

COMMEMORATING THE 1972 NATIONAL BLACK POLITICAL CONVENTION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to commend the 1972 National Black Political Convention's 25th Anniversary celebration. This event will take place tomorrow, September 27, 1997, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, IN.

With great vision and dedication, the citizens of Gary, IN successfully hosted the First Black Political Convention 25 years ago. In 1972, 10,000 African-Americans trailblazed their way to Gary to bring together mainstream political leaders, labor officials, and ordinary people to forge a landmark and milestone in our country's struggle for economic justice and fair share of political power.

In 1972, there were 300 African-Americans elected to public office, nationwide; today, there are 7,000 in Federal, State, and local office. In 1972, there were 12 Members of Congress, and in 1997 there are 40 African-Americans in the U.S. Congress. The issues facing African-Americans today are different now than in 1972. The conference this weekend signals the shift from marches to the political arena, to using the political arena as the most effective avenue of opportunity.

In 1972, the convention agenda focused on political and economic empowerment, human development, international policy, communications, rural development, environmental protection, and self-determination. Twenty-five years later, some of the original organizers, including then Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher, are bringing together many of the same players for an anniversary celebration. U.S. Representative MAXINE WATERS of California, chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, will speak at the Genesis Center tomorrow evening. Many social conditions continue to place African-Americans at a disadvantage in finding employment and adequate housing. As a result, the public is being asked to join in the celebration for a weekend of solidarity and discussion, which will focus on striving to eliminate the burdens plaguing African-Americans.

A host of the Nation's most respected academic and political activists, including Dick Gregory, Dr. Ron Walters, Ron Daniels, U.S. Representative DANNY K. DAVIS, and Dr. Ron Karenga, have confirmed their attendance. I am proud to be a part of this celebration and would also like to commend the efforts of the members of the Gary Committee to Commemorate the 1972 National Black Political Convention: Richard Gordon Hatcher, James Holland, Dozier T. Allen, Morris Carter, Judy Cherry, Carolyn McCrady, and a host of other participants working to make this anniversary celebration a success. As the U.S. Representative of Indiana's First Congressional District, I am proud to represent the place of my birth, Gary, IN. I look forward to continuing to work with my African-American colleagues in making this country a better place for all people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commemorating the 25 year anniversary of the 1972 Black

Political Convention and to encourage public participation in carrying out their vision into the future.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2267) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Hefley amendment which would reduce funding for the economic development agency [EDA] by \$90 million.

The EDA plays a vital role in providing support to communities in high economic distress. An anecdote from my district illustrates how the EDA can work for all of our cities and towns. A large community in western Massachusetts just experienced sizable defense industry layoffs. Modest economic development money can inject economic life into communities facing similar hardships. EDA grants fund utilities construction to create industrial parks, provide capital for small business loans, fund regional economic planning for small communities to coordinate job creation efforts, and turn former military bases into centers for new businesses.

EDA funds help to build infrastructure, attract private investment, and create jobs. This is the kind of help that every district needs.

I urge my colleagues to preserve EDA funding and reject the Hefley amendment.

HONORING RABBI BERTRAM KORN

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who, in his all-too-brief 60 years of life, accomplished more than most could in three lifetimes. Rabbi Bertram W. Korn was a man of deep faith, a devoted family man, a heroic military officer, and a community leader in the 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

Rabbi Korn served Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, PA, as its senior rabbi from 1949 until his death in 1979. During that period, Keneseth Israel grew to become the largest synagogue in the Delaware Valley and a keystone of the religious community of Montgomery County, PA. He was the first senior rabbi to be educated, Bar Mitzvahed, and confirmed at the synagogue he led for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Korn was a dynamic and energetic leader who was known for his charismatic leadership and a catalyst for progressive change. He was entirely devoted to

his congregation and would be there for them at important events throughout their lives. While his title comes from the Hebrew rabbi, meaning "my master," Bertram Korn spent his life in service to the congregation of Keneseth Israel.

Rabbi Korn was a trailblazer, patriot, and military leader. Since World War II, he faithfully served the U.S. Navy becoming the first Jewish admiral in the Naval chaplaincy. He was a scholar, historian, and humanitarian with numerous books and writings to his credit.

