

and no ethics reform. That is nothing more than legislative blackmail, and I, for one, will not pay the price. No one should stand still when this Constitution, which I hold in my hand, is the hostage. No one should stand still, I repeat, when this Constitution, which I hold in my hand, is the hostage.

This line-item veto authority would grant tremendous and dangerous new power to the President. He would have unchecked authority to take from the Congress the power of the purse, a power that the constitutional Framers thought was absolutely vital to protecting the people's liberties.

It was just 8 years ago that the U.S. Supreme Court decided that the line-item veto was unconstitutional. Now our colleagues—some of them—on the other side of the aisle are threatening to hold up the ethics reform bill in an effort to hand the President another line-item veto authority. Are the memories around here so short?

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We have a President who already has asserted too much power. This is a blatantly gross attempt to take even more power from the President and strip away power from the people.

This President claimed the unconstitutional authority to tap into the telephone conversations of American citizens without a warrant or court approval.

This President claimed the unconstitutional authority to sneak and peek, to snoop and scoop, into the private lives of the American people.

This President has taken the Nation to a failed war based on faulty evidence and the misrepresentation of facts. And many Senators voted not realizing that was what was being done when we voted on the war resolution.

So I say, this President has taken the Nation to a failed war based on faulty evidence and an unconstitutional doctrine of preemptive strikes. More than 3,000 American sons and daughters have died in Iraq in this crazed Presidential misadventure.

And what is the response of the Senate? To give the President even more unfettered authority? To give him greater unchecked powers? We have seen the danger of the blank check. We have lived through the aftermath of a rubberstamp Congress. We should not continue to lie down for this President or any other President.

Of course, this President wants to take away Congress's power of the purse. When Congress has the sole ability to shut down these unconstitutional practices, when Congress is asking tough questions and demanding truthful answers about this war, when Congress is taking a hard look at finding ways to begin to bring our troops home, over the objections of this administration, the President's response is to demand that the Congress give away its most crucial power. Silence the Congress. Ignore the people. Strip away our constitutional protections

and one may just as well strip away the people's liberties lock, stock, and barrel. Strip away the power of the Congress, the power of the people, and amass all power behind the fences and secret doors of the White House.

No Senator should vote to hand such power to the President. No American should stand for it—not now, not ever.

If our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to stop the Senate's effort to add transparency and accountability to the legislative process, that is their right and their choice. But I will not blink. I cannot look the other way. We should get on with the business at hand and pass meaningful ethics reform legislation. But we should never, never, hand away those precious constitutional powers—the last protections of the people's liberties, vested in the people's representatives in this Congress—to any President.

We have each taken an oath to protect and defend this Constitution of the United States. Here it is. I hold it in my hand. I say again, we have each taken an oath to protect and defend this Constitution of the United States. And it is about time we did protect and defend that Constitution of the United States.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I thank all Senators.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period of up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a great man who inspired ordinary African Americans to demand equal rights as American citizens. This year, we celebrate what would have been Dr. King's 78th birthday and his dream for equality and justice for all that remains our Nation's moral compass.

In honoring Dr. King on this particular anniversary of his birth, we remember that it has been a year since we lost his wife and indispensable partner, Coretta Scott King, who died on January 30, 2006. Mrs. King was a woman of quiet courage and great dignity who marched alongside her husband and became an international advocate for peace and human rights. She

had been actively engaged in the civil rights movement as a politically and socially conscious young woman and continued after her husband's death to lead the country toward greater justice and equality for all, traveling the world on behalf of racial and economic justice, peace and nonviolence, women's and children's rights, gay rights, religious freedom, full employment, health care, and education.

Much has improved since 1966, when Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ralph Abernathy organized marches and protests in Chicago. Today, 80 percent of African Americans older than 25 have earned their high school diploma, and there are 2.3 million African American college students, an increase of 1 million from 15 years ago. In addition, there are 1.2 million African-American businesses across the country that generate \$88.6 billion in revenues.

This important day calls us to recognize the challenges that remain and the work that still must be done to move closer to Dr. King's dream. If he were alive today, Dr. King would undoubtedly be dismayed by injustices large and small, including the violence in Iraq, the deepening divide between those who have and those who do not, and the prohibitive cost of higher education, which is now out of reach for many African-American and Hispanic families. In the wealthiest Nation on Earth, 37 million people live in poverty, 47 million people do not have health insurance, and millions more are underinsured.

