

percent that we now see as an average return coming back in.

Social Security personal retirement accounts offer more retirement security. For example, if John Doe makes \$36,000 a year, in Social Security he can expect \$1,280 a month in a personal retirement account compared to what has happened in the last 100 years with no more than 60 percent in equities. He would have \$6,514 per month retirement from his PRAs. As I mentioned, States and local governments had the option of going into the Social Security program or doing their own investments. Galveston County, Texas, decided they wanted to do their own investment so they are not paying into Social Security.

Just a comparison in Galveston, death benefits \$253 in Social Security, \$7,500 under the Galveston plan. Social Security benefits for disability, \$1,280; Galveston plan, \$2,749. Social Security payments \$1,280 a month compared to the Galveston plan now paying \$4,790 a month.

I just simply demonstrate this to say that we can do better than the 1.7 percent return we are now getting on Social Security. San Diego did the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, I would conclude by urging this body to hold the limit on spending. Again, we have tried to set caps on spending. We did that last in 1997 with the 1997 caps on spending. If we would have had the discipline to hold down spending, to do what we said we were going to do when we passed those 1997 caps, the baseline, what is projected for increased spending over the years, that is roughly inflation plus 1 percent, the projected spending if we would have stuck with those caps that we set for ourselves, would be \$1.7 trillion less than is now projected under the new baseline. So we could have doubled the tax cut.

So the danger and the question is, how do we keep government from continuing to grow at the rate that it has been growing? How do we make sure we pay down the total debt of this country, including the debt that is owed to the trust funds, Social Security, Medicare and the other trust funds, to make sure we keep Medicare and Social Security solvent? It is a huge challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time; and I urge the President, I urge my colleagues, to move aggressively to solving Social Security and developing ways that we can discipline ourselves. A lot of this has to come from the White House. Discipline the Federal Government from continuing to increase spending like we have in the past.

PRINTING OF A REVISED EDITION OF "BLACK AMERICANS IN CONGRESS, 1870-1989"

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER)

is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this is the last day of Black History Month, a vital commemoration that we celebrate in our Nation each February. I have had the privilege of hosting for 20 years, every year that I have been in Congress, a black history breakfast in my district, to which I have invited extraordinary speakers over the years, including our colleagues, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON); as well as his father; and many other distinguished African Americans and Members of this House.

At the outset, because she has a committee meeting to attend, I would like to yield to one of our newer colleagues but who is not new to the struggle for civil rights in this country and in her city. She is also a leader in her city as a prosecutor and as a judge. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that in the time that I have been in Congress, although 2 years and 60 days, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) has been one of my finest friends and has given me great instruction and guidance; but I want to be invited to be the speaker at the Black History Month breakfast next year.

Mr. HOYER. I hear the gentlewoman.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution to reprint the book called Black Americans in Congress; and I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), and my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), for their insight and vision to do such a thing.

I rise today to honor the contributions of black Americans in the Congress of the United States. In our collective history, the period of 1865 to 1877 marked reconstruction. The first African-American Member of Congress, Senator Hiram Rhodes Revels from Mississippi, Republican, served in 1870 in the 41st Congress.

Senator Revels was also the first black Member of Congress and the first black Member from Mississippi. Senator Revels began an illustrious tradition that has continued through this day. The History of Blacks in Congress was last published in 1989. It is now time to update this volume to reflect the work of individual Members of Congress, as well as the collective work of the Congressional Black Caucus over the past 12 years.

In the 212 years of congressional history, African-American Members of Congress have shown that effective African-American leadership is more than simple expressiveness. It must deliver substance by opening up opportunities for the poor and powerless. It must enhance race relations but also hold accountable any group or indi-

vidual that may seek to disenfranchise people of color.

Hiram Revels and other 19th and 20th century black Members of Congress worked to ensure that representation of African Americans through the franchise, voting rights. At this point in our history, it is highly significant that we must continue to examine the systematic disenfranchisement of voters, most recently during the 2000 elections.

Most African Americans who aspire to leadership in the post-civil rights era will understand what makes a difference in people's lives: Homes and safe neighborhoods, schools that teach our children, businesses that support economic growth and jobs in our communities, faith and community institutions. These matters are at the heart of much of the work of the Members of Congress, both black and white. But until our society prioritizes fairness, economic stability, health care, security for seniors, and education, advocacy on behalf of the poor and powerless need continue. African-American Members of Congress will continue to strongly advocate to ensure that our society evolves into a more perfect union.

