

"No" on rollcall No. 587—Ordering the previous question on H. Res 305;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 588—Motion to table the motion to reconsider the vote on the previous question;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 589—Agreeing to H. Res 305, waiving a requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and for other purposes;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 590—Motion to table the motion to reconsider H. Res 305;

"No" on rollcall No. 591—Motion to adjourn;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 592—Agreeing to H. Res 188, urging the executive branch to take action regarding the acquisition by Iran of C-802 cruise missiles;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 593—Motion to table the motion to reconsider H. Res 188;

"No" on rollcall No. 594—Motion to adjourn;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 595—On passage of H.R. 967 to prohibit the use of United States funds to provide for the participation of certain Chinese officials in international conferences, programs, and activities and to provide that certain Chinese officials shall be ineligible to receive visas and excluded from admission to the United States;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 596—Motion to table the motion to reconsider;

"No" on rollcall No. 597—Motion to adjourn.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2264,
DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the fiscal year 2000 \$300 million advance funding level for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting contained in this bill. That is a \$50 million increase over the comparable appropriation for fiscal year 1999, an amount which only partially offsets the three consecutive years of rescission of public broadcasting funds. The American public has sent a clear message to Congress that it supports a public broadcasting system.

The House appropriations report concerning CPB funding specifically supports the commitment made by CPB in 1994 to formalize partnerships among the organizations of the National Minority Public Broadcasting Consortia, television stations, and other public broadcasting organizations to maximize resources to increase the amount of multicultural programming on public television. That 1994 agreement was over a year in the making, but unfortunately, it has never received any funding.

I trust that the \$50 million increase will make it possible to fund the Principles of Partnership Initiative, and would encourage CPB to see if they can find fiscal year 1998 and fiscal year 1999 funds to get this initiative of collaboration underway.

The Minority Consortia organizations—Pacific Islanders in Communications, National Black Programming Consortium, National Latino Communications Center, National Asian

American Telecommunications Association, Native American Public Telecommunications—have provided public broadcasting's program schedule hundreds of hours of programming addressing the cultural, social, and economic issues of the country's racial and ethnic communities. Additionally, each consortium has been engaged in cultivating ongoing relationships with the independent minority producers community by providing program funding, programming support, and distribution assistance. They also provide numerous hours of programming to individual public television and radio stations.

I would like to point out that the newest consortia member, Pacific Islanders in Communications, is headquartered in Hawaii and has already had major responsibility for several award winning public broadcast productions, notably Storytellers of the Pacific which was coproduced with Native American Public Telecommunications, and And Then There Were None.

I look forward to an increasingly productive partnership between public broadcasting and the National Minority Public Broadcasting organizations and the communities they represent.

A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
LOAN CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report on the progress of the Department of Education's loan consolidation program. Because of the solid efforts of the Department and EDS, the program is on track to complete all the pending consolidation applications and to resume accepting new applications by December 1, 1997.

As of September 15, 1997, EDS had received 142,856 consolidation applications. Of that number, 84,078 were still pending. In less than 2 months, the outstanding inventory has been reduced by 81 percent; only 15,607 applications are still pending. As a result, the number of completed consolidations has increased by 64 percent since mid-September.

These updated figures show that the loan consolidation problems no longer exist. The Department's loan consolidation program streamlines the borrowing process, reduces financial costs, and improves access to education for students and their families. The Department and EDS are to be commended for their swift response to the situation and for putting this important program back on track.

HELPING EMPOWER LOW-INCOME
PARENTS [HELP] SCHOLARSHIPS
AMENDMENTS OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 2746, the HELP Scholarships Program. I am a strong advocate for public

schools and I believe we must work to ensure that all children, regardless of race, religion, income, or social status, have an opportunity to receive the best education possible in our public schools. We should not jeopardize that opportunity with an ill-conceived plan to provide tax dollars to private schools.

If we are to improve public education in this country, we must take positive steps. I believe the principles outlined in the Democratic plan provide the foundation for those steps. We have focused on six goals: First, early childhood development—basics by age six; second, well-trained teachers; third, relief for crumbling and overcrowded schools, and well-equipped classrooms; fourth, support for local plans to renew neighborhood public schools; fifth, efficient and coordinated use of resources; and sixth, parental choices for public schools.

