

Congress, and without trying to negotiate a better deal for the American taxpayer, then we ought to change their name from the Federal Communications Commission to the "Federal Sucker Commission" because that is all they are.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, in 1924, when Oklahoma was a very young State, a young lady named Ada was born in Chickasha. Now, you would get that joke if you are from Oklahoma because we have a town in Oklahoma called Ada and a town in Oklahoma called Chickasha. This is a young lady named Ada born in Chickasha.

She thrived. She was an excellent student. In fact, she was the valedictorian of her high school, Lincoln High School. She left that and went to college. She stayed 1 year at one college, then transferred to another college and graduated with honors in 1945.

She dreamed of being a lawyer. She had graduated with honors. She had graduated valedictorian. She had all the credentials and all the capabilities to do it, but she had one big problem: She was Black. In Oklahoma in the 1940s, there were no law schools that would allow a Black student to attend. So, in Oklahoma, the policy was to help Black students who wanted to be a lawyer leave the State to study somewhere else.

She really didn't want to do that. She had graduated from the great Langston University and had a great education there and had every ability to do that. She interviewed with the University of Oklahoma—interviewed, actually, with the president of the school at that time—to go through the process to get into the University of Oklahoma law school.

She was found to be fully qualified, but the problem was, again, she was Black. And it wasn't just a problem with the University of Oklahoma. At that time, there was State law that did not allow Black students and White students to study together—and certainly not to study law together.

So she did a radical thing. On April 6, 1946, she filed a lawsuit against the State of Oklahoma saying that she wanted to study law at the very good University of Oklahoma law school. A young lawyer took up her case, a gentleman named Thurgood Marshall, a young lawyer who later became Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Young Thurgood Marshall took up her case to argue in front of Oklahoma district court, where they lost, arguing it all the way to the State supreme court, where they lost, lost, lost.

Then they took it into Federal court, saying that, constitutionally, neither the United States of America nor any State in the United States could block a student from studying law simply because they were Black. They won that case.

Probably returning back to Oklahoma to study, the Oklahoma Legislature hurriedly put together a new law school and called it Langston Law School and opened up a room in the State capitol and put a few books there and said: There is your law school.

Thurgood Marshall and Ada Fisher did not accept that—nor should they have—and started the process again of saying: We can't have a separate but "equal" law school in Oklahoma. They argued again in State courts, eventually ending up again heading all the way back to the Supreme Court.

Before it got to the Supreme Court and Oklahoma would lose again in front of the same nine Justices, they determined that they would break, and they would give. On June 18, 1949, more than 3 years after she started the process of getting into law school, she was admitted into the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where she was given a seat in the back of the room with a sign directly in front of her that read "coloreds only," and she could sit in that row in the back of the room.

In 1950, just the next year, those barriers would come down, and in August of 1952, Ada Fisher graduated from the University of Oklahoma law school and became a lawyer. She set the pace for thousands and thousands of others who are lawyers behind her now and get the chance of having that same joy.

Interestingly enough, if you were to visit the courthouse in Oklahoma City, the Federal district court there—if you were there a couple years of ago, you would have bumped into Vicki Miles-LaGrange. That African-American judge, the pace was set for her by Ada Fisher. If you drop by and visit it today, you would bump into Bernard Jones, that African-American judge who serves there for the Western District of Oklahoma. The pace was set for him by Ada Fisher decades before.

Quite frankly, we can't even fathom, in this current time period, how different things really are, but it is interesting to notice that time period and that generation and some ladies who really stood up and made a difference in Oklahoma because at the same time that Ada was at Langston University, another lady named Clara was at Langston University.

We know her affectionately in Oklahoma as Clara Luper. Now, some folks may not know Clara Luper's name, but they know what she did. Clara Luper was at Langston University as well in the early 1940s. She finished her study, got her bachelor's degree there, went and got a master's degree, and continued on through the process. She became the Youth Council leader for the NAACP in 1957, and in 1958 she helped her students—her youth whom she

worked with—do a really, really radical thing to deal with segregation in Oklahoma. She talked about non-violence, and she talked about how to step out and take a stand. She and a group of kids went to Katz Drug Store in Oklahoma City and sat down at the counter and ordered Cokes. And they sat there all day, never being served—all day. It was the birth nationwide of what we know of as the sit-in movement, where young men and women who were African American would go and sit down at a place and just wait to be served. It started a movement that shook the Nation into this issue of segregation. Those two ladies made a remarkable change for the better in our history: Clara Luper and what she did; Ada Fisher and what she did.

As we look back on tomorrow, Frederick Douglass's birthday, and we celebrate February as Black History Month, we realize how much history has really happened around us—just in the past 100 years even. We can go back as far as we want to and talk about the great Frederick Douglass and the influence he had on Abraham Lincoln and the influence he had on the Nation.

Quite frankly, in Oklahoma, there are Black leaders today who are making history, and 50 years from now and 100 years from now we will be talking about them like we talk about Clara Luper and like we talk about Ada Fisher.

We will be, 100 years from now, still talking about Russell Perry and the business work that he and his son Kevin have done in radio, what they have done in real estate, and what they have done in leadership in our State. Russell Perry was a barrier breaker. He was a cabinet member for a Governor. He has been a great leader and is a great leader in our State.

We will still be talking, years and years from now, of Dr. Kent Smith, the current president of Langston University, and what he has done at Langston and the leadership model that he has in our State.

For years, we will be talking about the members of the 1921 Race Massacre Commission and those individuals around Tulsa who have gathered around to say: What are we doing to help bring a community together and break down the barriers of segregation and of racism that still exist?

We will be talking for years about Hannibal Johnson. He is a lawyer and a brilliant man, a historian, and a leader in his community.

