

alternative budget proposal that would have done just that. Our alternative provided important funding for chronically underfunded education programs such as No Child Left Behind and IDEA. The federal government promised that when these programs went into effect, it would provide funding to carry them out. Under the President's budget and the Majority's budget, we are not meeting this promise, and it is hurting local school districts.

Our alternative budget also provided increased funding to meet the demands on our local first responders, provide more for veterans' health care needs, and improve the quality of life for our armed service members. Further, by making tough choices on spending and taxes, we provided more tax relief for middle income Americans while reducing the record federal budget deficits. We can do this if we can work in a bipartisan manner. Unfortunately, the budget resolution narrowly passed by the House earlier this year failed to make these key investments while still leading us down the road to the largest budget deficits in the history of our nation.

Today, we have been given the opportunity to address our budget shortfalls. The resolution offered by Congressman OBEY targets increased funding toward ten top priority issues, while providing \$4.7 billion to reduce future taxes on our children resulting from the these current budget deficits.

The Obey resolution:

Restores funding for training and equipment needs of state and local fire fighters, police, paramedics, public health officials, and emergency managers.

Fully funds veterans medical care at levels advocated by the bipartisan House Veterans Affairs Committee. Veterans organizations expressed outrage at the inadequate healthcare funding levels included in the Majority's budget.

Adds funding for military housing needs to help the families of our armed service members. The Department of Defense notes that over 120,000 service members do not have decent housing.

Funds the No Child Left Behind program.

Meets the minimum funding necessary to meet promises for special education.

Increases Pell Grants to more closely resemble inflation increases, helping lower income student afford college.

This is by no means unnecessary or wasteful spending. It simply restores cuts to programs important to the people of western Wisconsin and provides adequate levels of funding to meet government promises.

It is also fully paid for. As I mentioned earlier, budgeting is about tough choices, and included in this resolution is a reasonable trade off. In order to provide this important funding for military service members, students, veterans, and local first responders, the resolution propose reducing future tax relief for those wealthiest Americans with over \$1 million in annual adjusted gross income. The tax packages of 2001 and 2003 included enormous benefits for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. The Obey proposal will keep many of these tax provisions in place. In fact, those with annual adjusted gross incomes over \$1 million will still get around \$24,000 in tax relief if this resolution is passed.

Contrary to the rhetoric coming from the other side, this will not hurt the vast majority of small business owners. This resolution only

impacts those with over \$1 million in adjusted gross income. I know and work with many business owners in western Wisconsin, and this resolution will provide more help to them and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, we need a new approach to help our local communities and this resolution provides important funding to meet critical priorities. I urge my colleagues to support the Obey resolution.

RECOGNIZING AND ENCOURAGING
ALL AMERICANS TO OBSERVE
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DEATHS OF ANDREW GOODMAN,
JAMES CHANEY, AND MICHAEL
SCHWERNER, CIVIL RIGHTS OR-
GANIZERS

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 21, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 40th anniversary of the deaths of Mr. James Chaney, Mr. Andrew Goodman, and Mr. Andrew Schwerner. I submit the following speech by former Mississippi Secretary of State Dick Molpus published June 25, 2004, in the *Clarion-Ledger Newspaper* of Jackson Mississippi.

To the families and friends of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Mickey Schwerner we issue a heartfelt welcome. You and yours are forever linked with all of us. We are honored today by your presence.

Also, as I look across this audience I see people I know from across Mississippi and the United States. I am lifted up by your presence, as well.

This is an historic day for a number of reasons. First, we are seeing a remarkable display of unity and connection from the citizens of Philadelphia and Neshoba County. In the June 2 edition of the *Neshoba Democrat* I saw a picture of Leroy Clemons, president of the NAACP, with Jim Prince, editor of the *Neshoba Democrat*, saying clearly this community has come together and it was time for the "sun to shine through the clouds."

There is no doubt that the work of the Philadelphia Coalition is nothing short of a miracle. I watched with pride as Mayor Rayburn Waddell of Philadelphia spoke for the Philadelphia City Council in passing an unequivocal resolution calling for justice and as the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors, led by James Young, issued their own clear call. The power of human understanding has been shown to us by the 30 individuals who have met every Monday night for two months to plan this event and authored their own eloquent and moving tribute to Messrs. Chaney, Schwerner and Goodman. I am more proud of the leadership in my hometown than at any time in my life.

I believe, however, until justice is done, we are all at least somewhat complicit in those deaths. I recognize that only a handful of hate-filled men actually committed the murders, but we are all, to some degree, implicated. Some will say, "How can that be? Why can't we just move on?" Most weren't members of the Klan, those of you under 40 weren't even born and many of the baby-boomers, myself included, were teenagers. Many of our older citizens would never have ridden the dirt roads to terrorize and they don't condone murder.

But all us who are Neshoba Countians or Mississippians have to acknowledge and face

our corporate responsibility in this tragedy and I'm not talking about some fruitless and useless intellectual effort to assign guilt or blame.

The debate about who could have or should have done what in 1964 could go on forever. It's a discussion that carries us no where—there is no resolution. But that does not mean we can move on by ignoring where we are in 2004.

