

TESTS BIAS AND RACISM AT OUR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

HON. CARDESS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I think it is absolutely appalling, irresponsible, and downright unethical, for a college or university president to say low-test scores of African-American students are linked to their genetic, hereditary background.

I am referring to the insensitive remarks made by Rutgers University president, Francis L. Lawrence, that precipitated a recent act of civil disobedience by many of Rutgers's African-American students during a basketball game.

It is outrageous to even suggest that academically qualified students should be denied access and an opportunity for higher education based solely upon culturally biased standardized tests such as the Scholastic Assessment Test [SAT].

Scientific analyses demonstrates that there is test bias in both the SAT and the ACT [American College Test]. Even the SAT test makers, the Educational Testing Service, warns about the misuse of the SAT.

Mr. Speaker, exclusionary policies, based on racist beliefs, will only further contribute to the widening social and economic inequalities that have characterized American society in recent decades.

Many of the excluded students will be minorities from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who remain disproportionately underrepresented in the Nation's colleges and universities.

In 1991, as chairwoman of the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness, I began a series of investigative hearings into intercollegiate athletics and the National Collegiate Athletic Association [NCAA]. A major focus of my investigations revealed the NCAA's misuse of standardized tests which continues to result in a gross disproportionate negative impact on minority student-athletes.

Mr. Speaker, at a time we are trying to increase the earning potential of our youngsters, inflammatory and misinformed statements suggesting that African-Americans, or any group of people, are genetically inferior, cannot and will not be tolerated.

Denying students access to institutions of higher education based on artificial barriers has a direct long-term economic impact. Given the large and rising earnings associated with obtaining a 4-year degree, the personal economic costs associated with being denied an opportunity to obtain a 4-year degree are quite substantial—\$400,000–\$500,000—even for those graduates with modest academic skills.

I applaud the African-American students at Rutgers for not taking this insult to their intelligence sitting down.

HOOP DREAMS

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I would commend to all Members of this body the documentary "Hoop Dreams."

This film chronicles the epic struggle of two young men to get out of the ghetto through higher education.

Because these young men are exceptional basketball players they have an opportunity to attend a good parochial high school in the suburbs of Chicago. Their athletic talents are their ticket to a better life—but attendance at the new school requires a 3-hour bus ride each day.

All our young people need the opportunity for a better education—even if they are not talented athletes. And they should not have to go to private school—or travel 3 hours to find a better life.

Mr. Speaker, when we reform welfare let's expand the educational opportunities for all our citizens—especially our young people.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MAY MILLER SULLIVAN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues, the passing of May Miller Sullivan on February 8 at the age of 96. Today, February 14, 1995, a poetry reading memorial service will be held to celebrate her life and work.

May Miller Sullivan was a Washington poet, playwright, and educator whose literary career began in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's. Known professionally as May Miller, she was the last survivor of five children of Kelly Miller, a nationally known author and philosopher who was the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a professor of sociology at Howard University.

Ms. Miller grew up in faculty housing on the Howard University campus in a period when the university was a national gathering place for black artists and intellectuals. It was not unusual for greats like W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington to visit the Miller home. Poet Langston Hughes was among the friends of May Miller.

A native Washingtonian and a graduate of Dunbar High School and Howard University, Ms. Miller did postgraduate study in literature at American University and Columbia University. For 20 years she traveled daily to Baltimore to teach English, speech and drama at Frederick Douglass High School.

Ms. Miller began writing poetry as a child, often encouraged by her father, for whom the Kelly Miller Junior High School in Washington is named. After graduating first in her class at Howard University, she set out to become a playwright and poet.

Ms. Miller wrote with feeling about people and places in and around Washington and about memories and folk tales from her childhood. A self-styled poet, Ms. Miller's work has been published in magazines and in several collections.

May Miller Sullivan often remarked, "If out of a silence I can fill that silence with a word that will conjure up an image, then I have succeeded." By all standards, May Miller Sullivan was a huge success. Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to extend their condolences to Ms. Miller's family—Gloria Miller Clark, Kelly Miller III, Suzanne Miller Jefferson, and many other nieces and nephews.