Now, the congregation he loved and served so conscientiously will honor him by dedicating its sanctuary to Rabbi Korn's memory at Shabbat services this evening. Mr. Speaker, in Judaism, the sanctuary is the spiritual center of our synagogue and it is fitting that Keneseth Israel is dedicating their sanctuary to Rabbi Korn because for them, he was their spiritual center for many years and his memory and influence still lingers. The sanctuary is where our families gather for prayer and where we keep the Torah, which contains the entire body of Jewish religious law and learning including sacred literature and oral tradition. Rabbi Korn exemplified what is best about the family and the power of prayer for generations of our people.

Leading tonight's ceremonies will be Keneseth Israel's new senior rabbi, Bradley Bleefeld as well as Rabbi Aaron Landes of Beth Shalom Congregation. Rabbi Landes was both a rabbinical and Navy colleague of Rabbi Korn and will be the featured speaker and will be followed by Charles Pollack, head of the Bertram Korn Memorial Committee.

At the end of the service there will be two dedications. The first is a dedication of a mezuzah commissioned by the Korn family including his sister, Jean, and his two children, Bertram Jr., and Judy. A mezuzah is a copy of the Hebrew text of Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 1:13-21 in a container marked with the word Shaddai, the name of God. Rabbi Korn's son, Bertram W. Korn Jr., is the executive editor of the Jewish Exponent newspaper in Philadelphia. The second dedication will be the dedication of the sanctuary.

In association with this celebration, Temple Judea Museum of Keneseth Israel is opening a display of artifacts honoring Rabbi Korn to coincide with the dedications. In the entire 150-year history of the synagogue, there have only been seven rabbis. Of all of them, Rabbi Korn, is noted for having 13 or 14 of his students go onto rabbinical college.

E. Harris Baum, current president of Keneseth Israel, said that part of this celebration is designed to introduce a new generation of young Jews to the legacy of a great rabbi and to rekindle interest in his intellectual work and all that he gave to Reform Judaism. Mr. Baum said the message he received from Rabbi Korn was that each individual in the world has a responsibility to the other—not just Jews, but to all human beings.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, we honored Mother Teresa of Calcutta for similar reasons. Both of these individuals recognized that human kindness and our obligation to care for each other should not be limited by national origins or differences in religious practice. Compassion for each other is something that can bring the world's religious together just as Rabbi Korn's humanity pulled the families of his synagogue

together in prayer and caring. His positive impact as a rabbi was felt all over the United States.

Rabbi Korn believed in the vibrancy of Judaism and believed it to be an empowering, energizing force for human growth and development. He not only preached this belief, he incorporated into his daily life and urged his congregation and others across the United States to do the same. As example of his self-sacrificing dedication to humanity, Mr. Speaker, his daughter has spoken of times when he was sick and would have to go to the hospital for dialysis in the morning. Following this fatiguing treatment, instead of going home to rest, he would spend his time visiting patients throughout the hospital. During his entire life, Rabbi Korn put others before himself and his own needs. Now, his congregation and the entire reformed movement can admire his legacy and have the chance to say "thank you."

So, Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise to pay tribute to beloved Rabbi Bertram W. Korn and I join with his family, friends, congregation, and the entire Delaware Valley community to salute him and offer our gratitude for a lifetime of service.

THE OKLAHOMA WOMEN'S
BUSINESS CENTER

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the Oklahoma Women's Business Center, serving all of central Oklahoma, is an excellent example of a public-private nonprofit organization uniting and coordinating a multitude of Oklahoma resources in support of small women-owned companies. Mr. Speaker, I visited the Oklahoma Women's Business Center during the August recess and learned first hand of their superb efforts to train, mentor, coach, fund, and encourage women-owned businesses. Over the past 2 years the Women's Business Center was integral in assisting women-owned businesses in developing strategic plans, obtaining expansion capital, and expanding market share. The Oklahoma Women's Business Center can point to numerous successes, like Rosemary Carslile, owner of Mattress Furniture Direct in Norman, OK, who experienced a 30-percent growth in sales, in part, because of the help she received from this program. The economic leverage realized from programs like this contribute immensely to women's entrepreneurial efforts and are responsible for creating products, services, and new jobs within the community. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support programs like the Oklahoma Women's Business Center.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. WILLIAM P.
COOKE

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the reverend emeritus of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Sacramento, CA.

