

United States of America and the Organization of American States. They were among the first persons selected to represent Barbados immediately following the granting of Independence in November 1966. All of you will agree that Barbados, the Caribbean and the Inter-American System are better off from their leadership and commitment to improving the quality of life and the promotion of justice for all citizens of the Hemisphere.

On behalf of the Government and people of Barbados I wish to express our sincerest expression of sympathy to his wife, Elia and daughter, Gail and the rest of the family.

I wish to end by reading the first verse of the poem "Los Heraldos Negros" (Black Messengers) by the great Peruvian, Cesar Vallejo:

"Hay golpes en la vida, tan fuertes . . . Yo no sé!

Golpes como del odio de Dios; como si ante ellos, la resaca de todo lo sufrido se empozara en el alma . . . Yo no sé!

In English:

There are in life such hard blows . . . I don't know!

Blows seemingly from God's wrath; as if before them

The undertow of all our sufferings is embedded in our souls . . .

I don't know!

May he rest in peace!

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1868) to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1868, the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act, which will reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, for the next 3 years.

H.R. 1868 is the first reauthorization of NIST since 1991. Authorizing \$2.5 billion over 3 years, this bill would increase funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, which keeps jobs in the United States; creates the Technology Innovation Program, which allows universities partnering with businesses to apply for funding through NIST and speed research in high-risk, high-reward technologies in areas of critical national needs; continue funding NIST on a 10-year path to doubling; and provide necessary construction funding for laboratory upgrades.

Founded in 1901 under the National Bureau of Standards Act, NIST has been in the forefront of innovative technology in areas of public safety, industrial competitiveness and economic growth through standards and measurements. Its mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

NIST works tirelessly with industry, universities, and other government agencies to address technological innovations that will fundamentally change products and services available in the 21st century. NIST is renowned for working on cutting edge technology. Innovations from this research will ultimately impact our quality of life.

Also supported in this reauthorization would be the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, founded by NIST and given by the President of the United States. The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recognizes businesses for their standard of performance excellence in their business practices. Minnesota has been the recipient of three Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards in the past 10 years. Most recently in 2005, Sunny Fresh Foods, Incorporated won its second Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for its quality and leadership that continually focuses people and business processes on improving product and services to its customers and stakeholders.

NIST sits at the nexus of science and industry. NIST's unique role is to advance measurements and standards so that the next innovation can be realized and commercialized. In today's global economy, the ability of the United States to remain competitive relies increasingly on our ability to develop and commercialize innovative technologies. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1868 in order for National Institute of Standards and Technology to remain as the premier institute for measurements and standards in the world.

RECOGNIZING THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AS THE "2007 BEST PLACE TO WORK IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT" AND AS THE "BEST DIVERSITY COMPANY"

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize recent achievements of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC recently captured the top ranking among large Federal agencies in the "2007 Best Places To Work in the Federal Government" rankings announced Thursday, April 19, 2007 by the Partnership for Public Service and the American University Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation.

This recognition is a great honor for all of the men and women at the NRC. Agency employees are clearly committed to the mission of licensing and regulating the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promoting the common defense and security, and protecting the environment. As evidenced by this award, the NRC staff has the dedication and commitment that make the NRC a great place to work.

The NRC was also recently recognized as a "Best Diversity Company" by the readers of Diversity/Careers in Engineering and Information Technology. Reader survey results highlighted the NRC for the agency's strong support of women and minorities, attention to work/life balance, and commitment to supplier diversity.

These two awards highlight what we in the National Capital Region have known for a long time—the NRC is a top-notch employer. With its headquarters offices located in my district in Rockville, Maryland, I commend the NRC for its recent achievements and I applaud the agency's dedication to its employees while enabling the Nation to safely use radioactive materials for beneficial civilian purposes and ensuring that people and the environment are protected.

HONORING HARRY BELAFONTE FOR A LIFETIME OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to praise Harry Belafonte, legendary musician and world renowned entertainer, for a lifetime of activism for equality and human rights for people across the globe. His passion, sincerity, and empathy for those who are overlooked and underprivileged have inspired many to act and have brought about significant change in our society.

