

LARRY LEIBOWITZ CELEBRATES  
50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Lawrence Paul Leibowitz, a longtime resident of the Second Congressional District of Tennessee, on his 50th birthday. Larry Leibowitz celebrates this joyous occasion surrounded by his loving family and friends.

Mr. Leibowitz was born in 1946 in Knoxville, TN and has lived there his entire life. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee and is also a graduate of the University of Tennessee Law School. Larry proudly served in the U.S. Army Reserve for 7 years. He married Kay Shamitz, has three children, and is blessed with the addition of his first granddaughter, Rebecca Asher.

Larry has been a close personal friend of mine for over 20 years. The very first major jury trial that I tried as a young lawyer in criminal court in Knoxville was done with Larry as my cocounsel and mentor.

I tried other cases over the years with Larry, and he tried many important cases in my court after I became judge, including one very difficult death penalty murder case in which he saved a young man from the electric chair. I have learned very much over the years from Larry Leibowitz, and I think that he is one of the finest men I know.

Larry Leibowitz is also a leader in the Knoxville Jewish community and has served as the vice president and chairman of the board of Heska Amuna Synagogue. In addition, he has served as the vice president of the Knoxville Jewish Community Center. Larry is active in the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Jewish Federation of Knoxville.

Mr. Leibowitz is a member of the Master's Lodge 242 in Knoxville and is a 32d degree KCCH of Scottish Rite. He currently serves as counsel for the Knoxville Bar Association and is involved with the Knoxville Museum of Art and the East Tennessee Opera Guild. Politically active for many years, Larry chairs the 46th ward in Knoxville. Larry was recently appointed by Governor Sundquist to the Tennessee-Israel Friendship Subcommittee on Economic Development.

As you can see, Lawrence Paul Leibowitz leads an active life and contributes much of his time to his family and community. Mr. Speaker, today, it gives me great pleasure to honor my friend who has served his community so well. I wish him many more happy and healthy years to come. Happy birthday, Larry.

TRIBUTE TO STOKELY  
CARMICHAEL

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a civil rights icon, Stokely Carmichael—also known as Kwame Ture. I had the pleasure of developing a close personal relationship with

Stokely during the civil rights movement and have for years admired his strength and fortitude. He is a national hero who might have antagonized whites but rallied blacks when a large dose of both was badly needed. His powerful words unified blacks and helped to instill pride in our race.

Although Stokely is now battling cancer, he has not retired from the battle. He continues to be an active and forceful voice in the eternal struggle for civil rights and equality. I submit his story as recorded by columnist Lee Payne in a commentary entitled "Ready for the Revolution" in the March 21, 1996, edition of the St. Louis American. It is my hope that my colleagues will join me in wishing Stokely well.

READY FOR THE REVOLUTION

With the familiar flame burning in his dark eyes, Stokely Carmichael still holds forth in the mellifluous voice that once put dread in white America and high resolve in black youth.

His old comrades are trekking to a Harlem apartment more to console him than to reminisce. "Now that I have cancer, I get to see friends I haven't seen in years," he said Thursday with an impervious smile. Under the eyes of his doctor and his mother, he is coping with prostate cancer, gathering strength to head off next month to Cuba and then back home to Guinea, where years ago President Sekou Toure renamed him Kwame Ture.

As Stokely Carmichael, he was the most eloquent and incendiary of the street speakers of the civil rights movement. As chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, he helped wage a dangerous struggle to get Negroes the vote in the Black Belt states of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. At the end of a speech in May 1966, he issued a clarion call for black liberation with a phrase explosive for the times: "Black power!"

These two simple words rocked the foundation of race relations in the republic. Carmichael didn't invent "black power." Richard Wright in 1954 had written a book by that title and Harlem's Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, with some justification, later claimed that he coined the expression a generation earlier.

Carmichael had polished the phrase among black focus groups before springing it on the media. "It's time we stand up and take over," Carmichael warned both older Negro leaders and the whites he decided as "honkies." "Move on over or we'll move on over you."

"Dr. (Martin Luther) King told me that he wouldn't use the term. He even tried to get me to use 'black consciousness,' which came out later in South Africa." But, adds Carmichael, "he never denounced it."

An unyielding J. Edgar Hoover unleashed the monstrous powers of the state against the proponents of black power, using the FBI's counter intelligence program, known as COINTELPRO.

Carmichael, along with H. Rap Brown and countless other civil rights participants, was jailed and beaten dozens of times. In one of his closer brushes with death, the sheriff of Liberty, Miss., held a pistol to Carmichael's head. "The enraged old man was shaking the gun, shaking, shaking. I was thinking that he might shoot me by accident, so I'd decided to go for the gun." But Carmichael hesitated, and the incident was defused without violence. "I've forgotten the sheriff's name," he said. "So many of them have whipped on my head that I can't remember their names."

