

a chance? If not, what do we now do to get out of this mess?"

Then Mr. Rosenthal asked these questions: "Would the United States again decide that to help Kosovo's Albanians we would give Slobodan Milosevic what he wanted most, the cover to drive a million of them into foreign exile or become displaced persons at home, wandering their roads in terror? Would we spray bombs at a dictator without it occurring to our leaders he would immediately drive out or slaughter the people we were supposed to save? Were our leaders fools?" "Yes" Mr. Rosenthal says.

Would the U.S. President again decide that before going to war he would guarantee not to send ground troops so Milosevic need not get all worried?

"Would we again bomb-bomb-bomb the capital of the Serbs, who thought of themselves as far more our friends than his? So far this has produced three major results: humiliating Serbs forever, turning friendship into enmity, and persuading many to rally around a man they detest and fear.

"Would we be roaming around again with a diplomatic begging cup asking Russia, the same addled country that we pity, or any other country that will answer the phone, to find a way out for us?"

"Would we again allow Washington to weaken the world's human rights movements by arousing fears that they will one day mean more bombing assignments for America?"

Mr. Speaker, just to sum up what we really have done, we have turned friends into enemies at great cost to this country. And I think that, unfortunately, we have gotten into one of the biggest messes we have ever gotten into in this country, and we need to negotiate and get out of this mess as soon as we possibly can.

WAGER ON DUKE UNIVERSITY- MICHIGAN STATE GAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am here to acknowledge defeat in a wager that I encountered with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE). We bet, as unsuitable as some might feel about wagering, but we bet on the Duke-Michigan State game, and the loser was to furnish each member of the Committee on Agriculture with an agricultural product from their State.

As great a team as Michigan State is and was, they ended up slightly being defeated by Duke University. And I just wanted to announce publicly that I am furnishing each member of the Committee on Agriculture with tokens that represent Michigan, navy beans from the State of Michigan, the world's top producer of navy beans; and also from Battle Creek, Michigan, a new cereal by Kellogg.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1745

GOLD MEDAL FOR ROSA PARKS IN RECOGNITION OF HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARY MILLER of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of H.R. 573, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON), for introducing this important piece of legislation to honor a true American heroine and, indeed, a great American.

Forty years ago, Rosa Parks risked everything when she refused to abide by the Jim Crow laws of segregation. In 1955, blacks were considered secondary human beings. Everything was segregated, Mr. Speaker, in 1955, schools, parks, restaurants, rest rooms and neighborhoods. I lived through that time, Mr. Speaker. This was just to name a few of the areas where segregation reigned.

In Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks became a pioneer of black people, being the catalyst that changed the course of history. Rosa Parks spoke out for every black person throughout the Nation who was being denied equality and freedom. Mrs. Parks refused to move and relinquish her seat to a white man because she was tired. She was tired of the foolishness, she was tired of the selfishness, of the rudeness, and she was tired of the disrespect, and the day that Mrs. Parks refused to move was a turning point, was a turning stone in America that changed the unfair, indiscriminate laws that were made for blacks in the United States.

In one simple act of defiance, Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks, on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, history was made. I am a part of that history, Mr. Speaker, and so is every other African American that we see in the Congress. Because of the courageous act of Rosa Parks, I stand before my colleagues today as the first African American from Florida elected to the Congress since Reconstruction. It was Rosa Parks who made this happen, Mr. Speaker, and we want America to understand this. This will help America understand, to see the fight that Rosa Parks put up so that the rest of us could have a better chance.

This award perhaps should have been bestowed on Rosa Parks several years

ago because her deeds have paved the way for generations of African Americans today. My daughters and my son, Mr. Speaker, will have a better chance now of coming to Congress or even being President of these great United States because of Rosa Parks.

I ask my colleagues to join me and urge our President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Nation. She gave to the world the best she had, and now the best will come back to her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TANCREDO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE— MRS. ROSA PARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I stand tonight as a very proud black woman, a woman who came from Alabama, one who was there during the time of the Rosa Parks venture. Before I go on to talk about this woman who should, by all stature, receive this congressional medal, let me congratulate my colleague and friend, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON), who had to come to the 105th Congress to sensitize us of the importance of recognizing this heroine that we call Rosa Parks.

She is the mother of civil rights because it was in December of 1955, Mr. Speaker, that Rosa Parks refused to get up after having spent all day as a seamstress to give her seat to a man who was nonblack, who thought that he was to sit at the front of the bus and she was to sit in the back where there were no more seats.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks showed courage, dedication and commitment

to the cause of saying that everyone should be equal when they paid their fare to ride a bus. That ignited the civil rights movement.

We know that the mother of civil rights, Rosa Parks, was the catalyst in bringing about the civil rights laws that we now know because when Rosa Parks refused to get up from her seat, it was the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King who said: I will not stand for this woman to be removed from a bus and not fight for cause. Indeed, she is a drum major for justice.

So on Monday, April 19, 1996, the United States Senate unanimously approved legislation to award the congressional medal to a woman who is deserving of that, an icon of the civil rights movement. According to Mrs. Parks, she has been pushed as far as she could stand when she was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955, for refusing to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus.

