues are here, and I want to thank the other side of the aisle for agreeing to allow us to do this back to back to give us more time to finish the Special Order on Black History.

I would like to continue in the same vein as my colleagues have proceeded before, saluting black business as a continuation of empowerment. Not a new thrust of empowerment. It is a continuation toward empowerment and it is inseparable.

What is happening with the African-American business community cannot be separated from political leadership and the history of civil rights and political developments related to the struggle for freedom of the African-American people in America. We cannot separate the two. I would like to bring that perspective to my discussion of the importance of this Black History observance this year.

We ought to become more economic minded. We should focus more on eco-

nomics. We should understand we cannot separate economics from politics. They cannot be separated. They are inextricably interwoven in the history of this country. A lot of people have made a great attempt to separate economics from government, but that is not the case. That cannot happen. It is not true history when we try to do that.

The impact of the transcontinental railroad on the economic development of America is one example of how government, assuming a very aggressive position, created a situation where the industrial and business development of a nation certainly jumped forward by leaps and bounds. If the government had not taken the initiative, if the people in Washington had not said that we will subsidize the building of a transcontinental railroad, a railroad that will link the East with the West, if they had not paid so much per mile and been willing to undertake that giant project, encouraging, of course, contracting with and encouraging private enterprise to do it, it would never have happened. We would not have had the linkage between the East and the West, which made this Nation one nation in terms of business and industry.

And government, of course, has taken the initiative in many other ways, and I want to talk a little bit tonight about one of the latest initiatives. It is very small compared to the transcontinental railroad, or the building of the Tennessee Valley Authority, or the great leap forward we took when we passed the Morrill Act, the act which created the land grant colleges in every State.

Those land grant colleges were very practical institutions. They had the theoretical instruction in the classroom. I say had, but they still exist. They have the agricultural experiment stations; they have county agents that take the knowledge and information right out to the farmers in the fields and practitioners. It is not by accident that America has the best fed population in the world. It is not by accident that we have the lowest cost food in the world. There was a lot of activity that took place, fostered by government.

The Morrill Act is at the heart of our great agricultural success in this country. We do not have anything like that on the drawing board now, but the empowerment zones that have been created are a small extension of that kind of activity by government.

Empowerment zones are designed to revitalize economically depressed areas. There are two categories of empowerment zones. One is the rural empowerment zone, and we have three of those now; and we have six urban empowerment zones, both designed to revitalize the area, but slightly different sets of guidelines for the two.

□ 2045

We have authorized already in legislation the creation of 15 additional

urban empowerment zones and 5 additional rural empowerment zones, and they have a great role to play in the development of African-American business in our big cities. We have to think of business in the context of the environment created partially by the actions of government. Government must still deal with discrimination, the kind of discrimination that denies access to loans, access to capital.

Through the impetus of government, we have certain kinds of community development funds and certain kinds of pressures on banks to do more lending in African-American neighborhoods and to African-American businesses. There are a lot of activities of government that have created a situation where historic racial prejudice has played a role in depressing business activity in the African-American communities.

We have heard some glowing stories here, as is appropriate, of successful businesses and successful businessmen in the African-American community. We have also praised some existing enterprises that are quite large and on the stock market and doing very well. Black Entertainment Television, BET, is one of those examples. But behind the story of BET there is an interesting situation that demonstrates that when people say that money is color blind or the investment community is color blind, it is not true.

BET got a foothold, sort of, in the cable television industry because in the early days of cable, as cable came on line in our cities, there was a deliberate attempt by the entrepreneurs who were the owners of the early cable networks to avoid African-American communities in the big cities. There was this stereotyped notion that these people cannot pay for cable, they will not pay a subscription fee each month, they will not use cable the way the middle class will use it, or the white middle class and the suburban people. So they avoided and delayed wiring the inner city communities; they were some of the last communities wired.

But much to their shock, because they did not do accurate surveys and they violated some of their own premises in terms of the way we plan for market, the prejudice was so great that they never looked very, very closely. Much to their surprise, they found that some of their best customers and customers who were most loyal and continue and always pay their cable bills, and right now they are at the heart of the cable income in our big cities, are the African Americans, African-American communities. They use cable in great amounts despite the miscalculation, the delayed wiring of our communities.

There was another such miscalculation in the area of fast-food restaurants. For a long time the big restaurants, McDonald's and Burger King,

were avoiding the opening of franchises within the inner city communities. They did not do objective market studies. It was not the fact that green is green and we can make money here and, therefore, we shall go where the money can be made; they had their own stereotypes and drawbacks that delayed the development of franchises in the inner-city communities. Now some of their highest-income-producing franchises are in inner-city communities, the fast-food restaurants.

Sometimes I think it is, perhaps, not so good that so many of our young people are existing on so much cholesterol. But that is for another discussion.

So we have an atmosphere that still is not free and objective. The marketplace is not without political interference and not without government intervention. The marketplace is not free and open.

We also need to understand some of the dynamics that have taken place historically and are still taking place which affect and impact African-American businesses. We need to understand that dynamic. We need to understand and not let it get lost, the fact that ownership is the result of inheritance mostly. You know, people who own things can start tracing back to the fact where they inherited something from their parents, and then their parents inherited something from their grandparents; and it goes back and back and back, and the line of people being able to pass things down is one of the predominant factors in the accumulation of wealth, of capital, of assets.

Now, there are some unusual situations. Bill Gates certainly is not the richest man maybe in the world because of that accumulation process. He is the beneficiary of something else, you know, the public development of electronics. The fact that the military and the Government of the United States put a great deal of investment into the development of radio, development of television, development of the Internet et cetera, laid the basis for people like Bill Gates to use their genius to capitalize on that. So those are the exceptions.

Most family studies that have been done show that in families who can trace back where they are now economically there is some indication that that was the result of money being passed down from one generation to another. Sometimes it might have been only furniture that a couple inherited or got from their parents, or maybe sometimes it is just a home, one home. Or sometimes, in fact, in this day and age, it is usually a contribution toward the down payment on a house that comes from the parents to a modern couple.

College graduates about to start out, large numbers get a little boost in

terms of wedding presents or some other kind of gift from their parents which enables them to buy the house that becomes one of their major assets.

So the accumulation of wealth relies very heavily on family generations and things being passed down from one generation to the other. Given that fact, the fact that there were 232 years of slavery where people of African descent not only could not own anything, they were themselves property; for 232 years nothing could be passed down.

We cannot trace back an accumulation of assets from a present-day black family to the time that they, their parents or their ancestors were brought here in chains from Africa. We certainly cannot jump the ocean and go to some country where they had an opportunity to bring some of their wealth from their country, from their family, with them when they came. It might have just been no more than a suitcase.

Many immigrants came to America; all they had was a suitcase with clothing, meager belongings, and a few valuables maybe that were passed down. But that suitcase was far more than any slave arriving on a slave ship had, I assure my colleagues. Slaves were even deprived of association with each other. Deliberately, most slave ships and most slave traders mixed up the tribes and broke down the groups so that any inheritance of a code of honor, mores and traditions, all of that was also wiped out.

We could not have that because people spoke different languages, came from different groups. So we could not even inherit some sense of being and sense of order that came from the old country.

Africa had societies and organizations, and it is well documented, governments of various natures which could have been passed down. But all of that was deliberately wiped out. So certainly nothing concrete, nothing physical, no assets were passed on.

Imagine, 232 years, that is 7 generations, out of the loop. So when we look at people of African descent and where they are economically in the structure of America, stop and think about the fact that there is a gap there where nothing was passed down, nothing could accumulate, no assets could be transferred for 232 years, for almost 7 generations.

That has an impact of where we are in terms of capital for African-American businesses today, in terms of wealth that exists among families so those families may support businesses.

Of course, we are an integrated society. We are not depending on segregated communities where only African-American families will support African-American businesses. There is a bigger picture now, a global situation.

Let us take a look at the global macroeconomics of today and how that impacts on African-American communities.

Parren Mitchell was one of my great heroes. He sat here. Often, he sat right there. It was his favorite seat. He was the author of the set-asides which required the Federal contracts to set aside a small portion, 10 percent. It went down to 4 percent in some bills.

But the set-aside principle was established by Parren Mitchell. The set-aside principle was based upon the fact that we needed to do something to compensate for the fact that those 232 years were imposed on people. The government was a party to that imposition.

The history and tradition, whatever makes up a country and a nation, has to take responsibility for what happened. One way to try to work out of that situation is to deal with some special treatment, compensatory treatment. What a horrible word, a horrible concept for most Americans. They just do not want anybody to have special treatment. Well, we got special treatment for 232 years. For 232 years, we were treated like no other Americans.

Even the Native Americans, who certainly have much to complain about in terms of the way they were treated, even they were not deprived of their traditions and their whole sense of family structure, as well as the right to own. Their problems are great, and I certainly think that they, too, are owed some special treatment, but we got special treatment.

One way to get out of the situation that we are in now is to have some special treatment which is compensatory. Affirmative action is compensatory treatment. Nobody wants to hear that these days. They want to see everybody as being equal.

In the world of business, nobody wants to talk about giving anybody any special favors, but let us take a look at this world of business. In macroeconomic terms, we are faced with a situation now where the United States of America has bailed out Mexico with the \$20 or \$30 billion loan to help the economy of Mexico. At present, we have contemplated a bailout of Indonesia, \$50 or \$60 billion.

We are not going to be the sole participants in the bailout, but we are going to participate, and we will probably end up, the people of America, paying the lion's share of whatever is done to bail out Indonesia's economy, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea. They are talking about \$50 to \$60 billion for South Korea.

We are engaged in global economics. We are showering special treatment on certain groups. There is what I call an international banking socialism where government does step in through its International Monetary Fund or a bank.

Government steps into the market when the market is in great trouble. Government stepped in in this country to save the savings and loans, the victims of the savings and loan swindles.

The government has stepped in in Mexico. Now it proposes to do that in South Korea, in Malaysia, and Indonesia. Billions, we are talking about billions. They have used it badly.

Obviously, when you have a crash of an economy and you need a \$50 billion bailout, a lot of things went wrong. A lot of things have gone wrong. Mismanagement, corruption, all kinds of things have gone wrong.

How did they get the money in the first place? It is so difficult to get a thousand dollar loan if you are an African American walking into a bank in this country. How did they get billions, and they did not have competence to manage it well? How did they get billions when they had corruption? I mean, obviously corruption could not be hidden. How did all of this happen?

Government was very much involved in South Korea during the war, Korean War. North Korea attacked South Korea, and the city of Seoul was destroyed several times. When I visited there, I was amazed at the metropolis that was built up. It took lots and lots of money and lots and lots of help from the outside, which I do not want to disparage at all. Generosity should be encouraged.

But a lot of businesses existed. We visited steel mills and automobile manufacturing plants. What I am reading in the paper now is that those plants had nothing to do with reality.

The third largest steel producer in the world is in South Korea. It did not make sense. There was no market for that much steel from that place. But they were given lots of money. Billions and billions of dollars flowed into the building of the steel industry in Korea.

□ 2100

The cars that are manufactured, rolling off the line, they do things so beautifully in terms of the mechanics and the engineering, but evidently the financing, there was something radically wrong.

How did they get from the bankers, the hard-nosed investment community, how did they get all that community, and why can't African American communities get a few billion to develop Bedford-Stuyvesant in my district, or Brownsville, to develop New York, a few billion to develop Harlem, to develop Watts in Los Angeles? When they talk about development in the inner-city communities, they start talking about a few hundred thousand here and there.

Even the empowerment zone concept, which is the most generous attempt at economic development, they have limited it to six urban areas to begin with, and three rural areas. Now we are going to add 15 more urban areas and 5 rural areas. That is very much a piecemeal approach in terms of the number of communities that can participate.

But even in the structure that they have set up, where there is the greatest

amount of generosity in terms of the Federal Government providing tax credits so that private industry will come in and large amounts of tax credits are available in this situation, at the same time they are going to supply millions of dollars for loans and for some social program investment, et cetera.

