

big profit, toy spinoffs. "Cro," a show that treats science and technology through the eyes of an 11-year-old stone age child, it was decided, had no future at Toys 'R Us so it had to go.

Do we really for a minute believe that commercial and cable stations will do the right thing by our children and young people? My friends, our children's choices will go from dumb to dumber, from violent to more violent, if PBS goes!

Much has been said and written about public broadcasting and elitism. What nonsense! What condescension! Eighty percent of all Americans—your neighbors and mine—watch public television at least once a month and have access to literally the world of entertainment and the arts without leaving their family room couch.

Comparisons have been made—and rightly so—between saving public television and radio and the campaign for public libraries, which was led by Andrew Carnegie early in this century. His mission, to make sure every American had access to free books regardless of income level or place of residence, mirrors the contemporary mission of public television and radio to bring exposure to the world's greatest art, music, literature, and wonders to everyone. With your television and radio tuned to your PBS or NPR station you can sit in the front row at the Metropolitan Opera, watch the Bolshoi Ballet, or sit in your arm chair and travel the globe. It opens the world to all.

We are blessed in the Washington area with access to several public broadcasting stations: WETA, MPT, WHMM, and WAMU. The market in which these stations operate is large and its supporters and fans generous at fundraising time. But this is not the case across the country. The loss of Federal funding to radio outlets in rural areas, for example, would be devastating—in many cases radio stations would have to drop NPR programming and that means losing "Morning Edition," "All Things Considered," and "Talk of the Nation."

In many areas of the country, whole school systems rely on public broadcasting to supplement their curriculums. The president of Maryland Public Television has pointed out that "as we enter the information age, every community in America needs its public television station as an on-ramp to the information superhighway and to fight for the public interest so that educational usage doesn't get pushed onto the shoulder by commercial interests."

Mr. Speaker, to cut off federal support for public broadcasting is to do irreparable damage to a system that provides all Americans, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, party affiliation, or geographic location with riches that once belonged only to a very small elite. Public broadcasting is for all of us.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS CAMPAIGN OF 1965

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight at this hour during this special order to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the voting rights campaign of 1965. Thirty years ago this day, March 7, 1965, was a turning point in the struggle for the right to vote in the American South.

In commemorating the voting rights campaign of 1965, we honor the great sacrifices many people made to secure voting rights for all Americans.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you must keep in mind that during another period in our history, during the 1960's, there were certain political subdivisions in the 11 Southern States of the old South, from Virginia to Texas, where 50 to 80 percent of the population was black, and there was not a single black registered voter. The practice used by whites to keep blacks out of their political process ranged from economic retaliation to outright murder. In many instances brutal acts of violence were directed against those who tried to register to vote. Those few who were allowed to register were harassed, intimidated, and even beaten when they tried to exercise their precious right to vote.

One State, the State of Mississippi, had a black voting-age population of more than 450,000, and only 16,000 blacks were registered to vote. In one county in Alabama, Lowndes County, between Selma and Montgomery, AL, the county was more than 80 percent black, and there was not a single registered black voter.

In the little town of Selma, the county seat of Dallas County, AL, majority of black population, only 2.1 percent of blacks of voting age were registered to vote.

The drive for the right to vote came to a head in Selma in the heart of the Black Belt after a series of nonviolent protests and after people had been shot, beaten, and killed. A small band of citizens on March 7, in an effort to dramatize to the Nation and to the world the need for voting rights legislation, decided to march from Selma to Montgomery.

Young black children, some elderly black men and women, left the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church on Sunday afternoon, March 7, 1965, walking to twos. It was a silent, nonviolent, and peaceful protest, walking through the streets of Selma.

Crossing the Alabama River, crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge, when they reached the apex of the bridge, they saw a sea of blue, Alabama State troopers.

The Governor of the State, at that time Gov. George Wallace, had issued a statement the day before saying the

march would not be allowed. The sheriff of Dallas County, a man by the name of Jim Clark, on the Saturday night before the march on Sunday had requested that all white men over the age of 21 to come down to the Dallas County Courthouse to be deputized to become part of his posse to stop the march.

Sheriff Clark was a very big man who wore a gun on one side, a nightstick on the other side, and he carried an electric cattle prod in his hand. He did not use it on cows. He used it on peaceful, nonviolent protesters.

As we continued to walk on that Sunday afternoon, we came within the hearing distance of the State troopers and a man identified himself and said:

I am Maj. John Cloud of the Alabama State Troopers. I give you 3 minutes to disperse and go back to your church. This is an unlawful march, and it will not be allowed to continue.

In less than 1½ minutes, Maj. John Cloud said, "Troopers advance," and you saw these men putting on their gas masks. They came toward us, beating us with nightsticks, bullwhips, tramping us with horses, and using tear gas.

That Sunday, March 7, 1965, became known as Bloody Sunday. There was a sense of righteous indignation all across the country. People could not understand what they saw on television. They could not understand the picture they saw in the paper the next day coming from Selma.

Lyndon Johnson, 8 days later, came before this hall and spoke to a joint session of the Congress on March 15, 1965, to urge Congress to pass a strong voting rights law.

□ 2100

In that speech President Johnson started off the night by saying:

I speak tonight for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy.

He went on to say:

I urge every member of both parties, Americans of all religions and of all colors, from every section of this country, to join me in that cause.

President Johnson continued by saying:

At times, at times history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom.

He went on to say:

So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama.

And the President went on to say:

There long-suffering men and women peacefully protested the denial of their rights as Americans. Many were brutally assaulted. One good man, a man of G-d, was killed.

A few days between March 7, 1965, and March 15, 1965, a young white minister by the name of James Reed, who came down from Boston to participate, was beaten by the Klan and later died.

In that speech here in this hall Lyndon Johnson said that night over and over again, "We shall overcome."