Rev. William P. Cooke. As Reverend Cooke celebrates his 80th birthday today, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting his remarkable life's work in community service.

Reverend Cooke's commitment to the Sacramento community dates back to 1952 when he joined Shiloh Baptist Church. In 1956 he was ordained by the church and he began his service as pastor just 3 months thereafter.

The commitment of Reverend Cooke to his congregation has become legendary in Sacramento. When the membership undertook the task of building a new church, Pastor Cooke often labored alone on the construction of a new house of worship for his ministry.

For 5 years, Reverend Cooke worked 12- to 15-hour days completing the church structure. Since the congregation had no carpenters among its ranks, Pastor Cooke did all of the finish carpentry himself. Reverend Cooke's unwavering dedication to this project ultimately led to the completion of a new house of worship for Shiloh Baptist Church in 1963.

In 1965, Pastor Cooke began the important tradition of an annual banquet for the Shiloh Baptist Church congregation. The day was envisaged by Reverend Cooke as a perpetual reminder of the hardships endured and the accomplishments achieved by the prayer and faith of his dedicated membership.

Since then, Reverend Cooke has been a formidable spiritual leader in the Sacramento community. Currently, he is enjoying a very well-deserved retirement after 26 years as pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church, plus another 4 years in an interim capacity.

Over the years, Reverend Cooke has received numerous special recognitions for his many good deeds. In 1973, the Sacramento City Council paid tribute to Reverend Cooke for his work as a member of the Citizen's Committee on Police Practices by giving him a Distinguished Service Award.

Because of his tireless leadership and concern for his fellow Sacramentans, especially young people, Reverend Cooke was presented with the Father of the Year Award in 1977. He has served selflessly as a foster parent for dozen of children throughout California.

Reverend Cooke has also displayed a passion for the cause of civil rights. Along this vein, he served as a member of the board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for many years.

In 1985, Reverend Cooke was honored with the Educational Board Award of the California State Baptist Convention. His exceptional leadership of Shiloh Baptist Church, along with an unwavering confidence in the power of education, made Reverend Cooke a most appropriate recipient of this high honor.

Additionally, Reverend Cooke was recognized for his exceptional spiritual deeds when he was presented with the Intergenerational Spiritual Leadership Award in 1994. The Department of Health and Human Services has similarly honored Reverend Cooke with an award for Outstanding Public Service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute today to a remarkable man of faith who single-handedly built a great ministry in Sacramento. Rev. Willie Cooke is a special person whose record of compassionate community service will endure for many years to come. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing him a very joyous 80th birthday celebration.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment to offer my praise and thanks to the Members of the U.S. Senate. Today the Senate began debating campaign finance reform. Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT has shown great leadership by bringing a bill sponsored by Senators MCCAIN and FEINGOLD to the floor. Senator LOTT knows that the public is eager to have a debate on this issue and should be applauded for responding to the demands of the people.

Unfortunately, Speaker GINGRICH has chosen not to follow Senator LOTT's lead. Today's New York Times headline says it all, "Gingrich Asserts Campaign Bill, Alive in Senate, Is Dead in House." The Speaker has made it clear that the status quo has served his own self interests and he has no desire to fix the worst abuses in the campaign system.

The Speaker believes that rather than taking the influence of big money out of politics, we need more money in the system. The people of western Wisconsin do not share this belief. The people of western Wisconsin know that the millions of dollars raised in soft money for both political parties, which is all legal, leaves them out of the process and it must be stopped. The people of western Wisconsin think that the reason they no longer have a voice in the process is because they can't make \$1,000 contributions to a candidate for office. Raising the current \$2,000 per individual campaign limit is not the answer to getting more real citizens involved in the process, and it only shows how out of touch the Speaker is with the people of this Nation.

I hope that the Speaker will reconsider his stated opposition to campaign finance reform. I hope that Speaker GINGRICH will follow the lead of Senator LOTT and bring a bill to the floor soon. We will no longer take "no" for an answer.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2267) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of restoring \$4.9 million of necessary funding to the Tropical Ocean-Global Atmosphere Program [TOGA] which is responsible for researching and predicting the effects of el nino.

El nino is responsible for driving the tradewind system and is characterized by long periods of rainfall, which are normally found