It is a great program, but it is not on the level of the kind of aid we have given to Mexico or to South Korea or to Indonesia, the kind of dollars that are flowing. Private industry is not running to get into our neighborhoods, which are very good investments, because we are operating within the context of the United States of America laws. The laws, the codes, the regulations, all the things that protect businesses anywhere else in America protect businesses in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that we come to praise the fact that African-American business is moving forward at a more rapid pace. We come to praise the new opportunities and the middle class that has made those opportunities into reality. There was a great program on public television last night, Henry Louis Gates was the host of a number of interviews dealing with the fact there are two societies in the black community. One is that booming middle-class black community, growing by leaps and bounds, incomes rising, and then the other is the great majority of the black community, the African-American community, where you have tremendous suffering and the prosperity of the 1990's has not caught on there at all. High unemployment in areas like one-half of my congressional district, where unemployment has steadily been up at 15 percent for adults, and for young people it is as high as 30 percent. It has been that way for the last 10 years. It has not impacted.

We must, while we salute the progress, understand that something more has to be made to happen. We have to look at economic development in new ways.

We certainly would like to have an empowerment zone in our community. We are applying for one, along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ), trying to get an empowerment zone in Brooklyn, to get the kind of stimulus we need to have to encourage and develop and enhance and sustain more African-American businesses, more businesses in the Hispanic community, too.

We have a situation there where hospitals are our largest employers, more than 5,000 people employed in one hospital complex in my district, and there is a danger that the politics of the situation may result in the closing down of the hospitals. The politics now are frightening us because the economic

development we foresee if we get an empowerment zone, we see the hospitals being able to generate a whole set of additional businesses in our community, as they do now, they employ large numbers of people. There are cleaning services, food services, there are various other kinds of services, the people that do the repair, the x-ray machines, all kinds of services that are there that will be gone if we do not take care of the politics that are seeking to close down our hospitals and move them somewhere else.

So the politics are inseparable from the economics. We hope the encouragement, the possibilities of an economic empowerment zone, will lead to less of a drive to close down the hospitals and leave a big slum in the middle of our communities.

There are numerous other examples of how the politics have to be in place and have to work hand in hand. The government and political situation have to go hand in hand with the economic development. The whole area of tourism, which Cleveland understands very well, Lou Stokes from Cleveland, the Mayor there, understands the building of a Rock and Roll Museum in the heart of Cleveland is a great step forward economically. Just build the place that has a great attraction for people, and when they come, they bring their dollars and they support many other kinds of businesses.

The development of our big cities is one of the most outstanding museums of African-American history, is now in downtown Detroit, and they had written off downtown Detroit 10 years ago and said it would never come back. Downtown Detroit is coming back in many different ways, and one of the ways it is coming back is the political leadership has chosen to make an investment in the downtown in many ways. One of the ways they are making the investment, of course, is the building of facilities like an African-American museum that has the highest attendance of any such museum anywhere in the country.

As I close, I would like to bring to your attention the fact that I came here from a special showing by HBO of the film, *Four Little Girls*, a documentary film directed by Spike Lee. In that film, one of the things that I noticed right away as they depicted the Birmingham community out of which those four little girls who were murdered by the bombing in the church on a Sunday morning, they came out of very well-organized families. They came out of a community which was low- and middle-class probably, but you could see from the houses, from the neighborhood, very stable. They came out of the kind of environment that I grew up in, much poorer, we did not have brick houses, but wood houses, but there was an order and stability there, especially as the pros-

perity of World War II came to our communities and the prosperity right after the war. And when you have jobs and families had income, you did not have the drug problems, you did not have the disintegration, you did not have the need for large numbers of welfare.

When you take care of the economy and do what is right by the economy, and spread and share the wealth, then many other problems get solved. It is amazing how many of our communities have been torn asunder that once had so much organization, so many middle-class institutions, those kids belonged to the Girl Scouts and the Sunshine Club, and all the stuff that we now have to try to recreate in our urban communities that have been torn apart by the lack of jobs and disintegration of families, the coming of drugs, et cetera.

So the economics will blossom, the economics must blossom. They are key to revitalization of our communities and our people, but they cannot happen, it does not happen by itself. The market forces need to work hand in hand with government, and government needs to assert itself and understand that it should be there, more than just for multibillion dollar bailouts. That kind of socialism we do not need.

It should be there in terms of stimulating the economy, as it did with the Morrill Act, as it did with the Transcontinental Railroad, as it did with the GI Bill of Rights, which created a whole work force that could step forward, an intelligent, well-educated work force, created overnight, in large numbers, from the returning GI's because we provided an education, and on and on it goes.

Government and business need to work together to guarantee that there will be a continuing empowerment through business and economic development in the African-American community.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OWENS. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have a few thoughts on black history that I thought that I would present tonight, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say I am here today to recognize a part of black history that sometimes people forget about, and that is that African Americans, as we all know, African Americans have played a tremendous role in ensuring American prosperity since the founding of our country. But all too long and for all too often, people are just focusing on the labor that was provided by African Americans who began as slaves and then became part of our labor force.

It is well-known that they have contributed much, and it is also well-

known that in recent years African Americans have become increasingly owners of small businesses and mom and pop shops, all the way to Fortune 500 corporations.

But what is less well-known is a subject dear to my heart, and that is that black Americans have made and continue to make a vital contribution to the technological edge that America has and have made tremendous contributions to America's technological success, from the earliest days of our republic. Black Americans have, over the years, benefited from our country's strong patent system, and we have the strongest patent protection of any Nation in the world, but through the invention of black Americans, utilizing this right, by the way, at times their other rights were being totally trampled upon, but their rights for patent protection were being protected. Because of this, they have made tremendous contributions to our country, that sometimes are totally overlooked, and these contributions have added greatly to our way of life, to the quality of life of Americans.

I have a list here, quite a few African American inventors that have done things. How many people know that Elijah McCoy, a black American in 1872, had over 57 patents on engines and machinery that were part of the whole steam engine and the basis for the settling of the West and the basis for our whole industrialization of our country? Those steam engines and the parts he invented were so important that when people went back at the turn of the century to ask for parts to an engine, they would say, "Now, is this the real McCoy?"

That is where that came from. The real McCoy was a black American who was an inventor who played such an important part in the development of the steam engine.

Lewis Howard Latimer in 1881 took Thomas Edison's light bulb, and we all know Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, but it was not practical until Howard Latimer, a black American, took that and invented a long-lasting carbon filament that replaced this original bamboo filament that Edison had been working with.

How many of our fellow Americans understand that and appreciate these types of contributions?

BLACK HISTORY RECOGNITION

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, continuing on with regard to the contributions made to America by black inventors, Granville T. Woods developed over 20 patents for engineering

the railroad industry, including batteries, I might add, electric brakes and telephone transmitters.

January Ernst Matzlinger in 1889 invented an automatic shoe machine. This was part of a process of putting together shoes. Before his invention, shoes cost three or four times as much. This is something Americans forget. Back before this Matzlinger, a black American, invented this process, shoes were so expensive that most Americans did not even own a pair of shoes, or, if they did, they owned one pair of shoes in their entire life.

We all know about George Washington Carver. He, of course, is well-known to school children throughout the United States for his great scientific integrity and the work he did, especially in the investigation of food processing and peanuts and the paint industry. We know he made enormous contributions. But there are many, many more black Americans besides George Washington Carver who deserve this credit.

For example, more closely to home, James West joined Bell Labs in the late 1950's and was responsible for over 100 patents on microphones and other electronic devices.

Dr. Patricia Bath in the 1990's, and here she is one of the big supporters, I might add now, and has been making the rounds in Congress supporting a strong patent system, she is an African-American female physician who earned a patent for a medical device she developed for a technique of removing cataracts from people's eyes.

So all of these inventors benefited from the wisdom of our Founding Fathers when they put in our government and in our Constitution laws protecting people's creativity and patent rights. But they also, these individuals, in return, using those rights that were guaranteed them, made enormous contributions to the well-being of the United States of America.

□ 2115

A great statesman and, of course, President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, of course, was probably the most well-respected among the African-American community because he did do so much to free the slaves, brought that issue of the stain of our Nation to our people, and we find that after our Civil War were able to remove that stain.

Abraham Lincoln was one of the greatest supporters of America's patent system. He himself had a patent for floating boats that had gone up on sandbars, and he said, and I quote, "The patent system added the fuel of interest to the fire of genius," and not only did he give land away to people who wanted to settle the West and free the slaves, but he was a strong believer in patent rights.

Now recently, we have seen 26 Noble Laureates join us who are trying to

protect the patent rights from changes they are trying to make now join us, and what is interesting, one of the people who played such an important part in the organization of those Noble Laureates and played such an important part in strengthening and keeping strong America's patent system is a black professor named James Chandler, who is the president of the National Intellectual Property Law Institute right here in Washington, D.C., and he has been a champion of this issue because he realizes that it is technological progress that does permit the quality of life of all people to rise, and that black Americans who have been left out in so many cases of the economic well-being of our country, need America to continue to be the leading world economic and technological power. When Professor Chandler speaks, I can tell my colleagues he is one of the great spokesmen for American technology today.

So as we honor the African-American community in talking about African-American history and black history and honor people such as Lincoln, let us not forget the black inventors who I think have made such an enormous contribution to our well-being and never been given the proper credit that they are due because often we are focusing on other elements and maybe more political elements of what caused this to change or that to change, but in this case the genius of black America has done so much for the American people that it deserves recognition when we talk about black history.

So I am very, very proud to be a part of this honoring black history, and I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his observations.

THREE IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCREST). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss a few problems I think this country still faces. I want to mention three, but I will talk more about one in particular.

Overall, I believe this country faces a serious problem in that our government is too big. When government is big, it means that liberty is threatened. Today, our governments throughout the land consume more than half of what the American people produce. In order to do that, there has to be curtailment on individual liberty.

In the attempt to help people in a welfare-warfare state, unfortunately the poor never seem to be helped. A lot of money is spent, but due to the mone-

tary system that we have, inevitably, the middle class tends to get wiped out and the poor get poorer, and very often in the early stages the wealthy get wealthier. In the meantime, the corporations seem to do quite well. So we live in an age where we have a fair amount of corporatism associated with the welfare-warfare state in which we live.

The three specific problems that I want to mention, and I mention these because I think this is what the American people are concerned about, and sometimes we here inside the Beltway do not listen carefully to the people around the country. The three issues are these: The first are the scandals that we hear so much about, the second is an IMF bailout, and the third has to do with Iraq.

Now, the scandals have been around a bit. We have heard about Travelgate and Filegate, and we also heard about interference in foreign policy dealing with foreign donations. Now, those I consider very serious and for this reason I join the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) in his resolution to initiate an inquiry into the seriousness of these charges. Some of these charges have been laid aside mainly because there is another scandal in the news, something that has been much more attractive to the media, and that essentially is all that we have been hearing of in the last several weeks. I think this is a distraction from some of the issues that we should deal with. But that is not the one issue that I want to dwell on this evening.

The IMF is another issue that I think is very important. This funding will be coming up soon. The Congress will be asked to appropriate \$18 billion to bail out the Southeast Asian currencies and countries, and this is a cost; although we are told it does not cost anything, it does not add to the deficit, there is obviously a cost, and we cannot convince the American people that there is no cost just because of our method of budgeting and we do not add it into the deficit.

Once again, these funds, whether they go to Southeast Asia or whether they go to Mexico, they never seem to help the little people; they never help the poor people. The poor are poorer than ever in Mexico, and yet the politicians and the corporations and the bankers even in this country get the bailout. This \$18 billion is nothing more than another bailout.

Now, the third issue is Iraq, and I want to talk more about that, because I am fearful we are about ready to do something very foolish, very foolish for our country, and very dangerous.

Of these three issues, there is a common thread. When we think about the scandals, we talk about international finance, a large amount of dollars flowing into this country to influence our elections and possibly play a role in our foreign policy.

Also, the IMF, which has to do with international finance, the IMF is under the United Nations and therefore it gets a lot of attention and we are asked to appropriate \$18 billion.

Then, once again, we have this potential for going to war in Iraq, again, not because we follow the Constitution, not because we follow the rule of law, but because the United Nations has passed a resolution. Some have even argued that the U.N. resolution passed for the Persian Gulf War is enough for our President to initiate the bombings. Others claim that just the legislation, the resolution-type legislation passed in 1990 that endorsed this process is enough for us to go and pursue this war venture. But the truth is, if we followed the rules and if we followed the law, we would never commit an act of war, which bombing is, unless we have a declaration of war here in the Congress. Somebody told me just yesterday that yes, but that is so old-fashioned.

