

Maryland. If this program were to become part of a block grant to States, the USDA estimates that at least 12 percent of the total funding for the program would be cut, which translates to a loss of approximately \$3.6 million for Maryland.

I wonder, Mr. President how many people realize that the National School Lunch Program—the oldest of all child nutrition programs—serves more than 25 million meals daily and boasts a 90-percent participation rate of schools nationwide? The average daily participation rate in Maryland is estimated to be around 374,855 children out of a public school enrollment of 763,274—nearly half of all children enrolled in the Maryland public school system. The Maryland State Department of Education estimates that Maryland would lose more than \$22 million in funding for fiscal year 1996 if proposals to block grant nutrition programs were implemented.

In addition, block granting nutrition programs would effectively eliminate all uniform national standards for nutrition. These standards, which were strengthened last year through the Better Nutrition and Health for Children Act, appropriately recognized that in providing food assistance to needy children, it is equally important to make certain that the food provided is nutritious. To neglect this important aspect of the debate would be truly irresponsible.

A recent editorial in the Baltimore Sun stated that "By and large, Federal food programs work well. They reach the people who need them, and their existence over the past couple of decades has demonstrably reduced hunger and malnutrition." Mr. President, Federal food assistance programs do work well. They achieve their desired goals with a high degree of efficiency and success. In this case, the old adage "if it's not broke, don't fix it" rings true.●

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize February as Black History Month and to honor the rich cultural heritage of African-Americans in my State of New Jersey. In the arts or letters, history or politics, business or education, New Jersey's African-American community has made a strong and lasting impact on our Nation's culture.

We in New Jersey are very proud that so many great figures in history have called our State home. This morning, in honor of Black History Month, I would like to call the Senate's attention to four distinguished African-Americans who made major contributions to my State and our country.

First, Mr. President, I would call your attention to Jessie Redmon Fauset, the seventh child born to Redmon Fauset, an African Methodist Episcopal minister in Camden, NJ. Jessie grew up in poor circumstances, but her family made education a top pri-

ority, and in 1905 she went on to become the first black woman in the country elected to Phi Beta Kappa. After graduating, Ms. Fauset taught high school French for many years, before becoming literary editor of the *Crisis*, an NAACP publication that played a central role in the Harlem renaissance.

In addition to her work as an editor, Ms. Fauset was also a successful novelist. Her initial motivation for becoming a novelist was her belief that African-Americans were not being portrayed accurately in black fiction. Her work did paint a more accurate picture, and as a result, she is still read by those who want to understand African-American life.

Second, Mr. President, while many do not know it, the great actress and singer Melba Moore is a New Jersey native and a product of New Jersey schools. Ms. Moore grew up in Newark, where she attended Arts High School and majored in music, following in the footsteps of other prominent musicians, including Sarah Vaughan.

After high school, Melba Moore attended Montclair State Teachers College and worked as an elementary school music teacher. She loved her students, but her heart was on the stage. Ms. Moore soon left teaching and began wowing Broadway crowds with her amazing voice and her brilliant sense of humor. Ms. Moore made her Broadway debut in "Hair," where she attracted widespread attention as the first black lead of any of the Broadway "Hair" companies around the world—and in many people's opinion, the best. Melba Moore once said, "I want to give black people something to look up to, an image they can be proud of and kids can emulate." She certainly has done that.

Third, Mr. President, we in New Jersey are very proud to include abolition leader William Still as one of our own. William Still was the son of two former slaves who escaped from the Eastern Shore of Maryland to Burlington County, NJ, in the early 19th century. As a young married man, Mr. Still found a job at the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery. He soon became a leader in the underground railroad and began to aid fugitives from slavery, offering many of them room and board in his home. One of the former slaves passing through to Canada turned out to be William Still's own brother. Mr. Still was so affected by that discovery that he began to keep careful records of all the former slaves who passed through Philadelphia and New Jersey.

In 1872, Mr. Still turned these records into a thorough and compelling book, which continues to be one of the most influential records of the underground railroad movement. William Still's legacy was not just the many lives he saved through the underground railroad; it is also the timeless chronicle he left of his efforts and those of others who helped fugitive slaves escape to Canada.

Finally, Mr. President, a spirit of social activism also drove Paul Robeson, a Princeton, NJ, native, who achieved fame as an all-American football player at Rutgers University and later attained worldwide recognition as an actor and singer.

In an interview, Paul Robeson once described his goals this way:

If I can teach my audience who know almost nothing about [my people], to know [them] through my songs and through my roles . . . then I will feel that I am an artist, and that I am using my act for myself, for my race, for the world.

Anyone who had the fortune to hear Paul Robeson sing a spiritual, anyone who saw his unparalleled performance of "Othello," anyone who heard him speak so passionately about the ills of segregation and of poverty, knows that in his long and fulfilling life, Paul Robeson, the son of a former slave, changed all of us, black and white alike, by sharing his passion for justice and for equality.

Mr. President, there are countless other African-American heroes who hail from New Jersey: poets and scientists, entertainers and political activist. And there are uncounted others who may never be known beyond their families or their neighborhoods, but who have lived their lives with dignity and contributed a basic decency and distinction to our State.

Let me just say in closing, that Black History Month should be a time for reflection; a time to reflect on the accomplishments of African-Americans throughout this country and throughout our history, accomplishments that often were made in the face of racism, of poverty, and unequal opportunity. It should be a time to increase our understanding of African-American history and culture, and a time to reaffirm our understanding of our cultural diversity, our commitment to equality, and our support of racial justice.●

#### APPOINTMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 86-380, appoints the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, vice Senator DURENBERGER.

#### TO COMMEMORATE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 77) to commemorate and acknowledge the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who lost their