In a matter of a few months, Mr. Speaker, the Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, and it was signed into law on August 6, 1965. Because of the March from Selma to Montgomery, because of the leadership of Lyndon Johnson and the action of the Congress on August 6, 1965, we have witnessed what I like to call a nonviolent revolution in American politics, especially in the South. Today in Selma more than 75 percent of blacks of voting age are not registered to vote, and you have a biracial city council. In a State like Mississippi today there are more than 300,000 registered black voters, and the State of Mississippi has the highest number of elected black officials. In 1965, on March 7, 1965, there were less than 50 black elected officials in 11 Southern States. Today there are more than 7,000.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have come a distance. We made a lot of progress. But I think what happened 30 years ago as we meet here tonight tends to dramatize the distance we must still travel before we create a truly interracial democracy in America.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I am going to yield to some of my colleagues that are willing to participate in this special order in memory, not just in memory, but in commemoration, I guess, in celebration, of what happened in that little town of Selma, what happened in other parts of Alabama, but also in Mississippi, and Tennessee, and Louisiana, North and South Carolina, and Texas, all across our country really, to make democracy real.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. BECERRA].

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS].

I say to the gentleman first that it is with great honor that I stand next to him today with the opportunity to participate in this special order that he has organized because he is one whose footsteps I hope I have a chance to follow in the future, as well as someone who has distinguished himself in the past as one of those who marched way back when, in the 1960's, and made it possible for some of us to be here today. I consider myself someone who is the fruits of much of the work of people like the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS], and I think it is only a tribute to the folks like him that we have a chance to come before here, and speak and say how things really are. So to the gentleman from Georgia and those like him who have fought and continue to fight, Mr. Speaker, I say, "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to stand here today and speak on behalf of voting rights for all Americans."

Clearly the Voting Rights Act was a landmark piece of legislation for our country and for our history. The Voting Rights Act made it possible for people for the first time to truly participate in America's democracy, and of course now that we see the 30th year of

the Voting Rights Act, it is only fitting that we have a chance to discuss its many successes, especially in light of the fact that there are so many obstacles and so many deterrents to its successful implementation that are being placed before us these days.

I think it is clear that there have been benefits to the African-American community throughout this Nation. It is unquestionable that it opened doors for many people who for years have been closed out of the process. But let me focus a little bit of my time on two emerging communities that, too, have benefited from the Voting Rights Act and who have struggled as well to try to make sure that America truly is a place for all.

Let me focus a few minutes, if I may, on the Asian-Pacific Americans in this country and the Latinos of this country who, as the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] mentioned, are part of America and make up that fabric which makes America so great.

The Asian-Pacific American community is really coming of age. It is a community in California which represents about 10 percent of the State's population. That is a dramatic increase over the last decade or two decades, yet the Asian-Pacific population is woefully underrepresented in office and in other significant places of importance. The participation rates are very low right now for Asian-Pacific Americans when it comes to voting, and the biggest barrier, of course, is language. Right now what we find is that without some assistance and an opportunity to learn the language, it becomes very difficult for people to fully participate and understand the process, but fortunately the Voting Rights Act has made it possible for a number of Asian-Pacific Americans to become fully participant members of democracy. Just in California alone in the last few elections 25,000 additional voters, citizens, Asian-Pacific Americans, have gone to the polls, voted and become participants because the Voting Rights Act made it possible for them to participate through bilingual ballots. Now that is an example of how the Voting Rights Act has helped the Asian-Pacific American community.

In the Latino community, Mr. Speaker, it is much the same. I should note that the Latino community has a long history, especially in the Southwest, where there were settlements in this country long before the Pilgrims made it to the shores of the east coast. But Latinos have also suffered from poll taxes, white primaries and intimidation. Throughout the history of the Southwest it was very difficult for Latinos to participate in the process because literacy tests or language barriers were imposed, but the Voting Rights Act has made it possible for real progress to be achieved. I think it is clear to say that the doubling of Latino elected officials over the last 10 to 15 years, the increase in voter participation by Latinos, oh, say from 1975

from about 1.5 million to over 3 million are marked increases that deserve recognition especially for the Voting Rights Act.

I can go on and on and talk about how things are improving not just in the southwest, but in New York City where there has been a 17-percent increase in the number of Latinos who are registered to vote. But what we find from this is once they begin to participate in the process, they become full Americans, and I think that is what we hope to achieve through the Voting Rights Act, is full Americans, and I want to say to people like the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] to those who will participate in this special order, that it gives me great pride to say that back in the 1960's, when the march and the struggle came to a head and we had a chance to really televise it, that there was a chance to tell the American people that people have struggled, struggled not just for decades, but for centuries, to provide true, true rights, true representation to all people, not just a particular minority, not just to those that have been disenfranchised, but to all people, and I think, when you look at all the different communities that we have in this country that make up the fabric of America, you can truly say that the Voting Rights Act has worked. We should make it work more. We should preserve it. In fact we should strengthen it.

I would just like to say that it is time for us to stand together and do what was done 30 years ago, say that the Voting Rights Act must not only continue, but we must strengthen it. So I thank the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] for the opportunity to be here today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from California, my friend and colleague, for participating in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE], and I want to thank her for being here and participating.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with both celebration and trepidation that I rise this evening in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the March From Selma to Montgomery and passage of the Voting Rights Act.

I celebrate with my colleagues the inspiring courage that fortified the unarmed band of non-violent probably people like our neighbors, who were tear-gassed, charged and brutally beaten by State police on horseback as they tried to peacefully cross the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, Alabama, 30 years ago today I also salute them—for these courageous souls changed the course of history of this nation—and when the 35,000 strong reached Montgomery after the March 7 march, they were black and white together.

I celebrate the courage of the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, [Mr. LEWIS], who was on that bridge on

March 7, and suffered great injury in the name of freedom along with the gentle lady from Georgia, Ms. [MCKINNEY], has been instrumental in providing my colleagues and I the opportunity to address the chamber this evening.

And I celebrate the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that has ensured the freedom for all Americans to cast their ballots in peace and safety.

A freedom some may take for granted these days, but a freedom for which so many—black and white—were forced to fight and too often die.

My trepidation, Mr. Speaker, comes in the knowledge that there are those around this Nation today who seem to have forgotten America's long and tortured history of racial injustice. There are those, Mr. Speaker, who would turn back the clock to a time of fear and polarization. Those who are again willing to stroke the fires of racial division in their pursuit of short term gain.

As history's demagogues have always chosen their scapegoats, American demagogues today seek to make different classes and races of people their scapegoats.