Just look at what we have been able to do since World War II without a declaration of war. Precisely. Why are we doing this? And precisely because when we do it, what generally happens is that we are not fighting these wars, and they are not police actions, these are wars, and we are not fighting them because of national interests. We are not fighting them for national security, and therefore, we do not fight to win, and subsequently, what war can we really be proud of since World War II? We have not won them. We set the stage for more problems later on. The Persian Gulf War has led to the stalemate that we have here today, and it goes on and on. I think this is a very important subject.

War should only be declared for moral reasons. The only moral war is a defensive war and when our country is threatened. Then it is legitimate to come to the people and the people then, through their Members in the House and Senate, and the President then declare war, and then they fight that war to win. But today that is considered very old-fashioned, and the consensus here in this Congress is that it will not take much for Congress to pass a resolution.

What worries me, though, somewhat is that this resolution will not be circulated among the Members for days and weeks and have real serious debate. There is always the possibility that a resolution like this will come up suddenly. There will be little debate, and then a vote, and an endorsement for this policy. The first resolution that has been discussed over in the Senate had language very, very similar to the same language used in the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which endorsed the expansion of the war in Vietnam, where 50,000 men were lost, and it was done not with a declaration of war, but by casual agreement by the Congress to go along.

Congress should have and take more responsibility for these actions. It is only the Congress that should pursue an act of war. Bombing is an act of war, especially if it is a country halfway around the world and a country that has not directly threatened our national security.

All of the stories about the monstrosities that occur and how terrible the leader might be, may have some truth to it, but that does not justify throwing out the rule of law and ignoring our Constitution.

This effort that is about to be launched, it has not been endorsed by our allies. It is getting very difficult to even get the slightest token endorsement by our allies to start this bombing. One would think if Saddam Hussein was a true threat to that region, his neighbors would be the first ones to be willing to march and to be willing to go to battle to defend themselves. But they are saying, do not even put your troops here, do not launch your effort from our soil, because it is not in our best interests to do so. Kuwait, the country that we went to war over not too long ago has given some token endorsement, but even their newspapers are carrying news stories that really challenge what the people might be saying about this effort.

There was a Kuwaiti professor who was quoted in a pro-government Kuwaiti newspaper as saying, the U.S. frightens us with ads to make us buy weapons and sign contracts with American companies, thus, ensuring a market for American arms manufacturers and United States continued military presence in the Middle East. That is not my opinion; that is a Kuwaiti professor writing in a government newspaper in Kuwait.

A Kuwaiti legislator who was not willing to reveal his name said the use of force has ended up strengthening the Iraqi regime rather than weakening it. Most people realize that. In the Middle East, Saddam Hussein has more credibility among his Arab neighbors than he did before the war.

Other Kuwaitis have suggested that the U.S. really wants Hussein in power to make sure his weak neighbors fear him and are forced to depend on the United States for survival.

Now, these are very important comments to be considered, especially when we are getting ready to do something so serious as to condone the bombing of another country. Just recently in *The Washington Post*, not exactly a conservative newspaper, talked about what Egypt's opinion was about this. This is interesting, because the interview was done in Switzerland at the World Economic Forum, and the interview was made by Lally Weymouth, and she talked to Egypt's Foreign Minister, Amre Moussa, the Foreign Minister of Egypt, our ally, a country that gets billions of dollars from us every year.

So one would expect with all this money flowing into that country that they should quickly do exactly what we want. But this Foreign Minister was rather blunt: Egypt, a key member of the Gulf War coalition, is opposed to U.S. military action in Iraq. He said, We believe that military action should be avoided and there is room for political efforts. He said, If such action is taken, there will be considerable fallout in the Arab world, he warned. He said, We are not afraid of Saddam. He added that his country believes the crisis is a result of allegations that have not been proven. Yet, we are willing to go and do such a thing as to initiate this massive bombing attack on this country, and there has been nothing proven.

Moussa also said that Iraq's possession of chemical and biological weapons must be pursued, of course. But this requires cooperation with Iraq, not confrontation. Even our President admits that more weapons have been removed from Iraq since the war ended than which occurred with the hundreds of thousands of troops in Iraq, as well as 88,000 bombs that were dropped in the whole of World War II, and it did not accomplish the mission.

□ 2130

So he is suggesting that it is just not worth the effort and it is not going to work. And he, of course, speaks for one of our allies.

He says, "The whole Middle East is not comfortable with this, and I do not think there is support for such an option. All of us will face the consequence of such a military attack." "All of us" means all of them, not the people here in the United States.

He said 7 years ago there was an occupation and an apparent aggression. Today it is a question over inspections, so therefore he is arguing strenuously that we not do this. The people in the Middle East, he says, see a double standard. He is talking for the Arabs.

The people in the Middle East see a double standard because the Israeli Government does not comply with U.N. Resolution 242, but we see no action. The U.S. is too strong on one and too soft on the other. The peace process is falling apart. We do know that the peace process with Israel and the Palestinians is not going smoothly, yet this is behind some of what is happening because they do not understand our policy.

He goes on to say, "There is room for a political solution. Bear in mind the repercussions in the area. If the United States bombs, there will be Iraqi victims." Then he asks, "What happens if the public sees a decisive move on the part of Iraq but not toward Israel? We have to take into consideration how the people who live near Iraq respond to something like this."

Now, Steven Rosenfeld, in the *Washington Post*, on February 6, also made

comments about the Middle East and the failure of the Mideast policy. And I thought he had a very interesting comment, because he certainly would not be coming at this from the same viewpoint that I have.

In his statement, this again is Rosenfeld in the Washington Post, he said, "There is a fatal flaw at the heart of Netanyahu's policy. He is not prepared to address the Palestinians' basic grievance. To think that Israel can humiliate the Palestinians politically and then reap the benefits of their security cooperation is foolish. It can't happen."

Here we are being more involved in the Middle East process with Iraq in the hope that we are going to bring about peace.

What about another close ally, an ally that we have had since World War II: Turkey. Turkey is not anxious for doing this. They do not want us to take the bombers and the troops out of Turkey. As a matter of fact, they are hesitant about this. This is an article from the Washington Times by Philip Smucker. He said, "Turkey's growing fears of a clash in Iraq are based largely on what it sees as the ruinous aftermath of the Gulf War."

So Turkey is claiming that they are still suffering from the Gulf War.

"The people," and this is quoting from the Foreign Ministry Sermet Atacanli, "the people have started thinking that Turkey is somehow being punished," a senior foreign official said. "We supported the war, but we are losing now." So they are getting no benefits.

He said that since the war, Turkey has suffered economic losses of some \$35 billion stemming from the invigorated Kurdish uprising on the Iraqi border and the shutting down of the border trade, including the Iraqi oil exports through Turkey. They used to have trade; now they do not.

We encouraged the Kurds to revolt and then stepped aside, so the Kurds are unhappy with the Americans because they were disillusioned as to what they thought they were supposed to be doing. "Turkey's clear preference is for Iraq to regain control of its own Kurdish regions on the Turkish border and resume normal relations with Ankara."

Further quoting the foreign ministry of Turkey, "Iraq cannot exercise sovereignty over these regions, so there has become a power vacuum that has created an atmosphere in which terrorists operate freely." It has taken quite some effort for Turkish forces to deal with this problem.

What will happen if the bombs are relatively successful? More vacuum. More confusion. And more turmoil in that region.

The military goals are questioned by even the best of our military people in this country, and sometimes it is very

difficult to understand what our military goals are. We do not have the troops there to invade and to take over Baghdad or to get rid of Hussein, but we have a lot of bombs and we have a lot of firepower. Yet, we are supposed to be intimidated and fearful of this military strength of Saddam Hussein. Yet even by our own intelligence reports, his strength is about one-half what it was before the Persian Gulf War started. So there is a little bit more fear-mongering there than I think is justified.

But if we do not plan to send troops, we just agree to send bombs, then it will not get rid of Hussein. Why are we doing this? Because some people question this and some people respond and say, that may be correct, maybe we do not have the ability to inflict enough damage or to kill Hussein. And some here have even suggested that we assassinate him.

Well, I am not going to defend Iraq. I am not going to defend Hussein. But I do have a responsibility here for us in the Congress to obey the law, and under our law, under the Constitution, and with a sense of morality, we do not go around assassinating dictators. I think history shows that we were involved in that in South Vietnam and it did not help us one bit.

Syria is another close neighbor of Iraq. Syria was an ally in the Persian Gulf War. Syria would like us not to do anything. Iraqi foreign minister Mohammed Saeed Sahhaf went to Damascus to see Syrian President Hafez Assad, marking the first time in 18 years that the Syrian leader met with an Iraqi official. This is one of the consequences, this is one of the things that is happening. The further we push the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Government, the further we push them into close alliances with the more radical elements in that region.

It is conceivable to me that it would be to Hussein's benefit, and he probably is not worried that much, but I do not believe it is in our interest. I do not believe it is in the interest of the American people, the American taxpayers, the American fighter pilots, and certainly long-term interest in the Middle East. We will spend a lot of money doing it. That is one issue.

We could end up having lives lost. We still have not solved all the problems and taken care of all the victims of the Persian Gulf War syndrome which numbers in the tens of thousands. Maybe we should be talking about that more than looking for more problems and a greater chance for a serious confrontation where lives were lost.

The Iraqi and the Syrian views, according to this article, are very close and almost identical in rejecting a resort to force and American military threats. We do not get support there, and we should not ignore that.

Just recently Schwarzkopf was interviewed on NBC TV's "Meet the Press,"

and he had some interesting comments to make, very objective, very military-oriented comments. He would not agree with me on my policy or the policy that I would advocate of neutrality and nonintervention and the pro-American policy. But he did have some warnings about the military operation.

He said, "I do not think the bombing, I don't think it will change his behavior at all. Saddam's goal is to go down in history as the second coming of Nebuchadnezzar by uniting the Arab world against the west. He may not mind a big strike if, after it, the United Nations lifts economic sanctions against Iraq."

I am afraid that this policy is going in the wrong direction, that we are going to have ramifications of it for years to come, and that we will and could have the same type of result as we had in Vietnam that took a decade for us to overcome.

Mr. Speaker, there is no indication that this bombing will accomplish what we should do. Charles Duefler, deputy chief of the U.N. Special Commission in charge of Iraqi inspection said, "Put bluntly, we do not really know what Iraq has."

That is at the heart of the problem. Here is our U.N. inspector admitting that they have no idea. So how can we prove that somebody does not have something if we do not know what he is supposed to have? So the odds of this military operation accomplishing very much are essentially slim to none.

Charles Krauthammer, who would be probably in favor of doing a lot more than I would do, had some advice. He said, "Another short bombing campaign would simply send yet another message of American irresolution. It would arouse Arab complaints about American arrogance and aggression while doing nothing to decrease Saddam's grip on power. Better to do nothing," Charles Krauthammer in the Washington Post. These are not my views. They are warnings that we should not ignore.

Richard Cohen from the Washington Post had some advice. He said, "Still military action is a perilous course. It will produce what is called 'collateral damage,' a fancy term for the accidental killing of civilians and possibly the unintentional destruction of a school or mosque."

We have heard of that before. "That, in turn," he goes on to say, "will provoke protests in parts of the Arab world, Jordan probably and Egypt as well. In both countries the United States is already considered the protector of a recalcitrant Israeli Government. As for Israel itself, it can expect that Iraq will send missiles its way armed with chemical or biological weapons."

This is Richard Cohen warning us about some of the ramifications of what might happen.

But during these past 8 years since the war has ended, there has been no signs that that is likely to happen. It is more likely to happen that some missile or some accident will occur that will spread this war from a neat little war to something much bigger than we are interested in dealing with.

There are several other points that I would like to mention here. The one thing we cannot measure and we cannot anticipate are the accidents that happen. So often wars are caused by people being in the wrong place at wrong time, and then accidents happen and somebody gets killed, a ship is sunk, and we have to go to war.

Other times some of these events may be staged. One individual suggested the possibility of a person like Saddam Hussein actually acting irrationally and doing something radical to his own people and then turning around and blaming the United States or Israel or something like that. So we are dealing with an individual that may well do this and for his specific purposes.

