

stories are the American experience, and they send a message to the world that this Nation is one which welcomes diversity, offers hope and provides opportunity.

Although our history on occasion has been tainted with prejudice and bigotry, our Nation is committed to defeating ignorance, intolerance and pursuing the high ideal that all men and women are created equal. However, from the tragic shootings at the Jewish Center in Los Angeles to the questions concerning the death of Matthew Shepard over the past few months, the citizens of our Nation have all too often seen the face of bigotry, intolerance and hate.

Accordingly, it is important that we remind those who view the world with prejudice that our Nation will not succumb to ignorance, will not succumb to bigotry, that our diversity is our greatest strength. Accordingly, we stand today to celebrate our Nation's diversity and we recognize the need to continue to reach across racial, ethnic and cultural lines to come together and build a unified nation. America is one, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I continue my reservation only to thank, again, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for facilitating this through the great Committee on the Judiciary and to tell my friends and colleagues that they can join with the close to 70 Members of the House tomorrow, Thursday, as we meet in Statutory Hall at 10:00 on October 14, where we can really say God bless America and the wonderful people that make this country as great as it is.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object and, of course, I will not object, Mr. Speaker, but I have listened to the colloquies that have been going on and I just want to say that if there are any two people in this body who represent the ideals that all Americans hold dear, they are the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), and I rise in strong support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 141

Whereas the United States is a nation of immigrants, whose 270,000,000 inhabitants hail from every corner of the globe;

Whereas from Ellis Island to the Pacific coast, the United States has welcomed immigrants seeking freedom and opportunity;

Whereas the United States democratic system of government mandates equal protection under the law and the right to life, lib-

erty, and the pursuit of happiness for all its citizens;

Whereas the United States endured a civil war for emancipation, and in doing so, formed a permanent union and a society of equals;

Whereas the United States has outlawed racial, ethnic, and religious bigotry to create the world's greatest multicultural society;

Whereas the United States respects the individual and welcomes each one's participation in our democratic society;

Whereas the United States is the pre-eminent land of opportunity which rewards hard work, ingenuity, and perseverance;

Whereas the ethnic diversity of the United States has provided an abundance of energy, creativity, and prosperity;

Whereas people in the United States recognize and reward the contributions of members from every group;

Whereas people in the United States are working to close opportunity gaps so that all may share in the great prosperity of our Nation;

Whereas people in the United States of all backgrounds have sacrificed their lives in war to defend the cause of freedom for people around the world; and

Whereas people in the United States of African, Asian, European, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and Native American backgrounds cherish and celebrate their various national, ethnic, and religious heritages: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),* That it is the sense of the Congress that all people in the United States should reach out across our differences in ethnicity, race, and religion to respect each other and to celebrate, in friendship and unity, one America.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2670, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7c of rule XXII, I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees tomorrow on H.R. 2670, the Commerce/Justice/State appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, the form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. TANCREDO moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2670, be instructed to agree, to the extent within the scope of the conference, to provisions that, one, reduce nonessential spending in programs authorized within the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary and other related agencies; and, two, reduce spending on international organizations, in particular, in order to honor the commitment of the Congress to protect Social Security; and, three, do not increase overall spending to a level that exceeds the higher of the House bill or the Senate amendment.

ALABAMA REJECTS PLAN FOR A LOTTERY

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues today's headlines: Alabama Rejects the Plan for a Lottery, AP. Fifty-four percent of the voters in Alabama rejected a State-sponsored lottery yesterday. The Crimson Tide has rejected a lottery in their State, and perhaps this is a shift that will change the tide of gambling in America.

According to news reports, the tide is expected to wash over South Carolina, where a referendum to ban video poker is expected to also pass.

I want to congratulate the people of Alabama for standing up and voting against State-sponsored gambling, and I hope others around the country will take note of what has occurred at the ballot box.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to, at this point, submit this material for the record.

MONTGOMERY, AL. (AP)—Gov. Don Siegelman, who lobbied long and hard for a state lottery to help fund education, watched the measure collapse in defeat at the hands of voters unwilling to cross their ministers.

With 98 percent of precincts reporting, 663,988 people, or 54 percent, opposed the lottery referendum Tuesday, and 559,377 people, or 46 percent, supported it. Turnout was estimated at 50 percent.

The proposal—a constitutional amendment to allow gambling—had once enjoyed a 20-point lead in the polls but came under increasing fire from church groups who said it would exploit the poor.

Other opponents also claimed that a recent traffic ticket-fixing scandal showed that the Democratic governor's administration could not be trusted to oversee gambling in the state.

Alabama joins Arkansas, Oklahoma and North Dakota as states that have rejected lotteries at the ballot box. Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia have approved them.

The loss was a stinging blow to Siegelman, who had made the referendum's passage a cornerstone of his 1998 election victory over Republican Fob James.

"In my inaugural address, I said that we would dare mighty things. I said that we would try new things and if they didn't work we would try something else," Siegelman said after the votes were counted.

He said the results "only serve to motivate me and to energize me in our fight and our quest to change education in this state forever."

Along with the lottery proposal, two other proposed constitutional amendments were on the ballot, and voters in Birmingham and Montgomery chose candidates for mayor and city council members.

In Birmingham, Alabama's largest city, interim Mayor William Bell led a 14-way race for the mayorship but was forced into a Nov. 2 runoff against City Councilman Bernard Kincaid.

In Montgomery, conservative Mayor Emory Folmar led six opponents in his bid for a seventh term but was forced into a runoff against Bobby Bright, a lawyer backed by organized labor.

Siegelman had promised that the lottery would generate at least \$150 million annually to fund college scholarships, a pre-kindergarten program and computer technology in schools.