

voucher program, it will certainly face a court challenge that it could not withstand.

Nowhere in the United States has there been a successful voucher plan. In fact, most states, including my own State of Texas, have rejected vouchers at every turn. The States understand that our public schools cannot and will not survive if we enact such a proposal. To the contrary, they will wither on the vine.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support local control and I am not at this point willing to reject all voucher proposals out of hand. But many of our local governments have spoken and the result has been a resounding "no". Until a voucher plan is successful at the local level, we in Congress should not impose our will on individual school districts and force them to lose any of their much needed public funding.

Mr. Speaker, now is not the time for experimentation. Now is the time to fight for our public schools, to fight for a quality education for all children, to fight for state-of-the-art equipment in the classroom. I urge my colleagues to oppose this harmful legislation.

IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR.

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, by the time our Congress reconvenes in January, Americans will have commemorated the national holiday which honors one of our greatest patriots and moral leaders, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A few months later, on April 4, 1998, will fall the 30th anniversary of that dark day in American history when Reverend King was taken from us prematurely, at far too young an age, in one of the most heartless, senseless, and destructive crimes ever. For as long as civilization exists on this planet, scholars will debate how much greater an impact Dr. King would have had on our society had he been allowed to live and to continue his contributions.

Although the life of Martin Luther King was tragically cut short, his message is eternal and will long outlive all of us here today. The simple truth that Dr. King worked so hard to make us all realize is that hatred actually harms the hater more than the hated. The evils of racial injustice, which were a blot on the record of our country for far too long, harmed our economy, the morals, and the advancement of white America just as much as it did Black America. The terrible legacy of Jim Crowism and continued racial discrimination which plagued us for well after a hundred years of the Emancipation proclamation harmed us all, for they not only prevented all Americans from enjoying the full benefits of our society, they also prevented us all from reaping the benefits of the contributions all Americans are capable of making.

In today's world, as we stand on the threshold of the 21st century, many of Martin Luther King's achievements are all around us. More Afro-Americans hold elective office in the United States today, at all levels of government, than even the most optimistic person could have predicted in 1968. Afro-Americans have entered every field of our national lives and

have seared themselves into our national consciousness. How much sadder and less enlightened all of our lives would be had we not had the works of Nobel Literature Prize winner Toni Morrison, the television entertainment of Bill Cosby, the athletic prowess of Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, and so many others, and the millions of other black men and women who contribute to our society but would not have been able to do so had it not been for the desegregation work of Dr. Martin Luther King.

By no means should the celebration of Martin Luther King Day be taken as a celebration that we have achieved all we can. In fact, the legacy of racial division and hatred continues to plague us today, in many ways, day after day. I have personally been appalled to hear radio entertainers, those so called "shock jocks", who seem to believe it is both funny and entertaining to perpetuate racial stereotypes and verbal bigotries that most of us though we outgrew as a people some 40 years ago. It seems as if all too often we hear of the desecration of a Black church, the beating of a Black young person, and other acts of racial hatred that Dr. King devoted his life to wipe out. No American can truly be satisfied until after all of the barriers of prejudice in our society are removed.

Let us be inspired by the words of Dr. King, who stated: "If you can't fly, run. If you can't walk, crawl. By all means, keep on moving."

Martin Luther King Day is an appropriate time for all Americans to pause and remember that we must continue to move, until the day when all of us are afforded full opportunity, and that none of us have to be concerned that race, color, creed, or ethnic heritage are a hindrance to any individual, or to our Nation as a whole.

Let us free ourselves from hatred, as Dr. King urged, so that we can share the dream he so eloquently shared in August of 1963—a dream that "some day the descendants of slaves and the descendants of slave holders can sit down and join hands together at the table of brotherhood and proclaim: Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty, we're free at last."

CONGRATULATIONS DONALD
DALLAS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, those who earn recognition for community service are very special people. They have made efforts to give back to their communities to make them even better places, and have often thought of their neighbors ahead of their own interests. Next week the Knights of Columbus Holy Trinity Assembly 2013 will be honoring Donald Dallas for his civic activity with a humanitarian outlook.

Don Dallas has been a resident of Arbel township for 28 years. A graduate of Century College as a physical therapist, he also has training from the School of Aviation Medicine from Air University, U.S. Air Force. He also attended Blackstone School of Law, where he studied as a paralegal.

Currently a licensed private investigator and court officer, Don Dallas is a member of the

Michigan Court Officers Association, the Michigan Council of Private Investigators, the U.S. Process Servers Association, and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

He is known throughout the community for his activity with the Tuscola County Planning Commission, the Red Cross Disaster Relief Volunteers, the County Democratic Club, and Habitat for Humanity.