One fact is absolutely clear. Hear this: For 40 years, our state judicial system has allowed murderers to roam our land. Night riders, church burners, beaters and killers deserve no protection from sure justice.

Our district attorney, Mark Duncan, is elected by Neshoba citizens and those in four adjoining counties. Jim Hood, our attorney general, is elected by all Mississippians. Our U.S. attorney, Dunn Lampton, is appointed by the president of the United States, an election we all vote in. These are not weak, timid or cowardly men. They have all voiced their support for bringing charges with proven evidence that will lead to a conviction.

But our local responsibility for what happens in the future is also heavy. Clearly, we need to encourage and support those prosecutors. But those of us with local roots must do more.

By most accounts there were 20 men from Neshoba and Lauderdale Counties involved in the planning and actual executions. A number of them have taken to their grave their knowledge of this crime. They have already had their judgment day. Others, however, certainly told wives, children and buddies of their involvement.

So there must be witnesses among us who can share information with prosecutors. Other murderers are aged and infirm and may want to be at peace with themselves and with God before their own deaths. They need to be encouraged to come forward. Now is the time to expose those dark secrets.

When we have heard murderers brag about their killings but pretend those words were never spoken, when we know about evidence to help bring justice, but refuse to step forward and tell authorities what they need to know ... that's what makes us in 2004 guilty. Pretending this didn't happen makes us complicit. We must provide the help prosecutors need to bring closure to this case.

But justice by itself is not enough. These three young men died while urging people to vote and participate in our democracy. James Chaney, Mickey Schwerner and Andy Goodman were American patriots. Their murderers were domestic terrorists.

The end of this saga, however, should not be about cowardly racists finally brought to justice. The final chapter should be about redemption and about moving on—moving on to a better life. The most lasting tribute we can make to these fallen heroes is to move on and to honor their cause.

This is 2004, not 1964. Many of the demons we face today are similar to the ones 40 years ago. True, African Americans have the right to vote, but too few of our citizens—black, white, Indian, Asian or Hispanic—use that right. Public schools were segregated in 1964. With the growth of segregation academies and white flight, many remain that way now. Few politicians today use outright race-baiting, but we see the symbols some use and the phrases they utter and everyone knows what the code is—what really is being said.

In 1964 there was a dependence on low-wage jobs in manufacturing plants. Forty years later, most of the plants are gone, but too many still scrape by on dead-end jobs to make ends meet. Black, white and Choctaw Indian communities here in Neshoba County and Mississippi struggle with the scourge of school dropouts, teen pregnancy and drug

abuse that keep the cycle of poverty unbroken. To build a lasting monument to James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, we must face these issues with a clear, unblinking eye and say "no more."

And finally, we Mississippians must announce to the world what we've learned in 40 years. We know today that our enemies are not each other. Our real enemies are ignorance, illiteracy, poverty, racism, disease, unemployment, crime, the high dropout rate, teen pregnancy and lack of support for the public schools.

We can defeat all those enemies not as divided people—black or white or Indian—but as a united force banded together by our common humanity, by our own desire to lift each other up.

Forty years from now, I want our children and grandchildren to look back on us and what we did and say that we had the courage, the wisdom and the strength to rise up, to take the responsibility to right historical wrongs—that we pledged to build a future together, we moved on. Yes, we moved on as one people.

Dick Molpus, a former secretary of state and gubernatorial candidate, owns the Molpus Woodlands Group, a timberland investment company in Jackson.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
FORMER CLEVELAND MAYOR
RALPH S. LOCHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, we rise today in honor and remembrance of former Cleveland Mayor Ralph S. Locher—Devoted family man, accomplished attorney, Ohio Supreme Court justice, community leader, and admired friend and mentor. Mr. Locher's term as Mayor of the City of Cleveland during a turbulent period of Cleveland's history, solidified his reputation as a man of honesty, integrity and heart.

Mayor Locher was born in Romania to American parents. His family left Europe to return to America, settling in western Ohio. Mayor Locher graduated from Bluffton College in 1936 and graduated from Western University School of Law three years later. He practiced law in Cleveland with Davis & Young until 1945, when he left for Columbus to accept the position of secretary of the Industrial Commission of Ohio.

His political career began in 1953, when Mayor Locher was appointed by Cleveland Mayor Anthony Celebrezze as the city law director. Mayor Locher did not seek elected office—it sought him. In 1962, Mayor Celebrezze resigned his post to accept an appointment by President John F. Kennedy, which immediately plunged Mr. Locher into the role as Mayor of Cleveland. Mayor Locher significantly trounced his opponent at the special election, and ran unopposed for a full term the next year.

