

our theaters, our educational children's programs, our museums, our dance companies, our poets, ourselves.

Ultimately, we are judged by the heritage we leave our children. I hope we leave them more than soap operas and talk shows, attack submarines and assault rifles, gangs and drugs!

Yes, Mr. Speaker, to be or not to be civilized; that is the question.

LET US NOT BEGIN A WAR ON THE POOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. FRANKS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, affirmative action affects mostly African-Americans.

Welfare? Almost half of the recipients are African-Americans.

Forty-six percent of black children are deemed poor, thus a number of food programs are more frequently used by African-Americans.

Most of the people in public housing are African-Americans.

As we continue to address these issues, the question is, Mr. Speaker, are we, as a Congress, looking at constructive changes or merely attacks toward African-Americans and the poor? Sadly, Mr. Speaker, at this point I am not quite sure.

It should be noted that to change human behavior one would use sticks and carrots, rewards and punishments. Using sticks only to alter behavior would cause one to earn the mean-spirited label.

Let us remember that we help our Nation by strengthening our weakest link, not by crushing it. Being compassionate toward the less fortunate is not a liberal or a conservative concept.

The Democrat-led War on Poverty was a failure back during the 1960's. Let us not begin a war on the poor.

THE RICKY RAY HEMOPHILIA RELIEF FUND ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I and 21 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle took the first concrete steps toward righting a terrible wrong, by introducing the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1995. This bill addresses the suffering of approximately 8,000 people with hemophilia-associated AIDS and their families. The premise behind this legislation is simple: The Federal Government must assume partial responsibility for what happened to these people because it failed to respond to the warning signs that blood products sold in this country were contaminated with the deadly virus that causes AIDS. It's time for accountability. The facts of this tragedy are horrifying. During the years 1980 through 1987, despite medical ad-

vances that could have wiped out contaminants of blood products sold to hemophilia sufferers, contaminated products continued to flood the marketplace and approximately 8,000 people with blood-clotting disorders became infected with HIV. Among the victims was a young Florida boy named Ricky Ray. He and his two brothers suffered from the hereditary blood-clotting disease known as hemophilia, an illness that makes people vulnerable to potentially life-threatening bleeding episodes. The brothers Ray—and thousands of people like them—hailed blood-clotting products known as factor as a tremendous medical breakthrough that would change their lives forever. But there was a dark side to this new wonder treatment—and that was the transmission of dangerous blood-borne viruses, such as hepatitis and eventually HIV. As a result, all of the Ray brothers became HIV-positive—and in December 1992 Ricky—the eldest of the three—died of AIDS at the age of 15. Before his death, Ricky courageously spoke out and became a national symbol of this terrible situation. He inspired many of his peers to tell their stories and begin seeking answers from the Federal Government and the blood industry. I am saddened that he did not live to see the day when legislation would be introduced in his honor, but we know his brothers, his sister, his parents, and the extended family of friends he established around the country, all recognize the enormous contribution he made in his very short life. The Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act establishes a fund of \$1 billion from which victims of this tragedy could collect \$125,000 each. The fund sunsets after 5 years and eligibility for its benefits are carefully defined in the bill. This legislation is not about charity—and it is not about making everything all right for the victims. Certainly \$125,000 is only a very small down payment on the staggering emotional and financial costs that hemophilia-associated AIDS places on its victims and their families. What this bill is about is the Federal Government owning up to a share of responsibility for what happened.

In 17 other developed countries where similar disasters occurred, national governments have stepped up to their obligations and established compensation programs. It's time for the United States to follow that lead. As this legislation moves through the process of consideration in this House, we will debate the extent of Government's obligation and the proper response to this tragedy. I know many of my colleagues are concerned about setting precedents and spending money. I share that concern—but I believe this is one of the things Government should appropriately be doing, responding to a tragedy that the Government had some responsibility to prevent. Of course, we look forward to the upcoming release of a thorough study conducted by the National Academy of Science's Insti-

tute of Medicine about what went wrong with the blood supply and how decisions about addressing those problems were made. Our legislation is in no way meant to prejudice or preclude that study, whose results should be available in May, nor do we have any interest in interfering with an ongoing legal process involving citizens and private industry. By presenting this bill to the House, we are simply acknowledging our commitment to the victims of this tragedy and our interest in seeing the Federal Government take action. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

□ 1510

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2 AND HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of House Joint Resolution 2 and House Joint Resolution 24.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BATEMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BATEMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. TUCKER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity today, as we commemorate Black History Month, to thank some people. I want to thank them for their contribution to making America the great country that it is.

Now I won't get to them all today, and even if my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus stood here and helped me name them, we couldn't thank them all today, and even if all the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, whose very lives have been affected by them, were here today to thank them, we couldn't thank them all. But I will, however, try to thank as many of them as possible.

First, I want to thank God, for mother Earth and the fruit of her African body.

I want to thank Crispus Attucks, who at the Boston Massacre in 1770, became the first man to die in the American Revolution. I want to thank him for his desire for freedom and his fight for American independence.

I want to thank Frederick Douglass, the great abolitionist who spoke passionately against slavery, for always knowing and speaking with a clear voice. That he was equal to any man, even when the reality seemed to be otherwise.

I want to thank Matilda Arabella Evans, who in 1872 became the first African-American woman to practice

medicine in South Carolina, for being a role model to all aspiring doctors.

To Maggie Lena Walker, who in 1867 became the first African-American and first woman to become president of a bank. Thank you Ms. Walker for showing our children that they too can run a bank.

Thank you to Granville T. Woods, who in 1901 received a patent on his invention of the third rails that are still used today on subway systems in New York and Chicago.