But we would all be better off, not so much that we can anticipate exactly who we should help and who we should support; we have done too much of that. We help too often both sides of every war that has existed in the last 50 years, and we have pretended that we have known what is best for everybody. I think that is impossible.

I think the responsibility of the Members of Congress here is to protect the national interest, to provide national security, to take care of national defense, to follow the rules that say, we should not go to war unless the war is declared. If we go to war, we go to war to fight and win the war. But we do not go to war because we like one country over another country and we want to support them.

We literally support both sides in the Middle East, and it is a balancing act and, quite frankly, both sides right now seem to be a little bit unhappy with us. So the policy has not been working; we have not been able to achieve what we think we are able to do. But we must be very cautious on what we are doing here in the next few weeks.

People say, well, we have to do it because Hussein has so much of this firepower, he has all of these weapons of mass destruction. It was just recently reported by U.S. intelligence that there are 20 nations now who are working on and producing weapons of mass destruction, including Iran and Syria. So why do we not go in there and check them out too?

Why is it that we have no more concern about our national security concern about China? I think China can pose a national threat. I do not think we should be doing it to China. I do not think we should be looking to find out what kind of weapons they have. We

know they sell weapons to Iraq. And we know they are a very capable nation when it comes to military. But what do we do with China? We give them foreign aid. They are one of the largest recipients of foreign aid in the whole world.

2145

So we do not apply the rules to all the countries the same, and we get narrowed in on one item and we get distracted from many of the facts that I think are so important. Some people believe that it is conceivable that the oil is even very important in this issue as well.

We obviously knew the oil was important in the Persian Gulf War because it was said that we were going over there to protect our oil. Of course, it was Iraqi oil but some people believe sincerely that keeping this Iraqi oil off the market helps keep the prices higher and they do not need that to happen.

As a matter of fact, it was in the Wall Street Journal today that that was further suggested. It said: Equally important the U.S. must terminate illegal oil exports from the Iraqi port of Basra.

There, submerged barges depart daily for Iran, which sells the oil and, after a hefty rake-off, returns the proceeds to fund Saddam. So there are sales and there might be people that are looking at this mainly as a financial thing dealing with oil.

The odds now of us being able to stop this bombing I think are pretty slim. I think that is rather sad because it looks like there will be a resolution that will come to the floor. There probably will not be a chance for a lot of debate. It will come up under suspension possibly and yet in the words may be toned down a little bit.

It might not be identical to the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. But all I would like to do is point out to my colleagues that this is more important than it appears, and we should not be so glib as to give this authority, to give the cover for the President to say, well, the Congress said it was okay. I do not think the Congress should say it is okay, because I think it is the wrong thing to do. And I think it could lead to so many, so many more problems.

So we have a responsibility. If the responsibility is that Saddam Hussein is a threat to our national security, we should be more honest with the American people. We should tell them what the problem is. We should have a resolution, a declaration of war.

Obviously, that would not pass but it looks like it will not be difficult to pass a resolution that will condone and give sanction to whatever the President does regardless of all the military arguments against it.

So I see this as really a sad time for us and not one that we should be proud of. I do know that the two weakest ar-

guments I can present here would be that of a moral argument, that wars ought to be fought only for defense and for national security. I have been told that is too old-fashioned and we must police the world, and we have the obligation. We are the only superpower.

Well, I do not think that is a legitimate argument. I do have a lot of reservation that we are so anxious to go along with getting authority elsewhere, and that is through the United Nations. When the Persian Gulf War was started, getting ready to start, it was said that we did not need the Congress to approve this because the authority came from the United Nations resolution.

Well, that to me is the wrong way to go. If we are involved in internationalism, where international financing now is influencing our presidential election, if international finances demand that we take more money from the American taxpayers and bail out southeast Asian countries through the IMF and that we are willing to have our young men and women be exposed to war conditions and to allow them to go to war mainly under a U.N. resolution and a token endorsement by the Congress, I think this is the wrong way to go.

I do realize that we have been doing it this way for 40 or 50 years. But quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the American people are all that happy about it. I have not yet had anybody in my district come up to me and start saying, RON, I want you to get up there and start voting. I want to see those bombs flying.

As a matter of fact, I have had a lot of them come and say, why are you guys up there thinking about going to war? I have had a lot of people talk about that. So we should not do this carelessly and casually.

There is no reason in the world why we cannot be willing to look at the rule of law. The rule of law is very clear. We do not have the moral authority to do this. This is, we must recognize, this is an act of war.

When the resolution comes up to the floor, no matter how watered down it is, I think everybody should think very seriously about it and not be careless about it, not wait until a decade goes by and 50,000 men are killed. I think that is the wrong way to do it.

There is nothing wrong with a pro-American foreign policy, one of non-intervention, one where we are neutral. That was our tradition for more than 100 years. It stood out in George Washington's farewell address, talk about nonentangling alliances. These entangling alliances and our willingness to get involved has not been kind to us in the 20th century. So we should really consider the option of a foreign policy that means that we should be friends with all.

People will immediately say that is isolationism. Even if you are not for

the IMF bailout, this argument really bewilders me. If you are not for the \$18 billion bailout of the IMF, you are an isolationist. You can be for free trade and get rid of all the tariffs and do everything else, but if you are not willing to give your competitors more money and bail them out and bail out the banks, you are an isolationist. You are not for free trade. It is complete nonsense. There is nothing wrong with isolating our military forces.

We do not have to be the policemen of the world. We have not done a good job and the world is not safer today because of our willingness to do this. One act leads to the next one. We are still fighting the Persian Gulf War, and it sounds to me like we are losing our allies. We must take this under serious advisement. We must not be too anxious to go and do something that we could be very sorry for.

I know that people do not like this statement I am going to be making to be made, but I think there should be a consideration for it. So often Members here are quite willing to vote to put ourselves and our men in harm's way that could lead to a serious confrontation with many deaths. But if those individuals who claim that it would be best to assassinate Saddam Hussein or put land troops on there, I wonder if they would be willing to be the first ones on the beachhead. That really is the question. That is a fair statement.

If you are willing to go yourself, if you are willing to send your child, then it is more legitimate to vote casually and carelessly to go marching off with acts of war. But if that individual who is getting ready to vote, if he himself or she herself is not willing to land on that beach and risk their lives, they should think a second time.

In a war for national defense, if this country is threatened, every one of us should participate in it. We should and we can. We could do it our way, to participate in the defense of this country. But once it is being involved in a casual and a careless manner with not knowing what the goals are, not knowing what victory means, not fighting to win, this can only lead to bigger problems.

This is the time to reassess it. I know time is running short. Everybody is afraid of losing face. Some people say, well, how do we back off and we cannot let Saddam Hussein lose face, and what about our own politicians who have been saying that we must do something. They will lose face. Would that not be the worst reason in the world to do this, because they are afraid of losing face because we threatened them? If it is the wrong thing to do, we should not do it. And there seems to me to be no direct benefit to the American people, certainly no benefit to the American taxpayer, certainly no benefit to peace in the Middle East. It is more likely to cause more turmoil. It is

more likely to unify the Islamic fundamentalists like they have never been unified before.

So what we are doing here is very serious business. Unfortunately, it looks like it is going to happen and it looks like there will be one or two or three or four of us that will say, go slow, do not do this, let us question this. But unfortunately, the only significant criticism we have had of the policy has been, do more faster.

We do not need to do more faster. We need to do less quicker, much less quicker. Nothing has been happening in the last few years, the last few weeks. Does President Clinton need to bomb over the weekend or next week or two weeks from now? I say absolutely not. There is no need for this.

Saddam is weaker than he used to be. He could be stronger after this is finished. So we must be cautious. We must take our time and think about this before we go off and make this declaration. It sounds like a lot of fun. We have a lot of bombers. We have a lot of equipment that we have to test, and we can go over there and see if the B-1 and the stealth bombers will work a little bit better than they have in the past. But this is not a game. This is not a game. This is serious business.

One item like this, one event like this can lead to something else, and that is what we have to be cautious about. We cannot assume that, yes, we can bomb for a day or two or three or four and the stronger the rhetoric the more damage we are going to do. We need less rhetoric. We as a Nation have on occasion been the initiators of peace talks. We encourage the two groups in the Middle East, the Israelis and the Palestinians. We bring them to our country. We ask them to sit down and talk. Please talk before you kill each other. We go to the Protestants and we go to the Catholics and we say, please talk, do not kill each other. Why do we not talk more to Hussein? He is willing to.

I know, I mean you have to take his word with a grain of salt, but would it not be better to sit down across the table and at least talk rather than pursue a course that, a military course that may be more harmful?

If this would be a guarantee that it would get a lot better and that we would solve a lot of problems, maybe we could consider it. But even those who advocate this do not claim they know when the end stage is, what the ultimate goal is, and that they would expect success. They are not expecting this. They just want to bomb, bomb people. Innocent people will die. Those pictures will be on television.

And I, quite frankly, do not believe the polls that most Americans want us to do this. I go home; I talk to a lot of my constituents. I do not find them coming and saying, do this. They do not even understand, the people who

come and talk to me, they ask me what is going on up there. Why are they getting ready to do this?

I mean, most people in this country cannot even find where Iraq is on the map. I mean, they are not that concerned about it. And yet all we would have to do is have one ship go down and have loss of life and then all of a sudden, then do we turn tail? Then is it that we do not lose face after we lose 1,000 men by some accident or some freakish thing happening?

Sure, we will lose more face then. But we can save face if we do what is right, explain what we are doing and be open to negotiations. There is nothing wrong with that. I mean, there has not been a border crossing.

The other thing is it would be nice if we had a policy in this country, a foreign policy that had a little bit of consistency. I have been made fun of at one time on the House floor for being consistent and wanting to be consistent.

I do not particularly think there is anything wrong with being consistent. I think there should be a challenge on my ideas or our ideas. We should challenge ideas. But if you want to be consistent, if they are the right ideas, you should be consistent. But we talk about this horrible country, I am not defending the country and I am not defending Hussein, but we criticize him as an individual who invaded another country. I wonder what they are talking about.

I wonder if they are talking about when he invaded Iran with our encouragement and our money and our support. Is that what they are talking about? Or are they talking about the other invasion that we did not like because it was a threat to western oil? I think that might be the case.

So they talk about poison gas. Yes, there is no doubt about it. I think the evidence is out that he has used poison gas against his own people. Horrible, killed a lot of people. But never against another country, which means the line could be drawn by if he had ever used these weapons. We cannot investigate 20 countries. We cannot investigate North Korea. We cannot investigate China. Why do we have this obsession with investigating this country? But poison gases, under international agreements, we are not supposed to use poison gases.

Poison gases, we used them, not against a foreign power but we used them against our own people. No, we did not have a mass killing but those families understood it. Over 100, more than 100, 150 people were gassed with gas that was illegal, according to our own agreements, and we used them at Waco.

So at one time we were an ally of a country, at the same time he is using poison gas and invading another country and then, when he invades the

wrong country, then we give him trouble.

□ 2200

For many, many years, Noriega was our ally, and he was no angel when he was our ally. He received money from the CIA, but all of a sudden he wanted to be his own drug lord. He did not want to be beholden to our CIA, so we had to do something about him.

There is nothing wrong with a foreign policy that is consistent based on a moral principle and on our Constitution. That means that the responsibility of the U.S. Congress is to provide for a strong national defense. There is nothing wrong with being friends with everybody who is willing to be friends with us. There is nothing wrong with trading with as many people that will trade with us, and there is nothing wrong with working for as low tariffs as possible.

There is no reason why we should not consider at least selling some food and medicine to Castro. We have had a confrontation with Castro now for 40 years, and it has served him well because his socialism and his communism was an absolute failure. But he always had a scapegoat. It was the Americans. It was the Americans because they boycotted and they would not trade and, therefore, that was the reason they suffered. So it served him well.

I would think that being willing to talk with people, if we believe in our system, if we believe that liberty is something to be proud of and that that works, I am convinced that it is better to have set an example to talk with people, trade with people, and go back and forth as freely as possible and we will spread our message much better than we ever will with bombs.

How many bombs did we drop in South Vietnam? How many men were lost on our side? How many people were lost on the other side? How many innocent people were lost? So the war ends, after a decade. After a decade of misery in this country where we literally had to turn on our own people to suppress the demonstrations. But today I have friends who are doing business in South Vietnam, making money over there, which means that trade and talk works. They are becoming more Westernized.