These goals seem to be simple common sense. They provide the basis for a quality, public education for all students. If we, as Members of Congress, unite behind these goals, we can make great strides in our quest to improve public education. In our great country, everyone is guaranteed the right to a free, public education. It is our duty to ensure that a public education is consistently a quality education.

The increasing competitiveness of our global economy requires that our young people be better educated than ever before in our history. Our schools must provide adequate training in the basic skills needed to succeed in the current and future job market. We must ensure that all of our students have access to an education that prepares them to survive in a global economy. The Democratic plan places us firmly on that path.

Unfortunately, the bill we are considering today will help only a few children fortunate enough to meet the criteria to attend private schools. This bill provides no real choice to students or parents. It does nothing for the vast majority of the nation's students. Only a few lucky students could take advantage of the program given the low funding level for the title VI program under which the vouchers would be provided.

The Republican plan might provide more opportunity to a few select lower income students, but what about the rest? What about the students that private schools don't want? We cannot require private schools to admit all students. This bill affords no civil rights protections to the students in the voucher program. Schools accepting vouchers do not have to accept children who need high-cost education because they are disabled, have limited English proficiency, or are homeless. When we provide public funds to these schools, we resurrect the misguided concept of "separate but equal."

In addition to the problems presented by diverting public money into private schools, I believe it is important to point out that it is a clear violation of the first amendment doctrine of separation of church and state to provide public money to private, religious schools. This bill explicitly permits Federal funds to be used for sectarian activities. Such provisions are clearly contrary to the provision of the first amendment prohibiting the establishment of religion. The Supreme Court has consistently held that tax dollars cannot pay, directly or indirectly, for religious education or the religious mission of parochial schools. If we adopt this

voucher program, it will certainly face a court challenge that it could not withstand.

Nowhere in the United States has there been a successful voucher plan. In fact, most states, including my own State of Texas, have rejected vouchers at every turn. The States understand that our public schools cannot and will not survive if we enact such a proposal. To the contrary, they will wither on the vine.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support local control and I am not at this point willing to reject all voucher proposals out of hand. But many of our local governments have spoken and the result has been a resounding "no". Until a voucher plan is successful at the local level, we in Congress should not impose our will on individual school districts and force them to lose any of their much needed public funding.

Mr. Speaker, now is not the time for experimentation. Now is the time to fight for our public schools, to fight for a quality education for all children, to fight for state-of-the-art equipment in the classroom. I urge my colleagues to oppose this harmful legislation.

IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, by the time our Congress reconvenes in January, Americans will have commemorated the national holiday which honors one of our greatest patriots and moral leaders, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A few months later, on April 4, 1998, will fall the 30th anniversary of that dark day in American history when Reverend King was taken from us prematurely, at far too young an age, in one of the most heartless, senseless, and destructive crimes ever. For as long as civilization exists on this planet, scholars will debate how much greater an impact Dr. King would have had on our society had he been allowed to live and to continue his contributions.

Although the life of Martin Luther King was tragically cut short, his message is eternal and will long outlive all of us here today. The simple truth that Dr. King worked so hard to make us all realize is that hatred actually harms the hater more than the hated. The evils of racial injustice, which were a blot on the record of our country for far too long, harmed our economy, the morals, and the advancement of white America just as much as it did Black America. The terrible legacy of Jim Crowism and continued racial discrimination which plagued us for well after a hundred years of the Emancipation proclamation harmed us all, for they not only prevented all Americans from enjoying the full benefits of our society, they also prevented us all from reaping the benefits of the contributions all Americans are capable of making.

In today's world, as we stand on the threshold of the 21st century, many of Martin Luther King's achievements are all around us. More Afro-Americans hold elective office in the United States today, at all levels of government, than even the most optimistic person could have predicted in 1968. Afro-Americans have entered every field of our national lives and

have seared themselves into our national consciousness. How much sadder and less enlightened all of our lives would be had we not had the works of Nobel Literature Prize winner Toni Morrison, the television entertainment of Bill Cosby, the athletic prowess of Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, and so many others, and the millions of other black men and women who contribute to our society but would not have been able to do so had it not been for the desegregation work of Dr. Martin Luther King.

