

Excellence around the country and set up the Morris K. Udall Awards in Parkinson's Research to provide grants to scientists who are working to cure Parkinson's. One of the 11 Udall Centers is located in the City of New York. The New York group is doing innovative research, including identifying new genes, that when either expressed or suppressed, contribute to the degeneration of key nerve cells. They are also investigating gender and ethnic differences in people with Parkinson's Disease.

Notably too, Columbia University's Dean of Medicine is the former director of NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Dr. Gerald Fischbach. The work at this Udall Center, as well as centers across the country, is leading to a better understanding of the brain and how this disease affects it. The ground-breaking research at the Udall Centers, as well as our Nation's public and private sector research efforts, will lead to better treatments and hopefully, a cure for Parkinson's.

In this Congress, I will proudly join the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MARK UDALL) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. TOM UDALL) and members of the Congressional Working Group in introducing a reauthorization of the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research Act. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in this effort.

In the spirit of Mo Udall's tenacity and strength of purpose, we cannot stop now. We must wholeheartedly support Parkinson's research until we find a cure.

As the President has said, we must continue on a path to doubling the NIH budget by 2003. In last year's appropriations, over \$71 million of the NIH budget was designated for Parkinson's disease research, but this is only year 1 funding of the NIH's 5-year plan for Parkinson's disease research.

Leading scientists describe Parkinson's as the most curable neurological disorder. That is why I urge my colleagues to support the second year funding of the 5-year NIH plan. Recent advances in Parkinson's disease research have given us hope that a cure is very near. The science regarding Parkinson's has advanced to a stage where greater management and coordination of the federally funded research effort will accelerate the base of scientific progress dramatically. I ask all of my colleagues to support the NIH research agenda by fully funding the \$143 million increase for fiscal year 2002 in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Secondly, we must continue to fund the U.S. Army's Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Research Program. The research not only strives to improve the treatment of neurological diseases, but also aims to identify the causes of diseases and prevent them. I am heartened by the scientific progress being made. We are very close to a cure for this disease.

As my colleagues may know, this is a personal issue for many of us. Some of

my colleagues are struggling with Parkinson's or have family members who are living with this terrible disease. My own father has been afflicted by Parkinson's, and I have seen the impact of this disease firsthand and have spoken to the experts. Professionals at NIH have said that this disease is curable within as little as 5 years, and I hope that our government will be part of making this research happen.

Mr. Speaker, an important part of curing Parkinson's disease depends on stem cell research and allowing that research to go forward.

WELCOMING OUTSTANDING
WOMEN FROM AROUND THE
GLOBE

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

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome 24 outstanding women who represent eight countries on the continent of Africa who have come at the request of the League of Women Voters, who have come to look at what we, the women of the House, do in order to empower ourselves and empower the women throughout this country.

□ 1645

I am so pleased to welcome my friends from Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. These women represent non-governmental organizations, but are interested in the political process and how they can better serve the people of their respective countries upon their return.

As we all recognize, the League of Women Voters encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

They have come in that role as advocates to take back with them how we, the 62 women who make up the House of Representatives, function: the types of policies that we pass out of this House.

I happen to serve as the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, and I simply told them that to empower themselves is to become part of the democratic process, and that is to vote, to encourage all of the folks within their countries to vote, to be participatory in the election process, and then to seek the needs of women and families so that they can address those through an advocacy program to follow the needs of those respective constituents, and certainly it will help them to build the base that is necessary to run for office.

Those of us who are women here in the House have not sought to get these seats initially. We were teachers and nurses and social workers and other

types of fields of endeavor. But when the need came and when folks in our communities told us that the education systems were broken, that there were so many children who were not insured with health insurance, then we took up the gauntlet, and we began to build a base to run for office.

We encourage not only the women who are here who see this floor, who see this House, the House that receives people from around the globe. Earlier today we welcomed the President of Mexico, Mr. Vicente Fox. We are welcoming them today. We welcome all who come to seek out what we do in the House, the people's House, a House where we pass laws to make the quality of life better for all people.

It has been my pleasure to host them today with the members of the Congressional Conference of Women's Issues, and with women and men Congresspersons who came to welcome them to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome them to this House.

UNITED STATES DECISION TO
PULL OUT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
WORLD CONFERENCE
AGAINST RACISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition and disappointment with the Bush administration's decision to end the United States participation in the World Conference Against Racism and not to even send initially Secretary of State Colin Powell to represent our interests.

Once again, the United States is on the wrong side of history. I traveled to South Africa to participate in the World Conference Against Racism as a congressional adviser, along with several of my colleagues with the Congressional Black Caucus.

Prior to attending the conference, I joined my colleagues in urging the Bush administration to send a high-level delegation led by Secretary of State Colin Powell.

As we all know, the decision of the United States to not participate in the conference was based on language in the draft document that would have resurrected the controversial debate of Zionism equals racism. Why then, on such an important issue, was the Secretary of State prevented from making every effort, and I mean every effort, to get rid of this destructive language? He should have been there doing that.

I am totally convinced that the United States should have been represented by Secretary Powell because he is well respected, very bright, and probably would have been able to help the conference move forward by insisting that it stay focused on its purpose, the elimination of racism, rather than the Middle East crisis, which warrants

our full attention in trying to get the peace process back on track.

America should have asserted its leadership by fully engaging in the world conference against racism, not by detaching from it.

It is an outrageous insult to millions of Americans that our first African American Secretary of State, Colin Powell, was not allowed to join in this important discussion. Many Americans are equally and rightfully outraged by the Bush administration's decision.