Encouraged by November's election analysis, today's demagogues want to promote anger and divisiveness amongst America's many races—particularly those most associated with the civil rights movement—African-Americans.

If they can convince white Americans that they should fear these diverse Americans instead of spending more constructive time solving the problems of binding work instead of welfare, of insuring the maintenance of school lunches and breakfasts instead of ketchup as a meal, and insuring a higher minimum wage for our citizens then today's demagogues will succeed in their efforts to divide and conquer America.

Today's demagogues here in Congress and across the country on talk-radio have fought tooth and nail the motor-voter laws that make it easier for all Americans to register to vote when they renew their driver's licenses or vehicle registrations.

They have been gerrymandering Congressional Districts for their advantage for more than 200 years.

But now that Congress has been fairly and legally diversified through the Voter Rights Act, the demagogues want to challenge the Voting Rights Act in court.

And just as police and fire departments, construction sites, corporate offices and graduate school classrooms are beginning to show the kind of racial, cultural and gender diversity that is America, the demagogues want to abolish any and all Government programs that they call "affirmative action."

Mr. Speaker, my trepidation comes when I hear the demagogues make blanket condemnations of all affirmative action programs—as though it was affirmative action and not a changing

global economy that is to blame for America's anxiety over job security.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker, I welcome positive debate on affirmative action programs and we can work together to improve any utilization of these programs.

But let us make no mistake about it, affirmative action is not and never was some crazy scheme foisted on America by bleeding heart zealots. It was and remains the direct consequence of sustained and oppressive racism, and to those who argue that that kind of racism is a thing of the past, let me share with you some of my recent mail.

Mr. Jack Clark of Morgan, Georgia, offers his insight into American race relations. Mr. Clark claims it was the white male who made our country great and that, quote, "Niggers Will Destroy America."

Mr. Speaker, another anonymous correspondent, also from Georgia, offers this Nazi-like solution to racial tensions, quote, "Save America, Nigger Genocide."

Mr. Speaker, I did not consider lightly whether or not to share this mail with my House colleagues and the rest of America, and it is with mixed feelings that I did so.

As an American first, I am ashamed that such thinking still goes on in any quarter.

As an African-American who has worked all her life to improve racial harmony in my hometown of Houston and across the country, I was stunned to receive such cruel insults by people who haven't the slightest idea who I am or what I stand for.

Mr. Speaker, I know the vast majority of white Americans would be as insulted as I am by these disgusting thoughts.

And I know they are not the ones discriminating against African-Americans in matters of education, employment, housing or finance.

But, as we commemorate the Selma to Montgomery march for freedom, and the Voter's Rights Act, this good-hearted majority must be reminded that tremendous evil still lurks in the hearts of a dangerous minority.

And if we are not careful, we run the risk of returning to our dark past.

Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, with a heartfelt plea to all Americans—white, black, brown and yellow.

We must celebrate our diversity, we must maintain our courage, and we must stay strong so we can resist the demagogues' message of fear and hatred.

Despite skin color and cultural heritage, we are all brothers and sisters, and brothers and sisters must care for each other and see to it that justice is done.

Let us remain vigilant and never forget that united we stand, and divided we shall surely fall.

□ 2114

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas for participating in this special

order and say to her that I am very grateful for her involvement and for her leadership. I think the mail that you got from my State tends to dramatize to the Nation and to all of us that the scars and stains of racism are still deeply embedded in the American society. So we must still act. We must still speak. And thank you.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. I am grateful for those words and let me say to you that our challenge is before us. You have paved the way and we join you in making this country a better place for all of us.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I now would like to recognize the gentleman, my friend and colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT].

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. I rise today to stand with this brave man, Representative JOHN LEWIS, to commemorate the anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery march, one of the milestones in civil rights history. Thirty years ago today hundreds of brave African-American men and women, Representative JOHN LEWIS among them, risked their lives to ensure the voting rights of all people, regardless of their race.

During the 1960s, the State of Alabama was notorious for its practices of segregation. Like many States in the South, Alabama did not even acknowledge the equal rights of black men and women. In 1965, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other began trying to escalate his Selma voting registration campaign. But whites in Alabama, including then Governor George Wallace, were just as adamant in their protests against the voter registration campaign.

On March 7, 1965, more than 600 marchers gathered in front of Brown's Chapel AME Church in Selma to prepare for the 50-mile march from Selma to Montgomery. This march was intended to dramatize the demands for voting rights. Led by the Reverend Hosea Williams, a King lieutenant and my distinguished colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, who at that time was the national chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the marchers headed for the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma. Unfortunately, they were not prepared for what was in store for them. A solid wall of State troopers, a smoke bomb and an ensuing attack and chase by the troopers and sheriff's posse. The marchers were violently driven back as ambulances shuttled the injured to the hospital and treated others on site for cuts, bruises, and tear gas aftereffects.

The infamous bloody Sunday became a monument to history. Many of these marchers, including Representative LEWIS, were college students who heeded the call of civil rights leaders for all blacks to become active in the movement. Students in my own congressional district heeded the call 5 years prior to the Selma march in 1960. Four

African-American students, black students from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, NC, including one of my constituents, Franklin McCain, made history for the civil rights movement and the State of North Carolina.

On February 1, 1960, these African-American students staged a sit-in at the Woolworth's department store counter in Greensboro. This was by no means the first sit-in in North Carolina but this particular one opened the doors for a student movement that began creeping up throughout the South.

On the evening following the four students' sit-in, 50 students met and created the Students Executive Committee for Justice. The following day, the four A&T students were joined by more than 300 African-American students from A&T and Bennett College, also in my congressional district. They organized a massive sit-in at various lunch counters across the city of Greensboro. Four days later, 1,600 students decided to halt the demonstrations at the request of city leaders who promised talks and negotiations.

However, no compromise became evident to any of the students, so the sit-ins resumed on April 1. On April 21, 45 demonstrators were arrested for their protest. Yet, subsequent sit-ins and boycotts forced the city of Greensboro to reopen lunch counters on a desegregated basis by July 1960.