We will be talking for years about Wayland Cuban, an Oklahoma City police officer and a person who has spent a tremendous amount of time helping those around him and helping youth, especially those in trouble, to have a radical turnaround.

We will talk for years about Terry Munday and what he has done on the radio.

We will talk for years about pastors scattered all over our State that, in the African-American community,

have made a very real difference in the lives of a lot of families.

We will talk for years, quite frankly, about Dr. Lester Shaw and what he has done at A Pocket Full of Hope and how he has helped so many kids. He has, for years, mentored students and has had a 100-percent success rate, year after year after year, of just loving on kids and helping them in every way he can. Dr. Shaw has made a remarkable difference in our State.

We will talk for years about Clarence Hill and about what he has done for race relations in our State and how he is quietly bringing people together to sit down around a dinner table and develop friendships that should have existed long ago.

We will talk for years about Stephan Moore and his family, what they have done in the inner city, what they have done to pull kids out and look at them eyeball to eyeball and give them a sense of hope and a sense of joy.

See, in our State and around my city, Oklahoma City, where Frederick Douglass High School is, February is not just another month. We understand what Black history really means because we are living it with legacy-leavers like Ada Fisher and Clara Luper and so many others who have left such a mark.

I am proud to say I have neighbors and friends all around me who continue to make history in what they continue to do in our State. I am grateful to call them friends, and I am grateful we have the opportunity to celebrate Frederick Douglass's birthday together.

I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MAKE CENTS ACT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, there is really no way to sugarcoat it. Washington's budget process is broken. Every year, it is like clockwork. First, the President submits his budget, like we saw this past Monday. Then the House tears it up—no pun intended, really. They ultimately fail to pass their own budget, and then Congress kicks the can down the road before finally cramming through a budget-busting bill at the eleventh hour.

There is no question this process is dysfunctional, but maybe, more importantly, its lack of transparency allows for wasteful spending to continue year after year—unchecked.

Folks, this cycle has to end. We have to start chipping away at this ballooning debt, and we have to work toward cutting our government's most wasteful spending.

One of the best ways to do this is to call it out when we see it. As some of

you may know, every month, I give out my Squeal Award to call out the parts of our government that are wasting hard-working Americans' tax dollars. I highlight the most egregious waste found within the bowels of Washington, and then I put it forward and offer up a solution to stop it.

Take, for example, what I like to call the binge buying bureaucrats. Every year at the end of September, the bureaucrats charge billions of dollars to taxpayers during Washington's annual use-it-or-lose-it spending spree. We have seen the compulsive buying include items like millions and millions of dollars of lobster and crab. We have even seen spending on games and toys or even on something like a \$12,000 foosball table. Is that what we need in Washington, DC—foosball?

I have also called out Washington's boondoggles that are just bottomless money pits for projects that never really even get off the ground. As for the contractors who are working on these boondoggles, the ones who are failing at their jobs, guess what—they are getting big, fat bonuses.

A primary example of this egregious misuse of tax dollars is what I like to call the moondoggle. Right there. There you have it. Look at that—the moondoggle. I am talking about the rockets that are being developed for NASA's next Moon mission. This project is billions of dollars over budget and years—folks, not months but years—behind schedule due to poor performance. Yet NASA still handed out generous bonuses that totaled over \$300 million to the contractor who is working on the project.

Folks, it is absurd. This is absurd. We have to put an end to it, and thankfully I believe we might actually be on a path that will do that.

Taxpayers should be encouraged that all of this "squealing" has finally been heard at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. Both of these Squeal Award recipients—the binge buying bureaucrats and the infamous moondoggle—have been targeted by President Trump in his latest budget proposal.

Within its pages, the President states that his administration is committed to stopping improper end-of-year spending and will begin closely scrutinizing how money is being spent at the end of the fiscal year to curtail waste. The President's budget also calls out the poor performance of the NASA contractor and proposes management improvements that would shave \$300 million off the cost of the mission. This is encouraging, no doubt about it.

In order to codify these efforts, I am putting forward a package of common-sense reforms to join the President in urging Congress to actually address Washington's spending addiction, get our budget process back on track, and ensure Iowans understand exactly how their hard-earned dollars are being spent.

In order to force Congress to do its job and become a better steward of tax-

payers' money, I have introduced the MAKE CENTS Act. This comprehensive package combines five simple ideas I have previously introduced.

First off, it requires an annual report listing every government-funded project that is \$1 billion or more over budget or 5 years or more behind schedule.

Second, it requires every project supported with Federal funds to include a pricetag that is easily available for taxpayers.

Third, it eliminates use-it-or-lose-it impulse purchases by limiting an agency's spending in the last 2 months of the fiscal year to no more than the average spent in the other months.

Fourth, it prohibits Congress from going on recess without passing a budget on time.

Fifth and lastly, it prohibits Congress from getting paid without its passing a budget on time.

Folks, these are not new or radical reforms. Many folks in the Senate and in the House have proposed various versions of these items, recognizing the serious problem we face. Like the bill title reads, these ideas just make sense. If hard-working Iowa families have to manage their budgets, we really should expect Washington to do the same. So let's get at it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEE COUNTY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today it is a privilege for me to join Kentuckians in Lee County in marking 150 years of their distinguished history. Found in Eastern Kentucky, where tall hills meet dense forests, Lee County is home to a special rural heritage. I would like to spend a few moments today to look back at the area's wonderful traditions and to celebrate its great potential for the future.

To fully understand Lee County's history, we must appreciate its geography. The county seat, Beattyville, sits at the birthplace of the beautiful Kentucky River. The Commonwealth's