

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in paying tribute to one of the true heroes of our time, and a personal hero of mine, Judge Leon Higginbotham.

One of the proudest moments of my life was in January of 1989, after having won election to the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time, when Judge Higginbotham administered the oath of office to me at a ceremony in the Rayburn Foyer. Being sworn in as New Jersey's first African American Congressman by a man of Judge Higginbotham's Stature, who had achieved such a place in history, is an honor I will always remember. Earlier in my career, Judge Higginbotham nominated me for President of the National Council of YMCAs and I remain grateful for that honor as well.

It was characteristic of Judge Higginbotham that no matter how high he rose, he was always available whenever anyone needed his help or guidance. He never missed an opportunity to encourage young people to achieve their goals.

Judge Higginbotham was a man of great intellect, ability and passion for justice. He was a native of my home state of New Jersey, where he grew up in the segregated society of Trenton. With determination and fortitude, he forged ahead, graduating from Yale Law School in 1952. During President John Kennedy's Administration, he was appointed as the first African American to head the Federal Trade Commission.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson nominated him to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He joined the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia in 1977, where he retired as Chief Judge in 1991.

President Clinton awarded Judge Higginbotham the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995 and in 1996, he was honored with the NAACP's Springarn Medal.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Higginbotham was truly larger than life. Let us honor his memory and carry forth his proud legacy.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this tribute to Judge Higginbotham.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISCRIMINATION CONTINUES AT AMERICA'S AIRPORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, let me just begin by echoing the comments of the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) about a real giant in our history, Judge Higginbotham, who was a noted defender of civil rights; who went on to

become one of the country's most prominent African American judges; and who, through his long and distinguished career, stood on the side of those who needed help.

He, as we have heard, was awarded numerous awards, including the Medal of Freedom for his work and also the Wallenberg Humanitarian award.

He was a giant, and he certainly will be missed, and I thank my colleagues for remembering him and bringing his spirit to light again so that the country can appreciate this remarkable man.

□ 1730

It is with that that I would like to make a transition to another issue, but the transition is easy because it is a civil rights issue, Mr. Speaker.

In the Washington Post today, I read that five workers, all Muslim women, have filed a religious discrimination complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Apparently, according to this article, it was in the Metro section, I believe, of the Washington Post, they were fired from their jobs as screeners of passengers and luggage at Dulles International Airport because they refused to remove the head scarves they wear for religious reasons.

Their employer, Argenbright Security, Incorporated, told them they would have to give up their head scarves or give up their jobs. Now, faced with such a choice, they chose to honor their religious commitment.

As a result of the women's complaint to the EEOC, Argenbright Security is now backtracking. The company has issued a statement denying religious discrimination and inviting these five women to return to work.

What this incident does, though, is raise a larger issue, and, that is, of the widespread and systematic discrimination against Muslims and Arab Americans at airports all across this country. Under current procedures, security companies like Argenbright are used to enforce profiling standards to ensure airport security.

But you have to ask yourselves that if firms like Argenbright cannot even treat their Muslim employees fairly, how are we to believe they will treat Muslim passengers whom they do not even know in a fair and courteous manner?

Now, we all understand that airport security is a must. But the people who are responsible for it should be trained in a way that ensures cultural sensitivity and fairness as they carry out these important responsibilities. This profiling issue is a huge embarrassment and problem, especially in the Detroit metropolitan airport. We have, as many of my colleagues may know, in the State of Michigan a large Arab-American and Muslim population, almost 700,000, close to 8 percent of our State.

Because of the incidence of stopping these women and gentlemen as they come through the airport, I had a hearing at the airport, organized it, and I had Jane Garvey, the Director of the FAA, Federal Aviation Administration, come with her top people, and she heard stories from folks who told how they were stopped, denied passage because they fit a certain profile.

One family, a good family, friends of mine, Dr. Basha and his family have been stopped on several occasions as they traveled on vacation to the Middle East. Another woman told of her son who was an Olympic rower going to a meet for a trial for the Olympics in Cincinnati and he was detained, missed the flight, missed the opportunity for the Olympics, because he fit a certain profile. We had another person who was a police officer in the Detroit area who was stopped and detained because he fit a profile.

Now, let me say that this is not the first airport and this is not the first incident that led me to believe that airport security is being contracted out to companies who do not have a commitment to treat all Americans with fairness and dignity.

I just want to applaud these five women for standing up for their religious beliefs and for their rights, for their rights on the job. I intend to contact the FAA about this situation and to insist that companies providing security at our airports do so without discriminating against Americans regardless of their religious faith or their ethnic heritage.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET REGARDING INTERIM BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES FOR FISCAL YEARS 1999-2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 2 of House Resolution 5, I submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD interim budget aggregates and allocations for fiscal year 1999 and for the period of fiscal years 1999 through fiscal year 2003. This submission includes the budget aggregates and allocations to the Committee on Appropriations that were not included in my submission on February 25.

These interim levels will be used to enforce sections 302(f), 303(a) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Section 303(a) prohibits the consideration of legislation that provides new budget authority or changes in revenues until Congress has agreed to a budget resolution for the appropriate fiscal year. Sections 302(f) and 311(a) prohibit the consideration of legislation that exceeds the