The students' acts made a tremendous difference in both of these historical civil rights milestones: the sit-ins and the march in Selma. Their involvement and commitment not only helped make strides in voting rights but in the entire arena of desegregating America.

Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that this would be the end of my presentation in this special order, but when I went back to my office today I was reminded of the significance of the Selma march again. When I went back to my office from the floor today, in March 1995, I had a memo from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. They reminded me once again that we have not yet quite arrived.

It said on April 19 the Supreme Court will hear arguments in two crucial voting rights cases from Louisiana and Georgia. These cases ask the Supreme Court to consider whether race or ethnicity can constitutionally be considered in constructing electoral districts.

The attack is not limited to oddly shaped or bizarre congressional districts, said the memo. It is not the districts' shapes but their racial composition as majority black and majority Hispanic that is being challenged as unconstitutional.

"The legal principles," the memo went on to say, "established in these cases will have wide-reaching impact." *Plessy versus Ferguson* ensconced the nationwide principle of separate but equal in a case that presented the claim of one person seeking to ride in

a white-only railroad car. Brown versus Board of Education directly involved only four school districts, but the decision revolutionized the law of racial equality.

And the memo went on to say the lower court in the Louisiana case ruled that any race consciousness in districting is always subject to strict scrutiny. Yet, the creation of majority-minority electoral districts almost never occurs by chance. Because race is such a dominant force in American politics, it would be impossible to provide fair representation to racial and ethnic minorities without taking race into account.

Since minorities have been elected almost exclusively from majority-minority districts, the U.S. Congress and State and local legislative bodies are at risk of once again becoming virtually all white.

So, today, once again, we are reminded of why these brave people made that march in Selma. And, unfortunately, once again we are reminded that the march and the fight and the struggle for equality in the voting rights area and in every segment of our society still has not been completed.

□ 2130

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. We must fight. We must continue to march together. I commend my colleague, Representative LEWIS for putting together this special order, and I express my thanks to him for inviting me to participate, but more importantly, I express my sincere thanks to him for the bravery that he demonstrated 20 years ago today when he faced the marshals and the tear gas and the fear that must have existed on that bridge in Selma, AL. Thank you for allowing me to participate, Representative LEWIS.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my friend and colleague from North Carolina for those kind words and for participating in this special order tonight. We are very grateful for your participation. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the head of the Congressional Black Caucus, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Honorable Mr. PAYNE from the State of New Jersey.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Georgia, the Honorable Representative LEWIS, who over 30 years ago led the Nation in the march on bloody Sunday. It was in fact the same date as tonight when he led the march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge, when Sheriff Jim Clark and his posse, with the Alabama State troopers, stood there and treated people as brutally as any act in this Nation.

As chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I take great pride in drawing attention to a very important piece of legislation that resulted from that action. After years of judicial and administrative wars, which were highlighted with the passage of the Voting

Rights Act of 1965, this country just recently began to get women and minority officials elected in significant numbers.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its extension in 1970 and 1975 had a profound effect on the black political participation in the South. The percentage of voting age blacks registered in the South in March, 1965 was only 35.5 percent, compared with 73.4 percent of the white population. The percentage of blacks registered was especially low in States targeted by the special provisions of this act, and it was in the area of the South that the act had the most direct and important impact.

By the end of 1965, Federal examiners, working in 32 counties in the covered States, had listed the names of 79,000 African-Americans to be added to the voting registration rolls. By the end of 1967, more than half a million new black voters were listed in the States covered by the Voting Rights Act. Since 1970, changes in black registration rates have been more erratic, but have generally moved upward. Moreover, the substantial increase in the number of black registered voters has been accompanied by a significant rise in the number of black elected officials.

So I share this history with you to emphasize how important this bill really is to African-Americans and to our communities. More importantly, I believe these statistics are even more remarkable when one considers that as late as 1940, 95 percent of adult blacks residing in the States in the South were deterred from voting. Many people had been beaten, lynched and harassed so that African-Americans could have the right to vote. The barriers at the time were numerous to them. They included all-white primaries, poll taxes, literacy taxes and economic intimidation. Within a generation, these barriers were largely dismantled; however, some still exist. By far the biggest increase in black registration occurred in the late 1960s in the southern States covered by the Voting Rights Act.

And let me say that it is interesting to note that it was not only in the South where we have had problems, but when we look at Black History Month, which just passed, we found that following the Civil War, it was the passage of the Reconstruction Act of 1867 that gave blacks the right to vote.

Blacks were elected to Congress. Hiram Revels of Mississippi became the first black to serve in Congress, when he took his seat in the U.S. Senate on February 25, 1870. Joseph Rainey of South Carolina became the first black Member of the House of Representatives when he took his oath of office on December 12, 1870. In fact, in the first Presidential election open to African-American voters, the blacks gave the deciding vote. Ulysses S. Grant defeated Horatio Seymour by a margin of 300,000 votes. It was estimated that

Grant received 450,000 votes from newly freed slaves.

Unfortunately, in my home State of New Jersey, African-Americans were shut out of the political system for a very long time. In fact, in 1807 the State legislature restricted voting rights to only white males, eliminating privileges that our State's 1776 Constitution had existed for both African-Americans and women. Despite immediate opposition to the 1807 restrictions, the State's 1844 Constitution continued to limit the franchise to white men.

In an effort to gain a right to vote, the first statewide black convention was convened at Trenton's Zion AME Church in 1849. The convention petitioned the legislature to put aside prejudice and allow all citizens to vote. Their effort was unsuccessful. The reality is that New Jersey in the 1800s was sometimes compared to the South. New Jersey was a slave holding State and it was reluctant to change. References to New Jersey as the land of slavery are found in historical letters of pre-Civil War era. New Jersey was the last northern State to approve laws abolishing slavery. It was in 1804 when a bill was passed establishing a gradual system of the practice of ending slavery, but the bill actually allowed slavery to continue until after the Emancipation Proclamation to the end of the Civil War.

So as I conclude, it is important that we do know about history, that we do know that New Jersey questioned President Abraham Lincoln's authority to free the slaves. It was also the only northern State that failed to ratify the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution.