This whole approach of militancy, believing that we can force our way on other people, will not and cannot work. Matter of fact, the few quotes that I used here earlier are indicating that we are doing precisely the wrong thing; that we are further antagonizing not only our so-called enemies, but we are further antagonizing our allies. So if there is no uniformity of opinion of the neighbors, of Iraq, that we should be doing this, if we will not listen to the moral, if we will not listen to the constitutional issue, we should listen to

the practical issue. His neighbors do not want us to do it.

And what are we going to prove? We should not do it. We should reassess this. We should decide quietly and calmly and deliberately in this body that quite possibly the move toward internationalism, abiding by the U.N. resolutions, paying through the nose to the IMF to bail out the special interests, never helping the poor but always helping the rich, encouraging a system that encourages foreign countries to come in and buy influence, should be challenged. We should change it.

And we do not have to be isolationists. We can be more open and more willing to trade and talk with people and we will have a greater chance of peace and prosperity. That is our purpose. Our purpose is to protect liberty. And we do not protect American liberty by jeopardizing their liberty and the wealth of this country by getting involved when we should not be involved.

The world is a rough enough place already, and there will continue to be the hot spots of the world, but I am totally convinced that a policy of American intervention overseas, subjecting other nations to our will, trying to be friends to both sides at all times, subsidizing both sides and then trying this balancing act that never works, this is not going to work either. It did not work in the 1980s when we were closely allied and subsidizing Hussein and it will not work now when we are trying to bomb him.

Neither will it work for us to not have somewhat of a consistent policy to ignore the other countries that are doing the very same thing at the same time the real threat possibly could be a country like China. And what do we do? We give them billions and billions of dollars of subsidies.

There is nothing wrong with a consistent defense of a pro-America foreign policy. People will say, well, the world is different and we have to be involved. That is exactly the reason that we ought to be less aggressive. That is exactly the reason why we ought to take our own counsel and not do these things. Because we live in an age where communications are much more rapid. The weapons are much worse. There is every reason in the world to do less of this, not more of it.

But none of this could happen. We could never move in this direction unless we asked a simple question: What really is the role of our government? Is the role of our government to perpetuate a welfare-warfare state to take care of the large special interests who benefit from this by building weapons and buying and selling oil? No, the purpose cannot be that.

The welfare-warfare state does not work. The welfare for poor is well-motivated; it is intended to help people, but it never helps them. They become

an impoverished, dependent class. And we are on the verge of bankruptcy, no matter what we hear about the balanced budget. The national debt is going up by nearly \$200 billion a year and it cannot be sustained. So this whole nonsense of a balanced budget and trying to figure out where to spend the excess is nonsense. It just encourages people to take over more of the responsibilities that should be with the American people.

We here in the Congress should be talking about defending this country, providing national security, providing for a strong currency, not deliberately distorting the currency. We should be protecting private property rights and making sure that there is no incentive for the special interests of this country to come and buy their influence up here.

We do not need any fancy campaign reform laws. There is no need for those. We need to eliminate the ability of the Congress to pass out favors. I do not get any PAC money because there is no attempt to come and ask me to do special favors for anybody. I get a lot of donations from people who want liberty. They want to be left alone, and they know, they know that they can take care of themselves.

Now, this point will not be proven until the welfare state crumbles, and it may well crumble in the next decade. The Soviet system crumbled rather suddenly. We cannot afford to continue to do this, but we must be cautious not to allow the corporate state and the militant attitude that we have with our policy to rule. We have to decide here in this country, as well as in this body, what we want from our government and what kind of a government we want.

We got off from the right track with the founders of this country. They wrote a good document and that document was designed for this purpose, for the protection of liberty. We have gone a long way from that, until now we have the nanny state that we cannot even plow our gardens without ump-tens number of permits from the Federal Government. So our government is too big, it is too massive, and we have undermined the very concept of liberty.

Foreign policy is very important because it is under the conditions of war; it is under the condition of foreign confrontation that people are so willing to give up their liberties at home because of the fear. We should avoid unnecessary confrontations overseas and we should concentrate on bettering the people here in this country, and it can best be done by guaranteeing property rights, free markets, sound money, and a sensible approach to our foreign policy.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MILLER of Florida (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Ms. ESHOO (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and Thursday, February 12, on account of a death in the family.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and Thursday, February 12, on account of official business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. SÁNCHEZ) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RAHALL for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SÁNCHEZ for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KLINK for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MEEK for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SNYDER for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STOKES for 60 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS for 60 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ADERHOLT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RIGGS for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SOUDER for 5 minutes, on February 12.

Mr. SHAYS for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ADERHOLT for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RILEY for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JENKINS for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHIMKUS for 5 minutes, on February 12.

Mr. COX of California for 5 minutes, on February 12.

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington for 5 minutes, on February 12.

Mr. PAPPAS for 5 minutes, on February 12.

Mr. JONES for 5 minutes, on February 24.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. SÁNCHEZ) to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. TIERNEY.

Mr. SKELTON.

Mr. LIPINSKI.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. VENTO.

Mr. MILLER of California.

Mr. SCHUMER.

Mr. UNDERWOOD.

Mr. TOWNS.

Mr. TRAFICANT.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Ms. SÁNCHEZ.

Ms. SLAUGHTER.

Mr. WEYGAND of Rhode Island.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. PASCRELL.

Mr. KLECZKA.

Mr. BONIOR.

Mr. ACKERMAN.

Mr. STOKES.

Mr. BENTSEN of Texas.

Mr. CLYBURN.

Mr. WISE.

Mr. BOYD.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE.

Mr. KILDEE.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii.

Mr. FARR of California.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ADERHOLT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matter:)

Mr. RADANOVICH.

Mr. OXLEY.

Mr. GALLEGLY.

Mr. BILIRAKIS.

Mr. GILMAN.

Mr. CHRISTENSEN.

Mr. CRAPO.

Mr. SHIMKUS.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia.

Mr. SOLOMON.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

Mrs. MORELLA.

Mrs. ROUKEMA.

Mr. WELLER.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. EWING.

Mr. FORBES

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PAUL) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. HUTCHINSON.

Mr. BROWN of California.

Mr. JENKINS.

Mr. LAFALCE.

Ms. STABENOW.

Ms. NORTON.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. DEUTSCH.

Mr. ORTIZ.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

Mr. ADERHOLT.

Mr. RIGGS.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma.

Mr. TAUZIN.

Mr. ROHRBACHER.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 12, 1998, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7033. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Domestically Produced Peanuts Handled by Persons Not Subject to Peanut Marketing Agreement No. 146; Marketing Agreement No. 146 Regulating the Quality of Domestically Produced Peanuts [Docket No. FV97-998-3 FIR] received January 22, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7034. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Melons Grown in South Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV98-979-1 IFR] received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7035. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California; Modifications to the Raisin Diversion Program [Docket No. FV97-989-3 FIR] received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7036. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Imported Fire Ant Quarantined Areas [Docket No. 97-101-1] received January 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7037. A letter from the Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Intermediary Relending Program (RIN: 0570-AA15) received January 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7038. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Terbacil; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300611; FRL-5768-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7039. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Oxyfluorfen; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300610; FRL-5767-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7040. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule—Loan Policies and Operations; Title IV Conservators, Receivers, and Voluntary Liquidation (RIN: 3052-AB09) received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7041. A letter from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Electric System Operations and Maintenance (RIN: 0572-AA74) received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7042. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests for FY 1998 supplemental appropriations for the Department of State and the International Monetary Fund, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105—213); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7043. A letter from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Department of the Air Force, transmitting notification that the Commander of Air Force Space Command is initiating a cost comparison of libraries at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, Patrick AFB, Florida, Peterson AFB, Colorado, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, and Vandenberg AFB, California, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on National Security.

7044. A letter from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Department of the Air Force, transmitting notification that the Commander of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, has conducted a cost comparison to reduce the cost of certain operating logistics functions, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on National Security.

7045. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy, transmitting notification of the decision to study certain functions performed by military and civilian personnel in the Department of the Navy for possible performance by private contractors, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on National Security.

7046. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy, transmitting notification of the decision to convert to contractor performance the operation of Family Services Center at Naval Base San Diego, San Diego, CA, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on National Security.

7047. A letter from the Under Secretary (Acquisition and Technology), Department of Defense, transmitting the report to Congress for Department of Defense purchases from foreign entities in fiscal year 1997, pursuant to Public Law 104—201, section 827 (110 Stat. 2611); to the Committee on National Security.

7048. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the feasibility of using private-sector sources for air transportation of military personnel and cargo, pursuant to Public Law 104—106, section 365(a) (110 Stat. 275); to the Committee on National Security.

7049. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the 1998 Department of Defense Annual Report to the President and the Congress, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 113 (c) and (e); to the Committee on National Security.

7050. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on Payment of Restructuring Costs Under Defense Contracts for FY 1997, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2324 nt.; to the Committee on National Security.

7051. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of

Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Exports of High Performance Computers under License Exception CTP [Docket No. 980113010-8010-01] (RIN: 0694-AB65) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

7052. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Waiver of Domestic Source Restrictions [DFARS Case 97-D321] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

7053. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Warranties in Weapon System Acquisitions [DFARS Case 97-D326] received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

7054. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter stating that the report on Reserve retirement initiatives will be submitted on or about April 30, 1998, pursuant to Public Law 104—201, section 531; to the Committee on National Security.

7055. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter stating that the report on Reserve retirement initiatives will be submitted on or about January 30, 1998, pursuant to Public Law 104—201, section 531; to the Committee on National Security.

7056. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter stating that the report regarding funds expended for performance of depot-level maintenance and repair by the public and private sectors is being prepared and will be forwarded shortly, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2466(e); to the Committee on National Security.

7057. A letter from the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting the biennial report on compliance by insured depository institutions with the National Flood Insurance Program for the period September 1, 1995 through August 31, 1997, pursuant to Public Law 103—325, section 529(a) (108 Stat. 2266); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7058. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendments to Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act Regulation (Regulation X)—Escrow Accounting Procedures [Docket No. FR-4079-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AG75) received January 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7059. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Single Family Property Disposition Officer Next Door Sales Program [Docket No. FR-4277-N-01] received January 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7060. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Electronic Payment of Multifamily Insurance Premiums [Docket No. FR-4203-F-02] received January 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7061. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final

rule—Community Development Block Grants: New York Small Cities Program [Docket No. FR-4155-F-02] (RIN: 2506-AB91) received December 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7062. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Use of Materials Bulletins Used in the HUD Building Product Standards and Certification Program [Docket No. FR-4137-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AG84) received February 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7063. A letter from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, transmitting the Network's final rule—Amendments to the Bank Secrecy Act Regulations Regarding Reporting and Recordkeeping by Card Clubs (RIN: 1506-AA18) received January 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7064. A letter from the Acting Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, transmitting the Network's final rule—Conditional Exceptions to Bank Secrecy Act Regulations Relating to Orders for Transmittals of Funds by Financial Institutions [31 CFR Part 103] received January 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7065. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Production of Nonpublic Records and Testimony of NCUA Employees in Legal Proceedings [12 CFR Part 792] received January 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7066. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report on appropriations legislation as required by section 251(a)(7) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act 1985, as amended; to the Committee on the Budget.

7067. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting the annual report of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for fiscal year 1997, pursuant to Public Law 102—325, section 1203 (106 Stat. 794); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7068. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mine Shift Atmospheric Conditions; Respirable Dust Sample (RIN: 1219-AA82) received January 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7069. A letter from the Executive Secretary, Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's annual report for 1997, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2012(b); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7070. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits [29 CFR Part 4044] received February 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7071. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 97-35: Exempting the United States Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada,

from any Federal, State, interstate, or local hazardous or solid waste laws that might require the disclosure of classified information concerning that operating location to unauthorized persons, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6961; to the Committee on Commerce.

7072. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting a copy of the Energy Information Administration's report entitled "Annual Energy Outlook 1998," pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 790f(a)(1); to the Committee on Commerce.

7073. A letter from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a copy of the annual report on the Coke Oven Emission Control Program for fiscal year 1997, pursuant to Public Law 101-549, section 301 (104 Stat. 2559); to the Committee on Commerce.