Harry Belafonte's courage to speak out against the war in Iraq, to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and to fight for an end of the AIDS epidemic is a mirror to his integrity and undying commitment to improving society. Amy Goodman reflects on his endless service in her article "Harry Belafonte, The Lion at 80" published by Carib News. Harry Belafonte is a true humanitarian for his lifetime of endless work for all.

[From the Carib News, Apr. 3, 2007]

HARRY BELAFONTE, THE LION AT 80

(By Amy Goodman)

Harry Belafonte just turned 80. The "King of Calypso" was the first person to have a million-selling album and the first African-American to win an Emmy, and is perhaps the most recognizable entertainer in the world. On Saturday, March 3, I attended his birthday party at a restaurant adjoining the New York Public Library.

The setting seemed very appropriate, as Belafonte himself is a living library of not only the civil rights movement but of liberation struggles around the world. In 1944, just before shipping out as a U.S. Navy sailor in World War II, he was banned from the Copacabana nightclub in New York. Ten years later, he headlined there. He knew Rosa Parks, Paul Robeson and Eleanor Roosevelt. He corresponded with the imprisoned Nelson Mandela when the U.S. government considered the South African leader a terrorist.

Belafonte was a close confidant of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He spoke daily with King. The FBI was listening. Taylor Branch, the award-winning author of a trilogy of books on King, was at Harry's party. Belafonte describes how Bunch's final book in the trilogy, "At Canaan's Edge," uncovered extensive FBI wiretaps of their conversations.

For fighting for the right to vote and to end segregation, Belafonte says: "We were looked upon as people who were insurgents, that we were doing things to betray our nation and the tranquility of our citizens. That engaged the FBI. Everything we talked about was tapped." The FBI even went to his house when he was away and frightened his

wife and children. He tells me: "The essential difference between then and now is that no previous regime tried to subvert the Constitution. They may have done illegal acts. They may have gone outside the law to do these, but they did them clandestinely. No one stepped to the table as arrogantly as George W. Bush and his friends have done and said, 'We legally want to suspend the rights of citizens, the right to surveil, the right to read your mail, the right to arrest you without charge.'" His criticism is not limited to President Bush (whom he called, while visiting President Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, "the greatest terrorist in the world").

President Bill Clinton crashed Belafonte's birthday party, which was taking place as the Democratic presidential contenders battled for the African-American vote. Sens. HILLARY CLINTON and BARACK OBAMA were in Selma, Ala., for the 42nd anniversary of the famous voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery. [Bill Clinton went to Selma to join his wife for the commemoration.]

In his remarks, Clinton toasted Harry: "I was inspired by your politics more than you can ever know. Every time I ever saw you after I became president, I thought that my conscience was being graded, and I was getting less than an A. And every president should feel that way about somebody as good as you."

I asked Harry how he felt about Clinton showing up. "I'm very flattered, OK, but I'm mindful of all the things that need to be done." In his succinct reply, a lifetime of struggle remembered, a keen edged skepticism, "He knows what I think. He said I didn't give him an A." I then asked him about both the Clintons and OBAMA going to Selma.

"We are hearing platitudes, not platforms. What do they plan to do for people of color, Mexicans, for people who are imprisoned, black youth? What are their plans for the Katrinas of America?"

In 1965, Belafonte was on the original Selma march with Dr. King before they reached Montgomery. Jude's Catholic Church offered its grounds to the thousands of marchers. Belafonte called in artists from around the country. Tony Bennett came, as did Pete Seeger (both were at Harris birthday party), Sammy Davis Jr., Mike Nichols, the conductor Leonard Bernstein, Odetta and Joan Baez. In the rain, they built their stage in the mud with donated caskets from local mortuaries.

The stakes were incredibly high. People were shot and killed, people were beaten. Viola Liuzzo, a white Detroit homemaker, was fatally shot by Klansmen while driving marchers back to Selma. Weeks before, police shot a man named Jimmie Lee Jackson, who later died. Despite all that, Belafonte says that the stakes are higher today.

Like the two stone lions that guard the New York City Public Library, Harry Belafonte—fierce, fearless, and focused—protects the soul of struggle. Even as he enters his ninth decade, this lion does not sleep tonight.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1867) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1867, the National Science Foundation Authorization Act, which will reauthorize the National Science Foundation, NSF, for the next 3 years.