Again, I am so happy to join my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), and my other colleagues as we push to reprint Black Americans in Congress. This time maybe I will get printed in the program since I have managed to make it here, and am blessed to be here.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) for her remarks. She is impossible not to include, Mr. Speaker. She is effervescent, ever-present and ever-ready; and we thank her for her participation.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that today is the last day of Black History Month. It is appropriate that we look back on this history and we look back with our eyes wide open at the injustices committed on American soil. The stain on our history deserves no defense because it is simply indefensible, but let us take this opportunity today to look back and learn from those who led our Nation out of darkness through the strength of character, through the unbreakable human spirit, through the unending quest for freedom and human dignity and in the words of that great national anthem, "facing the rising sun of their new day begun, let us march until victory is won."

The inspiring lives of our colleagues teach rich lessons for all of us. The inspiring lives of great African Americans do so as well: George Washington Carver; Frederick Douglass; Sojourner Truth; Harriet Tubman; W.E.B. DuBois; Thurgood Marshall, from my own State; Jackie Robinson; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and Shirley Chisholm, who served with such high distinction in this House. Mr. Speaker, that list of great African Americans could go on and on; and that list is continually growing.

If we take a look around this very body, Mr. Speaker, we will see a new generation of African-American leaders who serve the American people so ably, so proudly. It is important that we recognize their contributions and their service to the people of America.

□ 1415

It is important that we capture the rich lessons of their lives which inspire generations yet to come, not just of young African-Americans who will see them as role models, but young Americans and young people throughout the world who will see them as courageous human beings who have overcome great adversity, racism, in many instances, economic deprivation, cultural deprivation.

Some, have come from advantaged homes, but they have not forgotten that there is a struggle that continues.

To that end, Mr. Speaker, I have joined more than 40 of our colleagues in introducing a bipartisan concurrent resolution for the printing of a revised edition of the House document entitled "Black Americans in Congress, 1870 to 1989." I introduced this because in the last 10 years now we have had many distinguished African-Americans join our ranks. I and my cosponsors want to make sure that they are remembered.

The latest edition of this work, published in 1990, contains biographies, photographs, and other important historical information about the 66 distinguished African-Americans who had served in either Chamber of Congress as of January 23, 1990. Since that time, an additional 40 distinguished African-Americans have served or are now serving.

As we celebrate Black History Month, therefore, I encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution, which directs the Library of Congress to revise and update this volume. It will be a tremendously important resource for Members, scholars, students, and others.

To appreciate history, we must recognize where we have been and how far we have come. When the Voting Rights Act was signed into law by President Johnson in 1965, there were five African-Americans in Congress. Today there are 38, nearly eight times that number. Progress? Yes. But our work is far from finished. We cannot, rest on our laurels or that accomplishment. That, Mr. Speaker, as all of us in America know, became painfully clear during last November's national election.

Yesterday I participated in an important hearing on election reform convened by the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus. It is undeniable that the election problems and irregularities that arose not just in Florida, where we focused, but all across this land, contain a profound civil rights dimension.

It is a basic right of American citizenship to have the opportunity to vote. It is a fundamental responsibility

of our democracy that we ensure that their everyone's vote is properly counted. In Atlanta's Fulton County, which uses punch card machines similar to those that gained so much notoriety in Florida, one in every 16 ballots for President was invalidated. In Cobb and Gwinnett Counties, two largely white neighboring counties that use more modern optical-scan equipment, the nullification rate was one in 200. Think of it. In the inner city, one in 16 ballots was thrown out. In the more affluent suburbs, which could afford better technology, only one in 200. What a stark contrast that is a 1,250 percent difference.

That is not acceptable in America, it is not acceptable in any democracy. In many Chicago precincts populated by African-Americans, one in every six ballots was thrown out. In contrast, neighboring DeKalb and Henry Counties, which are mostly white and use optical scan equipment had a spoilage rate of only three-tenths of a percent, one in six versus three-tenths in 100.