After King's assassination in 1968, Carmichael, with Hoover's COINTELPRO work-

ing full-blast, moved to Guinea. There, Kwame Nkrumah, the deposed as president of Ghana, invited him to help organize the Pan-African movement.

Ture, who considers himself a "Pan-Africanist revolutionary," acknowledges that the civil rights struggle won the black vote in the South, which led to the proliferation of black elected officials. However, he admits to no fundamental change in American racism.

"Racism is a question of power," he said. "If I sit next to a white man on a bus and he doesn't like it, that's his problem. If he has the power to remove me, that's my problem. You have to have (state) power to impose racism. Since whites still have the power (and) we don't have the power, nothing has changed. There's some little cosmetic changes: 'Let them have a mayor here, a mayor there; let them have whatever (rank) in the army to confuse them.'"

"There are some changes in attitude, but racism is not a question of attitude. It's a question of power."

At the end of our chat, a hoarse Ture limped painfully to the door and uttered his patented greeting and salutation: "Ready for the revolution."

INCOME GAP IN AMERICA

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I have frequently urged my colleagues to address the widening income gap in America. Today, this House had an opportunity to do just that by increasing the minimum wage. Unfortunately, the majority continued its pattern of ignoring the plight of working American families by rejecting even a vote on such an increase, which would have raised the wages of over 12 million working Americans.

The facts in favor of raising the minimum wage are overwhelming. Over 4 million American workers earn at or below the minimum wage, which provides an annual income of only \$8,840. This amount is well below the poverty line for a family of four, and it does not even support a family of two above the poverty line. In fact, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that one in five minimum wage workers live in poverty. The buying power of the minimum wage has dropped by 27 percent since its average in the 1970's, and is now at its second lowest in four decades.

My Republican colleagues have paid a great deal of lip service to the value of work and to getting people off Government support. One might think that they would embrace efforts to help working Americans support themselves. A higher minimum wage enables workers, most of whom are adults, to support themselves without turning to Government. Today, however, the majority flatly rejected a higher minimum wage.

The Republican majority speaks often of putting more dollars in Americans' pockets. One might think that instead of advocating tax cuts that benefit our Nation's most affluent, they would support a higher minimum wage, which gives working Americans more money every month for groceries, health insurance, heating bills, bus fare, and rent. Today, however, they not only rejected an increased minimum wage, they blocked the House from even voting on the matter.

The majority would have us believe that an increased minimum wage would, without a doubt, increase unemployment. According to many studies, however, this is not true. In fact, over 100 leading economists, including three Nobel Prize winners, have urged an increase in the minimum wage.

If Congress truly cares about working Americans, it will raise the minimum wage. Doing so would raise standards of living for many Americans, and would also be a significant step toward closing the income gap that threatens to do great damage to American society. As part of my continuing efforts to understand and combat this income gap, I am hosting a forum on April 12 at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul, MN. The forum is entitled "Renewing the Social Contract," and will address the questions of why working American families are struggling in today's economy. My special guest at this forum will be AFL-CIO president John Sweeney. Mr. Sweeney has been a tireless advocate on behalf of American workers, pushing for fair wages, good benefits, and honest labor-management cooperation.

The forum will explore what Government and business can do to ease economic anxiety, lessen income inequality, and increase job security. In addition to Mr. Sweeney, I will be welcoming representatives of business and academia, as well as workers who know what it is like to struggle for low wages and who have experienced the difficult search for livable-wage jobs.

I am hopeful that this event will shed additional light on the income gap, and will produce ideas for cooperation between Government, labor, and business that will enable all Americans to share in our growing economy.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CHAD THOMPSON

HON. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY  
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chad Thompson of Amarillo, TX who is the State winner of the Voice of Democracy broadcast script writing contest, administered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. His essay is a reflection of our American heritage, to do what we can for our neighbors, community, and our Nation:

The great red sun peeked over the blue horizon. Just as dawn broke a young woman was strolling barefoot along the beach. She breathed in the cool morning air and felt the sand between her toes. The uniform stretch of beach was broken only by starfish washed in by the tide. There were thousands of them covering the beach.

Too bad, the young woman thought, that all of them would dry up and die before long. Starfish thrive in shallow water, but once they are beached there is no other option but death. She picked up one of the starfish, took a long look at it, and threw it far back into the ocean, giving it a second chance at life. Then she picked up another and hurled it back into the water too.