7074. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 1995 report describing the activities and accomplishments of programs for persons with developmental disabilities and their families, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6006(c); to the Committee on Commerce.

7075. A letter from the Executive Director, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Telecommunications Act Accessibility Guidelines [Docket No. 97-1] (RIN: 3014-AA19) received February 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7076. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule—Securities Credit Transactions; Borrowing by Brokers and Dealers [Regulations G, T, U, and X; Docket Nos. R-0905, R-0923 and R-0944] received January 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7077. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting the annual report of compliance activities undertaken by the Department for mixed waste streams during FY 1996, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6965; to the Committee on Commerce.

7078. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Anthropomorphic Test Dummy; Occupant Crash Protection [Docket No. NHTSA-98-3296] (RIN: 2127-AF41) received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7079. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan, Texas: 15% Rate-of-Progress Plan, 1990 Emission Inventory, Motor Vehicle Emission Budget, and Contingency Plan for the Beaumont/Port Arthur Ozone Nonattainment Area [TX82-1-7336b; FRL-5962-5] received February 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7080. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Arizona—Maricopa County Ozone and PM10 Nonattainment Areas [AZ 071-009; FRL-5957-4] received February 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7081. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Approval of Delegation of Authority to New Mexico [FRL-5962-4] received February 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7082. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clarification to Technical Amendments to Solid Waste Programs; Management Guidelines for Beverage Containers and Resource Recovery Facilities Guidelines [FRL-5957-2] received January 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7083. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa [IA 037-1037a; FRL-5955-4] received January 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7084. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Washington [WA9-1-5540, WA28-1-6613, WA34-1-6937; FRL-5951-2] received January 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7085. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Butanamide, 2,2'—[3'dichloro[1,1'-biph nyl]-4,4'-diyl]bisazobis N-2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl -3-oxo; Significant New Use Rule [OPPTS-50620D; FRL-5757-3] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7086. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Acid Rain Program; Auction Offerors to Set Minimum Prices in Increments of \$0.01 [FRL-5961-4] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7087. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Reimbursement to Local Governments for Emergency Responses to Hazardous Substance Releases [FRL-5958-1] (RIN: 2050-AE36) received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7088. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan; Wisconsin [WI75-01-7304; FRL-5958-7] received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7089. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Kern County Air Pollution Control District; Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District; Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [CA 172-0040a; FRL-5956-9] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7090. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Texas; Disapproval of Revisions to the State Implementation Plan [TX35-1-6168; FRL-5962-3] received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7091. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arizona State Implementation Plan Revision, Maricopa County [AZ 017-0007; FRL-5956-8] received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7092. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arizona State Implementation Plan Revision, Maricopa County [AZ017-0008; FRL-5957-6] received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7093. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan; Michigan [MI66-01-7264a; FRL-5961-8] received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7094. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Plans, Texas; Revision to the Texas State Implementation Plan; Alternate Reasonably Available Control Technology Demonstration for Raytheon TI Systems, Inc. [TX-85-1-7344a; FRL-5955-8] received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7095. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter and Revised Requirements for Designation of Reference and Equivalent Methods for PM2.5 and Ambient Air Quality Surveillance for Particulate Matter [AD-FRL-5963-3] (RIN: 2060-AE66) received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7096. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's "Major" final rule—Emission Standards for Locomotives and Locomotive Engines [FRL-5939-7] (RIN: 2060-AD33) received February 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7097. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Mills, Wyoming) [MM Docket No. 97-44, RM-8974] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7098. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Chewelah, Washington) [MM Docket No. 97-65, RM-9002]

received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7099. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Westport, Washington) [MM Docket No. 97-83, RM-8948] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7100. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (New Augusta, Mississippi) [MM Docket No. 97-184, RM-9120] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7101. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin) [MM Docket No. 97-210, RM-9166] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7102. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Lindsborg, Kansas) [MM Docket No. 97-183, RM-9119] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7103. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Tylertown, Mississippi) [MM Docket No. 97-45, RM-8961] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7104. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Pueblo, Pueblo West, Canon City and Calhan, Colorado) [MM Docket No. 96-232; MM Docket No. 97-35] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7105. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Satellite Beach, Florida) [MM Docket No. 97-221, RM-9181] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7106. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Kellnersville and Two Rivers, Wisconsin) [MM Docket No. 97-52, RM-8987, RM-9098] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7107. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Fed-

eral Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Carrizo Springs, Corpus Christi, George West, Pearsall, and Three Rivers, Texas) [MM Docket No. 91-283, RM-7807, RM-8772] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7108. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule—Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding the 37.0-38.6 GHz and 38.6-40.0 GHz Bands; Implementation of Section 309(j) of the Communication's Act—Competitive Bidding, 37.0-38.6 GHz and 38.6-40.0 GHz [ET Docket No. 95-183, RM-8553; PP Docket No. 93-253] received February 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7109. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Revising the Announcement Procedures for Approvals and Denials of Pre-market Approval Applications [Docket No. 97N-0133] received February 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7110. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Financial Disclosure by Clinical Investigators [Docket No. 93N-0445] received February 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7111. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's report entitled "Annual Report to Congress—Progress on Superfund Implementation in Fiscal Year 1997," pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 9651; to the Committee on Commerce.

7112. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facility Accident Analysis Handbook [NUREG-1320] received January 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7113. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting a report on the nondisclosure of safeguards information for the quarter ending December 31, 1997, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2167(e); to the Committee on Commerce.

7114. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the "Report on a Sentinel Disease Concept Study," pursuant to Public Law 103-43; to the Committee on Commerce.

7115. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report on evaluating the Ryan White CARE Act program accomplishments, pursuant to Public Law 101-381 and Public Law 104-146; to the Committee on Commerce.

7116. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendments to Beneficial Ownership Reporting Requirements [Release No. 34-39538; File No. S7-16-96 International Series-1111] (RIN: 3235-AG81) received January 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7117. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Plain English Disclosure [Release Nos. 33-7497; 34-39593; IC-

23011 International Series No. 1113; File No. S7-3-97] (RIN: 3235-AG88) received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7118. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting a report of those foreign military sales customers with approved cash flow financing in excess of \$100 million as of 1 October 1997, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2765(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

7119. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 98-24), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

7120. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting a report containing an analysis and description of services performed by full-time USG employees during Fiscal Year 1997, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2765(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

7121. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting reports containing the status of loans and guarantees issued under the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2765(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

7122. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of State, transmitting a report which sets forth all sales and licensed commercial exports pursuant to section 25(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2765(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

7123. A letter from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting the Bureau of Export Administration's "Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1997" and the "1998 Foreign Policy Export Controls Report," pursuant to 50 U.S.C. app. 2413; to the Committee on International Relations.

7124. A letter from the Under Secretary (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the audit of the American Red Cross for the year ending June 30, 1997, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 6; to the Committee on International Relations.

7125. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a listing of gifts by the U.S. Government to foreign individuals during fiscal year 1997, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2694(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

7126. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

7127. A letter from the Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Economics and Statistics Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Direct Investment Surveys: BE-12, Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States—1997 (RIN: 0691-AA08) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

7128. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a list of all reports issued or released in December 1997, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 719(h); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7129. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a report

of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7130. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Adoption of Revised OMB Circular A-133; Administrative Requirements for Grantees to Reflect the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 [Docket No. FR-4258-I-01] (RIN: 2501-AC40) received December 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7131. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the FY 1999 Summary Performance Plan, pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7132. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Employment Standards, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Government Contractors, Affirmative Action Requirements, Executive Order 11246; Approval of Information Collection Requirements and OMB Control Numbers; Correction (RIN: 1215-AA01) received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7133. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Privacy Act; Implementation [Docket No. OST-96-1472] (RIN: 2105-AC68) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7134. A letter from the Executive Director, District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting the report entitled "District of Columbia Public Schools Performance Audit: Fiscal Year 1997 Capital Improvement Program Procurement Process"; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7135. A letter from the Chairman, District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting a copy of the General Purpose Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7136. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7137. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act for 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7138. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the 1998 Annual Performance Plan, pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7139. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Correction of Administrative Errors [5 CFR Part 1605] received January 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7140. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a monthly listing of new investigations, audits, and evaluations; to the Com-

mittee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7141. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting the Comptroller General's 1997 Annual Report, pursuant to section 312(a) of the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7142. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; New Mexico Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 97-018; Item VI] (RIN: 9000-AH79) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7143. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Part 30 Deviations [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 97-014; Item I] (RIN: 9000-AH77) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7144. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 96-319; Item II] (RIN: 9000-AH75) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7145. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Final Overhead Settlement [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 95-017; Item III] (RIN: 9000-AG87) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7146. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Reorganization of FAR Part 13, Simplified Acquisition Procedures [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 94-772; Item IV] (RIN: 9000-AH24) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7147. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Reporting Trade Sanction Exemptions [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 97-021; Item V] (RIN: 9000-AH80) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7148. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Compensation of Certain Contractor Personnel [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 96-325; Item VIII] (RIN: 9000-AH50) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7149. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Independent Research and Development/Bid and Proposal Costs for

Fiscal Year 1996 and Beyond [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 95-032; Item VIII] (RIN: 9000-AH37) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7150. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Travel Reimbursement [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 97-007; Item IX] (RIN: 9000-AH76) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7151. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Protests to GAO [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 97-009; Item X] (RIN: 9000-AH81) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7152. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Novation and Related Agreements [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 95-034; Item XI] (RIN: 9000-AH18) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7153. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Commercial Bills of Lading, Small Package Shipments [FAC 97-03; FAR Case 97-017; Item XII] (RIN: 9000-AH78) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7154. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Standard Form 1406, Preaward Survey of Prospective Contractor—Quality Assurance [FAC 97-05; FAR Case 96-022; Item XIII] (RIN: 9000-AH74) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7155. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 97-03; Item XIV] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7156. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Entity Compliance Guide [48 CFR Chapter 1] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7157. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Introduction [48 CFR Chapter 1] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7158. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a report on agency programs undertaken in

support of Public Law 103-172, the Federal Employees Clean Air Incentives Act; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7159. A letter from the Executive Officer, National Science Board, transmitting the report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act for 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7160. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Political Activity: Federal Employees Residing in Designated Localities (RIN: 3206-AF78) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7161. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to eliminate certain inequities in the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees' Retirement System with respect to the computation of benefits for law enforcement officers, firefighters, air traffic controllers, and their survivors; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7162. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's report on its health promotion and disease prevention activities for Federal civilian employees, pursuant to Public Law 104-208; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7163. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 1999, pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7164. A letter from the Director, United States Information Agency, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7165. A letter from the Public Printer, Government Printing Office, transmitting a copy of the Biennial Report to Congress on the Status of GPO Access, an online information service of the Government Printing Office, pursuant to Public Law 103-40, section 3 (107 Stat. 113); to the Committee on House Oversight.

7166. A letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a detailed boundary map for the 76-mile segment of the Niobrara National Scenic River, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1274; to the Committee on Resources.

7167. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for Royalty Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting notification of proposed refunds of excess royalty payments in OCS areas, pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1339(b); to the Committee on Resources.

7168. A letter from the Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's findings and progress respecting the design, construction and operation of the demonstration projects in Phase II of the groundwater recharge of aquifers in the High Plains States, pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 390g-2(c)(1); to the Committee on Resources.

7169. A letter from the Co-Chairs, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission, transmitting a report on the completion of the mission to plan, design and construct a permanent memorial, pursuant to the Act of August 11, 1955, ch. 833, section 1 (69 Stat. 694); to the Committee on Resources.