It is painfully clear today, Mr. Speaker, nearly 36 years to the day after the famous bloody Sunday civil rights march in Selma, Alabama, an event that awakened the Nation to rank injustice and led to enactment of the Voting Rights Act, that our work is not finished. Far from it. Those brave foot soldiers of the civil rights movement, including our beloved colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), marched in Selma and across our Nation for the most basic right in a democracy, fought for the right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, I will be marching across the Edmond Pettis Bridge on Sunday. I will be marching across that bridge with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and many others to commemorate that historic march which directly led just a few months later to the passage and enactment and signing by President Lyndon Johnson of the Voting Rights Act.

The right to vote alone is simply not enough. Even in a Nation as great as ours, we must redouble our effort to ensure that every single vote is counted, and that the integrity of our election system is never threatened.

It is startling, Mr. Speaker, that women were not able to vote in this country until the 1920s. African-Americans could not vote, not because legally they could not, but because they actually were discouraged. They were not empowered by being encouraged to register to vote. They were instead given literacy tests and other devices were used to preclude them from exercising what the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments said was rightfully theirs as citizens of this country.

As we conclude Black History Month, as many of us prepare, as I said, to join the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and others this weekend in a pilgrimage to the historic civil rights sites in Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma, let us redouble our commit-

ment to the spirit and righteousness of that historic Voting Rights Act and say, never again, never again will we accept an election system that fails to count every vote.

As Frederick Douglass, the abolitionist and journalist who escaped from slavery, said so many years ago, "The whole history of the progress of human liberty shows that all concessions yet made to august claims have been born of earnest struggle. If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

When we join the earnest struggle for human liberty, then and only then, Mr. Speaker, will we have learned the rich lessons that Black History Month helps us to teach. Then and only then will we honor the extraordinary Americans, African Americans, but Americans, committed to their country, chosen by their neighbors to serve in this Congress who have enriched this institution, enriched their fellow African Americans, and enriched this Nation by their service.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased in this special order to urge every one of my colleagues to support this resolution to reprint this fine publication to ensure that even the newest Members of this Congress who are African Americans are included in it, so that everybody in America can know of their background, of their service, and of their commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), a distinguished former member of the Missouri Senate, the son of a distinguished former member of this body, William Clay, who chaired the Committee on Education and Labor for a number of years, who was a giant in speaking out for the education of every American child, white or black, yellow, brown, or red.

The gentleman's father is, I know, extraordinarily proud of his son, who has been selected by his Missouri neighbors to represent them here. No father can send a son here; only the citizens can do that.

I am pleased now to yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), the son of a great American, a great American himself, and the president of the House freshman class for the year 2000.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that I rise on this, the last day of Black History Month, to urge my colleagues to support passage of House Concurrent Resolution 43.

I also want to thank my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), for scheduling this special order and allowing us this opportunity to speak on the measure.

As the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) mentioned earlier, I am a second generation African American Member of this body. I am only the second African American to succeed a parent in this body, with the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) being the first.

We were proud to follow in our parents' footsteps, and with both his father and my father being founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, that adds a certain significance, also.

House Concurrent Resolution 43 calls on the Library of Congress to update and reprint the historic publication, "Black Americans in Congress, 1870 to 1989." I urge all of my colleagues to support this effort. Black Americans in Congress is an important historical document for all Americans. It brings together the stories of men and women of color who, through their own determination and commitment, overcame incredible barriers to serve this Nation with distinction as Members of Congress. The collective stories are a record of achievement that we can all be proud of.

It has been more than a decade since this collection was last issued, and during that time many more distinguished African Americans have stepped forward to serve their Nation as Congressmen and Congresswomen. Their stories of success in public service deserve to be told, as well.

I encourage all of my colleagues in the House to support and pass this resolution.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments, and contributions. He and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) have two fathers who are very, very proud, and I know mothers, as well, proud of their sons who are serving so ably and following their fathers' footsteps so appropriately. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I said earlier that on Sunday I would be marching across the Edmond Pettis Bridge. One of the people that I am sure will be walking with us is a great fighter for civil rights who was there during the darkest days, most difficult days of the struggle for, as Martin Luther King, Jr., said, America to live out its promise. He represents Birmingham, the city of Bull Connor, one of the examples of how hate and racism can inflict a community like a cancer. The gentleman was perhaps not as famous, but a giant himself of the civil rights movement.

I am very proud to yield to my friend, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD), formerly a member of the Alabama Senate and chairman of one of its most important committees.