Our Nation is a better one thanks to Dr. King and the sacrifices he and others made during the 1950s and 1960s. I remembered that as I walked in some of those same footsteps when I joined U.S. Representative JOHN LEWIS' pilgrimage to Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. Although there is much of Dr. King's dream that remains to be fulfilled, I have faith that we will continue to move toward the equality and justice that he sought. As a nation, we must and we shall.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, on January 15, our Nation commemorated the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Every year we pay tribute to the life of this great American. But, in honoring Dr. King, we celebrate more than his life; we celebrate the legacy of his words and deeds, and the virtues that he embodied.

Today, we remember Dr. King because he represents the best of the American spirit: someone who is compassionate, devoted, courageous, and hopeful. His compassion drew him to the plights of the poor and oppressed, and his devotion led him to champion their cause. His courage led him to act on this devotion, countless times placing himself in harm's way. Indeed, it was because of his courage that he fell to an assassin's bullet in 1968. And, his hope sustained him, even in the face of bitter racism.

All of these virtues—compassion, devotion, courage, and hope—propelled

Dr. King to the esteemed place he occupies today.

Perhaps Dr. King's most enduring virtue was his hope. It surely was on display when he delivered his most famous oration. In 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, gazing out at the Washington Monument and beyond to the Capitol, he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, which is familiar to all Americans.

As Dr. King looked upon these impressive symbols of America, he reflected upon the glaring shortcoming of our democracy. For all its successes, America had failed to realize the truth put forth in our Declaration of Independence: "that all men are created equal." Amid these monuments to the promise of America, he told hundreds of thousands of the Nation's greatest injustice: racial inequality. Yet he still maintained hope, speaking in terms of dreams and freedom.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act became law the following year. Despite these legislative gains, Dr. King realized that achieving equality of opportunity required something much greater, and far more difficult, than mere legislation. It required a change in the hearts and minds of citizens.

Despite this challenge, his optimism did not waver. In 1967, he appeared on "Meet the Press" where he was asked if he believed "the American racial problem can be solved."

"Yes, I do," he replied. "I refuse to give up. I refuse to despair it in this moment. I refuse to allow myself to fall into the dark chambers of pessimism, because I think in any social revolution, the one thing that keeps it going is hope."

King's hope survived him, and today we are closer to the world that he envisioned.

We honor historical figures not merely because they achieved or said great things. We honor them because their lives continue to offer insight that we might use to improve our world.

"[T]he goal of America is freedom," he wrote as he sat in a Birmingham, AL, jail cell. Only a man with great hope and faith in the triumph of good could write those words in those circumstances. It is with similar hope that we as Americans should proceed today, whatever the challenges that confront us.

#### NATIVE HAWAIIAN REORGANIZATION ACT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today the Senator from Hawaii, Mr. AKAKA, reintroduced the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act, a bill that would create a new, race-based government within the borders of the United States. I strongly oppose this bill. This legislation was considered and rejected by the Senate last year; we ought not waste one moment of the Senate's time on it this year. Instead, we should con-

sider legislation that unites us all as Americans. Our Nation must remain "one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"—"not many Nations, divided by race, with special privileges for some." Here are four reasons this bill should be stopped in its tracks: 1. It would create a new, sovereign government within our borders. 2. As noted by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the bill "would discriminate on the basis of race or national origin." 3. The bill is really about transferring control over "land" and "other assets" to this new, race-based government. 4. Native Hawaiians are not just "another Indian tribe" since they do not meet the requirements under current law of being sovereign for the last 100 years, living as a separate and distinct community, and having a preexisting political organization.

I hope my colleagues will join me in opposing this dangerous piece of legislation.

#### GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY LAKERS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the Grand Valley State Lakers on winning the 2006 Division II National Championship. Grand Valley completed a highly entertaining and rewarding season on December 16, 2006, when they defeated Northwest Missouri State 17-14 in the championship game. This victory is a great source of pride for all those affiliated with Grand Valley State University and for the State of Michigan.

