

threats are of such great concern that most of the original report can not be made public.

What is at stake here? The confidence of the taxpayer is at stake. Tax laws must be fairly enforced at the least possible cost and personal intrusion and IRS must meet the standards it expects the taxpayer to meet.

Our credibility as the steward of the money we ask the taxpayer to contribute is at stake. Each dollar the Government collects is a dollar someone else has earned. It is our obligation to make the best use of that dollar, and not waste a cent of it.

Finally, at stake is the very ability of government to perform its necessary responsibilities and functions. Without taxpayer confidence that we are collecting money fairly and wisely, our system of government is crippled.

Taxation in this country has a long and tumultuous history. We are a nation founded on a tax revolt and are continuously renewed by a healthy skepticism toward all forms of taxation. It is important to remember that it is only with the American people's consent that the IRS exists in the first place.

As a nation we collect taxes to pay for the responsibilities we have assigned to our Government. Right over the entrance to the IRS are the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes: "Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society." But, recognizing the need to fund government responsibilities does not imply that we should continue with business as usual at the IRS. If an agency fails in its fundamental mission, or fails to keep its promises to Congress and the American people, we need to be prepared to make fundamental changes. I, for one, favor greatly simplifying the Tax Code. A simpler code, fairly administered, will help to restore the taxpayers' faith in the system. It will also make the system more manageable.

In the meantime, it is imperative for IRS to improve its operations. It is outrageous that IRS programs put on GAO's high-risk list remain there year-after-year. GAO testified before the Governmental Affairs Committee in June of 1991 and described key areas in which IRS needed to improve its operations. Six years later, we heard virtually the same message in the same areas from GAO. What has IRS been doing in the last 6 years? What has been done to correct systemic management problems at IRS?

Fortunately, the forces for change may now be coming into place. Congress has used its power of the purse to express its dissatisfaction with IRS' computer modernization. A new Commission to Restructure the IRS has been formed to address how the Nation collects taxes and the administration has announced a new plan for reform at IRS. The Deputy Secretary of Treasury Lawrence Summers, testified before the Governmental Affairs Committee last Thursday on this plan. The admin-

istration's recognition of many of the problems it faces is a good first step. However, it is unclear how establishing new layers of bureaucracy will improve the situation at IRS. We also need to understand how giving IRS greater personnel and budgetary flexibilities would enable it to better manage its programs and finances.

It is necessary for Congress and the administration to work together to reform the IRS. As for the next step, the Congress needs more details on the administration's IRS reform proposals. I plan to work with my colleagues to ensure that a detailed plan is sent to Congress as soon as possible to address the IRS' high risk problems. This reform plan should be linked to IRS' GPRA strategic plan and should include specific performance measures that will successfully address IRS' high-risk areas.

Congress is also taking up today legislation on criminalizing the snooping by IRS employees of confidential taxpayer data. This is an issue with a longstanding history at the Governmental Affairs Committee. The issue was first brought to light during financial audits under the Chief Financial Officers Act. In 1994, it was thought that IRS would address this issue in a comprehensive manner. At last week's hearing, GAO found that snooping was still a significant problem. All of us are greatly disturbed about reports of lax security and the unauthorized browsing by IRS employees of taxpayer information. This invasion of privacy is a breach of public trust and only further lowers the faith of the taxpayer in the fairness of the system.

I want to work with the administration and other congressional committees to implement lasting solutions to identified management problems at IRS and reduce the risks to the taxpayers. Most of these problems have existed for years. I recognize that this administration, and previous ones, have tried to solve them. But, time is growing short. The confidence of our citizens is low and the risks are high.●

JACKIE ROBINSON

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jackie Robinson, a true American hero. Born in Cairo, GA and raised by a single mother in Pasadena, CA, Jackie Robinson integrated major league baseball 50 years ago today. It was not an easy task. He faced outright prejudice from fans, other teams, as well as his own teammates. He was cursed and spit upon. It is hard to imagine how one man could endure such circumstances. But, he persevered and paved the way for young blacks who had long dreamed of wearing a major league baseball uniform. His courageous actions forced all Americans to face the issue of integration, and he helped to jump start the civil rights movement.

Jackie Robinson was deservedly elected to the Hall of Fame in 1962, his

first year of eligibility. He had a career batting average of .311 with the Dodgers; won the 1949 batting title with a .342; was selected as National League MVP in 1949; and named National League Rookie of the Year in 1947.