□ 1430

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, history is very important, not only for the sake of knowing of the past, but being able to look at the past in terms of the future and the present and interpret history and perhaps see the resemblance and correct the things of the past, so that in the present we will not make those same mistakes.

It is very important that we have documentation that explained the facts, that explained the order of being during a particular time. It is very important that information be gathered

and be cataloged and be published, so that in the future, people will be able to reflect back in a written manner and ascertain facts of the past.

Mr. Speaker, I speak because I am one of those who have an appreciation of history. Unless we make sure that our history is accurate, that the record is clear, concise and in a form that can be interpreted, digested and related to the future, we will never be able to have accurate representation of the past, and we will never be able to correct problems of the past, so that those mistakes will not be made in the present, nor in the future.

Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama was one of those historical events in Alabama that changed this Nation, that called for laws in the State of Alabama and in the United States Congress to be changed. So it is always important that an accurate representation be made on Bloody Sunday.

It is also important that an accurate representation of the history of those who serve in the United States Congress be documented for the present and for the future.

Mr. Speaker, as a student of history, I ask that all Members concur and support the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and what the gentleman is seeking to do.

This has been done in the past, and it was good. It must be done in the present, so that we may continue the goodness of the past so that it will be available in the future.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) for his contribution, not just to speak on this resolution, but his contribution over at least three, possibly four decades of service to his State, to his community and to our Nation. I thank the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), my friend, one of our newer Members, but one of our most able Members.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this month, as we celebrate the achievements of African Americans to our great country, I find this resolution most appropriate to recognize the hard work of African American legislators and the world's greatest legislative body, the United States Congress.

As we do today, African Americans have always been the conscience of the Congress, fighting for people and communities that have traditionally had no voice in these hallowed halls, championing for the protection of civil rights of all people.

This book will give a historic illustration of the tireless work black Members of Congress made during the post-Civil War era to the last decade in the 20th century, arguably the most crucial period in our country's history.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as a proud Member of Congress, because of the work of black pioneers who served in this body at the turn of the century

through the civil rights movement and right on up to today.

Mr. Speaker, I know from looking at the first edition of the book that I stand here as only the 98th Member of Congress who happens to be of African descent. And I know that that first edition sits on my coffee table at home and there a number of young people that pick it up and look at it and begin to ask questions about the people that are contained in there and read the contributions that they have made to this great Nation.

Indeed, I know of some teachers who utilize this book as part of their curriculum, not just in February, but throughout the year in teaching all children, no matter what color they may be, about the accomplishments of those who serve in these hallowed halls and the contributions that they have made to these United States.

Mr. Speaker, for sure we have come a long way, and Members who happen to be of African descent that is in this body have helped make this Nation great and greater than it would have been had they been excluded from this body.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my good friend, for introducing this timely resolution. As Black History Month comes to its conclusion, let us all celebrate the achievements of black Members of Congress by updating the work of African American Members of Congress from 1989 until today.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) for his contribution. And the gentleman is correct, the history of this institution would not be nearly as rich, as important as it is without the contribution of Americans of African descent. Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), a distinguished representative of a great State. She is the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of this publication. Every month, and this happens to be the last day of that month, we have Black History Month. We have that because much of the history of black Americans was not recorded and intertwined with history making.

Often, we do not know our own history until we can get some publication where someone wrote something down about what was going on.

All too often, we find the absence of anything that sometimes we accomplish unless it is breaking the law. Our young people need role models. They need to know opportunities are really available. When they can see a publication like this, then often it gives them that inspiration to feel that it is possible for them, too. That is why I think that it is very worthy of having it printed and updated now.

Classrooms at every level can utilize something of this sort, and it is not because we think we are that special. It is because there are so many young black Americans that do not even know today that many of us serve in Congress and do not know what we do.

It is very moving to walk into a classroom and students just want to touch you, because they think that where you have gone and what you have achieved is untouchable until you can say to them, it is touchable. It is touchable because the people that are featured in this book helped to make that possible.

And the next one that comes out, it will be those people that helped to bring us to the next level. It is important, and it makes for a more positive attitude with our young people for them to work toward a most successful and productive future.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) for her contribution. I want to join her in saying that it was not any individual Member of this Congress of African American descent seeking to have a new book published with his picture. It was a thought, as the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) mentioned and the gentlewoman has mentioned, that we have millions of young people around this country who are not sure of what the opportunities are. And knowing that there have been trailblazers who have done that and been there will give them a confidence that they, too, can seek opportunity and success in any place in America.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), my very close friend, who is the Vice Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and a great leader of this Congress.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for yielding to me, and I want to thank him for his leadership and sponsorship, and I join the gentleman in sponsoring this legislation and on speaking on it today.

