

hope. In Uganda, Thailand and Senegal, for example, strong national leadership partnered with community-wide response are reducing new HIV infections and AIDS diagnoses and focusing on treatment measures for their people.

We must continue to support these efforts by increasing U.S. bilateral and multilateral funding for vital AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria programs. I am even more convinced that the United States must put at least, and this is a minimum, just at least \$1 billion into the global trust fund for starters. Dr. Peter Piot, the director of UNAIDS, said that a \$10 billion effort will only begin to make a dent in this crisis. We will never see a favorable result in a crisis of this magnitude if we continue to nickel and dime our efforts.

I agree that we must streamline bureaucracies and facilitate better coordination, but that should happen while we ramp up our response. Together in a bipartisan effort we must now move forward with appropriate significant resources for this life-and-death effort. It is time to put our money where our mouth is.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and his very diligent staff, and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and his staff, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and Mary Andrus of his staff, and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), and Michael Riggs of my staff for making HIV/AIDS a priority of the Committee on International Relations.

#### THEORY OF THE ORIGIN OF MAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I have always been interested in origins. Even though my training is in the law and in history, it has ever been an avocation of mine to contemplate and to study the origins of man and of life here on Earth.

Many theories of origins have been propounded throughout our Nation's history. In 1859, a sincere biologist returned from the Galapagos Islands and wrote a book entitled "The Origins of Species," in which Charles Darwin offered a theory of the origin of species which we have come to know as evolution. Charles Darwin never thought of evolution as anything other than a theory. He hoped that some day it would be proven by the fossil record but did not live to see that, nor have we.

In 1925 in the famous Scopes Monkey Trial, this theory made its way through litigation into the classrooms of America, and we have all seen the consequences over the last 77 years: evolution not taught as a sincere theory of a biologist, but rather, Mr.

Speaker, taught as fact. Unless anyone listening in would doubt that, we can all see in our mind's eye that grade school classroom that we all grew up in with the linear depiction of evolution just above the chalkboard. There is the monkey crawling on the grass. There is the Neanderthal dragging his knuckles and then there is Mel Gibson standing in all of his glory.

It is what we have been taught, that man proceeded and evolved along linear lines. But now comes a new find by paleontologists. In the newspapers all across America, a new study in "Nature" magazine, 6- to 7-million-year-old skull has been unearthed, the Toumai skull and it suggests that human evolution was actually, according to a new theory, human evolution was taking place, and I am quoting now, "all across Africa and the Earth," and the Earth was once truly, and I quote, "a planet of the apes on which nature was experimenting with many human-like creatures."

Paleontologists are excited about this, Mr. Speaker. But no one is pointing out that the textbooks will need to be changed because the old theory of evolution taught for 77 years in the classrooms of America as fact is suddenly replaced by a new theory, or I hasten to add, I am sure we will be told a new fact.

The truth is it always was a theory, Mr. Speaker. And now that we have recognized evolution as a theory, I would simply and humbly ask, can we teach it as such and can we also consider teaching other theories of the origin of species? Like the theory that was believed in by every signer of the Declaration of Independence. Every signer of the Declaration of Independence believed that men and women were created and were endowed by that same Creator with certain unalienable rights. The Bible tells us that God created man in his own image, male and female. He created them. And I believe that, Mr. Speaker.

I believe that God created the known universe, the Earth and everything in it, including man. And I also believe that someday scientists will come to see that only the theory of intelligent design provides even a remotely rational explanation for the known universe. But until that day comes, and I have no fear of science, I believe that the more we study the science, the more the truth of faith will become apparent. I would just humbly ask as new theories of evolution find their ways into the newspapers and into the textbooks, let us demand that educators around America teach evolution not as fact, but as theory, and an interesting theory to boot. But let us also bring into the minds of all of our children all of the theories about the unknowable that some bright day in the future through science and perhaps through faith we will find the truth from whence we come.

#### 14TH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I too recently had the privilege of attending the 14th International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain. I want to thank the House leadership for making it possible for me to join the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE). AIDS experts, activists and government representatives from all over the world assembled to share their invaluable knowledge and expertise in fighting the global HIV/AIDS pandemic and issuing a call to action.

This is a critically important conference happening at a very important time. UNAIDS and the World Health Organization recently released an updated report of where we are today. The most important thing to realize is that we are still at the beginning, the beginning of this terrible scourge. Yet there are already over 40 million people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS around the world today and an estimated 28 million who have died. At this incipient stage of the pandemic, there are already 13.4 million children orphaned by this disease. More than a third of those living with HIV and AIDS are under the age of 25.

There are 5 million new infections each year, 6,000 new every day; and young people ages 15 to 24 account for half of all new infections. Even in developed nations such as the United States, young people continue to represent half of all new infections; and yet this is only the beginning. What lies ahead, the future course of this pandemic is in large measure in the hands of this body and our government.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a critical stage in this pandemic. A major crossroads where our decision to act or not to act, or not to act fully, will determine the course of our own and world history from this time forward.

Several things became increasingly clear even in the few days I was able to attend the conference. First, we have wasted a lot of time arguing over prevention versus treatment, and with that many lives have been lost and others changed forever. We have made dangerous and deadly assumptions that have kept life-saving treatments out of the hands of those who could otherwise have been saved. We have provided but token funding; and because we are falling short, the needed infrastructure is not in place to allow programs that began in homes, churches and community meeting places to expand across the infected countries so that they could save more lives and get on with the work of nation building.

We, the United States, have the power to make the difference, to dramatically change the course of this dreaded disease by meeting our commitment to the global trust fund and