By no means should the celebration of Martin Luther King Day be taken as a celebration that we have achieved all we can. In fact, the legacy of racial division and hatred continues to plague us today, in many ways, day after day. I have personally been appalled to hear radio entertainers, those so called "shock jocks", who seem to believe it is both funny and entertaining to perpetuate racial stereotypes and verbal bigotries that most of us though we outgrew as a people some 40 years ago. It seems as if all too often we hear of the desecration of a Black church, the beating of a Black young person, and other acts of racial hatred that Dr. King devoted his life to wipe out. No American can truly be satisfied until after all of the barriers of prejudice in our society are removed.

Let us be inspired by the words of Dr. King, who stated: "If you can't fly, run. If you can't walk, crawl. By all means, keep on moving."

Martin Luther King Day is an appropriate time for all Americans to pause and remember that we must continue to move, until the day when all of us are afforded full opportunity, and that none of us have to be concerned that race, color, creed, or ethnic heritage are a hindrance to any individual, or to our Nation as a whole.

Let us free ourselves from hatred, as Dr. King urged, so that we can share the dream he so eloquently shared in August of 1963—a dream that "some day the descendants of slaves and the descendants of slave holders can sit down and join hands together at the table of brotherhood and proclaim: Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty, we're free at last."

CONGRATULATIONS DONALD DALLAS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, those who earn recognition for community service are very special people. They have made efforts to give back to their communities to make them even better places, and have often thought of their neighbors ahead of their own interests. Next week the Knights of Columbus Holy Trinity Assembly 2013 will be honoring Donald Dallas for his civic activity with a humanitarian outlook.

Don Dallas has been a resident of Arbel township for 28 years. A graduate of Century College as a physical therapist, he also has training from the School of Aviation Medicine from Air University, U.S. Air Force. He also attended Blackstone School of Law, where he studied as a paralegal.

Currently a licensed private investigator and court officer, Don Dallas is a member of the

Michigan Court Officers Association, the Michigan Council of Private Investigators, the U.S. Process Servers Association, and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

He is known throughout the community for his activity with the Tuscola County Planning Commission, the Red Cross Disaster Relief Volunteers, the County Democratic Club, and Habitat for Humanity.

Don's personal successes have been amply aided by his impressive family. His wife, Kathy, is a graduate of Central Michigan University and a registered nurse. Their daughter, Terri Dallas-Prunski, is a medical doctor specializing in pain management and an associate professor at the University of Chicago Medical School. Their son, Ronald, is a graduate of Andrews University as a mechanical engineer.

Dan Dallas is one of the recipients of this year's awards for community service, in memory of Father William Cunningham, a priest who could only reach for tomorrow's challenge while completing today's accomplishment. Father Cunningham's family resides within my district, and he has served as an inspiration to literally thousands of men and women of all ages and backgrounds as the co-founder and executive director of Focus: HOPE in Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Don Dallas on this impressive award, and in wishing him the very best for the future.

THE CONTINUING LEGACY OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would like to commend to his colleagues the following editorial from the November 4, 1997, *Omaha World-Herald*. The editorial highlights the growing interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the upcoming bicentennial celebrations to commemorate the bold and courageous journey. As someone who has had a longstanding interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition, this Member is pleased to promote the bicentennial efforts through the introduction earlier this year of two pieces of legislation. H.R. 1560 authorizes the U.S. Mint to produce a commemorative coin honoring the Expedition. Proceeds from the sale of the coins will be used to fund the activities of the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council and the National Park Service.

This Member has also introduced House Resolution 144, a resolution to express support for the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This resolution highlights the importance of the expedition and expresses congressional support for the commemorative activities of the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council as well as Federal, state and local entities and other interested groups.

We must continue to recognize the ongoing legacy of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The upcoming bicentennial activities will provide excellent opportunities to stress the importance of the journey's mission and discoveries.

[From the World-Herald, Nov. 4, 1997]

LEARNING MORE ABOUT A MIDLANDS JOURNEY

Lewis and Clark's great journey of discovery is beginning to draw attention as the bicentennial of the 1804 event draws closer.