And so as we look around, we have seen a great deal of improvement. As we look around, we see that the importance of this bill is important. As we look around, we see that we have seen a great deal of progress in the course of history as African-Americans. We have seen many move into elective offices. Today there are over 8,000 elected African-Americans as compared to 280 in 1965, and so as I conclude, I once again want to congratulate the gentleman from Georgia for this very important event tonight and I thought that it was important, as we celebrate Black History Month, that we hear a bit about the history of African-Americans throughout this country and thank you, Mr. LEWIS, for this opportunity.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey, for participating in this special order, for his remarks, and for taking the time out to remember the people that participated in the march from Selma to Montgomery. I think it is fitting and appropriate tonight that we pause and commemorate, to take stock of the distance we have come as a Nation and as a people. I think as a Nation and as a people, we are on our way down that

long road to creating a truly interracial democracy in America, a creative and beloved community, the open society, and this is what America is all about, creating a society where all of our people are able to participate and share in the fruits and dream of this great country of ours.

So tonight, as we commemorate, as we celebrate, as we pause, as I stated before, we have a distance to go, but we are on our way and there will be no turning back.

I would like to, Mr. Speaker, yield to a colleague and a friend, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS], who, if not for the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the march from Selma to Montgomery, Mr. FIELDS, like many of us, would not be here tonight.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Let me just say to the gentleman that I too appreciate his efforts and I think on this very floor I have expressed my appreciation and my gratitude to the gentleman for all the commitments he has made to civil rights and voting rights in this country, and while the gentleman was walking across the bridge in 1965 I was only 2 years old, a little bit better than 2 years old, and I just want to thank the gentleman for, irrespective of the dogs and irrespective of the tear gas and irrespective of the police officers and the fire hoses, the gentleman still found the gall and the courage to march for what was right, and I just want to thank the gentleman. I think even today the gentleman would probably realize that the Voting Rights Act is still under attack.

The gentleman from North Carolina, MEL WATT, mentioned about the case in Louisiana, but in his own State there is a challenge in terms of the redistricting of his congressional district and the district that he represents. In the State of Georgia, in the gentleman's own State, there is a challenge in redrawing the congressional districts in the State of Georgia and in the State of Texas, and on the 19th the Supreme Court will hear both the Georgia and Louisiana cases. I want to thank the gentleman; irrespective of the outcome of that case, he certainly has made his mark on this institution, and I rightfully am here largely because of people like you who have opened up the doors for people like me, and I thank you for that.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I thank my friend and colleague for those kind words.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to talk a little bit about some of the rescissions and some of the things that have taken place here in Washington, DC, just to change the subject just a minute, and I am going to yield back to the gentleman because I think the gentleman has just received another invited guest.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Well, Mr. Speaker, if I may, let me yield to my colleague from the great State of Georgia,

the gentleman from the second Congressional District of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP.

Mr. BISHOP. I thank my colleague, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, 8 days following the event known to history as Bloody Sunday, President Lyndon Johnson came to this Chamber to formally call on Congress to enact the Voting Rights Act.

In his remarks, the President predicted that Selma would prove to be a turning point in the country's history comparable to Lexington and Concord.

As we now know, he was right. The Voting Rights Act had been under discussion for some time. But it was Bloody Sunday that gave it the momentum to finally get through the House of Representatives and Senate and become law.

Its impact was nothing less than revolutionary. The new law authorized the Attorney General to send Federal examiners to supersede local registrars wherever discrimination occurred. This provided a means for dealing with disenfranchisement cases quickly and effectively without going through the prolonged and cumbersome process of litigation. Prior to enactment, millions of Americans were routinely denied the right to vote. After enactment, the opportunity to register and vote was immediately opened to all Americans for the first time in the country's history.

Although a majority of Selma's residents were black, only 3 percent had been permitted to register in 1965. Many techniques were employed to keep people disenfranchised. If an "i" was not dotted or a "t" crossed, a registration form was thrown out. If the registration form was filled out perfectly, a verbal literacy test was administered with questions so obscure the registrars themselves could not have answered them. And even if the questions were answered correctly, the registrars could tell applicants they failed anyway. There was, after all, no appeal.

When organized voter registration efforts got underway in Selma as early as 1962, firings, arrests, and beatings became recurring realities of life. On one occasion, 32 teachers were fired, en masse, just for trying to register. There were instances when blacks tried to register in large numbers and were kept waiting in lines from morning to night without ever having a chance to register with police standing guard throughout the day to prevent anyone from giving them food or water.

These forms of government oppression intensified when Dr. King made Selma the center of the civil rights movement early in 1965. Within a few months, hundreds of people involved in the voter registration campaign—white and black—were severely injured and three lost their lives. Much of the violence—particularly the brutal trampling and beatings of men, women and

children on Bloody Sunday—was carried out in plain view of television audiences from coast to coast.

Millions of Americans of both races were outraged. In fact, thousands of people ignored the dangers and poured into Alabama from all over the country in the weeks following Bloody Sunday to join the continuing demonstrations.

People were outraged over the injustice. On one side, people saw courage. On the other, they saw an extreme abuse of power. They saw one side simply seeking the right to vote. And the other advocating the denial of rights. They saw the non-violence of one side and the unrestrained and often unlawful violence of the other. And they could not miss the fact that one side was steeped in faith and spirituality and the other side in raw hatred. These stark contrasts certainly influenced the tide of public opinion.

But I believe many Americans were influenced by something more personal. I believe people throughout the country began to understand that if the most fundamental right of citizenship could be denied to one group of people it could surely be denied to anyone. It might be African-Americans today, tomorrow it might be people who belong to the wrong political party, or the wrong religion, or nationality.

The denial of voting rights to black Americans was, in fact, threatening to undermine the very foundation on which our republic stands. In my view, it was a struggle that involved more than the rights of one group of citizens. In a very real sense, it was a struggle for the very soul of our country.

Selma galvanized America behind the Voting Rights Act. And the Voting Rights Act changed America. When our esteemed colleague, JOHN LEWIS, received a key to the city where he was clubbed 30 years ago, it was dramatically symbolic of this change.