As I listened to the gentleman and then I saw the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) walk into this Chamber, I could not help but think about my great grandfather.

The only thing I have from him is to see his grave. I have never seen a picture of him. I have never seen anything written about him, nothing.

I think it is so important that our young people be connected with their past. It is so very, very, very important. This is the kind of effort that does that.

As the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) talked about it, there is something about a child seeing someone who looks like them and saying that here is an African American woman, she is a Congresswoman, and I can be one, too.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when I was a little boy, I mean being a Congress-

man was just off limits. I just did not even think about it, but I will tell my colleagues one thing, if someone had presented a book like this to me and I could see people who were doing it in my space and in my time, it certainly would have been a major force in helping me to get to where I have gotten to today.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud this effort. I think it is very important that we document our history. During this month, African American History Month, so often what happens is that we set aside this month for African American history, but as I have often said, everyday, 365 days a year, we should not only celebrate the history of African Americans, but celebrate the history of this wonderful country and how all of us have come together to work together.

Mr. Speaker, I think a document such as this not only helps African American children, but guess what, it helps white children, Hispanics and others, too, because then they get a chance to see that their classmates and the foreparents of their classmates made a tremendous contribution to their society.

My daughter was in a class once and she was telling me how a number of the white children just could not believe that her father was in Congress, could not believe it. But I think documents like this remind all of us of the power of the determination, the power of working hard, the power that people can have to attain high heights.

I have often said, and we have said it many times in our State of Maryland, our children are the living messages we send to a future we may never see. When we send a message through a book like this one, it is a powerful message, because someone once said that what a book does is it memorializes a time and a space. It memorializes it, so when we are dead and gone, this document will still be here, lifting up the lives and encouraging people to go forth.

I applaud my good friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), with regard to "Black Americans in Congress" and seeing that it will now be extended from 1870 straight on up to the present time.

I think it is a wonderful effort, and I think we all ought to applaud ourselves for sending that wonderful, powerful message to our future.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is one of the most eloquent Members we have in this body. When he was in the Maryland General Assembly, he was the Speaker Pro Tempore of our House of Delegates, the second highest leader in our House. The gentleman did an extraordinary job there. He is doing an extraordinary job here, and I thank him for his contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the immediate past Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, whom I have

known for almost 40 years. He and I started out in the Young Democrats together. We have gone through a lot of history ourselves.

He came to this Congress several years ago. He is a colleague on the Committee on Appropriations, a real leader on the steering committee, the managing committee of our party. He has done an extraordinary job in leading the Congressional Black Caucus and an extraordinary job in serving South Carolina and America.

□ 1445

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) very much for yielding me the time. I thank him so much for his leadership, not just on this issue, but his leadership here in the Congress on so many issues. Also, I want to thank the gentleman for our long-time friendship. The gentleman is right. I started adding up the years in my head. I hate to think of it, but the gentleman is probably close to it.

Mr. HOYER. Stop doing that.

Mr. CLYBURN. But, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland so much for his friendship over the years, and I appreciate being a part of this special order to speak on this very special issue.

As the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), our chair in the Congressional Black Caucus, stated so eloquently, one of the reasons to me, the main reason for this document, which I think was first published in the 101st Congress, and of course I came here in the 103rd, is in order to give young people most especially in our country a fuller understanding of the broad history of this great Nation.

I have always maintained, as so many others, that Black History Month is a time for us in this country to focus attention in an affirmative way on what some of the issues are today that have come to pass because of our passive resistance in so many areas in years gone by.

As I go around my district during this month, I like to remind the students that I talk to. I go to public schools and private schools. In fact, I have gone to participating in a Black History Month program in a private academy in my district with only one black student. But I accepted the invitation, because I wanted to be there to talk to those students, irrespective of skin color, about what this month really means.

In this country, we tend sometimes when we know that there is an issue that needs to be addressed, we tend not to take the giant step. We want to creep and then crawl, then walk and run.