H.R. 1867 will continue NSF funding on a 10-year doubling path, establish pilot programs to help improve funding rates for our young researchers, and encourage NSF to foster a relationship between academia and industry in order to improve the competitiveness of research conducted in the United States.

The National Science Foundation, created in the 1950s supports critical science and engineering research conducted at over 2,000 institutions across the Nation, which involves roughly 200,000 researchers, teachers, and students. Despite its relatively small size, NSF has an important impact on scientific and engineering knowledge and academic capacity. While NSF represents only 4 percent of the total Federal budget for research and development, it accounts for 20 percent of all basic research conducted at colleges and universities, and 50 percent of non-life science basic research at academic institutions. In fact, NSF is the only Federal agency that supports all fields of basic science and engineering research.

NSF invests in the best ideas of its scientists, engineers and educators working at the frontiers of knowledge, and across all fields of research and education. Their mission is designed to maintain and strengthen the vitality of the United States science and engineering enterprise.

In addition, NSF strives to improve its science and education collaboration at early stages in the education cycle. Science and math at the K through 12 level is becoming more interactive and engaging for our students in order to stimulate their future interest in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM. H.R. 1867 would increase funding for certain NSF education programs including authorizing the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Math and Science Scholarship Act, H.R. 362. Our youth represents America's future scientists. Stimulating their interest at a young age promises the continuation and success of our future biological, physical, social and engineering scientists.

In the state of Minnesota, the National Science Foundation supports research conducted at the University of Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic and many other academic institutions. The research conducted at these institutions has been paramount to the field of science and technology. Minnesota is proud to employ scientists, teachers, technicians and staff that address such cutting edge technology.

The research supported by the National Science Foundation touches the lives of every American; from gaining a better understanding of Alzheimer Disease to Global Climate Change and is critical to increasing our global competitiveness. It is with this commitment to the continued economic, social, and cultural well being of my district, and of the Nation, that I rise today in support of funding for the National Science Foundation for the next 3 years.

THE INNOVATION AGENDA, H.R.
362, H.R. 363, H.R. 1867, H.R. 1868

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have voted in support of several important and necessary bills on science and technology that will safeguard our nation's prosperity and security in the 21st century. As global competition continues to grow, we must meet these competitiveness challenges by encouraging science and technology research and education, as well as investing in business and industry applications. We need to position ourselves to best meet the demands of the 21st-century world, which will be driven by a knowledge economy.

Currently, less than one third of 4th and 8th Grade students perform at a "proficient" level in mathematics, and 12th Grade students perform below the international average of 21 other countries in math and science knowledge. Only 15 percent of our undergraduates major in science or engineering, while for China, our major economic competitor, that figure is 50 percent, an unhealthy balance with a potential major impact on outsourcing. That is no doubt why Intel Corporation predicted that it would shift another third of its business operations overseas (leaving only one third in the U.S.), as the company follows the most highly trained and educated work force. The decline in math and science performance has led Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft Corporation, to remark that he is "terrified for our workforce of tomorrow."

The 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act (H.R. 362) implements the National Academies of Science report, Rising above the Gathering Storm, which recommended increasing "America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 science and mathematics education." The bill invests in 10,000 new math and science teachers by increasing scholarships available for them, and will strengthen the skills of current teachers by offering them more training and educational opportunities. This bill puts teachers and children at the center of our renewal strategy.

It worries me that, since 1976, our investment in research has slipped by 45 percent (as a percentage of the gross domestic product). To counteract this decline, the National Academies of Science report recommended an increased and sustained commitment to long-term, basic research.

This commitment is further implemented in the Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act (H.R. 363). This bill provides grants for research scientists early in their careers, when researchers do their most innovative and ground-breaking work, and funds a much-needed national coordination effort for research infrastructure needs. The National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 1867) also addresses this problem by doubling National Science Foundation funding over the next ten years, increasing our commitment to math, engineering, and science research and education.

These bills will put an end to our neglect of science and math research and education and enable us to keep our competitive and innovative edge, which has been eroding in recent