It was a record breaking year on many fronts for the Grand Valley State Football team. This victory was the culmination of a perfect 15-0 season for the Lakers. Under the guidance of Coach Chuck Martin, Grand Valley State won their fourth Division II Championship in the last 5 years. During this time, the Lakers have become a powerhouse in Division II football and have a .709 winning percentage. Since 1999, they have an extraordinary 86-9 record, which is the second highest in all of college football. Moreover, quarterback Cullen Finnerty became the most prolific offensive player in college football history this year. In his 4-year career, Finnerty amassed a 51-4 record and led the Lakers to three national championships. As quarterback of the Lakers, Finnerty finished his career with over 10,000 total yards, including over 2,000 yards rushing.

The championship game provided its share of excitement. The thousands of GVSU fans and supporters who made the trip from the campus in Allendale to the stadium in Florence, AL, were not disappointed with the result. It proved to be a hard fought contest between two great teams. Grand Valley State eventually forced three crucial turnovers in the game, which included a NW Missouri St. fumble in the Grand Valley end zone late in the fourth quarter. Junior cornerback Bill Brenchin

made significant contributions on all three plays. Brenchin ended the game with two interceptions and recovered the fumble in the end zone as NW Missouri St. attempted to tie or win the game. Overall, the Grand Valley defense was too much for NW Missouri St. to overcome, and, the Laker offense, under Finnerty's direction had more than enough weapons to stifle the opposing defense.

I am proud to recognize the Grand Valley State football team for their remarkable achievements on the field this year. They have proven that hard work, dedication and commitment can produce great results. The members of the team should be proud of their efforts and should savor their recent success. They have been a tremendous source of inspiration for both the Grand Valley State community and the entire State of Michigan.

Each member of the Grand Valley State team, including Anthony Adams, Sam Allen, Matt Bakker, Lyle Banks, Brandon Barnes, Ryan Bass, Matt Beaty, Nate Beebe, P.J. Beuke, Chad Biggar, Scott Blasko, Cameron Bradfield, Bill Brechin, Drew Burton, Tory Buter, Samad Cain, Robert Carlisle, Brandon Carr, Tony Carr, Tony Carreri, Kirk Carruth, Todd Carter, Mark Catlin, Carlos Clark, Aaron Conti, Greg Copeland, Mendalson Covington, Anthony Crump, Joe Davis, Corey Edwards, Jeremy Ehinger, Billy Eisenhardt, Ian Evans, Eric Ewing, Gary Fant, Chris Favors, Cullen Finnerty, Matt Flutur, Dan Foster, Eric Fowler, Preston Garris, Ryan Gaydosh, Alex Gilde, Brennen Blass, John Godush, Maurice Gore, Mike Graham, D.D. Hardy, James Hardy, Brett Harris, Jacob Henige, Brett Hines, Drew Hinkle, Tyler Holtz, Nick Hopkins, Brad Hull, Brad Iciek, Jay Jandasek, Nate John, Blake Johncock, Derrick Jones, Sam Jones, Zach Jones, Lamar Keith, Mike Koster, Buster Larkins, Mike Leiffers, Astin Martin, John Matthews, Nick McDonald, Mike McFadden, Jacob McGuckin, Byron Miles, David Misiewicz, Terry Mitchell, Jaquon Morrison, Mike Mukuna, Frank Mulder, Jordan Munson, Doug Neumeyer, Courtney Partee, Denny Pittman, Justin Pollock, Danny Richard, Chad Richardson, Sean Roland, Matt Russell, Brandon Ryan, Mike Scherpenberg, Felix Sharpe, Dan Skuta, Blake Smolen, Chad Somerville, Derek Stansbery, Bretty Stengele, Sean Stevens, Alex Szarenski, Joey Teague, Bryan Thomas, Tony Thompson, Jacob Topp, Lance Travis, Antoine Trent, Justin Trumble, Justin Ulberg, Justin Victor, Matt Wade, John Wasmund, Collin Williams, Justin Winsor, Joe Wohlscheid, and James Wojciechowski, made meaningful contributions to the success of the football team and proved once again the strength of teamwork and commitment.

I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating Coach Martin and the 2006 Grand Valley State