As I look at myself as the vice chair of the Women's Caucus here in the U.S. Congress, I know that I would not be standing here had it not been on the shoulders of Rosa Parks, a woman who saw a need to open the doors for opportunities for all of us, not only African American women, but for all women in this country. Mrs. Parks is an integral part of the civil rights movement which led to sweeping changes of the laws and the social fabric of these United States. These changes, due in part to the efforts of Mrs. Parks, have paved the way for not only the opportunities for me, but for my grandchildren, my granddaughters and my grandson.

She is a quiet strength, Mr. Speaker. If you have seen her, you would wonder how this woman, who seemed to be so frail perhaps, would have done this; but her strength and her courage and her commitment and her faith caused her to say: I shall not be moved, I shall not return back to the days of degradation . . . So, she is truly a drum major for justice, Mr. Speaker.

I am so proud that this House now has seen befitting for it to bestow a congressional medal on a woman who deserved this. She will now take her position and stand with Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela as persons who changed the core of this civil rights movement in this country and in this world and made it better for all of our children, black children, white children, brown children, red children, yellow children, to have the opportunities that should be accorded them in these United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am so happy to be a part of the 106th Congress who bestowed a congressional medal on such an outstanding woman.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 19, 1999, the United States Senate unanimously approved legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks, an icon of the civil rights movement.

According to Mrs. Parks she: "had been pushed as far as she could stand," when she

was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955 for refusing to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus, as mandated by law. This courageous act of civil disobedience led to the Montgomery bus boycott, which helped to form the foundation of the civil rights movement in this country.

Mrs. Parks was an integral part of the civil rights movement, which led to sweeping changes of the laws and social fabric of the United States. These changes, due in part to the efforts of Mrs. Parks, have paved the way for increased opportunities for all Americans.

The title of Mrs. Parks' autobiography "Quiet Strength," is a fitting title and description of a woman whose selfless act made this country a better place, and whose life should serve as an example of public service. Mrs. Parks is truly a drum major for justice and it is for these reasons that Congress should honor this American hero with the Congressional Gold Medal.

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to lead the House's special order on mathematics and science education.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to imagine a successful enterprise during the 20th century that has not involved proficiency in math and science. Skilled mathematicians and scientists have led the way in smashing the atom, discovering vaccines and cures for diseases, landing astronauts on the moon and developing the Internet. In fact, a notable author has heralded the last 100 years as the American Century.

It is no exaggeration to say that mathematics and science provided the bricks and mortar that helped the U.S. construct its prominence on the world stage as a leader in the global economy and its sole status as superpower.

Mr. Speaker, if the U.S. is to maintain its status as a world leader, it is necessary to fundamentally change how America looks at education and specifically mathematics and science education.

The House Democrats have joined with President Clinton to improve education. We recognize that a high-quality education will ensure that today's students will become the skilled employees and business leaders of tomorrow. The Democrats have strongly supported measures to reduce class size, to repair outdated school facilities, to construct new schools and to ensure that public schools are safe places for our children to learn. These are important initiatives.

We believe that it is in the national interest that improvements are made not only in our country's school architecture, but also in how we teach our students mathematics and science in kindergarten through the 12th grade.

Toward this end, we believe that greater emphasis needs to be placed on the training and recruitment of mathematics and science teachers. We need to make changes in mathematics and science curricula to give some students more access to computers. We can make improvements to study math and science in greater detail rather than focusing on just the basics.

Today I would like to highlight some of the problems that exist when it comes to mathematics and science education. We will examine how these educational shortcomings adversely affect the recruitment of employees to businesses, particularly in the field of information technology and other information-based fields.

When it comes to mathematics and science education in the U.S., students need practice and more practice. Compared to their international peers, American students ranked near the bottom in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study that was released last year and in 1996. Results at the third and fourth grade levels showed that Korea was the top-performing country in science; Japan was second; and the U.S. and Austria shared the third position.

In mathematics, Singapore, Korea, Japan and Hong Kong were the top, while American students came in in 12th place. For 12th graders, U.S. students ranked 16th in their knowledge of science and 19th in their knowledge of mathematics among the 21 competing countries. That is unsatisfactory.

These findings underscore that U.S. students do not share the same proficiency in mathematics and science that their overseas peers have. Since these students will comprise tomorrow's work force, they will have a direct impact on our country's ability to compete in the global economy.

There are many of us in the House who believe that the President and Congress need to embrace public policies to improve mathematics and science education. As the Subcommittee on Basic Research's ranking member, I have had several discussions with representatives of the information technology community. These business people have expressed their frustration in not being able to find qualified job applicants. In fact, one chief executive officer testified last month that in his company he had received 630 resumes in the first 6 months of its start-up, and of those considered qualified, none were American born. One out of 10 jobs in information technology is currently unfilled according to the Information Technology Association of America. One in three job applicants tested by U.S. companies lacks the reading and mathematics skills for the job as reported by the American Management Association.

These statistics reveal that there is a direct relationship between proficiency in math and science as a student and one's ability to be a successful employee in the evolving information-based workplace.