Whereas, according to unconfirmed reports, hundreds of thousands of refugees remain in Kosovo at risk for their lives and requiring immediate food, shelter, and medicine;

Whereas it is the belief of the House of Representatives that the safety and lives of these undetermined legions of refugees within Kosovo are equal to the safety and lives of the many refugees who have fled the region;

Whereas the international community is committed to providing humanitarian assistance to current and future Kosovo refugees, while uncertain of how vast that need may be;

Whereas during an April 19, 1999, interview in Belgrade with Dr. Ron Hatchett of the University of St. Thomas, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic agreed to and subsequently permitted representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to meet with and examine the condition of the three captured American prisoners of war;

Whereas in the same interview, President Milosevic agreed to permit representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees into Kosovo to provide aid and assess the humanitarian needs of refugees within Kosovo and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

Whereas on May 4, 1999, with the assent of the United Nations Security Council, of which the United States is a member, United Nation's Secretary General Kofi Annan initiated a United Nations interagency assessment mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to assess emergency relief and rehabilitation needs within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to identify the means for providing such critical relief and rehabilitation assistance;

Whereas this humanitarian mission seeks to objectively assess critical needs in the areas of human rights and protection, food, security, nutrition, health, water and sanitation, and condition of the civilian population, and also seeks to accurately determine the number, location, and requirements of the people in Kosovo and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia needing immediate and future humanitarian aid; and

Whereas this humanitarian mission is working diligently to depart for Kosovo and others sectors of Yugoslavia on May 8, 1999, if appropriate security assurances are provided by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic should provide the necessary security assurances to the United Nations interagency mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to permit them to safely and accurately provide the international community with an objective, first-hand assessment of the condition of refugees inside of Kosovo and all sectors of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; and

(2) the House of Representatives encourages member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to weigh the value of this humanitarian mission toward ending human suffering in Kosovo, and to consider reasonable measures to enhance the safety of this international delegation during its brief humanitarian mission within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. BRADY OF TEXAS

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute offered by Mr. BRADY of Texas:

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic provide the necessary security assurances and freedom of access to the United Nations interagency mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia so the international community can be provided with an accurate, objective, first-hand assessment of the condition of the internally displaced persons inside of Kosovo and all sectors of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; and

(2) the House of Representatives encourages member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to weigh the value of this humanitarian mission toward ending human suffering in Kosovo, and to consider reasonable measures to enhance the safety of this international delegation during its brief humanitarian mission within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Mr. BRADY of Texas (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, as amended.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. BRADY OF TEXAS

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. Brady of Texas:

Strike the premable and insert the following:

Whereas international humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees provide a vital role in assessing and responding to the humanitarian needs of refugees around the world and, most recently, of the hundreds of thousands who have fled Kosovo;

Whereas, according to unconfirmed reports, hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons remain in Kosovo at risk for their lives and requiring immediate food, shelter, and medicine;

Whereas it is the belief of the House of Representatives that the safety and lives of these undetermined legions of internally displaced persons within Kosovo are equal to the safety and lives of the many refugees who have fled the region;

Whereas the international community is committed to providing humanitarian assistance to current and future Kosovo refugees, while uncertain of how vast that need may be;

Whereas during an April 19, 1999, interview in Belgrade with Dr. Ron Hatchett of the University of St. Thomas, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic agreed to and subsequently permitted representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to meet with and examine the condition of the three captured American prisoners of war;

Whereas in the same interview, President Milosevic agreed to permit representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees into Kosovo to provide aid and assess the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons within Kosovo and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

Whereas on May 4, 1999, with the assent of the United Nations Security Council, of which the United States is a member, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan initiated a United Nations interagency assessment mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to assess emergency relief and rehabilitation needs within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to identify the means for providing such critical relief and rehabilitation assistance;

