

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of February as Black History Month, a tradition dating back to 1926 when Carter C. Woodson set aside 1 week in February in order to honor the contributions and achievements of African-Americans, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the African-American men and women who have contributed so much to my hometown of Louisville, KY, our Nation, and to the world.

In Louisville, there have been many in the African-American community who have made invaluable contributions not just to their community, but to society as a whole. Judge Janice R. Martin, appointed to the bench by Governor Jones in March 1992, is the first African-American woman jurist to serve in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Judge Martin brings to the court a long history of involvement in many organizations, including: the Metro United Way; the Kentucky Women's Leadership; the Urban League; Dare to Care; and the Kentucky Task Force on Racial Fairness in the courts.

Dr. Joseph H. McMillan, a professor in the University of Louisville's Department of Early and Middle Childhood Education, has contributed greatly to educating all Kentuckians on matters of racial tolerance and understanding. In 1950, Dr. McMillan began his teaching career in Lake County, MI, and later became the first African-American principal in the Grand Rapids Public Schools system. Dr. McMillan has been active with the Annual National Black Family Conference in America. He has also served as chairman of the Louisville/Jefferson County Human Relations Commission, president of the Louisville Urban League, and as chairman of the Kentucky Rainbow Coalition. Dr. McMillan currently serves as a commissioner to the Kentucky State Human Rights Commission under Governor Jones.

Eleanor Forman, one of Louisville's first African-American real estate agents, focused her efforts on integrating the Louisville real estate market. At the time Ms. Forman entered the real estate profession, the white-dominated real estate market, for Ms. Forman, was a hostile environment in which to work. Prior to Ms. Forman's work, areas of the city were marked as being reserved for white real estate agents or African-American real estate agents only. Ms. Forman was also recognized as the 1994 Women of Achievement by the Business and Professional Women's group.

Other individuals who, through civic participation and education, have strived to ease tensions and empower others to follow their example include: Lyman T. Johnson, the first African-American ever to graduate from the University of Kentucky, whose case for admittance was argued by former Supreme Court

Justice Thurgood Marshall; Ann Elmore, who, in 1994, became the first African-American woman elected to the Jefferson County Board of Education; and Evelyn L. Waldrop, whose work with the NAACP, the Urban League, the Public Works Association, and the National Council of Negro Women has set the standard for community involvement.

History shows us that as our Nation was struggling for freedom and democracy, African-Americans played invaluable roles and contributed greatly to our efforts. These contributions have been largely overlooked and such recognition is long over due.

When our Nation was in the midst of a Revolutionary War, African-Americans, such as Crispus Attucks, who died in the Boston Massacre, heeded the call to arms and did so without reservation—these men and women served as infantryman, laborers, cooks, and also as part of the Minutemen brigade. African-Americans, such as Sgt. William H. Carney, who was the first African-American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his efforts in the Civil War. Again, in World War I, World War II, in Korea, and in Vietnam, African-Americans served their country with honor and dedication. The memories of these men and women who have served so dutifully must never be forgotten.

Throughout our history as a nation, African-Americans answered our Nation's call to arms; however, in the area of civil rights, it took our Nation a longer period of time to answer their calls for justice and equality. Throughout the civil rights era of the 1950's and 1960's, our Government created roadblocks in the path of equality for African-Americans. These roadblocks were in the overt form of "whites only" signs in bus stations, restaurants, theaters, and hotels; in the overt form of denying African-Americans the right to vote; in the overt form of segregated schools; in the overt form of African-Americans being forced to ride in the back of the bus.

Through such legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited any public establishment from discriminating on the basis of race, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, we, as a nation, have reached a greater level of equality among all people; however, we do have far to go in this effort.

Today, we do not see the overt forms of racism and discrimination that we saw in the 1950's and 1960's, rather, we see a more covert form of discrimination in the form of glass ceilings in hiring practices and a vast disparity between African-Americans and whites in the areas of income, education, and crime statistics. We also see this covert discrimination in the efforts of many to defeat a minimum wage increase. The current minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour provides the full-time worker an annual salary of \$8,500, which is less than one-half the current poverty line for a family of four. With inflation, the minimum wage has decreased almost fifty cents since 1991 and is currently three-quarters of what it was in 1979.

How can we encourage people to get off welfare when we do not provide a decent

wage for them to live? How can we say that we reward work over welfare when we do not provide the means by which an individual can achieve this goal.

Today, it is an honor to pay tribute to these African-Americans, who serve as testament to the fact that as a nation we have come far. However, I believe that is also appropriate to remind ourselves how much further we must go in order to achieve total equality among all in our richly diverse society. I hope that we all can make this journey together.

THE PRESIDENT'S 1996 BUDGET

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, February 15, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE PRESIDENT'S 1996 BUDGET

President Clinton recently sent to Congress his \$1.61 trillion budget for 1996. The President says his budget will allow simultaneously leaner government and sufficient funds for popular and expensive social programs. He claims it cuts middle-class taxes, keeps the deficit down, and does not cut education, Social Security, or Medicare. The budget has come under fire on Capitol Hill.

SUMMARY

The President's budget calls for \$1.612 trillion in spending and \$1.415 trillion in revenues. That leaves a \$197 billion deficit, up slightly from the \$192 billion he projects for 1995. The biggest spending goes for Social Security (\$315 billion), Medicare and Medicaid (\$270 billion), defense (\$262 billion), and interest on the national debt (\$257 billion). The budget proposes few new initiatives. The most important is the middle-class tax cut, which is actually three cuts: a children's tax credit, a college tuition deduction, and a liberalization of individual retirement accounts. On the spending side, the President seeks to eliminate 131 programs and reduce funding for another 86. He calls for the restructuring of five agencies: Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, General Services Administration, and Office of Personnel Management. He also proposes merging 271 separate programs into 27, including the consolidation of 69 job training programs. The number of federal employees will continue to decline under the President's budget. The total reduction will reach 173,300 in 1996, nearly two-thirds of the 272,900 required by 1999 under existing law.

He requests increases in discretionary spending for crime reduction, national service, Goals 2000, education, Headstart, and WIC. His budget only includes limited changes in entitlement programs and makes no changes in Social Security and only modest changes in Medicare. He calls for a slight reduction in defense spending in 1996 but increases starting in 1998. He keeps foreign aid at current levels (1% of budget) to help maintain U.S. commitments overseas.

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