7170. A letter from the Acting Director, Indian Arts and Crafts Board, transmitting the

Board's final rule—Protection for Products of Indian Art and Craftsmanship (RIN: 1090-AA45) received January 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7171. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 [Docket No. 971208295-7295-01; I.D. 012398D] received February 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7172. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; At-Sea Scales [Docket No. 960206024-8008-03; I.D. 043097A] (RIN: 0648-AG32) received February 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7173. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, transmitting the Office's final rule—Virginia Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Plan [VA-111-FOR] received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7174. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting a copy of the Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States, held in Washington D.C., on September 23, 1997, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 331; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7175. A letter from the Assistant Secretary and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Changes to Continued Prosecution Application Practice [Docket No. 980108007-8007-01] (RIN: 0651-AA97) received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7176. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report regarding grants awarded by the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services under the COPS MORE program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3796dd(b)(2)(B); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7177. A letter from the Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, transmitting the Bureau's final rule—Editorial Amendments [BOP-1074-F] (RIN: 1120-AA70) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7178. A letter from the Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, transmitting the Bureau's final rule—Fines and Costs for "Old Law" Inmates [BOP-1033-F] (RIN: 1120-AA29) received January 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7179. A letter from the Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Temporary Entry of Business Persons Under the North American Free Trade Agreement [INS No. 1611-93] (RIN: 1115-AB72) received January 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7180. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Agency Relationships with Organizations Representing Federal Employees and Other Organizations (RIN: 3206-AH72) received January 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7181. A letter from the Chairperson, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting the Commission's report entitled "Equal Educational Opportunity and Non-discrimination for Students with Limited English Proficiency: Federal Enforcement of Title VI and Lau v. Nichols," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1975; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7182. A letter from the Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, transmitting two opinions of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7183. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Inland Navigation Rules; Lighting Provisions [CGD 94-011] (RIN: 2115-AE71) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7184. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Advance Notice of Arrival: Vessels bound for ports and places in the United States [CGD 97-067] (RIN: 2115-AF54) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7185. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Local Regulations; Hillsborough Bay, Tampa, Florida [CGD 0798-002] (RIN: 2115-AE46) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7186. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Model 182S Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-151-AD; Amdt. 39-10292; AD 98-01-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7187. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Mystere Flacon 200 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-189-AD; Amdt. 39-10293; AD 98-03-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7188. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of the Houston Class B Airspace Area; TX (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 95-AWA-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7189. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Tracy, CA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AWP-10] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7190. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Sheridan, WY (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ANM-18] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7191. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Powell, WY (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ANM-12] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7192. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revocation, Establishment, and Modification of Class E Airspace Areas; Cedar Rapids, IA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ACE-34] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7193. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Iola, KS (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ACE-37] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7194. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class D and Class E Airspace; Salina, KS (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ACE-35] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7195. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class D and Class E Airspace; Topeka, Philip Billard Municipal Airport, KS (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ACE-36] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7196. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Hartzell Propeller Inc. Model HC-EA-3(A,I) Propellers (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ANE-35-AD; Amendment 39-10289; AD 98-02-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7197. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; CFM International CFM56-2, -3, -3B, -3C, and -5 Series Turbofan Engines (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 89-ANE-05; Amdt. 39-10290; AD 89-23-06 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7198. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Sommerset, PA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-43] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7199. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Pineville, WV (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-27] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7200. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Wellsboro, PA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-26] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7201. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Allentown, PA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-42] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7202. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; York, PA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-41] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7203. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Lewisburg, WV (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-40] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7204. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Syracuse, NY (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-39] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7205. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Ticonderoga, NY (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-37] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7206. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Towanda, PA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-36] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7207. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Churchville, MD (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-35] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7208. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330 and A340 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-293-AD; Amdt. 39-10295; AD 98-03-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7209. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Excess Flow Valve—Customer Notification [Docket PS-118A; Amdt. 192-82] (RIN: 2137-AC55) received

February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7210. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the report entitled "Incidence and Severity of Sediment Contamination in Surface Waters of the United States," pursuant to Public Law 102-580, section 503(a)(2), (b)(2) (106 Stat. 4866); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7211. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the report on the potential for use of land options in federally funded airport projects, pursuant to Public Law 102-581, section 127; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7212. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Miscellaneous Revisions to the NASA FAR Supplement Coverage on Contract Administration [CFR Part 1842] received January 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

7213. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Register Certifying Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Payment of Federal Taxes and the Treasury Tax and Loan Program (RIN: 1510-AA37) received January 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7214. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Unemployment Insurance Program Letter [Nos. 08-98 and 09-98] received February 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7215. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Action on decision in *John D. and Karen Beatty v. Commissioner* [T.C. Dkt. No. 8273-94] received January 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7216. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Modifications of Bad Debts and Dealer Assignments of Notional Principal Contracts [TD 8763] (RIN: 1545-AU06) received January 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7217. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tax forms and instructions [Rev. Proc. 98-20] received February 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7218. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Low-Income Housing Tax Credit—1998 Calendar Year Resident Population Estimates [Notice 98-13] received February 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7219. A letter from the Director, Congressional Budget Office, transmitting the CBO Sequestration Preview Report for Fiscal Year 1999, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 904(b); jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget.

7220. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on several initiatives for Gulf War veterans, pursuant to Public Law 103-337, section 721(h); jointly to the Committees on National Security and Veterans' Affairs.

7221. A letter from the Director, Congressional Budget Office, transmitting the report

on "Unauthorized Appropriations and Expiring Authorizations" by the Congressional Budget Office as of January 15, 1998, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 602(f)(3); jointly to the Committees on the Budget and Appropriations.

7222. A letter from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting a copy of the Commission's report entitled "Federal Sector Report on EEO Complaints and Appeals, FY 1996," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000e-4(e); jointly to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Government Reform and Oversight.

7223. A letter from the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the annual report on the deposits to the Medicare Trust Fund and the appropriations to the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program for the Fiscal Year 1997, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395i; jointly to the Committees on Commerce and Ways and Means.

7224. A letter from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting the Department's tenth Annual Report to Congress summarizing the Department's progress during fiscal year 1996 in implementing the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, pursuant to Public Law 99-499, section 120(e)(5) (100 Stat. 1669); jointly to the Committees on Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.

7225. A letter from the Chairman, United States National Tourism Organization Board, transmitting the report of the National Tourism Organization Board, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2141b; jointly to the Committees on Commerce and International Relations.

7226. A letter from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting a report on development assistance program allocations for FY 1998, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2413(a); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

7227. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting the report on General Accounting Office employees detailed to congressional committees as of January 16, 1998, pursuant to Public Law 101-520; jointly to the Committees on Government Reform and Oversight and Appropriations.

7228. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, transmitting the annual report on the use of the Office of Compliance by covered employees, pursuant to section 301(h) of the Congressional Accountability Act; jointly to the Committees on House Oversight and Education and the Workforce.

7229. A letter from the Director, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting a report entitled "Impact of the Compacts of Free Association on the United States Territories and Commonwealths and on the State of Hawaii," pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1681 nt.; jointly to the Committees on Resources and International Relations.

7230. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Railroad Retirement Act to make permanent the exemption of the Railroad Retirement Board trust funds from the payment to the General Services Administration of charges for rental of property occupied by the Board in excess of the actual cost of providing such property; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Government Reform and Oversight.

7231. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Social Security Administration's Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 1997, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 904; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and the Judiciary.

7232. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Surety Bond and Capitalization Requirements for Home Health Agencies [HCFA-1152-FC] (RIN: 0938-AI31) received December 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

7233. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report on Medicare reimbursement of telemedicine services, pursuant to Public Law 104-191, section 192 (110 Stat. 1988); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

7234. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare Program; Physicians' Referrals; Issuance of Advisory Opinions [HCFA-1902-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AI38) received January 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

7235. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Medicare Program; Limit on the Valuation of a Depreciable Asset Recognized as an Allowance for Depreciation and Interest on Capital Indebtedness After a Change of Ownership [HCFA-1004-FC] (RIN: 0938-AI34) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

7236. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report regarding Medicare SELECT supplemental policies, pursuant to Public Law 104-18; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. THOMAS: Committee on House Oversight. House Resolution 355. Resolution dismissing the election contest against Loretta Sánchez (Rept. 105-416). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of Rule X and clause 4 of Rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 3175. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce individual income taxes by increasing the amount of taxable income which is taxed at the lowest income tax rate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. RYUN):

H.R. 3176. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow all taxpayers who maintain households with dependents a credit for dependents; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey:

H.R. 3177. A bill to require the installation of a system for filtering or blocking matter

on the Internet on computers in schools and libraries with Internet access, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ:

H.R. 3178. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the use of public transportation systems by allowing individuals a credit against income tax for expenses paid to commute to and from work or school using public transportation, and to reduce corporate welfare; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on National Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MANTON (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 3179. A bill to require that an environmental impact statement be prepared evaluating the impact of slot exemptions for operation of new air service at LaGuardia Airport; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DOOLEY of California (for himself, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. BOYD, Mrs. THURMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. GILCHREST, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. DAVIS of Florida):

H.R. 3180. A bill to provide for innovative strategies for achieving superior environmental performance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SANCHEZ (for herself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. TORRES, Mr. FROST, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PALLONE, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 3181. A bill to provide for reviews of criminal records of applicants for participation in shared housing arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANZULLO:

H.R. 3182. A bill to limit the authority of Federal courts to fashion remedies that require local jurisdictions to assess, levy, or collect taxes or to implement spending measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANZULLO:

H.R. 3183. A bill to impose certain conditions with respect to the appointment of masters in Federal actions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RIGGS:

H.R. 3184. A bill to clarify any doubts as to the application of Federal controlled substances laws in States where State law authorizes the medical use of marijuana or other drugs; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RILEY (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. DELAY, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. REDMOND, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KING of New York, Mr.

SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. OXLEY, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. FOLEY, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, and Mr. SOLOMON:

H.R. 3185. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to make illegal all private possession of child pornography; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon:

H.R. 3186. A bill to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain public lands in the State of Oregon located within or adjacent to the Rogue River National Forest; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon:

H.R. 3187. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to exempt not-for-profit entities that hold rights-of-way on public lands from certain strict liability requirements imposed in connection with such rights-of-way; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. SOLOMON:

H.R. 3188. A bill to prohibit the construction of any monument, memorial, or other structure at the site of the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. TIAHRT (for himself, Mr.

LARGENT, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. RYUN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BARCIA of Michigan, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. REDMOND, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. FORBES, Mrs. EMERSON, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. GOODE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WAMP, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. DELAY, and Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina):

H.R. 3189. A bill to amend the General Education Provisions Act to allow parents access to certain information; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3190. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on Benzoic acid, 2-[[1-[(2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl) amino] carbonyl]-2-hydroxyphenyl]azo]-N-(5-chloro-2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-hydroxynaphthalene-2-carboxamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3191. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on 4-[[5-[[4-(Aminocarbonyl) phenyl] amino] carbonyl]-2-methoxyphenyl]azo]-N-(5-chloro-2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-hydroxynaphthalene-2-carboxamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3192. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on Benzenesulfonic acid, 4-[[3-[[2-hydroxy-3-[[4-methoxyphenyl] amino] carbonyl]-1-naphthalenyl]azo]-4-methylbenzoyl]amino]- calcium salt (2:1); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3193. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on N-(2,3-Dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-5-methyl-4-

[(methylamino) sulphonyl]phenyl]azobenzimidazole-2-carboxamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3194. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on N-[4-(aminocarbonyl)phenyl]-4-[[1-[(2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl) amino] carbonyl]-2-oxopropyl]azo] benzamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3195. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on Butanamide, 2,2'-[3,3'-dichloro[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diyl]bis(azo)bis[N-(2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-3-oxo]; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3196. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on Butanamide, N,N'-(3,3'-dimethyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diyl)bis[2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)azo]-3-oxo; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3197. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on Benzoic acid, 2-[[3-[[2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl) amino] carbonyl]-2-hydroxy-1-naphthalenyl]azo]-, butylester; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3198. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on Butanamide, N-(2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-3-oxo-2-[[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]azo]; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3199. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on Benzoic acid, 4-[[2,5-dichlorophenyl]amino]carbonyl]-2-[[2-hydroxy-3-[[2-methoxyphenyl]amino] carbonyl]-1-naphthalenyl]-, methyl ester; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3200. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on 1,4-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, 2-[[1-[(2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl) amino] carbonyl]-2-oxopropyl]azo]-, dimethyl ester; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3201. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on Butanamide, 2,2'-[1,2-ethanediy]bis(oxy-2,1-phenyleneazo)]bis[N-(2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-3-oxo]; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEYGAND:

H.R. 3202. A bill to suspend until December 31, 2002, the duty on Benzenesulfonic acid, 4-chloro-2-[[5-hydroxy-3-methyl-1-(3-sulfonylphenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]azo]-5-methylcalcium salt (1:1); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr.

