

first civil rights cases was a successful effort to gain admission for a young black man to the University of Maryland, the very institution that denied Thurgood Marshall admittance 2 years earlier.

The unanimous 1954 decision ruled all school segregation unconstitutional. W.E.B. du Boise wrote, "I have seen the impossible happen. It did on May 17, 1954." The Brown decision did not come out of nowhere, and it was far from the end of the story. The decision was a climax of a long series of NAACP court victories, many won by chief counsel Thurgood Marshall, that had slowly laid the legal groundwork for school desegregation. In some schools it had an immediate powerful effect. By 1958, desegregation was under way in a number of Southern school districts. Both white and black peoples were going to school together. Black children in Wilmington, Delaware; Baltimore, Maryland; and Washington, D.C., sat in classrooms beside white children as did African-American students in certain counties in Missouri, Arkansas and West Virginia.

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In Louisville, Kentucky, the school system became a national model of school desegregation.

But most southern jurisdictions strenuously resisted desegregation, encouraged by the Supreme Court ruling a year after the Brown decision that the transition need only to take place with all deliberate speed. States and counties passed more than 145 laws to hold off desegregation altogether. The Georgia legislature, for example, decided to withhold State funds from any school that enrolled students of both races. Prince Edward County, Virginia, closed all public schools from 1959 to 1964 when it was forced to reopen the schools by the Supreme Court.

And yet the clock could not be turned back. From the late 1950's to the mid 1960's, one previously white school after another grudgingly admitted its first black students, from nine black teenagers in 1957 who endured harassment and threats to attend Central High School, where Federal troops were brought out by President Eisenhower, to Air Force veteran James Meredith who in 1962 became the first black student to enroll in the University of Mississippi.

School segregation based on race received its final blow in 1969, when an exasperated Supreme Court overturned its "all deliberate speed" ruling and ordered full desegregation immediately. A few years later, Federal courts began ruling that school segregation based on residential patterns, de facto segregation, should also be remedied as de jure was done by law. Sometimes the way this was done was by busing of students to other schools. In some cases, though, buses filled with black students became magnets for mob violence, especially in South Boston where white residents stoned buses carrying little black children in 1974.

Even within seemingly integrated public schools, subtle mechanisms often continued to divide race. Standardized tests, for example, are thought by many educators to be culturally biased in favor of white middle-class students. Yet groupings by ability or tracking was often based on that such test or on sometimes faculty teachers' expectations. In addition, so-called white flight became a pattern in urban centers as white students left suburban areas and went to private schools.

So as we are here, we fight for integration even in my State of New Jersey where a thorough and efficient education was granted by everyone. Our governor, Jim McGreevey, is attempting to turn the clock back to ask the courts to relieve the State from the thorough and efficient education, and we will fight to see that that law is not overturned.

THE OPPRESSION OF JEWS IN SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to draw attention to the historic and continued oppression of Jews living in Syria. At the start of the 20th century, it is estimated that there were approximately 40,000 Jews living in Syria. However, by early 1947 only 13,000 were left, with 20,000 having fled through the course of the previous decade as Nazi zeal permeated the region. Immediately after Syria gained independence from France in 1945, vitriolic anti-Semitic propaganda was broadcast on television and radio, inciting the Arab masses to violence. In December, 1947, 1 month after the Partition Plan's acceptance, a pogrom erupted in the Syrian town of Aleppo, torching numerous Jewish properties including synagogues, schools, orphanages, and businesses.

A flurry of anti-Semitic legislation passed in 1948 restricted, among other things, Jewish travel outside of government-approved ghettos, the selling of private property, acquiring land or changing their place of residence. A decree in 1949 went a step further, seizing all Jewish bank accounts; and under threats of execution long prison sentences and torture, most Jews were able to depart between 1948 and 1962.

Due mainly to U.S. influence in the context of the Madrid Peace Process, the majority of the members of the Syrian Jewish community have fled, with only about 1,000 still remaining. Most have chosen to settle here in the United States, including a sizable number in my district in New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, the situation for those few who remained has deteriorated dramatically over the last few decades. A report published in 1981 indicated Syrian Jews were subject to the Mukhabarat, the Syrian secret police,

who conduct a reign of terror and intimidation, including searches without warrant, detention without trial, torture and summary execution.