Whereas this humanitarian mission seeks to objectively assess critical needs in the areas of human rights protection, food, security, nutrition, health, water and sanitation, and condition of the civilian population, and also seeks to accurately determine the number, location, and requirements of the people in Kosovo and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia needing immediate and future humanitarian aid;

Whereas on May 14, 1999, the United Nations Security Council adopted Security Council Resolution 1239 by a vote of 13–0, inviting the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and other international humanitarian relief organizations to extend relief assistance to the internally displaced persons in Kosovo, the Republic of Montenegro, and other parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; and

Whereas the brief United Nations humanitarian mission that was initiated on May 4, 1999, subsequently departed for Kosovo and other sectors of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on May 15, 1999: Now, therefore, be it

Mr. BRADY of Texas (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment to the preamble be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SUPREME COURT'S UNANIMOUS DECISION IN BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 176) recognizing the historical significance of the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in Brown v. Board of Education, repudiating segregation, and reaffirming the fundamental belief that we are all ''one Nation under God, indivisible,'' and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 176 simply recognizes the historical significance of the Supreme Court unanimous decision in Brown vs. Board of Education repudiating segregation and reaffirming the fundamental belief that we are all one Nation, under God, indivisible.

One such person was Linda Brown. In 1951, this little girl was in the third grade. Although there was an elementary school seven blocks from her house, young Linda was forced to walk over 1 mile to another elementary school. The reason to make a little girl walk through a railroad switchyard on her way to school? She was black, and the school located 7 blocks from her house was for white students only.

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Many years ago, George Santayana wrote, ''Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.'' Because I revere the warning contained in these precedent words today, 45 years later, I am introducing a resolution to recognize the historical significance of the Supreme Court's decision in Brown v. Board of Education.

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court in a unanimous decision voted to strike down segregation laws in public schools and upheld the equal protection laws guaranteed to all Americans by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for this opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution with regard to Brown v. Board of Education. In 1954, I was 5 years old, attending the Cleveland public schools. Forty-five years later, I stand here blessed to be able to speak in favor of Brown v. Board of Education.

The desegregation order provided many opportunities for African-American people in this country, even though as we stand today in many cities across this country desegregation and busing orders destroyed many of the neighborhood school systems.

I had a chance to attend Cleveland public schools and was prepared for what I do now, law school and public office.

I celebrate people like Thurgood Marshall, late Justice Thurgood Marshall. I celebrate Dean Charles Houston of the Howard University Law School wherein he taught young African-American lawyers that it was important not to be a parasite on the community but to be a spokesman for justice.

I celebrate Nathaniel Jones, retired Sixth Circuit judge who worked on these cases, and James Hardiman, an attorney who represented young people in the Cleveland Board of Education desegregation.

As we stand here today, it is important to remember history, as the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) had previously said, and we need to stand here and celebrate the importance of equal rights for all.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD).

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I am indeed privileged to be here to discuss and to support this resolution. The Supreme Court, when it struck down Plessy v. Ferguson, a decision that was made by a constitutional court in 1896 as being unconstitutional, it was a lethal blow for Jim Crow, for segregation, as well as for discrimination.

But it also was a blow for democracy because it started the snowball that has gathered strength and force as it has continued to roll over the forces, the dark forces of evil, the dark forces of segregation, and the dark forces of discrimination.

Even though we have come a long ways from the decision in Plessy v. Ferguson as announced in the decision of Brown v. The Board of Education, we still have many more miles to go.

Unless all of us realize that in America no one is free until all of us are free, until we all realize that we still have people that do not believe in freedom for everyone, that we still have people gunning down people because of the color of their skin or because of their race, we still have ethnic cleansing in places all over the world just because someone is different.

So this resolution comes at a very important time, not only in the history of America but in the history of this world. So I am indeed happy that the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) brought forth this resolution, and I support it, and I support him in what he is doing.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by commending the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for his outstanding work on behalf of this particular resolution but also on the outstanding work that he has performed on behalf of the citizens of this Nation throughout his tenure here in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, 45 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling in the Brown v. Board of Education case that literally changed the course of American history. They ruled that separate is inherently unequal.