Following his departure from office, Mayor Locher went on to be elected as probate judge in 1972. In 1976, Mayor Locher was elected as an Ohio Supreme Court justice, where he served until retiring from the bench in 1988. Mayor Locher served the bench with honor, integrity and concern, and garnered the admiration and respect of everyone associated with the court.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join us in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mayor Ralph S. Locher—An outstanding citizen, devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and an exceptional man and caring leader whose life positively impacted the lives of countless. We extend our deepest condolences to Mayor Locher's beloved wife, Eleanor, his daughter, Virginia Wells, and his grandson, and great-granddaughter. His passing marks a deep loss for so many of us who called him friend. Mayor Locher's flawless legacy of exceptional leadership, judicial integrity and sincere concern for others will be remembered always by the people of Cleveland—and far beyond. Moreover, his kindness, grace, and quiet dignity will always serve as example of a successful leader and more importantly—an exceptional human being.

APPLAUDING BETTY DUKES FOR
HER COURAGE IN STANDING UP
FOR WOMEN WORKERS AT WAL-
MART

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last month, Vice President DICK CHENEY visited the corporate headquarters of Wal-Mart and praised the company for the example it is setting for American business. Here is the example that Wal-Mart has set for American business:

If you violate workers' organizing rights, you can get away with it, receiving just a slap on the wrist from weak and ineffective federal labor laws.

If you shift the cost of health care onto workers who cannot afford it, you can increase your profits and have taxpayer-funded programs like SCHIP pick up the tab.

If you distrust your own workforce enough to disregard their safety, you can lock them inside your store overnight without a key.

If you want to increase the wealth of one of the wealthiest families in the world, you can maintain the lowest wages in the industry, laying off your most senior and loyal employees and replacing them with lower-paid entry-level workers.

If you want to eliminate competition in your industry by lowering your wages and prices, you can force U.S. suppliers to outsource their manufacturing jobs, so that you can reap the benefit of cheap labor from countries with even worse workers' rights records than our own.

All of these reprehensible labor practices are detailed in the February 2004 report which I commissioned, "Everyday Low Wages: The Hidden Price We All Pay for Wal-Mart." I urge Vice President CHENEY to read it.

Today I submit to you, contrary to the Vice President's remarks, that the employees of Wal-Mart are beginning to set an example for American workers—by fighting back on behalf of themselves and others who are unfairly treated by their employer. This week, as the attached L.A. Times article explains, a judge in California certified the largest employment-discrimination class action in history. A class of 1.5 million women who have worked at Wal-Mart are suing the retail giant for sex dis-

crimination. According to papers submitted in court, female employees are paid less than their male counterparts, promoted less frequently than their male counterparts, and retaliated against when they complain. In today's workplace—all too often rife with employer threats and intimidation—it takes a great deal of courage from workers to stand up for their rights. So I rise to salute one of those workers, a brave woman from my home district,

Betty Dukes of Pittsburg, California, one of the lead plaintiffs in this historic lawsuit. She has worked at Wal-Mart for ten years and simply wants a fair opportunity to succeed. She is now standing up for over a million other women who have punched the cash registers, stocked the shelves, and greeted customers for years without that opportunity. Her courage is to be commended. And I hail her as an American hero.

[From the LA Times, June 24, 2004]

WAL-MART PLAINTIFF STILL LOVES THE STORE: WORKER WHO IS SPEARHEADING A LANDMARK GENDER BIAS SUIT SAYS SHE JUST WANTS A CHANCE TO ADVANCE

(By Donna Horowitz, Eric Slater and Lee Romney)

Pittsburg, CA.—Less than 24 hours after a federal judge ruled that 1.5 million women who have worked for Wal-Mart could pursue a class-action gender discrimination suit, the lead plaintiff in the case was back on the job here Wednesday nattily dressed, quick with a smile and talking about how much she likes the company she's suing.

All Betty Dukes wanted, the 10-year veteran of the company said, was "the opportunity to advance myself with Wal-Mart."

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Martin J. Jenkins in San Francisco ruled that the suit originally filed by Dukes and five other women could be expanded to virtually every woman who has worked at the world's largest company since late 1998. The suit alleges that Wal-Mart pays women less than men for performing the same job, passes over women to promote less-qualified men and retaliates against women who complain.

The judge's ruling set the stage for what could be the giant retailer's greatest test ever. The sheer number of plaintiffs means that a loss or even a settlement could cost the company billions of dollars.

As Dukes was receiving minor-celebrity treatment from customers and co-workers—"Did you see my story in the paper today?" she asked customers, holding up a copy of a local newspaper—officials from the Arkansas retail colossus emphasized that Tuesday's ruling did not address the merits of the case and said it would do nothing to influence the company's plans to expand in California and elsewhere.

"It really doesn't change anything," said Robert McAdam, the firm's vice president for state and local government relations. "Nothing is different as it relates to our development plans or our prospects for growth in the state."

The company has weathered a series of high-profile tests, most recently in Inglewood, where Wal-Mart went so far as to ask voters to allow a Supercenter in their community only to be rejected. At the same time, other communities in the state have actively courted the retailer.

As Dukes smiled and welcomed customers to the store in this town of 48,000 about 40 miles northeast of San Francisco, many of the mixed emotions that Wal-Mart tends to evoke were in evidence around her.

Lozell Belarde, 39, seemed to embody the dichotomy of some customers.

"I really don't even like the store," said the property manager after a short shopping