BLUNT, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. STUMP, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. BONILLA, and Mr. SOLOMON):

H.J. Res. 109. A joint resolution relating to the expenditure of funds by the Federal Government under National or State tobacco industry settlements; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MANZULLO:

H.J. Res. 110. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting courts from levying or increasing taxes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

H. Con. Res. 211. Concurrent resolution opposing increased Federal income taxes on variable annuities and other variable contracts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CHRISTENSEN:

H. Con. Res. 212. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress relating to the European Union's ban of United States beef and the World Trade Organization's ruling concerning that ban; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. EWING:

H. Con. Res. 213. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the European Union is unfairly restricting the importation of United States agriculture products and the elimination of such restrictions should be a top priority in trade negotiations with the European Union; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JENKINS (for himself and Mr.

BOUCHER):

H. Con. Res. 214. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, and their people to the origins and development of Country Music, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mr.

BISHOP):

H. Con. Res. 215. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for holding multiparty elections; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. SHAW (for himself, Mr.

LAHOOD, and Mr. BACHUS):

H. Con. Res. 216. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the use of future budget surpluses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TAUZIN (for himself, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. STEARNS,

Mr. KLUG, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. PAXON, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, and Mr. ROGAN):

H. Con. Res. 217. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the authority of the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. SAXTON:

H. Res. 354. A resolution designating majority membership on certain standing committees of the House; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GINGRICH (for himself, Mr.

ARMEY, Mr. DELAY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. SOLOMON, and Mr. STUMP):

H. Res. 356. A resolution recognizing, and calling on all Americans to recognize, the courage and sacrifice of the members of the Armed Forces held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and stating that the House of Representatives will not forget that more than 2,000 members of the United States Armed Forces remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict and will continue to press for a final accounting for all such servicemembers whose fate is unknown; to the Committee on National Security.

By Mr. FORBES (for himself and Mr.

ACKERMAN):

H. Res. 357. A resolution waiving clause 2(b) of rule XXII to permit introduction and consideration of a joint resolution to designate November of each year as National

Child Cancer Awareness Month; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. BALDACCIO, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. FORD, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. DEUTSCH, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GREEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CLAY, Ms. FURSE, Mr. STARK, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. KELLY):

H. Res. 358. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the protection of reproductive health services clinics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. BERRY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FROST, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. SERRANO):

H. Res. 359. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should carry out a national public awareness campaign to educate American men and women with respect to colorectal cancer; to the Committee on Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

242. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 19 urging the 105th Congress of the United States to conduct thorough oversight hearings of the Office of the Inspector General audit process sufficient to ensure that the rights and protections inherent in the nation's legal code are maintained and upheld in the process; to the Committee on Commerce.

243. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 25 urging the 105th Congress of the United States to acknowledge the Federal Government's partnership with Oregon's counties and communities, especially where it owns significant tracts of land; to the Committee on Resources.

244. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 177 memorializing the Congress and President of the United States to enact the federal "Telemarketing Fraud Prevention Act of 1997"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

245. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, relative

to House Concurrent Resolution 6 urging the 105th Congress of the United States to promptly propose an amendment to the United States Constitution specifying that Congress and the several states shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

246. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 24 urging the 105th Congress of the United States to expeditiously pass an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring in the absence of a national emergency that the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for the fiscal year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

247. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 169 memorializing the Congress of the United States to approve a project request, as part of the reauthorization of the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, to support the efforts to enhance trans-harbor rail-freight float-barging operations throughout the Port of New York and New Jersey; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

248. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 1 urging the President and the 105th Congress of the United States to continue a federally administered, nationally uniform funding system for complete federal responsibility and funding for maintenance dredging on federally authorized navigation projects in Oregon; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

249. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 26 urging the 105th Congress of the United States to continue to fund the triweekly Amtrak Pioneer passenger railroad service between Portland, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 1 of Rule XXII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland:
H.R. 3203. A bill for the relief of Roma Salobrit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LOWEY:
H.R. 3204. A bill for the relief of Walter Borys; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 4 of the rule XXII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 44: Mr. SISISKY.
H.R. 65: Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon and Mr. SISISKY.

H.R. 74: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. YATES, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. CLYBURN.

H.R. 107: Mr. MANTON, Mr. WALSH, Mr. GOODLING, and Ms. RIVERS.

H.R. 145: Mr. ACKERMAN

H.R. 165: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 166: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 167: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 168: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 230: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 251: Mr. METCALF.
H.R. 303: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 304: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 306: Mr. HARMAN.
H.R. 339: Mr. MICA.

H.R. 350: Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 352: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 371: Mr. SKAGGS, Mr. MCHALE, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. BORSKI, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 445: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 476: Mrs. MINK of Hawaii and Mr. COYNE.

H.R. 589: Mr. METCALF.
H.R. 777: Mr. DOOLEY of California and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 820: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 859: Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. MICA, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. DOOLITTLE, and Mr. HEFNER.

H.R. 919: Ms. KILPATRICK and Mr. FALCOMA.

H.R. 981: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1016: Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. MANTON, and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 1018: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1031: Mr. METCALF.
H.R. 1059: Mr. LAZIO of New York.

H.R. 1108: Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 1114: Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1126: Mrs. KELLY.

H.R. 1176: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. COYNE.
H.R. 1202: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. FRANKS of Massachusetts, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1320: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1355: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 1356: Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GILMAN, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 1376: Mr. WYNN, Mr. DIXON, and Mr. FORD.

H.R. 1450: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. YATES, and Mr. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 1455: Mr. STOKES.

H.R. 1456: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1496: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 1500: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LUTHER, and Mr. STABENOW.

H.R. 1521: Ms. DANNER and Ms. Dunn of Washington.
H.R. 1531: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1555: Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 1670: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1842: Mr. NEY and Mr. REDMOND.

H.R. 1870: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1951: Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 2004: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 2009: Mr. VENTO, Mr. KIM, and Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 2021: Mr. FORD.
H.R. 2077: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2173: Mr. MARTINEZ.

H.R. 2212: Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN.
H.R. 2253: Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 2257: Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 2281: Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 2290: Mr. BONIOR.
H.R. 2351: Mr. BROWN of Ohio and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 2354: Mr. ENGEL and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2409: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. DELAHUNT.

H.R. 2454: Mr. LAMPSON.

H.R. 2457: Mr. LAMPSON.
 H.R. 2467: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 2500: Mr. SPRATT, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, and Mr. COLLINS.
 H.R. 2509: Mr. RADANOVICH and Mr. SANFORD.
 H.R. 2547: Ms. FURSE, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, and Mr. ACKERMAN.
 H.R. 2581: Mr. FILNER and Mr. CANADY of Florida.
 H.R. 2593: Mr. GREEN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KIM, Mr. COX of California, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. RILEY, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. NORWOOD, and Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2627: Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. BOYD, and Mr. SNOWBARGER.
 H.R. 2671: Mr. FORD.
 H.R. 2681: Mr. WATT of North Carolina.
 H.R. 2692: Mr. NORWOOD.
 H.R. 2695: Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 2710: Mr. KOLBE.
 H.R. 2713: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. JACKSON, and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.
 H.R. 2733: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. SANFORD.
 H.R. 2752: Mr. KOLBE, Mr. CONDIT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BENTSEN, and Mrs. MEEK of Florida.
 H.R. 2755: Mr. GREEN, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. LAFALCE, Ms. FURSE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SANDLIN, and Mr. CRAMER.
 H.R. 2807: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. LAMPSON.
 H.R. 2826: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. OWENS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COYNE, and Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 2827: Mr. HAMILTON and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 2828: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. MARTINEZ.
 H.R. 2829: Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SKAGGS.
 H.R. 2868: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 2870: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 2912: Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. WATKINS, and Mr. SANDERS.
 H.R. 2914: Mr. CAMPBELL.
 H.R. 2921: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. WOLF, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MINGE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. GOODLING, Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington, Mr. CANNON, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HEPNER.
 H.R. 2923: Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. SANDLIN, and Mr. SKAGGS.
 H.R. 2925: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FROST, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. POSHARD, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BALDACCIO, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. OLVER, Ms. RIVERS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. FURSE, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SANDLIN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MANTON, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. CLEMENT, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2934: Ms. FURSE.
 H.R. 2936: Mr. PAXON, Mr. FARR of California, and Mr. OXLEY.
 H.R. 2938: Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GOSS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. SHAW, and Mrs. FOWLER.
 H.R. 2964: Ms. FURSE.
 H.R. 2970: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. METCALF.
 H.R. 2989: Mr. GIBBONS.
 H.R. 3043: Mrs. MINK of Hawaii.
 H.R. 3050: Ms. FURSE, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. BARCIA of Michigan, Ms. RIVERS, and Mrs. MORELLA.
 H.R. 3054: Mr. BERMAN and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 3070: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 3089: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
 H.R. 3090: Mr. BARR of Georgia.
 H.R. 3097: Mr. POMBO, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. NEUMANN, Mr. MICA, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. DELAY, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. COX of California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PARKER, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. CRANE, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. TRAFICANT, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
 H.R. 3099: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. MICA.
 H.R. 3104: Mr. STUMP, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. REDMOND, Mr. LARGENT, Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COOK, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. GINGRICH, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. HERGER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. PARKER, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. BRYANT.
 H.R. 3108: Mrs. ROUKEMA and Mr. DUNCAN.
 H.R. 3127: Mr. HASTERT, Mr. DEFazio, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. DREIER, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. COOK, and Mrs. BROWN of California.
 H.R. 3131: Mr. BERMAN.
 H.R. 3133: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 3134: Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Ms. KILPATRICK.
 H.R. 3137: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. WAMP, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. CANNON, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. BISHOP.
 H.R. 3143: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FORD, and Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 3147: Mr. BARCIA of Michigan, Mr. RUSH, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. STOKES, and Mr. KLECZKA.
 H.R. 3152: Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. GALLEGLY, and Mr. FARR of California.
 H.R. 3161: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mrs. MORELLA, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VENTO, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. FURSE, Mr. BONIOR, and Mr. UNDERWOOD.
 H.R. 3162: Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma and Mr. DUNCAN.
 H.R. 3172: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
 H.J. Res. 83: Mr. PITTS, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.J. Res. 102: Mr. KOLBE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SISISKY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. DIXON, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. ADAM

SMITH of Washington, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Mr. HOYER.

H. Con. Res. 55: Mr. COYNE.
 H. Con. Res. 114: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Mrs. MORELLA.
 H. Con. Res. 152: Mr. WEXLER and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
 H. Con. Res. 158: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
 H. Con. Res. 202: Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. REGULA, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. NORWOOD, Ms. DUNN of Washington, Mr. DELAY, Mr. RYUN, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SHAW, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. RILEY, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. LAZIO of New York, Mr. GILMAN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. WELLS, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. SHADEGG, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. HILLEARY.
 H. Con. Res. 210: Mr. ALLEN and Mrs. KELLY.
 H. Res. 37: Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO and Mr. KOLBE.
 H. Res. 83: Mr. COYNE and Mr. SNYDER.
 H. Res. 279: Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MANTON, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H. Res. 350: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 2604: Mr. BERMAN.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 1 of rule XXII, petitions and papers were laid on the Clerk's desk and referred as follows:

36. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Rockland County Legislature, New York, New York, relative to Resolution No. 694 endorsing a peaceful settlement of the Northern Ireland Conflict; to the Committee on International Relations.

37. Also, a petition of the Rockland County Legislature, New York, New York, relative to Resolution No. 15 supporting the nomination of the Hudson River as an American Heritage River; to the Committee on Resources.

38. Also, a petition of John Rolczynski and Robert W. Gillies of Grand Forks, North Dakota, relative to a petition for redress of grievance regarding the statehood of North Dakota; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

39. Also, a petition of the Essex County Board of Supervisors, Elizabethtown, New York, relative to Resolution No. 315 supporting continuation of the ISTEPA Program for Highway Infrastructure and the Bridge Program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

40. Also, a petition of the Metropolitan King County Council, Seattle, Washington, relative to Motion No. 10354 commending Microsoft Corporation for its superb leadership, encouraging Microsoft to continue in its present direction, and requesting local, state, and national leaders to be supportive of Microsoft and the principles of free enterprise that have allowed Microsoft to flourish; jointly to the Committees on Commerce and the Judiciary.