Today, 45 years later, separate is still unequal, and it is our responsibility as this Nation's lawmakers to make sure that we never ever allow laws or policies to exist that will threaten to take us back to those dark days of Americans and American history.

So today, as we commemorate the Brown v. Board of Education decisions, let us as Members of this body recommit ourselves to keeping alive the spirit of the historic ruling.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the maker of this particular resolution for his outstanding work on behalf of this resolution.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, it is my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from the State of Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi and great leader of this House for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I was 15 years of age, I was in high school at Suitland High School, just about 15 minutes from where we stand; that school was a segregated school. The county was segregated. I represent a district where all the schools were segregated at that point in time.

My generation was a generation, or my cohorts, slightly older than the President, slightly older than those in their early 50s now. For them, the Vietnam War was a central compelling fact in their life. For me, it was the civil rights movement of the 1950s. Rosa Parks showed so much courage. Martin Luther King had a dream. He conveyed that dream to all of us.

But I rise not only as a member of that generation but as also somebody from the State of Maryland. The reason a Marylander rises is because Thurgood Marshall is one of Maryland's most honored sons.

Thurgood Marshall, as all of my colleagues know, was a member of the Supreme Court of the United States. There is a statue now between the Capitol and the Governor's mansion of Thurgood Marshall in testimony to, not only his service to the United States as a Justice on the Supreme Court, but also the role, the very central role that he played in Brown v. Board of Education as counsel.

For those seeking justice in America, for those seeking an open door to opportunity, it is ironic that we just read in the papers about Thomas Jefferson's family and who is a part of that family. It is really a metaphor for America, because all of those individuals are members of the family.

Jefferson said in the Declaration of Independence that this Nation was founded on the premise that all men, and indeed he would have added today women, are created equal and that we honored each one of them and that they would do equal justice under law.

Maryland, unfortunately, not unfortunately, he was great in many ways, but a captive of his times perhaps, is home to Roger Brook Taney. His statue stands right outside the Supreme Court. He was the author of, of course, the Dred Scott decision. Two Marylanders, two different conclusions; one in my opinion wrong, one right.

It is appropriate that we honor this historic case. I thank my colleagues for

allowing me to join in in saying that Brown v. Board of Education was nine justices saying that America, as Martin Luther King had said in 1963, needs to live out the realities of that which it claims to be its creed, equal justice under law for all its citizens, in their diversity and in their ability to add so substantively to the quality of this country.

I am pleased on behalf of all of us who loved Thurgood Marshall, who believed that Brown v. Board of Education led us to a new and better day and who recognized that the central premise of Brown v. Board of Education is still at question today.

It is important that we stand and speak out for an America that believes that every one of us is due respect which God endowed in us, not the state, not our fellow citizens, endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for giving me this opportunity to join him in noting the historic contribution made by Brown v. Board of Education and the courageous and able people who saw it to the Supreme Court through some very difficult times and to whom this country owes us a great debt.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, there are some other individuals who would like to speak on this; however, in the interest of time, let me indicate that they are in full support of the resolution: the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) also.

But what I would like to say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, is that in submitting this legislation is to remind all of us that we have a moral obligation to purge the diverse evils of racism out of the fabric of harmony, justice, and equality that is our share of the American legacy. We have a responsibility to not only remember the past, but to learn from it.

I also would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) for allowing me to come and present this resolution at this time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution to commemorate the 45th anniversary of Brown versus Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I believe century that is now ending began with a proclamation by W.E.B. Du Bois "The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line." I believe many people would not dispute this.

As I stand before this body in honor of the 45th anniversary of Brown versus Board of Education, I have been constantly reminded of what Mr. Dubois meant. The haunting acts of church burnings, police brutality, and the grave disparities in criminal executions have made it hard to forget.