Don's personal successes have been amply aided by his impressive family. His wife, Kathy, is a graduate of Central Michigan University and a registered nurse. Their daughter, Terri Dallas-Prunski, is a medical doctor specializing in pain management and an associate professor at the University of Chicago Medical School. Their son, Ronald, is a graduate of Andrews University as a mechanical engineer.

Dan Dallas is one of the recipients of this year's awards for community service, in memory of Father William Cunningham, a priest who could only reach for tomorrow's challenge while completing today's accomplishment. Father Cunningham's family resides within my district, and he has served as an inspiration to literally thousands of men and women of all ages and backgrounds as the co-founder and executive director of Focus: HOPE in Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Don Dallas on this impressive award, and in wishing him the very best for the future.

THE CONTINUING LEGACY OF THE
LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would like to commend to his colleagues the following editorial from the November 4, 1997, *Omaha World-Herald*. The editorial highlights the growing interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the upcoming bicentennial celebrations to commemorate the bold and courageous journey. As someone who has had a longstanding interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition, this Member is pleased to promote the bicentennial efforts through the introduction earlier this year of two pieces of legislation. H.R. 1560 authorizes the U.S. Mint to produce a commemorative coin honoring the Expedition. Proceeds from the sale of the coins will be used to fund the activities of the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council and the National Park Service.

This Member has also introduced House Resolution 144, a resolution to express support for the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This resolution highlights the importance of the expedition and expresses congressional support for the commemorative activities of the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council as well as Federal, state and local entities and other interested groups.

We must continue to recognize the ongoing legacy of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The upcoming bicentennial activities will provide excellent opportunities to stress the importance of the journey's mission and discoveries.

[From the World-Herald, Nov. 4, 1997]

LEARNING MORE ABOUT A MIDLANDS JOURNEY

Lewis and Clark's great journey of discovery is beginning to draw attention as the bicentennial of the 1804 event draws closer.

A two-part documentary by Ken Burns is set to air tonight and Wednesday on Public Broadcasting System stations in the Midlands. Burns' effort follows a popular book by historian Stephen Ambrose, whose "Undaunted Courage" described the trip in detail. The book relied on historical records, letters and memoirs, as well as journals of the expedition written by Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and other members of the party. More than 800,000 copies have been sold.

The expedition was commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the newly purchased Louisiana Territory. Jefferson ordered Lewis to follow the Missouri River as far as he could, then keep going beyond U.S. territory in an attempt to find a convenient water route to the Pacific.

There is no fast and easy route by water. But the explorations of Lewis and Clark succeeded in another way. They opened the continent to further settlement, identified scores of new plants and animals and launched tentative but cordial relationships with Indian tribes.

Current signs of interest include a 10 percent increase of visitors at Fort Clatsop near Astoria, Ore., where the explorers wintered. Membership in the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation has risen. A flood of books on the subject is about to hit the stores.

Archaeological digs are proceeding at Fort Clatsop, at Fort Mandan, another wintering site in North Dakota, and at the Great Falls of the Missouri. The first major archeological survey of sites on the trail began recently.

Lewis and Clark sites throughout the West and Midwest are gearing up for tourists as the bicentennial approaches. New Park Service interpretative centers in North Dakota and Montana will aid visitors.

In the Midlands, the Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs, which presents information on the Lewis and Clark expedition and trails that went through the region, is ready for visitors. A new observation deck was constructed at Ponca State Park, overlooking part of the expedition's route. It is one of 10 markers being constructed in Nebraska to emphasize the highlights of the voyage. A Lewis and Clark national Historical Trail Interpretative Center is planned at Nebraska City.

Commemorations in Sioux City will revolve around the riverboat at the Sgt. Floyd Museum and Welcome Center. Floyd, a well-liked leader, was the only member of the party who didn't survive the trip.

The Lewis and Clark voyage of exploration was a major event in the life of the infant nation. The courage of the two leaders and their men was exceptional. The intellectual curiosity and scientific observational skills of Lewis were astounding. The party's combination of luck, pluck and ability has few equals. It's appropriate that the public is taking an interest in their story.

Though many Members of Congress seem to be having a difficult time making up their minds whether "fast-track" is in the national interest, the sensible Lincoln Journal Star newspaper in Lincoln, NE correctly acknowledges that the logic behind "fast-track" "[i]s a simple numbers game." This editorial properly recognizes that 96 percent of the world's consumers live outside of the United States, and we ignore them to our own detriment. Maybe a reading of the attached editorial will inject some fresh Midwestern air into the protectionist fog hanging over the District of Columbia and the Capitol. It's certainly worth a try.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, Nov. 7, 1997]

PRESIDENT'S FAST-TRACK AUTHORITY IS
NEEDED IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

(Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the
Lincoln Journal Star)

It's a bit surprising that a question exists on whether President Clinton should be granted fast-track authority in trade negotiations. Every president since Gerald Ford has had the power. In fact, fast-track authority had never lapsed until it expired on Sept. 30.

