

and Phylcia Rashad, greeted the audience followed by welcomes and acknowledgements by Howard Dodson and David Ferriero and Co-Chairs Billye Aaron and Sherry Bronfinan. Author and spoken word artist Kayo presented the first performance tribute to the honorees, "I Can Move Mountains." The award presenters gave biographical sketches and read the citation for each honoree before presenting the award statuettes with the assistance of four students from the Schomburg Center/New York Life Junior Scholars Program. The audience paid tribute to each recipient with a standing ovation. The first awards were presented to Ernest Kaiser by Schomburg Chief Howard Dodson; William Greaves by President of the Black Filmmaker Foundation Warrington Hudlin; Ruby Dee by actress Lynn Whitfield; and Harry Belafonte by Sherry Bronfman and Danny Glover. West African singer Angelique Kidjo then performed a special song in honor of the Africana Heritage Award recipients. The second set of awards were presented to Don Newcombe by Hank Aaron and Bob DuPuy; Clarence Avant by Billye Aaron; Herman Russell by Ingrid Saunders Jones; and Percy Sutton by Charles Rangel and David Dinkins. Avery Brooks performed Sterling Brown's poem "Strong Men" followed by Percussion Discussion, which kept the audience excited throughout the evening with their distinct and diverse sound.

The third and final set of honorees to receive statuettes were Elizabeth Catlett by Evern Cooper Epps and David Driskell, Dean of African-American Art Historians; John Hope Franklin by Howard Dodson; Aime Cesaire by Walter Mosley; Maya Angelou by Andrew Young; and Chinua Achebe by Manthia Diawara, Professor of Comparative Literature and Film and Director of Africana Studies and the Institute of African American Affairs at New York University. The final performance tributes were Phylcia Rashad's reading of Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman," and a musical selection by vocalist Kaïssa, from Cameroon.

After the tribute program, the honorees and major donors enjoyed dinner in the Allen Room. Awaiting them was a breathtaking view of New York City from the room's dramatic glass wall facing Broadway and Central Park, allowing guests a remarkable—but rare view of the City's streetscape. Tables with lavender rose centerpieces designed by Sandra Parks on royal blue overlays designed by David Fleming, along with music by Saleem Waters added to the extraordinary ambience. The Gala closed with words of appreciation from Howard Dodson, marking one of the most historical moments in the history of the Schomburg Center.

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 800) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes;

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Strengthening unions results in a stronger and more vibrant middle class, which is something we can all support.

Madam Chairman, we have heard arguments about how this legislation is taking away a worker's right to vote.

Let me make it absolutely clear, this bill does no such thing!

It does not take away the voting rights of workers.

The bill says that if 30 percent of workers want an election instead of a majority sign up, they get the election.

I want people to know, though, that most workers do not want to go through the so-called election process because it is so favorable to the employers.

Despite recent arguments from the bill's opponents, we are not talking about anything remotely similar to the American election system.

During our election season, we will be exposed to ads on our TVs that we can turn off.

With the union elections, employers hold employees captive for one on one meetings with supervisors to listen to anti-union rhetoric.

Having someone tell you how to vote on campaign ads over and over again might be annoying.

But imagine if it was your boss telling you how to vote with your job hanging over your head.

In Committee, we heard about situations where employees have to walk past armed law enforcement to cast their votes.

One witness, a Smithfield Foods worker, talked about a time when on "election" day, sheriffs officers were dressed in battle gear with guns lining the long driveway leading to the plant.

This is not the traditional American election.

Madam Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and give workers the choices they deserve.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine investing in our nation's future through agricultural research.

SR-328A

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine market constraints on large investments in advanced energy technologies and investigate ways to stimulate additional private-sector investment in the deployment of these technologies.

SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine strengthening American competitiveness for the 21st Century.

SH-216

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine policy implications of pharmaceutical importation for U.S. consumers.

SR-253

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the McCarran-Ferguson Act and Antitrust Immunity.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Veterans Administration adjudication process.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense medical programs.

SD-192

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine fees, interests rates and grace periods relating to credit card practices, focusing on high fees charged for late payments, over-the-limit charges, including how those fees are assessed, how they add to interest costs, and how they contribute to consumer debt, and an industry practice requiring consumer payments to be applied first to balances with the lowest interest rates instead of to balances with the highest interest rates.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws.

SD-226

Appropriations

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine national imperatives for Earth Science research.

SR-253

3 p.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

MARCH 8

9:15 a.m.

Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine cross-border trucking with Mexico.

SD-138

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Admiral Timothy J. Keating, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Pacific Command, Lieutenant General Victor E. Renuart, Jr., USAF, for appointment to be general and to be Commander, United States Northern Command/Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, and Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, USA, for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general and to be Chief of Engineers/Commanding General, United States Army Corps of Engineers.

SH-216

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's proposal to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration Part II.

SR-253

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine time for a new strategy relating to Afghanistan.

SD-419

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007.

SR-485

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, Blinded Veterans Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Non Commissioned Officers Association.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Science Foundation.

SD-192

Finance

To hold hearings to examine perspectives on the 2007 trade agenda.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine follow-on biologics.

SD-430

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas M. Hardiman, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, and Vanessa Lynne Bryant, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, the possibility of the issuance of certain subpoenas to former U.S. attorneys, S. 236, to require reports to Congress on Federal agency use of data mining, S. 261, to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, S. 376, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, S. 231, to authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012, S. 368, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, S. 655, to amend the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American Red Cross in the 21st century, S. 627, to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to improve the health and well-being of maltreated infants and toddlers through the creation of a National Court Teams Resource Center, to assist local Court Teams, S. Res. 88, honoring the extraordinary achievements of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, and S. Con. Res. 14, commemorating the 85th anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, a leading association for the 1,300,000 United States citizens of Greek ancestry and Philhellenes in the United States.

SD-226

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine small business solutions for combating climate change.

SR-428A

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing regarding Gulf security.

S-407, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Appropriations

Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-192

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

MARCH 9

9 a.m.

Appropriations

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Commodity Futures Trading Com-

mission and the Small Business Administration.

SD-138

MARCH 13

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations.

SD-226

MARCH 14

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration, focusing on education and training.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine reinvigorating the Freedom of Information Act relating to open government.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine technology solutions for climate change.

SR-253

MARCH 20

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine energy innovation.

SR-253

MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SH-216

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration, focusing on health care issues.

SR-418

MARCH 28

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine transitioning to a next generation Human Space Flight System.

SR-253

MARCH 29

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of AMVETS, Ex-POWs, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Fleet Reserve Association.

SD-106