As my dear friend, Hank Aaron, wrote in an op-ed piece which ran in the New York Times on Sunday, April 13, 1997, "Jackie showed me and my generation what we could do, he also showed us how to do it. By watching him, we knew that we would have to swallow an awful lot of pride to make it in the big leagues." Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron not only made it in the big leagues, but they also succeeded with their lives.

Mr. President, I ask that the entire text of Hank Aaron's op-ed that appeared in the New York Times on April 13, 1997, be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 13, 1997]

WHEN BASEBALL MATTERED

(By Hank Aaron)

ATLANTA.—Jackie Robinson meant everything to me.

Before I was a teen-ager, I was telling my father that I was going to be a ballplayer, and he was telling me, "Ain't no colored ballplayers." Then Jackie broke into the Brooklyn Dodgers lineup in 1947, and Daddy never said that again. When the Dodgers played an exhibition game in Mobile, Ala., on their way north the next spring, Daddy even came to the game with me. A black man in a major-league uniform: that was something my father had to see for himself.

Jackie not only showed me and my generation what we could do, he also showed us how to do it. By watching him, we knew that we would have to swallow an awful lot of pride to make it in the big leagues. We knew of the hatred and cruelty Jackie had to quietly endure from the fans and the press and the anti-integrationist teams like the Cardinals and the Phillies and even from his teammates. We also knew that he didn't subject himself to all that for personal benefit. Why would he choose to get spiked and cursed at and spat on for his own account?

Jackie was a college football hero, a handsome, intelligent, talented guy with a lot going for him. He didn't need that kind of humiliation. And it certainly wasn't in his nature to suffer it silently. But he had to. Not for himself, but for me and all the young black kids like me. When Jackie Robinson loosened his fist and turned the other cheek, he was taking the blows for the love and future of his people.

Now, 50 years later, people are saying that Jackie Robinson was an icon, a pioneer, a hero. But that's all they want to do: say it.

Nobody wants to be like Jackie. Everybody wants to be like Mike. They want to be like Deion, like Junior.

That's O.K. Sports stars are going to be role models in any generation. I'm sure Jackie would be pleased to see how well black athletes are doing these days, how mainstream they've become. I'm sure he would be proud of all the money they're making. But I suspect he'd want to shake some of them until the dollar signs fell from their eyes so they could once again see straight.

Jackie Robinson was about leadership. When I was a rookie with the Braves and we came north with the Dodgers after spring training, I sat in the corner of Jackie's hotel room, thumbing through magazines, as he and his black teammates—Roy Campanella,

Don Newcombe, Junior Gilliam and Joe Black—played cards and went over strategy: what to do if a fight broke out on the field; if a pitcher threw at them; if somebody called one of them “nigger.”

In his later years, after blacks were secure in the game, Jackie let go of his forbearance and fought back. In the quest to integrate baseball, it was time for pride to take over from meekness. And Jackie made sure that younger blacks like myself were soldiers in the struggle.

When I look back at the statistics of the late 1950's and 60's and see the extent to which black players dominated the National League (the American League was somewhat slower to integrate), I know why that was. We were on a mission. And, although Willie Mays, Ernie Banks, Frank Robinson, Willie Stargell, Lou Brock, Bob Gibson and I were trying to make our marks individually, we understood that we were on a collective mission. Jackie Robinson demonstrated to us that, for a black player in our day and age, true success could not be an individual thing.

To players today, however, that's exactly what it is. The potential is certainly there, perhaps more than at any time since Jackie came along, for today's stars to have a real impact on their communities. Imagine what could be accomplished if the players, both black and white, were to really dedicate themselves—not just their money, although that would certainly help—to camps and counseling centers and baseball programs in the inner city.

Some of the players have their own charitable foundations, and I applaud them for that. (I believe Dave Winfield, for instance, is very sincere.) But as often as not these good works are really publicity stunts. They're engineered by agents, who are acting in the interest of the player's image—in other words, his marketability. Players these days don't do anything without an agent leading them every step of the way (with his hand out). The agent, of course, could care less about Jackie Robinson.

The result is that today's players have lost all concept of history. Their collective mission is greed. Nothing else means much of anything to them. As a group, there's no discernible social conscience among them; certainly no sense of self-sacrifice, which is what Jackie Robinson's legacy is based on. It's a sick feeling, and one of the reasons I've been moving further and further away from the game.

The players today think that they're making \$10 million a year because they have talent and people want to give them money. They have no clue what Jackie went through on their behalf, or Larry Doby or Monte Irvin or Don Newcombe, or even, to a lesser extent, the players of my generation. People wonder where the heroes have gone. Where there is no conscience, there are no heroes.