As a result, some people feel the policies that were put into place to solve the race problem have failed. I believe they have failed not as a result of flawed policies, rather it is the individuals who implement them that are flawed.

For instance, common sense dictates that when one third of young African American males are either in prison, on parole or under correctional supervision, liberty's blind justice has been distributed with one open eye. We must remind ourselves that America will not prosper if a large segment of population sees that they have no stake in it. In 1954, the Supreme Court understood this and corrected the horrid decisions of 1896 when Plessy versus Fergusion was written.

However, in the aftermath of that decision, the progress of America has slowed largely because some individuals feel we no longer need to provide resources and support to help people help themselves. This is nothing new. Frederick Douglass, years ago warned Congress of the potential for what he called the "de facto re-enslavement of African Americans." He, said, "Should the South's antebellum political system remain intact America will indirectly renslave African Americans. Recognizing this injustice, Douglass further urged Congress to pass a civil-rights amendment affirming the equality of blacks and whites in the United States. Douglass recognized then, what as we recognize today that this country must bear the responsibility to actively change the structures that constrain Aftican Americans.

Mr. Speaker I and the other members here today understand, like Douglass, the necessity of government backed decisions to help encourage the will of America to respond positively to the structures that constrain African American. This resolution does just that. I agree Congress must recognize the historical significance of the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in Brown versus Board of Education. This is why I have joined In signing this important resolution and urge all members to do the same.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of this resolution to commemorate the historic decision of Brown versus the Board of Education. This landmark court decision ended years of the separate but unequal education of African American students in the United States. It also played a role in instigating the larger Civil Rights Movement. This decision is a prime example of how one person who sees an injustice can use our legal system to make that situation more tolerable.

Oliver Brown was distressed that his young daughter had to walk across town and over dangerous railroad tracks to attend school when a perfectly adequate school sat just blocks from their home. Rather than accepting the status quo Oliver Brown took matters in his own hands and sued the school system that refused to let his daughter attend the neighborhood school because she was black.

Mr. Brown is an example to all parents and citizens in the United States. When injustices occur it often is our response to accept it and move on. Progress has never occurred using that philosophy. I ask our parents to become involved in their children's education. If you see problems with your schools or problems with the police in your town or neighborhood—speak out against these injustices.

While the laws that created segregation and discrimination have been lifted, these terrible acts still occur. We must make our voices be heard and let the United States government know that we will not tolerate de facto segregation and discrimination anywhere in this nation, not in our schools, not in our government, not in our workplace and not on our highways or in our police stations.

We must take the commemoration of this landmark legal decision which sparked the beginning of the end of legal separate but equal laws and use it to end the segregation and discrimination that still exists in our country today.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 176

Whereas in 1951 Linda Brown was a third-grader and an African-American who was forced to endure hardships such as walking a mile through a railroad switchyard to get to her black elementary school, even though a white elementary school was only 7 blocks away;

Whereas the Reverend Oliver Brown, Linda Brown's father, was turned away when he tried to register his daughter at the nearby white school, simply because the little girl was black;

Whereas Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and a protégé of Howard University Law Professor Charles Houston, successfully argued that the "separate but equal" doctrine, established by the Supreme Court in its *Plessy* v. *Ferguson* decision in 1896, was unconstitutional;

Whereas Chief Justice Earl Warren read aloud, from the Court's unanimous decision: "We come then to the question presented: Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does. . . . We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment";

Whereas the *Brown* v. *Board of Education* decision struck a pivotal blow against Jim Crow laws, as well as the dark forces of racism and segregation; and

Whereas the interaction of students of all races promotes better understanding and the acceptance of racial differences: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the historical significance of the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Brown* v. *Board of Education*;

(2) heralds this watershed in our shared history as a significant advancement of the most basic American principles of freedom, justice, and equality under the law; and

(3) repudiates racial segregation as antithetical to the noble ideals upon which this great Nation was founded, and reaffirms the fundamental belief that we are all "one Nation under God, indivisible."

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.