TRIBUTE TO HERB BRIN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues today to join us in sending our congratulations and very best wishes to Herbert H. "Herb" Brin on the 80th anniversary of his birth.

Herb was born in Chicago in 1915 to Jewish immigrant parents and went on to become one of the founding beat reporters of the City News Bureau, covering everything from gangland killings to the rise of Nazi-sympathizer groups, which he helped expose before entering the Army during World War II. Injured in training, Brin became a regular reporter-columnist for Stars and Stripes, interviewing four-star generals for the enlisted man's newspaper. After the war, he moved with his wife to California and became a star reporter for the Los Angeles Times, covering stories such as the trial of Adolf Eichmann.

In 1953, Herb quit the Times to take over the Heritage group of Jewish newspapers, with editions covering Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties. His personal, no-holds-barred style of journalism broke scoop after scoop. Heritage first brought into national attention the rise of the Aryan Nations and other neo-Nazi hate groups. His coverage of the Klaus Barbie trial in Lyons was picked up all over the world. Year in and year out, Herbert Brin has been a tireless champion for Los Angeles, for Israel, and for the Jewish people.

Those of us fortunate enough to know Herb are filled with admiration at the many achievements of his life. Throughout his distinguished career in journalism, he was always the most vigilant of watchdogs on issues affecting the Jewish community. On many occasions, the statements and conduct of opponents of Israel and anti-Semites were exposed only because of his diligence and personal commitment to justice.

Thank you for a lifetime of service to the Jewish community—and many, many happy returns of this day!

CRIME IN AMERICA

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a former Federal prosecutor to discuss the growing problem of crime facing our country.

America approaches the 21st century as the most advanced civilization man has ever seen. We have the world's largest and most vibrant economy and remain the only military superpower left standing after the cold war. We should be looking toward the new millennium with nothing but enthusiastic expectations of greatness for ourselves and our children. Yet we confront an enemy today that threatens the very fabric of our society.

Crime in the United States is on the rise, and the violence and insecurity it breeds will erode the American people's faith in their elected government and destroy the dreams of the hundreds of millions who have pinned their hopes on our success. It is unsurprising, too, that their faith is wavering when one considers just a few of the startling facts about the demise of law and order in our country.

Today 8 out of every 10 Americans can expect to be the victim of a violent crime at least once in their lives. Since 1960, crime has increased by over 300 percent, and violent crime has gone up by over 550 percent. The rate of homicide is five times greater here than in Europe, and four times greater than in neighboring Canada. Rape in the United States is seven times more likely than in Europe.

What is even sadder is that these statistics have a disproportionate impact on our children. Teenagers are 2½ times more likely to be victims of violent crime than those over 20. And from 1960 to 1991, the rate of homicide deaths among children under age 19 more than quadrupled.

In what has become an oft-consulted collection of documents for many of the Members of this Congress, John Jay wrote in the Federalist Papers these very poignant words: "Among the many objects to which a wise and free people find it necessary to direct their attention, that of providing for their safety seems first." If indeed public safety is our first priority, then we as a body have been given an opportunity to carry out our obligation.

As the contract's crime package passes the House, I congratulate my colleagues' strong support for each of the six separate measures. The package includes a strengthening of the death penalty and longer prison sentences for criminals. It makes it more difficult for criminal aliens to remain among us, and closes loopholes in the law that for too long have set the guilty free on technicalities. It puts more police on the streets, gives local units of government wide latitude to develop crime prevention programs, and finally recognizes the rights of the victims for a change.

These reforms represent the best hope for us to begin restoring the rule of law of our land, and they reflect the will of a large majority of Americans. Most Americans believe strong, swift punishment acts as a credible deterrent to individuals who might consider committing a crime.

This package acts on that belief and reflects their philosophy in six different but important ways. It promises to make real steps toward catching, convicting, and incarcerating more murderers, rapists, and thieves.

The debate over these crime bills has embroiled us in more than an exchange of competing partisan ideas. It has in fact engaged us in a struggle that effects the very core of American society. Despite all of our Nation's glorious successes, our robust economy, our military prowess, and our clear and unquestioned recognition as the leader of the free

world, we cannot expect our Nation to survive, let alone remain on top, if it continues to rot from within.