We started out, when I was a kid, we had Black History Week, the week that embraced both the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, that was set aside every year for us to focus attention on the contribution of African Americans. That was done because our textbooks in those times

were completely devoid of any mention of African Americans, irrespective of what field they may have made their contributions in.

So in 1976, I believe, under the direction of, first, former President Gerald Ford I think, and then followed in action by maybe executive order by Jimmy Carter when he became President, we moved it to Black History Month.

So we have gone from one week now to a month. I believe that, in the not too distant future, we will eliminate whatever reasons we have for setting aside this month, because I think that we will slowly but surely get to a point where we are going to bring into our textbooks all of the contributions of African Americans in whatever field of endeavor.

I think now, though, we are here to talk about updating this book that really discusses the history of African Americans' service in this great body. I believe it is important for us to understand that this is to offer an opportunity for everybody, red and yellow, black and white, to get a better understanding of their history and a better understanding of all of the people who are citizens of our great Nation what contributions they may have made to the development of this Nation.

Because in so many instances, I am actually surprised when I go to these schools the number of young students, black and white, who are just unaware of this rich history and the kind of respect that can be developed for each other when we have a better understanding that all of us have a rich history in this country and all of us, irrespective of background, race, gender, hair texture or which side of town one may have been born on, all of us have made significant contributions that the entire country celebrates this month and celebrates the year round.

I am going to use an example of what happened in the school I was in the other day to underscore this point. I said to the students that I talked to, I said, you know, when I was a child, I remember the most dreaded disease known to us children at that time was the disease of polio. We used to really live in fear of it. I remember one would come home from school with a headache, my mother feeling that may have been the first sign of polio. Polio visited my neighborhood twice, leaving one of my playmates dead and another one crippled for life.

But along came two people, Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, whose great work, great study and contributions have virtually eliminated polio from the face of the earth.

Well, at the same time, there were soldiers dying on battlefields all over the world, not because of the wounds they were receiving, but they were dying because of a loss of blood. Along came a guy named Charles Drew who saw that life did not have to end this way. Because of his hard work and his study, he came up with a method by

which we can refrigerate blood and save it until we need it.

So I tell students these two stories to let them know that it does not matter to me that Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin happen to have been born white, nor should it matter to anybody else that Charles Drew happened to be born black. What matters to all of us is these three men made contributions so that all of us can have better lives, better quality of life today.

When these things are put in our books so that our students can see that people of various backgrounds, various skin colors did in fact make significant contributions, there is a higher level of respect they will have one for the other.

They will learn to treat that student sitting next to him or her irrespective of what the gender or color they may be with a new level of honor because they will know that that could very well be another leader in the political world, in the government affairs, in science, in whatever field of endeavor they may undertake.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for bringing this resolution so that we can update this book, because I think that, when one looks at some of the men and women who have been elected to this august body since it was last published in 1989, it behooves all of us to make them familiar to all of our students so those students can get a better level of respect for this body and for the men and women serving in it.

So I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for letting me be a part of this special order. I hope that the entire Congress will see that the wisdom of going forward with this resolution, funding it, so we can get it out to all of our libraries and our schools, these men and women who make significant contributions day in and day out to the governmental affairs of our great Nation.

Hopefully they may spark something into that little girl or boy who may wonder whether or not service in this body can, in fact, be something they can look forward to and use that as a stepping stone instead of the many stumbling blocks that have been placed in many of their ways in years gone by. So I thank the gentleman so much for letting me be a part of this.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) for his remarks. I want to say that, having known him for a long period of time, there is no doubt in my mind that he has himself been a spark, an inspiration to many, many young people, not only in his home area of South Carolina, but around this country, to see the opportunities available to them.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in support of the concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of a revised version of "Black Americans in Congress, 1870-1989" Our beloved Capitol is rich in culture, art, and most importantly, history.

It is this great history that paints a picture of growth, prosperity and advancement for all of the world to see. And in this spirit, it behooves us to take note of those great pioneers, who came before us, and blazed a trail for us to follow. It is important to take note of the accomplishments of Congressman Jefferson Franklin Long, the first Black congressman from Georgia. It is essential that history reflects the legacy of Bill Dawson, the first Black congressman to serve on a major congressional committee. We can never forget the contributions of Adam Clayton Powell who introduced legislation to outlaw lynching and the poll tax, and to ban discrimination in the armed forces, housing, employment and transportation. These are just three out of countless examples that illustrate the important accomplishments of legislative patriarchs who presided in these hallowed halls.