To be sure, the country still has its share of problems. Poverty and hunger and intolerance still exist. Too much crime and drug abuse and violence plague our communities. We still have disparities in opportunities. But just as the Selma demonstrators walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge 2 weeks after Bloody Sunday during those memorable days in 1965, and continued their march freely and triumphantly to Montgomery, so has America crossed a bridge into a new ERA of expanded freedom and opportunity for all.

Throughout the country's history, one of our strengths has been our capacity for self-correction—the capacity to confront our problems, to deal with them, and eventually to emerge with a renewed and strengthened commitment to the ideals of equality of justice and opportunity on which America was founded. Lexington and Concord were early examples. Selma is a more recent one.

I am proud to be an American. I am proud of my native State of Alabama

and my adopted State of Georgia where I have lived and worked for most of my adult life. With all my heart, I believe in the values our country and our States have advanced for more than two centuries—values which so many Americans have defended with their lives.

We commemorate the events that took place in Selma three decades ago for a reason. It is a part of our history that reaffirms these values that we treasure more than life itself. It is reaffirmation of the march toward justice and equality of opportunity that our country has been engaged in for more than 200 years.

□ 2145

But more than that, it forces us to focus on the threats of immediate and imminent danger that America now faces from the attacks on affirmative action, to remedy the effects of hundreds of years of discrimination, intimidation, violence and race, to the renewed attacks in the courts on the Voting Rights Act that was paid for with blood, with sweat and with tears on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Mr. Speaker, I come here tonight to commemorate the brave people who stood before the tremendous odds, the violence, and faced the harsh punishment of merely seeking to ask for their rights. I salute my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. JOHN LEWIS, and the hundreds and hundreds of others who paid the price that we might have our voting rights.

America, this is 1995, 30 years later. Let us not turn back the clock. Let us not go back to where we were in 1965. Thank God we can remember the bloody Sunday in Selma in 1965.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my friend and colleague from the State of Georgia for those kind words and for his brilliant statement. He is a native of the State of Alabama. We both left the State of Alabama and moved to Georgia and now we both represent the State of Georgia in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I think tonight we have tried to say why we marched from Selma to Montgomery 30 years ago and why we come tonight to commemorate, to celebrate the great progress we have made as a Nation and as a people down that road toward a truly interracial democracy.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the distinguished Representative from Georgia, CYNTHIA MCKINNEY, for sponsoring this special order to commemorate two significant events in history, the 30th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the historic march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965 which fueled its enactment. I am pleased to join my colleagues in reflecting upon these important events.

The march on Selma was a journey that forever transformed America's racial politics. Out of the violence and turmoil came the passage of our Nation's strongest voting rights legislation. On Sunday, March 7, 1965, about 500 marchers assembled at a church in Selma,

Alabama, to begin a 50-mile march to the state capital of Montgomery.

For many years the leader of the civil rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others had fought to put African-American citizens on the voter rolls. The need was urgent, since the ballot box represented the key to equality, political empowerment and economic opportunity. Dr. King recognized the fact that he could not succeed without a Federal voting rights law. It was determined that Selma, Alabama, the "cradle of the Confederacy," would be the focal point for a drive to bring about such a statute.

Mr. Speaker, when marchers gathered in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965, they thought the journey to Montgomery would take only four days. Instead, before they could even leave the city of Selma, America was left with the painful images of a brutal confrontation at the Edmund Pettus Bridge that exposed state troopers swinging clubs, firing tear gas, and using their horses to run down marchers. Our Nation watched as African-Americans were beaten and trampled.

The day after "bloody Sunday," Dr. King issued a national call for protestors to join the effort in Selma. The call was answered by thousands of black and white Americans from all parts of the Nation and all segments of society, including baptist ministers, jewish rabbis and civil rights activists. This time the marchers made it to Montgomery. In August, just five months later, President Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965, providing the Nation with the strongest voting rights legislation in nearly a century.

As we gather today to mark the anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery march, we recognize the leadership of our good friend and colleague, JOHN LEWIS. He was only 25 years old when he and other protestors were brutally beaten in Selma. His determination and perseverance placed him in the forefront of the struggle for civil rights in America. We are proud that today he represents Georgia's Fifth Congressional District in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the Voting Rights Act is considered to be one of the most effective civil rights laws which this Nation has adopted. When President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965, he started America on a new course of equality for those who had lacked political representation. In 1957, 1960 and 1964, Congress enacted civil rights laws to eliminate racial discrimination in the electoral process. However, the initiatives proved to be ineffective largely because they provided for enforcing voting rights in the courts on a case-by-case basis, which proved to be a time-consuming and ineffective approach.

The Voting Rights Act was originally designed to implement the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution which guaranteed the right to vote free of discrimination based on color or race. It was later amended to extend protection to the Nation's non-English speaking minority populations. Thus, the act has been instrumental in bringing our Nation nearer to realizing the goal of full equality in the electoral process.

In their book, "Controversies in Minority Voting: The Voting Rights Act in Perspective," the authors, Edward G. Carmaines and Robert Huckfeldt, write that the Voting Rights Act:

“has altered the racial composition of the electorate, the party coalitions and the officeholders. It has transformed the appeals of politicians, the lines of political debate and the bases of political cleavage. Most important, it has transformed the strategies and agenda of American politics.” Nowhere is the law's impact more evident than in Congress itself. In 1965, there were six black Members of Congress and four Hispanic Members. Today, there are 41 members of the Congressional Black Caucus and 18 Hispanic Members serving in this legislative body.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who have fought to secure voting rights and equal representation join today to commemorate the historic anniversary of the march on Selma and the passage of the Voting Rights Act. We also gather to reaffirm our commitment to the principles upon which this Nation was founded—liberty and justice for all. Many battles have been waged to secure these rights. Yet, we cannot and shall not rest until they apply to each and every citizen in this great democracy.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, Selma, AL captured the attention of people around the world. At a time when there were 6 African-American Members of Congress and thousands of disenfranchised people in this country, 500 peaceful marchers were brutally attacked at the Edmund Pettus Bridge by State troopers for dramatizing the need for voting rights legislation.

All Americans, black, white, and every color, benefited from the conviction of these bold marchers. Dr. Martin Luther King once suggested in a Detroit speech that if you haven't found a cause worth dying for, you haven't found anything to live for. These brave members of the civil rights movement, found their cause in a simple act of conscience. For this they suffered the brutality of Bloody Sunday and experienced the joy of seeing the Voting Rights Act become law on August 6, 1965.