As the discussions end, I once again congratulate my colleagues on taking swift and strong action on behalf of the well-being and safety of our Nation. We owe it to every American to make the war on crime our paramount concern, and tonight we can go home knowing that while we certainly did not solve all our problems, we have indeed made great strides in the right direction.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the League of Women Voters on their 75th anniversary.

The League of Women Voters has been a stalwart and steadfast defender of democracy in this country since 1920. Their activism has been and continues to be an example to all citizens.

In my district, the League is an undeviating participant in the electoral process. It encourages the informed and active participation of Western Pennsylvanians in their government, works to increase public understanding of major policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League emerged from the struggles of the women's suffrage movement and continued to fight on a variety of issues from child labor laws to environmental concerns. Its members, both men and women, work on problems at the State and local level as well.

I commend the League of Women Voters on three-quarters of a century of good work. I hope to participate when they reach their 100th anniversary.

THE CARL GARNER FEDERAL LANDS CLEANUP ACT

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man who has given so much to his country and to the State of Arkansas. I have just introduced legislation to rename the "Federal Lands Cleanup Act," the "Carl Garner Federal Lands Cleanup Act."

This honor is well deserved as Mr. Garner was the inspiration behind the enactment of the Cleanup Act in 1985. Mr. Garner is the Resident Engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers in Greers Ferry Lake, AR, and his devotion to a cleaner environment goes back several decades.

In 1970, Mr. Garner organized a group of local volunteers to pick up trash accumulated along the shores of Greers Ferry Lake. This one day cleanup event escalated to an annual event throughout the State of Arkansas. Last year alone, more than 24,000 Arkansans participated in the cleanup at more than 100 sites in Arkansas.

This devotion to the protection of our environment attracted the attention of Senator

BUMPERS, who was the lead sponsor of the Federal Lands Cleanup Day of 1985. This bill promotes the concept of community partnership and pride in our Federal lands to protect our valuable natural resources.

It is with great pride and esteem that I rise to introduce this piece of legislation to honor Mr. Carl Garner, who embodies the notion of public service.

H.R. —

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

SECTION 1. THE CARL GARNER FEDERAL LANDS CLEANUP ACT.

The Federal Lands Cleanup Act of 1985 (36 U.S.C. 1691-1691-1) is amended by striking "Federal Lands Cleanup Day" each place it appears and inserting "Carl Garner Federal Lands Cleanup Day."

BALANCED BUDGET BINGO

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, the following article is journalism at its best; it effectively translates something that is obscure, yet vital to our well being as a nation. And the translation itself is not simply one more frustrating attempt to breach the portals to the arcane.

[From the Indianapolis News, Feb. 11, 1995]

BALANCED BUDGET BINGO

(By David L. Haase)

WASHINGTON.—Can an average American citizen balance the federal budget without starving the needy, abandoning the elderly or taxing businesses out of business?

More to the point, after a middle-aged reporter does the deed, will his 71-year-old mother on Social Security still talk to him?

I dared to think so when I stepped into the basement office of the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform, ready to tackle the deficit using its computer.

The deficit is a hot topic on Capitol Hill. Two weeks ago, the U.S. House approved an amendment to the Constitution that would require the government to balance the federal budget. The Senate is debating the issue.

But what does a balanced budget mean for Americans? The commission, now out of business, had a computer game that could tell us.

Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., forced President Clinton into naming the commission as the price of his support for the 1993 budget deal.

It was never a Clinton priority. Its office in the basement of the Russell Office Building showed that it wasn't much of a priority for the Senate either.

The staff worked at used computers plopped on aged wooden government-issue desks and tables.

The commission went kaput without its 32 members ever agreeing on a way to halt the growth of entitlement spending. The task proved too painful.

Entitlement spending is mandatory. Neither Congress nor the president can deny these funds to any eligible comer.

On the other hand, discretionary spending, which Congress approves from year to year, amounts to only 40 percent of federal spending.

In the commission's view, entitlements are THE problem with the federal budget.