The reprinting of "Black Americans in Congress", is essential. I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution to help further our dedication in preserving and maintaining the rich history of our Country and fortifying the spirit and heart of our Country's citizens.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today in support of H. Con. Res. 43, legislation to authorize printing of a revised and updated version of the book "Black Americans in Congress, 1870-1989." This volume is an important chronicle of the history of the United States Congress. It is especially appropriate that we take time during Black History Month to recognize the many African-American Members of Congress that have come before us.

The printing of an updated version of "Black Americans in Congress" will serve as an educational and historical reference for all Americans. We must never forget that there were Black Members of this Congress in 1870, just five years after the end of slavery. We must not hesitate to teach our children that there were, at one time, Members of Congress who had barely secured their own right to vote. As we continue to work towards the promise of our democratic system, it becomes even more relevant to recognize those past Members of Congress who struggled, in sometimes hostile environments, to serve our country. Special thanks go to my good friend STENY HOYER and the Members of the House Administration Committee who have shown such leadership on this important issue. As a founding member and Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, I encourage the House to pass this resolution.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include therein extraneous material on the subject of this special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTING IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on an additional subject, today together with the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), my colleagues, and 60 additional cosponsors, I am introducing the Voting Improvement Act. This bill provides a short-term and

a long-term solution to a crisis we face in the wake of the 2000 elections.

Mr. Speaker, today together with my colleagues Mr. HORN and Mr. PRICE, and with 60 additional cosponsors, I am introducing the Voting Improvement Act. This bill provides a short term and a long term solution to crisis we face in the wake of the 2000 election.

One of the reactions that I have heard repeatedly from my constituents in the months since the election, was shock at the sheer number of votes that were cast but were not counted—19,000 discarded ballots in Palm Beach County alone. Those numbers are shocking—and they have the potential to drive voters away from the polls permanently unless we can act quickly to repair our voting system and repair the voters' confidence in that system.

In 615 days we will be having a federal election. That election will be subjected to the greatest amount of media scrutiny that has ever befallen an election in this country. And that is why I believe that it is imperative that we devise a way to bring about the most dramatic reduction possible in the number of votes that are cast but not counted.

The quickest way to get more votes counted is to target the system with the highest rate of error and the lowest rate of public confidence. That system is, without a doubt, the punch card. A joint MIT Caltech analysis recently estimated that the nationwide error rate for punch cards is 2.5 percent. This translates to as many as 986,000 votes cast but not counted on punch card systems alone. Almost a third of voters used punch card systems in 2000, making it the most commonly used voting method.

Yet, in some jurisdictions punch cards have had error rates as high as 6.25 percent or one in every 16 ballots. These disturbingly high rates of spoiled ballots also have a troubling tendency of occurring in jurisdictions with high populations of minority voters. For example, in Chicago rates of uncounted ballots increased from 1 in 20 in precincts that were less than 30 percent African American, to 1 in 12 ballots in precincts more heavily populated with minorities. Fifty one precincts in Chicago had ballots that were ruined at a rate of 1 in 6 ballots. These 51 precincts were 90 percent African American and Hispanic.

Punch card technology has not changed significantly since its introduction in 1964. This is true even though there is virtually no other technology that has not undergone revolutionary improvements since 1964. We no longer use rotary dial 1964 telephones, or portable 78 rpm record players. Desktop computers have completely displaced typewriters, and even the venerable rolodex is being quickly replaced by the Palm Pilot. Yet the punch card counter remains virtually unchanged. In fact, punch cards themselves, a standard IBM product used in any number of computer systems in 1964—today are produced only for the purpose of voting! There is no excuse for keeping a punch card voting system in place. Particularly as this bill will provide \$6,000 a precinct to any jurisdiction that replaces punch cards by Election Day 2002.

While punch card voting systems are the number one offender, they are not the only problem. One estimate from a Bryn Mawr computer scientist is that nationwide, and across voting equipment, about two percent of the votes cast nationwide in 2000 were not counted. That means that over 2 million voters

were unintentionally disenfranchised. Spoiled ballots occurred on lever machines, on punch cards, on optical scanners and on modern electronic touch screens. The number of ballots not counted far exceeds any measure of the margin of victory in the Presidential election.

