

Draft Remarks of
Congressman Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday bill

August 1, 1983

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, today we have before us a bill to honor a man of peace, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a man whose thirst for justice and whose strength of will exemplified the best qualities of the American spirit. He was a pioneer of American history -- not of the inhospitable 18th Century settlements along the east coast, nor of the later efforts to tame the rugged lands of the plains and West.

Instead, Dr. King was a pioneer of the spirit -- he showed us the new frontiers of human justice and equality that lay just beyond our grasp in this century. He led us through the difficult struggle to overcome the obstacles of prejudice and apathy, and let us share in his dream of a nation unbound by racial or ethnic hatred.

I urge my colleagues to join with me today in voting to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by designating a national holiday in his honor.