

representation for qualified racial minorities and women in all areas of American life.

I would say to you that this goal has not been realized. We have been trying for the last five decades to take care of this problem.

□ 2220

But we have in place a system, and to begin to tinker with and unravel equal opportunity and affirmative action programs at this juncture when so much progress has yet to be made is unthinkable. But it is absolutely unforgivable, because you turn the clock back and you create additional problems for America, in many instances, problems that have already been solved, or the solution is in the process.

Mr. CLYBURN. In closing, let me just say this, as I say so often. Affirmative action is in fact an experiment. We are experimenting with a method by which we can overcome the current effects of past discrimination. Our society, this democracy that we live in, is in fact an experiment. But as we look at all the groups of people that make up this great Nation of ours, we have to think about the different religions, different cultures. There is no religion that we call American, there is no culture that can be called American.

America is a mosaic of many things. Jews celebrate Yom Kippur, Christians celebrate Easter, Italians celebrate Columbus Day, black Americans celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Irish-Americans celebrate St. Patrick's Day, all of that, and we participate with each other, trying to make sure that people learn to respect these different cultures and these different religions.

If we can do that, then I think that what we need to do is learn to carry that same respect and participation into the workplace as well. If we can do that, I think that America is going to be a much better place for all of us.

Mr. THOMPSON. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. CLYBURN].

Tonight we have tried to put in perspective some of the issues around the affirmative action debate. I would like to thank Congressman PAYNE, Congressman CLYBURN, and Congressman HILLIARD for joining me in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, if I am permitted, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] who has joined us at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). The gentleman from California is recognized for 3 minutes.

COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANNERY ROW AND JOHN STEINBECK'S 93D BIRTHDAY

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and the leaders of the Congressional Black Caucus for the last hour colloquy on the issue of affirmative action.

I want for a few minutes to recognize someone who brought to light the plight of the conditions of many of the people who represent and live in the district that I represent in the central coast of California. For today is a very special day in my central coast of California district.

Today would have been the 93d birthday of one of our Nation's greatest authors, John Steinbeck, John Steinbeck Nobel Laureate and native son of California, led a life as rich and provocative as the Salinas Valley he immortalized in his writings. His obsession with his hometown would develop into a lifelong theme, unfolding through the course of time like a Steinbeck novel. The year 1995 is also being celebrated as the 50th anniversary of the publication of "Cannery Row," his novel about the thirties in Monterey, CA.

Fifty years ago John Steinbeck shook off the anguish and horrors of World War II which he had experienced as a war correspondent. He wrote "Cannery Row," a lively story about the thirties, when life seemed to him to have more meaning. His novel about Doc, Mack, and the boys, Flora and her girls, and Lee Chong became an instant success with the war-weary American public. Today, schoolchildren throughout our Nation read Steinbeck's "Cannery Row" as part of their curriculum.

Steinbeck won the Pulitzer Prize fiction award for the "Grapes of Wrath" in 1940, which has now become an American classic. In 1962 he received the greatest honor of his distinguished writing career—the Nobel Prize for Literature "for his realistic as well as imaginative writings, distinguished by a sympathetic humor and keen social perception."

John Steinbeck's fiction has been recognized as being representative of the character of our people, especially their vitality and uniquely American qualities. People from around the world are attracted to our Monterey Bay shores because of his writing and come to the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley to renew memories of his novels. Especially to visit the localities of his stories which are so vividly portrayed in "Cannery Row," "The Pastures of Heaven," "Of Mice and Men," "East of Eden," "The Red Pony," and "Travels with Charley."

Steinbeck achieved worldwide recognition for his keen observations and powerful writings of the human condition, bringing the plight of the disadvantaged and outcast to the forefront of social consciousness.

Our Nation has bestowed high honors on him, including the Medal of Freedom from President Lyndon Johnson and the American Gold Medallion issued by the U.S. Mint.