The few synagogues still open in Syria are considered by authorities as "centers of sedition," with services held under surveillance. Nightly curfews have been established in Jewish communities, and Jews have been required to carry special identity cards.

Jews are barred from employment in government offices, public bodies, or banks. Jews have been arbitrarily dismissed from jobs without compensation, and their licenses to conduct foreign trade have been revoked. Jews have been forbidden the ability to obtain driver's licenses or to even have telephones in the homes. The only exceptions have been for doctors and a handful of merchants that have been given preferential treatment. Syrians are officially advised not to buy in Jewish shops, and government and military personnel are expressly forbidden to even enter them.

Mr. Speaker, the mail of Syrian Jews is even censored. I have been told by Jews here in the United States who still have family in Syria that the relatives request not to be sent any letter or message because they will face interrogation by the state police.

Some would like to think that the number of Jews in Syria is insignificant compared with the millions who are oppressed elsewhere. However, the political implications of the thousands of scapegoats held captive in Syria are beyond comparison to their number.

Syria is listed on the State Department's list of countries who harbor and support terrorism. Syria has proved to be a destabilizing force in the Middle East, continuing to develop and stockpile chemical weapons and the missiles to deliver them and remains the occupying power in Lebanon. Syria offered support to Iraq even as U.S. and coalition forces were engaged in combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Yet Syria is subject to fewer U.S. sanctions than any other country considered a state sponsor of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), for introducing the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003. This legislation, which I have cosponsored, holds Syria accountable for its support for terrorism, occupation of Lebanon, and possession and continued development of weapons of mass destruction and would give the President the tools to impose penalties on Syria unless it corrects its behavior immediately.

Mr. Speaker, Syria's mistreatment of its Jewish citizens is one more reason that Congress cannot remain silent on Syria. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act. Congress cannot allow these activities in

Syria to continue. We must raise our voices and speak out against Syria's support of international terror and the systematic oppression of its own people.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SCHROCK (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for May 8 through May 16 on account of a family illness.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICHAUD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BALLANCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CARDOZA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BISHOP of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALEXANDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TURNER of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LAMPSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EDWARDS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BARTON of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SHUSTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BARTON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. HARRIS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. FROST, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. STENHOLM, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. RODRIGUEZ, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. BELL, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 15, 2003, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2186. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pesticide Tolerance Processing Fees; Annual Adjustment [OPP-2003-0140; FRL-7302-7] received May 1, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2187. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Indoxacarb; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0173; FRL-7307-6] received May 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2188. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Sapote Fruit Fly [Docket No. 03-032-1] received May 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2189. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Imported Fire Ant; Additions to Quarantined Areas [Docket No. 02-114-2] received May 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2190. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cottonseed Payment Program (RIN: 0560-AG97) received May 12, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2191. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prohibition of Property Flipping in HUD's Single Family Mortgage Insurance Programs [Doc. No. FR-4615-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AH57) received May 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2192. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Amendments to Stage II Vapor Recovery at Gasoline Dispensing Facilities [MD136-3091a; FRL-7483-9] received May 1, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2193. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Indiana [IN152-1a; FRL-7481-1] received May 1, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2194. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [MO 181-1181; FRL-7494-6] received May 1, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2195. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environ-

mental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan; Illinois New Source Review Amendments [IL 184-1a; FRL-7481-3] received May 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2196. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Illinois Emission Test Averaging [IL207-3; FRL-7487-5] received May 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2197. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clarification to Interim Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiry Under CERCLA [FRL-7496-2] (RIN: 2050-AF05) received May 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2198. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plan for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Mississippi [MS-200326a; FRL-7497-3] received May 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2199. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Occupant Crash Protection [Docket No. NHTSA 03-15067] (RIN: 2127-AI71) received May 6, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2200. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment of Ozone Standard, St. Louis Area; Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans, and Redesignation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, State of Missouri [MO 182-1182; FRL-7494-5] received May 1, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2201. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources at Kraft, Soda, Sulfite, and Stand-Alone Semicheical Pulp Mills [OAR-2002-0045 — FRL-7495-6] (RIN: 2060-AK53) received May 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2202. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans, and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Illinois [IL 216-2; FRL-7496-4] received May 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2203. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2204. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; 2003 Management Measures [Docket No. 030430108-3108-01; I.D. 042503A] (RIN: 0648-AQ17) received May 9,