We have neglected our election system as a whole—trusting in outmoded equipment because it is familiar—and trusting in wide margins of victory because they often occur. I believe that with focus and funding we can develop voting technology that is cost effective, that is accurate, and that is accessible to all voters including the blind and the disabled. While it is not possible to eliminate spoiled ballots, there is no reason that we should not be able to reduce the nationwide error rate to .5 percent.

I know that it is possible as a nation to drastically reduce the numbers of uncounted votes and do it quickly. It is possible because my own state of Maryland did it. They went from a statewide error rate of 1.5 percent in 1988 to a statewide error rate of less than .5 percent in 2000. They accomplished this remarkable achievement in part by getting rid of punch cards. Maryland stands as an example and a challenge to the rest of the states. If we can reduce the number of uncounted ballots to .5 percent nationwide, one and a half million more voters would have their votes counted.

Whatever the means by which we seek to reduce the number of uncounted votes—through this bill—through some other Congressional proposal—or by State action—we must work hard to get these votes counted. I also want to say to the States and to the counties—this is an urgent problem. Do not wait. Do not trust that federal resources are coming. Act now to make improvements including buying new equipment for 2002. I fear that one of the unintentional effects of the discussion about this issue on Capitol Hill, is that we are unintentionally producing a disincentive for states and counties. The Voting Improvement Act would provide reimbursements to any punch card jurisdiction that acts now and gets new equipment in place for Election Day 2002. I challenge those state and counties to do so.

Nonetheless, money and equipment alone cannot solve the problems with our voting system. New technology must be accompanied by voter education, and by polling place resources including helpful and well trained workers and officials. That is why the punch card buyout is simply step one of the Voting Improvement Act.

The Voting Improvement Act would also create a new four member bipartisan Election Administration Commission. The primary function of the new agency would be to administer an annual grant program to aid states in the administration of elections. In 2003, the punch card buyout would be replaced by a grant program to provide \$140 million annually to states and to counties.

Unlike the buyout which requires no commitments from the States, the grant program would require States or local jurisdictions to provide 25 percent in matching funds. States will also be required to install equipment that can be used by blind and disabled voters to vote privately, and States must also provide assurances that they are in full compliance with existing laws.

Ten million dollars of the grant money would also be reserved for research and development by manufacturers. one of the problems

that election officials have faced in buying new equipment is that the available technology is simply not as good as it could be. In part, that is because the market for voting equipment is not that large. Thus, the grant money would help to stimulate the production of equipment that better accommodates all types of disabilities, is more cost effective, and is more accurate and easy to use.

A minimum of 20 percent of grant funds for States and local jurisdictions would be required to be used for voter education and for training. Voter education plays a critical role in getting more votes counted. The implementation of new voting systems cannot be successful unless the voters are amply educated in how to properly use it. Polls must also be staffed with people trained to aid voters in getting their votes cast and counted, not at discouraging them from voting at all. To that end, the bill would provide leave to any federal employee who worked in a polling place on a federal election day. Making federal worker resources available is an attempt to aid election officials in the tremendous task of recruiting and training the huge work force that play a key role in making federal elections work.

The new Commission would also be responsible for creation of a Model Election Code. Like the Uniform Commercial Code or other Model Codes, it would serve as a resource to States that are seeking to protect themselves from legal challenges. The Model Code would cover statutory provisions including what constitutes a vote, when and how a recount should be held, and how an election contest should be handled. I hope that an organization with experience in producing model laws, such as the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, will agree to draft the Model Code, as I believe that a product will that imprimatur of expertise and credibility could prove a valuable resource in improving election statutes nationwide.

Finally, the new Commission would serve as a national clearinghouse for information and study on what elections practices work best. It would develop voluntary "best practice standards" to study issues including how a ballot should best be designed, how voter registration list should best be maintained, and how many votes continue to go uncounted across the country.

This bipartisan legislation is supported by a broad and diverse group of Members. I am very hopeful that we will continue to add more co-sponsors and move this legislation forward.

A few weeks ago, President Bush met with members of the Congressional Black Caucus and remarked: "This is America. Everyone deserves the right to vote." However, as we all know now, the right to vote is not enough. Every vote also must be counted. The Voting Improvement Act will help us do just that, and will go a long way in restoring public confidence in our election system and our democracy itself. ***** -Name: -Payroll No. -Folios: -Date: -Subformat:

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TRIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSBORNE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 60 minutes.