I invite you to join me in honoring John Steinbeck, on the 50th anniversary of the publishing of "Cannery Row" and in memory of his 93d birthday. His is truly a national treasure.

REFLECTIONS ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss with my colleagues a wonderful journey I took during the month of February. The voyage I speak of was one of education and learning throughout our Black History Month which concludes tomorrow.

I had an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to see how the people of my home district in Montgomery County, PA celebrated the heritage of a people who have contributed much to our society.

Many of you may realize it, but Montgomery County, PA was the end of the line for many slaves as they escaped to freedom along the underground railroad with the help of Lucretia Mott for whom the wonderful community of LaMott is now named in Cheltenham Township.

Communities in my district, Mr. Speaker, such as the beautiful town of Penllyn arose because of those men and women who fought so hard for their freedom. Even today it is clear that the freedoms we all enjoy here in the United States have a special home in places like Bethlehem Baptist Church which rose like a monument to freedom for those families under the leadership of Rev. Charles Quann.

What was perhaps most gratifying was to see the pride in the faces of the youth of these communities as they learned about the freedom fighters who risked everything so their children could breathe the sweet air of freedom, justice and equality.

These great men and women knew that, as Thomas Paine said in "The American Crisis," that "those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigues of supporting it."

Great black leaders and all those who fought for equality have never failed to undergo the fatigues of supporting freedom.

The words and ideals of individuals like the great emancipator Abraham Lincoln and the eloquent drum major for peace, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., rang throughout Montgomery County throughout February just as they rang out across the Nation when they were alive.

The spirit of Harriet Tubman was palpable as our children recalled how she inspired a Nation to continue the backbreaking battle for freedom.

Is the battle over? I would have to say no. But for those who have grown weary fighting against individuals and groups who would repress a people, any people, the events of this month must have had a rejuvenating effect on their souls.

Another freedom fighter, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, once said,

We look forward to a world founded on the basis of four essential human freedoms. The

first is freedom of speech and expression, everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way, everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want, everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear, anywhere in the world.

My friends and colleagues, we still have a distance to travel on this journey of equality and justice for all.

I heard a young man in church recently say to the congregation in the words of Frederick Douglass who said, When we are noted for enterprise, industry and success, we shall no longer have any hurdles in our quest to achieve civil rights for all.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the people of this Nation will continue to recognize the works of King, Tubman, Douglass and Lincoln who have done so much to help others. Not it is time that we as a Nation do all we can to ensure that their records are emulated and their contribution will never be forgotten.

□ 2230

THE DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I will hopefully not take the entire hour this evening.

My topic this evening is the defense of our country, and as a 9-year member of the National Security Committee, formerly the Armed Services Committee, and current chairman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee, I would like to focus on three specific items relative to our national defense. The first will be our budget and the current conflict in Washington over how much money we should spend on our military over the next 5 years, and especially this next fiscal year. The second will be missile defense, where we are going in terms of protecting this country, and our troops from a missile attack. The third will be a problem I see emerging in terms of arms sales that the Clinton administration has not yet addressed.

Before I get into the budget numbers, in terms of defense spending, Mr. Speaker, I quote an article today that appeared in two newspapers that I have to share with you and all of our colleagues that outraged me when I read it. It was printed; originally the story ran in the Baltimore Sun, and then was reprinted by the Tampa Tribune in an editorial.

It has to do with the abuse of our current social welfare system. The reason I bring it up during this 1-hour special order on defense is that over the past 10 or 15 years we have heard Member after Member talk about, even the President talk about, expensive toilet seats and hammers that were especially designed materials for use by the

military, and much of that criticism, I might add, was warranted, especially where we did not have good control of our procurement process.