She had been doing this for a while when a casual jogger passed by and asked, "Are you

crazy? Do you realize there are millions of starfish here? You can't make a difference." She looked up at him, propelled another starfish to safety and replied, "I made a difference to that one."

Behind this simple story lies the solution to answering America's call. I believe America's call is for its citizens to love their country, to cherish its traditions while making room for new ones, and to work for the betterment of their fellow countrymen. Each person can make a tremendous difference—whether to the nation as a whole, their state, their community, or in their own neighborhood. The time is now for Americans to respond. Every American should realize large problems can be surmounted—that for every Goliath of society, there is a David who, with the courage to act, can solve what seemed to be an impossible task. David was able to conquer the huge giant Goliath with just one stone, in the same way we can eradicate any problem in America with a positive attitude and willingness to work hard.

I believe that cherishing America is to show pride in its symbols. For example, last summer, as I stepped out of my house early on July 4th to jog, something seemed a little strange. It wasn't anything that could hinder me physically, but it wounded by sense of patriotism. The problem was that no one had the American flag displayed.

Before I ran to the end of the street, I turned around, walked back in to my home, found the fabric of our nation, and proudly put it in its place in our yard. Afterwards I continued my jog, but when I returned a smile came across my face, for the neighborhood was now splashed with red, white, and blue.

You see, as everyone around the block saw the flag in our yard, they put theirs out as well. This incident shows how the power of one small act can cause a chain reaction that makes a big difference. Independence day in my neighborhood was a little brighter which in turn made me proud to be an American.

In April of 1995 tragedy ate at America's heart. When the Alfred Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City was bombed, it created a black hole that pulled everyone to its center. Everyone pulled together in the terrible tragedy that took so many lives. There were no problems to race, religion or politics—just fellow humans who needed help and the people of the community responded. Soon offers of help poured in from all quarters of the country. Americans took off work across the country in hopes of helping the victims. Some were only able to offer teddy bears for the wounded children, while others could offer free intensive care; either way though, the lives of all Americans were altered in some form or fashion from that senseless act.

Captain Scott O'Grady knows what it takes to make a difference. His fighter plane was downed over Bosnian territory, and while the nation feared he was dead or captured, he lay hidden in bushes surviving on ants and rainwater. His life was saved because his fellow soldiers kept listening for him long after common sense told them to give up. The United States military was flawless in his rescue. His willingness to survive as an American played an extremely important role, but the unsung heroes were the men who answered America's call by serving in the Marines. Just by his will to live and to return home, Scott O'Grady made a difference by focusing America's attention on the honor, strength and determination held by our servicemen.

America's call can be answered by young and old, by a small act such as helping a

child learn to read, the heroic deeds of a fireman saving a life or a soldier defending the nation in war. Anything positive counts. It is up to every American to take part in this government. Make a difference, and fill out that ballot. Remember it is your obligation to do something.

It is time now to answer America's call. Like the woman on the beach saving one starfish at a time, decide today to be that person who can make a difference.

#### FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF PERSIAN GULF WAR

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the fifth anniversary of the Persian Gulf war—a war fought over oil in foreign lands. Although the U.S. troops and our allies displayed remarkable sophistication and prowess in bringing Saddam to his knees, our national security concerns remain and our position has weakened. In 1991, America imported 45 percent of the U.S. demand for oil; 5 years later our dependence has grown. Today we import over half, 52 percent of our annual consumption. The time has come for the Nation to decide to give our young men and women the option to take U.S. jobs on U.S. soil or go to war to protect foreign oil on which we are so dependent.

Our first commitment should be made to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and its mandated 1 billion barrel mark. The mere threat of drawing down these reserves calmed the oil and gas markets and stabilized the price during the Persian Gulf war crisis. Instead of preserving this stockpile we have reduced the minimum fill level, ceased the purchase of new oil, decided to sell 7 million barrels of oil, maybe as many as 100 million barrels, and lost the use of a 75 million barrel facility at Weeks Island which is in my district. It is time to move in the other direction.

We must create incentives to produce domestically and keep jobs at home instead of driving companies and employees abroad. I encourage Congress and the administration to move forward with the technical suggestions that the oil and gas caucus presented to President Clinton, as well as, sign in to law a commonsense regulatory reform bill, the royalty simplification and fairness bill, and the Coast Guard authorization bill which contains important language dealing with OPA '90's financial responsibility section.

In addition, we should reject the EPA's efforts to expand the toxic release inventory to include certain oil and gas wastes, speak out against efforts to increase taxes on oil and gas production and reject mandating an OCS moratorium.

I ask that you join me and many Members in both bodies to enact these legislative and regulatory changes. We must send the message that America's dependence on foreign oil comes at the price of U.S. lives and U.S. jobs.