

16 APRIL, 1963.

21,000, that we may need to increase, that there are Border Patrol agents being removed from the front lines in order to process those individuals who have come across the border. When they do that, they remove the coverage from the front lines on the border dealing with those who are in those detention centers.

We have to recognize that transportation security, as much as one might say how many officers they have, in the sequester, we will be standing in long lines, and it is about to come. That is the front lines of securing this Nation, along with the Coast Guard and many, many other facets of the Department of Homeland Security.

We are asked a question about the securing of the homeland. We are feeling the pain along with our colleagues of the tragedies that have occurred, the attempted Times Square bombing, the successful bombing in Boston. We cannot take this anymore, and I believe it is time, with the President's budget, the Senate's budget, the House budget, that the Speaker of the House needs to immediately appoint budget conferees to move us forward to conference and to get rid of the sequester, which is not the fault of the American people.

Our deficit is going down. We need to determine what revenue we can increase in order to pay our bills and provide for the basic necessities of this Nation. Not only is the tragedy in Boston one of human life, but it is a disaster that requires Federal Emergency Management aid, just as our continued friends in the Southeast and Northeast are still suffering from Hurricane Sandy and the atrocity of this House not providing them with resources for 65 days.

So I believe it is time for the American people to know that we do care. In order to care, you need to have budget conferees go through the budget process and begin to pass elements of the President's budget that speaks to the heart and mind of the needs of the American people.

I conclude by offering my deepest sympathy and my promise to those who suffer that America and its Congress must stand up to respond to your needs. I'm ready to do so, as my colleagues are, and we should do it now.

NATIONAL OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to announce that this week, April 14 through April 20, is National Osteopathic Medicine Week. This week celebrates the contributions of more than 100,000 osteopathic physicians and medical students in the United States to the health of our communities.

There are many doctors in the House of Representatives, but as the lone osteopathic physician in Congress, I feel

it incumbent upon me to mark this week by raising awareness of the importance of osteopathic medicine.

The practice of osteopathic medicine was founded by Dr. Andrew Taylor Still in 1874, and over the past 139 years, osteopathic physicians have made significant contributions to the United States health care system. Osteopathic doctors have treated Presidents and Olympic athletes, contributed to the fight against AIDS, and continue to be involved on the front lines of our health care systems today. In fact, Dr. Martin Levine, immediate past president of the American Osteopathic Association, was part of the medical team at the Boston Marathon and was pressed into service, providing immediate care in the wake of yesterday's tragedy.

As osteopathic physicians, we take a holistic approach to medicine that focuses on the health of the whole person, and we are committed to improving the health of the communities we serve through education and awareness, as well as delivering quality health care services.

In light of the contributions made by osteopathic physicians to the health of our Nation, and this being their national week of recognition, I have introduced House Resolution 159, which calls on the House to support the designation of National Osteopathic Medicine Week.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the field of osteopathic medicine and supporting the designation of National Osteopathic Medicine Week.

□ 1030

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S "LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join so many Americans across this Nation and this world in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

After being arrested on April 12, 1963, Dr. King came across an article in The Birmingham News entitled "White Clergymen Urge Local Negroes to Withdraw From Demonstrations."

The eight White clergymen who authored that article were very critical of Dr. King and the others who demonstrated. They called the demonstrations "untimely and unwise."

These criticisms inspired Dr. King to pen a letter that was published upon his release on April 16, 1963. The letter became one of the most preeminent documents of the civil rights era. So today I join the voices around the world as I read in part from this beautifully written, masterful document, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

My Dear Fellow Clergymen:

While confined here in the Birmingham city jail, I came across your recent statement calling my present activities "unwise and untimely." Seldom do I pause to answer criticisms of my work and ideas. If I sought to answer all the criticisms that cross my desk, my secretaries would have little time for anything else . . . But since I feel that you are men of genuine goodwill, and that your criticisms are sincere and heartfelt, I want to try to answer your statement in what I hope will be a patient and reasonable term.

I think I should indicate why I am here in Birmingham, since you have been influenced by the view that I am somehow an outsider coming in. I am in Birmingham because injustice is here.

Moreover, I am cognizant of the interdependency of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what's happening in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial "outside agitator" idea. Anyone who lives in the United States of America can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds.

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct-action campaign that was not "well timed" in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now, I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see with one another what one jurist said, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The yearning for freedom eventually manifests itself, and that is what has happened to the American Negro.

The Negro has had many pent up frustrations and resentments and must release them. So let him march; let him make a prayerful pilgrimage to the city hall; let him go on freedom rides and try to understand why he must do so; let him release his frustration in a nonviolent way . . .

But though I was initially disappointed at being criticized as an extremist by you, as I continued to think about the matter I gradually gained a measure of satisfaction from the label. Was not Jesus an extremist for love?

Was not Amos an extremist for justice? "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Was not Paul an extremist for the Christian gospel? "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."

So the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice?

Perhaps the South, the Nation, and the world are in dire need of creative extremists.

I hope this letter finds you in strong faith. Let us all hope that the dark cloud of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will lift from our fear-drenched communities, and in some time not so distant, that the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great Nation in all of their succulent beauty.

Yours for the cause of peace and brotherhood.