And that is why we have worked on acquisition reform in past sessions, and it is again a priority for this session. But we have seemed to never want to talk about the abuse that occurs in the social welfare state and the spending that has occurred totally out of control over the past 30 years. I pointed out during the debate on the National Security Revitalization Act several weeks ago, over the past 30 years, we have had two wars in America. The first war was the war on poverty declared by Lyndon Johnson which we lost. We spent the taxpayers' money to the extent of \$6 trillion over the past 30 years on social welfare programs, yet we have more impoverished people today than at any time in recent history.

During that same time period the cold war ended. We won that war, and we won that war because of our focus on a strong national defense. The purpose of a strong defense is not to fight wars but, rather, to deter aggression.

During this same time period, we were spending \$6 trillion public dollars on social welfare programs, we spent approximately \$5 trillion on national security and national defense, and I think the best evidence of how successful those dollars were in terms of being spent is that we saw communism fall, the Berlin Wall came down, and democracy break out around the world. Even former Soviet leader Gorbachev stated he just could not keep up with America's defense posture which was the reason why they chose to work toward a democratic state and to begin to dismantle the Russian arsenal which is being done. Some would argue to what extent it is being done. At least, it is being done.

I want to highlight this story, because we need to understand, America, what happens with the tax dollars that we spend, and this is probably as good of an example as you could have. It results from an interview that the Baltimore Sun had with an unemployed family in Lake Providence, LA. This family of nine people qualifies and receives \$46,716 a year in tax-free cash from the Federal Government.

Now, I am not an accountant or a CPA, but I know to get \$46,716 of tax-free cash, you would have to make a lot more money if you were paying ordinary tax rates.

I am reluctant to mention the name of this family, but it has been reported in both the Baltimore Sun and the Tampa Tribune, and the lady who was interviewed evidently had no problem with her name being used, as you will see from some of the quotes. The name is Rosie Watson. Rosie Watson gets \$343.50 a month in disability payments because a judge ruled the she is too stressed out to work. Now, that, in fact, may be legitimate. I am not arguing that point. Her common law hus-

band receives \$343.50 a month also from the Federal Government because he is too fat to work. He weights 386 pounds.

Now, in addition, their seven children, ages 13 to 22, all receive Federal support in the amount of \$458 a month because supposedly they have demonstrated age-appropriate inappropriate behavior so they qualify for this special compensation. Multiplying all of those dollars out, you come to the figure of \$46,716 a year from the Federal Government without having to pay any tax.

In addition, they also receive full medical care and benefits through Medicaid which is not included in that sum of money.

When questioned by the Baltimore Sun about this, she said, and I quote, "I got nothing to hide."

In 1978 she told officials that her second child, at age 4, was a threat to other children and, therefore, she should get compensation for that child. She kept reapplying until, in 1984, the officials agreed that he did have a behavior problem, and the award was granted. But a few years later because of that ruling, she was given a \$10,000 lump sum check to make up for back compensation that she had not been provided for that child. In all, the family has received \$37,000 in retroactive payments. That is above and beyond the \$46,716 each year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, for all of our senior citizens out there, they have to remember this is coming out of the Social Security system, yes, even the money for the children is coming out of the Social Security system. After 15 years of relentless applications, Rosie Watson has had all of her children put on these disability payments.

Now, here is a rub: You know, you could see that these payments are supposed to do or are designed to help individuals deal with their disabilities and attempt to get back into the mainstream of society. But the Baltimore Sun went on to ask her what she uses the money for, and she explained how she divvies it up each month, and then she said, and I quote, "One need that she has each month is \$120 in allowances for George, who is 14, David 17, Willie, 18, and Denny, 19. 'Being the age they is and being out there with their little girl friends, they need the money,' she says."

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we are hearing is not only are we paying this family \$47,000 a year of tax-free Federal money, but that four of the children are getting a monthly allotment of \$120, \$30 each, to be used partly to take care of their girl friends.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is an example of what the American people feel is wrong with the social welfare state in this country. Now, we can talk about all the hammers and toilet seats we want, and I can tell you that no department of the Federal Government has more oversight than DoD has right now, but this year and this session it is time to focus on reconfiguring the way