But Democrats are finding it difficult to support Clinton on the issue because of the vigorous opposition of organized labor, which has paid for radio and television advertising, organized phone calls to congressional offices and threatened to withhold campaign funding.

In Congress, trade protectionists led by Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., have been joined by Republicans, who hate to see Clinton win anything, to create a cliffhanger. Analysts predict a close vote in the House. In the Senate, where there is more support for fast-track powers, opponents have succeeded in delaying action.

The concept of fast-track authority is easily described. It gives the president the authority to negotiate trade agreements, which Congress then can reject but cannot amend. Without such authority, any member of Congress might want to change this line or that of any trade agreement sent to it for approval. If that were the case, it's doubtful that any country would negotiate with the United States.

At this point in history, there is overwhelming evidence that free trade benefits the United States. It's a simple numbers game. The United States has 4 percent of the world's consumers. The rest live in countries where the economies often are expected to grow at rates that will exceed those in developed countries like the United States. Many Latin American countries, for example, are expected to have annual growth rates of as much as 5 or 10 percent. If the United States wants to maintain or increase its wealth, it needs to sell to those consumers.

International trade is already of major importance to the national economy. There has been a 35 percent increase in American exports since 1992. In 1996, U.S. exports of goods and services reached a record \$836 billion, employing 16.7 million workers.

The most persuasive argument against free trade is that it can mean that industries gravitate to nations that will permit them to degrade the environment, or use child and prison labor. Under the proposed fast-track legislation, however, Clinton has the authority to negotiate agreements that protect against those outcomes.

In the end, the issue of free trade reaches basic questions of economic freedom. The United States has led the world in open markets, free enterprise and competition. Everywhere, nations are adopting those values. Since the end of World War II, global tariffs have dropped from an average of 40 percent to 5 percent.

For the United States to continue to play an important leadership role in the global economy, Congress needs to restore fast-track authority to the president.

LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE FAIR
FRANCHISING

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to address serious prob-

lems in the promotion and sale of franchise businesses and in the conduct of franchise business relationships. The legislation incorporates key proposals from bills I introduced in prior Congresses.

In the past two decades franchising has changed the way Americans do business and the way we purchase goods and services. In large and small communities in my district and across the Nation the growing majority of businesses are either franchises or licensed outlets of national companies or retail chains. Franchising has been a significant factor driving both the expansion of our service economy and the growth of our small business sector.

Thousands of American families invest in franchises each year in the hope of realizing dreams of business ownership and economic independence. Unfortunately, too many of these dreams are shattered by franchise promoters who never fulfill promises to help build successful businesses. Rather than owning their own business, many franchisees find they have merely purchased below-minimum wage jobs that have neither the benefits or protections available to employees nor the legal rights and remedies of business ownership. For many franchisees, dreams of business ownership often turn into legal and financial nightmares.

These problems stem, in large part, from the fact that Federal and State law have failed to keep pace with the rapid development of franchising and offer franchisees little, if any, viable legal recourse against fraudulent and abusive conduct by franchisors. We have no Federal laws governing the sale or operation of franchise businesses and the only regulatory procedure at the Federal level, the Federal Trade Commission's franchise disclosure rule, is outdated and inadequately enforced. Only a handful of States have laws or regulations governing franchise sales and practices, and most of these now defer to the Federal Government for enforcement.

These problems are compounded by the fact that franchise contracts are written by franchisors to preempt every legal remedy available to franchisees. As a former chairman of the American Bar Association's Franchise Forum told the Small Business Committee several years ago, indemnification provisions in franchise contracts are drafted so broadly as to protect franchisors even for the franchisor's gross negligence, wanton recklessness and intentional misconduct.

Procedural devices also are routinely employed in franchise contracts to bar legal actions, to deny coverage of protections in State laws and to make litigation inconvenient and costly. Even basic principles of common law applicable to all other business relationships—concepts such as good faith, good cause, duty of competence and due care, and fiduciary responsibility—are routinely denied in franchise contracts.

In short, a huge and growing number of American business owners are routinely required to forego their basic rights and legal remedies just because they choose to become franchisees.

The bill I am introducing today, the Federal Fair Franchise Practices Act, addresses these problems and does so not by increasing Government regulation, but by enhancing private remedies that permit individual franchisees to protect their legitimate financial interests in a court of law.