The struggle for voting rights was not over, far from it. The Reagan Justice Department in cases involving Mississippi, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Virginia supported the annexation of areas designed to dilute black voting strength. In 1985 they initiated a series of criminal prosecutions against civil rights workers in the five black majority counties in Alabama. Eight of the very people who led the march from Selma to Montgomery were indicted for voter fraud.

Thirty years later, our hard won victories are still under attack. States are refusing to implement the motor-voter law, the drawing of majority minority districts is under fire and affirmative action is in jeopardy. Frederick Douglass, a crusader in the fight against slavery who died 100 years ago, said something once that still applies today, “where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress rob, and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.”

We must never forget the legacy of struggle, survival and perseverance left to us by our African-American forebears. It is forged on a vision of freedom, equality, and opportunity that we must preserve for our children. Our memory of these individuals should only serve to fuel our fires as we attempt to preserve the rights of all Americans to participate in the political process. We must be as courageous as

the marchers were on that Sunday morning in 1965 and meet the challenge head on.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, we take it so blithely nowadays. Every 2 years—sometimes more often—we go to our local library, school, dry cleaners and pull a lever, darken a circle or punch a hole—all to cast our vote for the representatives of our choice. Whether it's the school board, county assessor, or the highest office in this land—voting has become commonplace, even sometimes considered a burden by some.

But in 1965 in Selma, AL, it was not commonplace—it was not a burden. In fact, voting was worth marching for, demonstrating for and even dying for by those whose choices were restricted by oppression.

It is those heroes who marched from Selma to Montgomery—we all remember the famous names like King and all of the other not so famous names who had a burning desire to make sure all people—red or yellow, black or white, had the right to vote freely.

On this 30th anniversary of the march from Selma to Montgomery, it is fitting that we reflect on yet another recent voting success.

In South Africa last year, black Africans had the opportunity to vote for the first time. The stories are poignant. One account is told about a couple of black housekeepers who rose early that morning, put on their best going-to-meeting clothes, rode in with their white employers and stood together, for hours, waiting to cast their votes for the first time.

It was not a burden; it was not an inconvenience; it was a privilege—an event—a time to wear your Sunday's finest because the vote took on a sacredness. That vote in Johannesburg, Capetown, and Soweto was exercised for the first time after blood shed, unrest, and revolution. That revolution ended in the election of Nelson Mandela and for the first time true freedom rings in South Africa.

That story is repeated over and over again in the Stans of the former Soviet Union, the countries of South America and even in the far east where the concept of one man, one woman, one vote is becoming the archetype.

Let us not ever be so brazen, so commonplace that we forget the struggle, the heartbreak, the price paid for the voting rights act. On this the thirtieth anniversary, let us be vigilant for any continued injustices or breaches of that inalienable right and let the words of Dr. Martin Luther King ring true: An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. In 1962, only 5.3 percent of the voting-age black population was registered to vote in Mississippi. There were only 500 black elected officials in the entire country.

The year I was elected to Congress was historic—especially for Florida. For the first time in over 120 years, an African-American represents my district in Congress. Representatives CARRIE MEEK and ALCEE HASTINGS also represent Florida in Congress. The Congressional Black Caucus has grown to 40 members, the largest ever. Sixteen new African-American Members, most from the South, were seated in the House of Representatives and one African-American Senator, CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN, was seated, expanding the number of Congressional Black Caucus members to 40. There are now 57 women, 19 Hispanics, 8 Asians, and 1 American-Indian. This

is the highest number of minorities to ever serve in the history of the U.S. Congress. Despite these gains, less than 2 percent of the elected officials in this country are black. We still need the Voting Rights Act, we still have a long way to go.

Let me tell you a little bit about Florida's first Member of Congress. Josiah Wells, from Gainesville, FL, was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1879 but his election was challenged and he lost his seat after only 2 months in office. However, by that time, he had already been reelected to a new term. Believe it or not, his next victorious election was challenged after ballots were burned in a courthouse fire. And thus ended the congressional career of Florida's first black Representative.

Once Reconstruction began, 21 black Congressmen were elected from the South between 1870 to 1901. However, after 1901, when Jim Crow tightened his grip, no black person was elected to Congress from the South for over 70 years. As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, it is more timely than ever, to study what happened to black representation during Reconstruction. This period may seem like ancient history, but what happened then seems to be happening all over again.

Although history was made with the 103d Congress, reaction to that history was the election of 1994—the revolution of the conservative right. Angry white men were not happy with the history we made in 1992. They have launched a contract on America and in just the first 50 days they have:

Threatened school lunch programs; threatened Meals on Wheels for seniors; cut Pell grants; eliminated the Cops on the Beat Program that have provided more than \$11 million for over 150 cops to the Third Congressional District; and threatened to eliminate affirmative action programs, including the 8(a) Small Business Program.

For the first 100 years of America's history, African-Americans did not have the right to vote; they were enslaved. Eventually, the Constitution was amended to make African-Americans free. After the Civil War, some African-Americans were able to exercise their rights to vote but this lasted for just a brief time. After the Reconstruction period, things actually got worse and Jim Crow ruled the South. The civil rights movement exploded because African-Americans were fed up with living in America without real democracy. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we recently celebrated, and many others sacrificed their lives to have the Voting Rights Act passed into law. The Voting Rights Act was enacted in 1965 but it has taken almost 30 years to implement in the South. The reason districts were redrawn was because of a long history of violations of the Voting Rights Act—we cannot lose sight of this. The Voting Rights Act was enacted because people that should have been represented were not represented. Too many have died for us to allow a few frightened individuals to steal back these long-overdue rights to representation. What matters most is not what the district looks like, but who is in them—those who have been left out.

New attacks, just like the attacks on Josiah Wells, are from the good old boys from the bad old days who are trying to roll back the clock and send minorities to the back of the political bus. Congress now looks more like

America than at any time in the past. However, even though there are more women and African-Americans in Congress than ever before, neither group is fully represented proportionately to their numbers in the general population. Blacks and women are still underrepresented even though we have begun to make progress. The voters of America should be outraged that a few people are trying to take away the representation blacks, Hispanics, women, and other minorities have been struggling for over 127 years to achieve.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to extend their remarks on the subject of my special order tonight.