To Garret A. Morgan who in 1923 received a patent on his invention of the traffic light.

To Jan E. Matzeliger who in 1883 patented the lasting machine which improved the speed and reduced the labor associated with constructing shoes.

To those eight black slaves who in 1777, organized the first black Baptist church. Thank you for showing us the importance of establishing our spiritual base even though the devil is all around us.

To Harriet Wilson. Thank you for writing the first novel published by a black writer in 1859, your words continue to inspire.

To Nat Turner, who in August 1831 led a slave revolt in Virginia. Thank you for fighting and dying to be free.

To those four young girls that died in the Birmingham church bombing, my daughter's life has been made easier by your sacrifice, and rest eternally assured that that sacrifice will not be forgotten, by me or her.

To Arthur Ashe, Tennis Hall of Famer, writer, historian, philanthropist, and father. Thank you for courage, and wisdom and strength. You showed with your life what a man could become.

To madame C.J. Walker the first African-American millionaire. Thank you for showing us how to do business.

To Fred Gregory, Guion Bluford, the late Ron McNair, and Mae Jemison. Thank you for showing our kids that the sky is not the limit.

To Parren Mitchell, former U.S. Congressman from Maryland. Thank you for believing in African-American businesses.

To Marion Anderson and Leontyne Price. Thank you for showing the world that we too sing in America.

To Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, the first man to ever perform open heart surgery. Thank you for showing the world how to heal an ailing heart.

To Dr. and Mrs. Walter R. Tucker. Thank you for being an example of excellence and ambition.

To Harriet Tubman, conductor on the underground railroad to deliver over 300 Africans from the south to the north out of slavery. You did not have to come back for us, but you did and we owe you a debt of gratitude.

Finally, I want to say a special thank you to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who committed his life to telling the history of the African in America. Thank you Dr. Woodson for insisting that if a

story of America were told, this story had to be included.

SAVE THE GREENBACK ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Save the Greenback Act, a bill designed to preserve the status of the American 1 dollar bill, also known as the American Greenback, which has been a staple of our currency since 1862, and since 1869 has carried the likeness of the Founder of our Nation, George Washington.

The Kingston Trio's song that said "And I don't give a damn about a green back dollar," has maintained a timelessness and elegance for future generations. However, the plans to discontinue printing the 1 dollar bill and to phase it out of existence, will incite a great number of people into giving a damn about a greenback dollar, because their pockets will be weighted down with heavy change instead of having a few bills tucked into their billfolds.

During that entire period, we have never heard the American people express their disagreement, or their displeasure with the 1 dollar bill. In fact, as many of you are aware, the mere mention of any redesign of our currency inevitably triggers an onslaught of calls from constituents.

In past Congresses there have been misguided efforts by special interests to replace the 1 dollar bill with a coin. The proponents of this coin make three bold claims; that is will be easier to handle, it will be popular with the American people and that it will save money.

Let me address each of these claims in turn: Imagine if you will, replacing ten 1 dollar bills in your wallet with ten coins in your pocket. After several days, one might suspect a conspiracy by clothing manufacturers in drafting the dollar coin proposal, as everyone's pockets begin to wear out.

As to the coin's popularity with the American people: There have been three national polls on this issue in the last year. In every poll, the American people overwhelmingly rejected any attempt to do away with the dollar bill and have expressed their displeasure for replacing it with a coin.

The most recent poll was conducted in January, under the auspices of the House Budget Committee. Only 18 percent of those questioned preferred a dollar coin.

Earlier polls have indicated a very real concern by the American people that if the dollar coin becomes law, the price of items purchased from vending machines, such as food, laundry and diet coke will rise. They also expect to see increases in the costs of other items such as parking meters and pay telephone calls.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation designed to eliminate the dollar bill will an excuse by the special interests to raise prices on everyday items—a future sales tax, to be levied on all Americans but falling the hardest on those who can least afford it.

None of us really want to see a repeat of the Susan B. Anthony drama in which the dollar coin was overwhelmingly rejected by the public. It did not save a nickel when it was minted, although proponents said at the time that a substantial savings would be realized.

At this moment, there are over 300 million Susan B. Anthony coins sitting idle in the U.S. Mint. Will we have to make room a few years down the road for the new dollar coin because we did not heed the hard lessons of the past?

It is not enough to blame the failure of the Susan B. Anthony on its design alone. The people rejected it as part of the currency system. They had a choice, and they voted against it.

It is important to note that the proposed dollar coin legislation will not allow the American people a choice, but will mandate on them a coin that they do not want.

Further, the dollar coin will not generate sufficient savings to justify such a major disruption in the lives and habits of the American people. Given the serious economic challenges facing this Congress, I believe that there are more urgent problems before us than forcing a change from the 1 dollar bill to a coin.

The costs of changing to a 1 dollar coin would be significant to many in the private sector including but not limited to the small town banks which would have to retool their coin counting, wrapping and sorting equipment—costs which would inevitably be passed on to their customers. The facts is, the 1 dollar bill has remained in existence for so long because people didn't want to carry bulky coins. They still don't.

Mr. Speaker, many of us were elected to this body by a public tired of being dictated to by their Government, having unwanted legislation forced on them, and tired of laws enacted for the sole benefit of special interests. We would do well to remember that we are here to advance the interests of the American people and not put needless obstacles in their path.

□ 1520

HUGE SAVINGS POSSIBLE FROM ELIMINATING WASTEFUL EXPENDITURES ON HANFORD NUCLEAR FACILITY CLEANUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BATEMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how \$274 million in wasteful expenditures can be cut from