The saddest thing about all of this is that baseball was once the standard for our country. Jackie Robinson helped blaze the trail for the civil rights movement that followed. The group that succeeded Jackie—my contemporaries—did the same sort of work in the segregated minor leagues of the South. Baseball publicly pressed the issue of integration; in a symbolic way, it was our civil rights laboratory.

It is tragic to me that baseball has fallen so far behind basketball and even football in terms of racial leadership. People question whether baseball is still the national pastime, and I have to wonder, too. It is certainly not the national standard it once was.

The upside of this is that baseball, and baseball only, has Jackie Robinson. Here's hoping that on the 50th anniversary of Jackie's historic breakthrough, baseball will

honor him in a way that really matters. It could start more youth programs, give tickets to kids who can't afford them, become a social presence in the cities it depends on. It could hire more black umpires, more black doctors, more black concessionaries, more black executives.

It could hire a black commissioner.

You want a name? How about Colin Powell? He's a great American, a man more popular, maybe, than the President. I'm not out there pushing his candidacy, but I think he would be great for baseball. He would restore some social relevance to the game. He would do honor to Jackie Robinson's name.

It would be even more meaningful, perhaps, if some of Jackie's descendants—today's players—committed themselves this year to honoring his name, in act as well as rhetoric.

Jackie's spirit is watching. I know that he would be bitterly disappointed if he saw the way today's black players have abandoned the struggle, but he would be happy for their success nonetheless. And I have no doubt that he'd do it all over again for them.●

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes of Senate business to discuss Music in Our Schools Month.

Throughout the month of March, which was designated Music in Our Schools Month, the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association [PMEA] promoted public awareness of arts education. On March 11, the Pennsylvania Alliance for Arts Education sponsored the Second Annual Arts in Education Day in Harrisburg, PA. Representatives from PMEA also attended the “SingAmerica” campaign here in Washington, DC, on March 13. In addition to renewing an interest in music, “SingAmerica” sought to restore a sense of pride in our communities.

For years, public schools in Pennsylvania have provided opportunities for children to grow and learn through the arts. Several teachers have observed that studying music has helped children learn to work in groups, to think creatively, and to communicate more effectively. Moreover, music education has helped introduce students to history and cultural studies.

Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the teachers who have dedicated their lives to preparing children for the future. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking them for their commitment to improving education.●

THE HONORABLE ALMA STALLWORTH

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, the Honorable Alma Stallworth, a truly dedicated public official who recently retired after 18 years of serving the people of northwest Detroit in the Michigan House of Representatives. Representative Stallworth is being honored at a retirement celebration hosted by the Black Caucus Foundation of Michigan and the Black Child

Development Institute Metro-Detroit Affiliate.

Throughout her 18-year career in the Michigan House, Alma Stallworth was widely recognized as a champion of women, children, and minorities. She fought to expand prenatal coverage for pregnant women, increase Michigan's child immunization rate and provide parenting education to teenagers with children. She was an active member of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, as well as a successful fundraiser for the United Negro College Fund, raising more than \$1 million over the past 11 years.

Representative Stallworth was also a leader on issues related to public utilities. She served as chair of the Public Utilities Committee in the Michigan House of Representatives, and was a vice-chair of the Telecommunication and Banking Committee in the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Alma Stallworth's legislative leadership will be missed, but I am confident that she will continue to serve as a champion for those people who often lack a voice in the political process. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Alma on her illustrious career and in wishing her well in her future endeavors.●

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF JACKIE ROBINSON BREAKING BASEBALL'S COLOR BARRIER

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to pay special tribute to a legendary figure in our Nation's history; Jack Roosevelt Robinson. One half century ago today, Jackie Robinson stepped out of the dugout before an Ebbets Field crowd of 30,000 to play first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers. In doing so, he became the first African-American to play professional baseball in the modern major leagues.

However, Jackie Robinson did not merely break baseball's color barrier, he shattered it in the most spectacular fashion imaginable. He was the first African-American to lead the league in stolen bases, to win the batting title, to play in the All-Star Game, to play in the World Series, to win the Most Valuable Player Award, and to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

As an ardent baseball fan, I marvel at his accomplishments on the field. As an American, I stand in gratitude for all he did for civil rights in this country. The impressive nature of his long litany of baseball firsts is far surpassed by the measure of his exceptional character. To be able to bear the brunt of national adversity and hostility and still perform with such dignity and grace requires a courage far greater than most could summon.

To many, the details of April 15, 1947 are long forgotten. For the record, in the seventh inning Robinson scored the deciding run in a 5 to 3 win over the Boston Braves. When Robinson crossed home plate, it was a victory for his