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

There was no objection.

WHICH WAY AMERICA? ONE DOLLAR AND NINE CENTS A PERSON FOR PUBLIC TV OR ZERO DOLLARS AND A WASTELAND?

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, whenever a measure that affects a broad spectrum of America comes before the House, our offices are inundated with calls, letters, and telegrams. The proposed budget cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting [CPB], National Public Radio [NPR], and the Public Broadcasting System [PBS] have sparked just such an outpouring. While we are all familiar with the various letter-writing campaigns that produce mail bags full of mass-produced—usually computerized here in Washington—letters and cards, this has not been my experience with those who write to tell of their support for funding public television and public radio. What I have received is letter after letter—personally conceived and written—each telling how the proposed budget cuts would affect them. As we all know, these are the ones that touch our heart and our conscience.

What these letters demonstrate is that public broadcasting opens the world to its listeners and viewers in a way that commercial radio and television have never been able to do. The letters show that funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is not an arts issue, nor one of entertainment or communications. It is far broader. The letters I have received tell me that funding for public television and radio is a seniors issue—an education issue—a children's issue—a community issue.

Most important, these letters are the voices of public broadcasting's viewers and listeners. They are the voices of America.

As for seniors, let's start with Mrs. Alta Valiton, 81 years of age, a resident of Long Beach, who observes that she:

Has been watching TV from its beginning. In some ways it has deteriorated, giving much time to sitcom after sitcom and shows appealing to the uneducated, but there is always public television to bring a breath of fresh air and mental exercise and aesthetic pleasure. What would our lives be without the Nature Series, the National Geographic features, and the great music—the Met, the concerts by the great trio of men singers, the Christmas Day program from the [Los Angeles] Music Center, and the scientific programs. Need I go on?

She closes.

Or Mr. Harold Weir, a 68-year-old from Downey, who wrote:

I am retired and living on a very limited income. I cannot afford cable TV. PBS is virtually the only TV channel I watch, other than for local news.

Mrs. Bernice Van Steenberg, another Long Beach senior, says:

PBS is my favorite station and I am not an elite, wealthy person. I'm a senior citizen on a limited income who doesn't have cable TV and who relies on the good programs PBS presents. I'd be lost without PBS.

These voices are also experienced parents who know the value that public broadcasting has brought to their children over the years. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Collins of Long Beach recalled:

Because of "Sesame Street," the "Electric Company," "Mr. Rogers," and many other programs of the early to late 1970's, our son Philip—who is now 22—was able to read and count quite well before he began grade school. It was the only period since first having a television set in our home that we were able to watch daytime TV—we'd watch with Philip—without becoming bored, agitated, and having to turn the set off. I wonder how we would survive without public television.

And, an alumni viewer of such shows as "Sesame Street" and "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood"—Dr. Gregory K. Hong of Bellflower—noted:

*** those are the programs that I watched to learn English when our family immigrated to America twenty some years ago.

These voices are typical of the millions of people who enjoy and benefit from public broadcasting. With national public radio, for instance, almost 16 million people listen over the course of a week—that is 1 in every 10 adults in America. This audience has almost doubled in the last 10 years to include people from all walks of life. Many radio listeners work in a professional or managerial occupation; one out of every four works in a clerical, technical, or sales position.

Some say that shows elitism. What nonsense. More than half of public radio listeners are not college graduates, and 48 percent live in households with combined annual incomes below \$40,000 per year. My letters confirm this. Grandparent R.M. Dunbar of Long Beach wrote me to say that:

I'm not one of the elite that someone said all public television watchers are—I'm just a person who became full to the brim with soap operas and lousy sitcoms.

Long Beach residents Jim and Pat Bliss agree:

We have heard public broadcasting's fans described as an elite. Not so; if we were an

elite group, we would buy cassettes to entertain us en route to work, hire someone else to do those mindless chores, and pay the heavy subscription rates required for cable TV.

Public television viewers and public radio listeners are not just listening to entertainment; they are receiving programming that is enhancing the quality of their lives and that of their communities. Mrs. Shirley Freedland of Long Beach summed up this aspect rather dramatically: "Without PBS our brains will shrivel up and die." Across the country, public broadcasting is serving Americans. In Huntington Beach, CA, Channel 50, KOCE-TV offers teacher training workshops and television specials in both English and Spanish designed to promote parenting skills such as helping with homework and drug abuse prevention.

Mr. Speaker, a decade ago, I recall offering the first TV course of "Congress: We the People" over Channel 50. The public-spirited channel has a long record of bringing first rate educational programming to Southern Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The community colleges of Orange County have been pioneers in developing educational programming.

After the devastating Northridge earthquake last year, KCET-TV in Los Angeles—the region's premier public TV station—taped programs that reassured children and helped them to deal with the chaos around them. In Gainesville, FL, WUFT-FM radio provides a 24-hour reading service for the blind. In Evansville, IN, WNIN installed public access terminals in low-income housing areas so users could access local public libraries, and newspapers, and use Internet e-mail. Town halls and State legislature sessions are broadcast over public radio and television stations in Alaska, Illinois, and Florida. Prairie Public Radio in North Dakota is planning a native American language program to promote the continued use and study of native American languages. It is patterned after a similar public broadcasting program in Hawaii which has regularly scheduled Hawaiian language shows.

□ 2200

Karen Johnson, a disabled Long Beach resident, is at home all day. She subscribes to three southern California public radio stations: KLON-FM88, KUSC, and KCRW. She can hear "MacNeil-Lehrer" and a local show "Which Way L.A.?" which is carried by KCRW, a radio station based at Santa Monica College. Hosted by Warren Olney, this program has had a major impact as it daily brings together people across age, race, and ethnic lines to talk about the key problems facing America's second largest city and one of the major metropolitan regions in the world. Karen sums it up well: "Daytime broadcasting (commercial) is a wasteland. And commercial news' broadcasts lack any analytic depth."