We know, I know, this House knows, that this country has a long history embedded in racism. Full participation in the conference would have sent a message that the United States was joining the world in efforts to discuss strategies to eliminate racism, xenophobia, sexism, hate crimes, religious intolerance, and other forms of intolerance. No other country has this tragic history as we do. Who else should be leading the world community in addressing this? We should.

However, the manner in which the United States has addressed the World Conference Against Racism is really a disgrace. It is a slap in the face to millions of Americans who have been affected by past United States policies rooted in racist ideology and are dealing with the consequences each and every day in their daily lives.

The United States is sending a message that it is indifferent to the issues of circumstances facing Native Americans, Latino and Hispanic Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, as well as African Americans. I firmly believe that this is a grave mistake and a missed opportunity of the greatest magnitude.

The World Conference Against Racism provided an important and credible platform to address racism in all its forms. This platform is also critical to the discussion of the 10 priority action points of consensus presented by the Africans and African descendants at the conference, and should have been embraced by the conference and by the United States Government.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD this statement on the Ten Priority Action Points.

The document referred to is as follows:

TEN PRIORITY ACTION POINTS OF CONSENSUS
AFRICAN AND AFRICAN DESCENDANTS CAUCUS

1. The Slave Trade, Slavery and colonialism are crimes against humanity.
2. Reparations for Africans and African Descendants.
3. Recognition of the economic basis of racism.
4. Adoption of corrective national (domestic) public policies with emphasis on environmental racism and health care.
5. Adoption of culture-specific development policies.
6. The adoption of mechanisms to combat the interconnection of race and poverty, and the role that globalization (caused by governments and the private sector) has in this interconnection.
7. Adoption of mechanisms to combat racism in the criminal punishment (penal) system.
8. Reform of the legal system including national constitutional reforms and develop-

ment of international and regional mechanisms for dismantling racism.

9. Adoption of policies specific to African and African Descendant Women that recognize and address the intersection of race and gender.

10. Support for the adoption of policies that recognize and address the intersection of race and sexual orientation.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Government sanctioned slavery for hundreds of years, completely devastating the lives of generations and generations of Africans in America. It is long past time that this government formally deal with its participation in the institution of slavery and to begin the healing process for millions of Americans who are descendants of slaves.

The United States should be leading the charge to address the lasting impact of the transatlantic slave trade, what to do about it, and specifically to discuss reparations. We cannot forget that America's racism is rooted in the institution of slavery. That must be dealt with in order to move forward as a healed and healthy country.

As an African American woman and a Member of Congress, it is embarrassing that this miscalculated and callous decision to abandon the conference will once again leave the United States out of serious international dialogue.

Racism is a fundamental question of human rights, and in the House Committee on International Relations and here on the floor we regularly question human rights practices in other countries. It is equally important that we apply the same scrutiny to our own society and examine the easily recognizable vestiges of slavery manifested in the current racial and economic divides that we experience today.

The World Conference Against Racism provided our government with a credible platform to do this. Yet once again, as with the previous two conferences, we are absent.

I want to urge my colleagues to support legislation offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), H.R. 40, which would commission a study to examine the effects of slavery and to begin a substantive discussion which I believe will move us forward toward healing our Nation. This legislation must move forward.

Again, let me reiterate my deep disappointment at the decision of the administration to pull out of this conference. The next time this opportunity presents itself, the United States not only needs to attend this conference, but to host it.

U.N. CONFERENCE AGAINST
RACISM

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

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I attended the conference in Durbin on racism with the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE). The Congressional Black Caucus had seven

members there, and I think we were the ones that gave credibility to the United States, because I really feel that we missed an opportunity.

So I would like to read to this body my statement that was delivered while we were there in Durbin, South Africa, at the United Nations Conference on Racism, Xenophobia, and Other Intolerance, because I think it states the point.

"It is a distinct honor to participate with representatives from around the world who are joined in one common concern, and that is the elimination of the scourge of racism. No nobler intent can there be to express our support for eradicating this menace that has permeated our halls of justice, our halls and places of power, our board rooms, our schoolrooms, and our main streets.

I use as a frame of reference my own place of birth, the United States of America, which has failed to send a high-level delegation. So I have to say, shame, shame on America. You have demonstrated your reluctance to sit at the table of nations to discuss past policies that have contaminated our relations between the majority and the minority in our own country. So deep are the wounds that healing appears to be unattainable and the political will evasive.

The legacy of slavery not only has broken the spirit of many African Americans in the Diaspora, but also left generations to come without the hope to look ahead with clarity. We seek a future without the pain of suffering from the indignities and intolerances spawned by the involuntary seizure of a people from the very continent on which we stand today.

The Congressional Black Caucus stands with the participating nations asking for a healing that will repair the broken and make them whole. But first our country must recognize its past mistakes and own up to them.

It is disingenuous for critics to harp on the theme that the past is the past, which they had nothing to do with, and now we must fast-forward to the future. It loses sight of the psychological and sociological damage remaining from the harsh and unjust treatment of the past. This refrain, "the past is the past," cannot be washed away with only an apology, but could with a series of meaningful discussions held in the United States that acknowledge the past and develop plans for the future to eradicate racism.

I therefore call on the United States to host its own conference on racism in the near future and to support the legislation of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), H.R. 40, which will ask for a discussion, a study on racism.

Reparations can consist of a variety of approaches that indeed further the advancement of those oppressed and provide benefits for their offspring. We need to look at better educational opportunities for our young people from kindergarten to college; health insurance coverage, maybe; the unjust justice system; racial profiling; affordable