

wife and children. He tells me: "The essential difference between then and now is that no previous regime tried to subvert the Constitution. They may have done illegal acts. They may have gone outside the law to do these, but they did them clandestinely. No one stepped to the table as arrogantly as George W. Bush and his friends have done and said, 'We legally want to suspend the rights of citizens, the right to surveil, the right to read your mail, the right to arrest you without charge.'" His criticism is not limited to President Bush (whom he called, while visiting President Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, "the greatest terrorist in the world").

President Bill Clinton crashed Belafonte's birthday party, which was taking place as the Democratic presidential contenders battled for the African-American vote. Sens. HILLARY CLINTON and BARACK OBAMA were in Selma, Ala., for the 42nd anniversary of the famous voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery. [Bill Clinton went to Selma to join his wife for the commemoration.]

In his remarks, Clinton toasted Harry: "I was inspired by your politics more than you can ever know. Every time I ever saw you after I became president, I thought that my conscience was being graded, and I was getting less than an A. And every president should feel that way about somebody as good as you."

I asked Harry how he felt about Clinton showing up. "I'm very flattered, OK, but I'm mindful of all the things that need to be done." In his succinct reply, a lifetime of struggle remembered, a keen edged skepticism, "He knows what I think. He said I didn't give him an A." I then asked him about both the Clintons and OBAMA going to Selma.

"We are hearing platitudes, not platforms. What do they plan to do for people of color, Mexicans, for people who are imprisoned, black youth? What are their plans for the Katrinas of America?"

In 1965, Belafonte was on the original Selma march with Dr. King before they reached Montgomery. Jude's Catholic Church offered its grounds to the thousands of marchers. Belafonte called in artists from around the country. Tony Bennett came, as did Pete Seeger (both were at Harris birthday party), Sammy Davis Jr., Mike Nichols, the conductor Leonard Bernstein, Odetta and Joan Baez. In the rain, they built their stage in the mud with donated caskets from local mortuaries.

The stakes were incredibly high. People were shot and killed, people were beaten. Viola Liuzzo, a white Detroit homemaker, was fatally shot by Klansmen while driving marchers back to Selma. Weeks before, police shot a man named Jimmie Lee Jackson, who later died. Despite all that, Belafonte says that the stakes are higher today.

Like the two stone lions that guard the New York City Public Library, Harry Belafonte—fierce, fearless, and focused—protects the soul of struggle. Even as he enters his ninth decade, this lion does not sleep tonight.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1867) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1867, the National Science Foundation Authorization Act, which will reauthorize the National Science Foundation, NSF, for the next 3 years.

H.R. 1867 will continue NSF funding on a 10-year doubling path, establish pilot programs to help improve funding rates for our young researchers, and encourage NSF to foster a relationship between academia and industry in order to improve the competitiveness of research conducted in the United States.

The National Science Foundation, created in the 1950s supports critical science and engineering research conducted at over 2,000 institutions across the Nation, which involves roughly 200,000 researchers, teachers, and students. Despite its relatively small size, NSF has an important impact on scientific and engineering knowledge and academic capacity. While NSF represents only 4 percent of the total Federal budget for research and development, it accounts for 20 percent of all basic research conducted at colleges and universities, and 50 percent of non-life science basic research at academic institutions. In fact, NSF is the only Federal agency that supports all fields of basic science and engineering research.

NSF invests in the best ideas of its scientists, engineers and educators working at the frontiers of knowledge, and across all fields of research and education. Their mission is designed to maintain and strengthen the vitality of the United States science and engineering enterprise.

In addition, NSF strives to improve its science and education collaboration at early stages in the education cycle. Science and math at the K through 12 level is becoming more interactive and engaging for our students in order to stimulate their future interest in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM. H.R. 1867 would increase funding for certain NSF education programs including authorizing the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Math and Science Scholarship Act, H.R. 362. Our youth represents America's future scientists. Stimulating their interest at a young age promises the continuation and success of our future biological, physical, social and engineering scientists.

In the state of Minnesota, the National Science Foundation supports research conducted at the University of Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic and many other academic institutions. The research conducted at these institutions has been paramount to the field of science and technology. Minnesota is proud to employ scientists, teachers, technicians and staff that address such cutting edge technology.

The research supported by the National Science Foundation touches the lives of every American; from gaining a better understanding of Alzheimer Disease to Global Climate Change and is critical to increasing our global competitiveness. It is with this commitment to the continued economic, social, and cultural well being of my district, and of the Nation, that I rise today in support of funding for the National Science Foundation for the next 3 years.

THE INNOVATION AGENDA, H.R.  
362, H.R. 363, H.R. 1867, H.R. 1868

**HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have voted in support of several important and necessary bills on science and technology that will safeguard our nation's prosperity and security in the 21st century. As global competition continues to grow, we must meet these competitiveness challenges by encouraging science and technology research and education, as well as investing in business and industry applications. We need to position ourselves to best meet the demands of the 21st-century world, which will be driven by a knowledge economy.

Currently, less than one third of 4th and 8th Grade students perform at a "proficient" level in mathematics, and 12th Grade students perform below the international average of 21 other countries in math and science knowledge. Only 15 percent of our undergraduates major in science or engineering, while for China, our major economic competitor, that figure is 50 percent, an unhealthy balance with a potential major impact on outsourcing. That is no doubt why Intel Corporation predicted that it would shift another third of its business operations overseas (leaving only one third in the U.S.), as the company follows the most highly trained and educated work force. The decline in math and science performance has led Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft Corporation, to remark that he is "terrified for our workforce of tomorrow."

The 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act (H.R. 362) implements the National Academies of Science report, Rising above the Gathering Storm, which recommended increasing "America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 science and mathematics education." The bill invests in 10,000 new math and science teachers by increasing scholarships available for them, and will strengthen the skills of current teachers by offering them more training and educational opportunities. This bill puts teachers and children at the center of our renewal strategy.

It worries me that, since 1976, our investment in research has slipped by 45 percent (as a percentage of the gross domestic product). To counteract this decline, the National Academies of Science report recommended an increased and sustained commitment to long-term, basic research.

This commitment is further implemented in the Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act (H.R. 363). This bill provides grants for research scientists early in their careers, when researchers do their most innovative and ground-breaking work, and funds a much-needed national coordination effort for research infrastructure needs. The National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 1867) also addresses this problem by doubling National Science Foundation funding over the next ten years, increasing our commitment to math, engineering, and science research and education.

These bills will put an end to our neglect of science and math research and education and enable us to keep our competitive and innovative edge, which has been eroding in recent