

Martin Luther King, Jr. faced enormous opposition during his own lifetime. He and his family constantly received death threats. He was physically beaten, and several times thrown in jail. For 6 years, the FBI harassed and tried to discredit him, in spite of the fact that they had no legal authority to do so. During a congressional investigation in 1975, the FBI admitted to having sent Dr. King an anonymous threatening letter in an effort to induce him to commit suicide. The FBI also revealed that it had tried to prevent Dr. King from receiving honorary degrees from colleges, and that it had tried to prevent him from accepting the Nobel Peace Prize and from meeting the Pope. Efforts were also made to shutoff financial support for his organization.

Just as we draw lessons from Dr. King's many victories, so we must draw lessons from the ferocious opposition he faced. His opponents had many advantages: They were well-financed and well-organized; they were defending the status quo, which is always easier than fighting for change; and they controlled the State and local governments, and in some cases, the Federal Government. Yet they faced a man and a movement with an unshakable commitment to justice, equality, and freedom, and they were defeated.

The civil rights movement today faces challenges undreamt of 20 years ago. In some areas, progress has been made in chipping away against the walls of injustice and inequality. In other areas, we find these are dark, difficult times, as we confront an administration bent on reversing the progress of the last two decades. Let us draw strength today from Martin Luther King's strength, from his compassion, from his relentless dedication to justice for all people of this world. As he said on that August afternoon in 1963 from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, before a crowd of 250,000:

We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. . . . We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, marked another historic step in the continuing struggle for civil rights. It was the first national holiday commemorating the birthday of America's premiere civil rights activist, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Born January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, GA, King became the leading spokesman for the movement after supporting Rosa Parks in her refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, AL. Reverend King, along with his father, established an effective boycott of the Montgomery bus system which succeeded in eliminating not only the division of black and white passengers on public transportation but also made the first crack in an overwhelming, prevailing barrier of discrimination which existed in this country up until the early 1960's.

It took years to mark this day as a national holiday just as it took years to bring this

Nation to the present state of imperfect equality it has achieved. The job is far from over! At best a tainted justice exists. A long road of commitment lies ahead of us if we are ever to reach "the dream" of which Dr. King spoke so eloquently. It is the spirit of Martin Luther King's message, a message of justice and equality through peaceful and nonviolent means, which we must nurture if we are to redress the continued injustice which exists in this Nation and throughout the world.

It is to the credit of this man that he appealed to his Nation's conscience and it is to the credit of this Nation that it responded to his call. America must continue to set an example of what can be accomplished when a country's conscience is awakened to a spirit of change. As our country continues to respond to this call for change we must challenge other nations to join us in shattering once and for all the remaining walls of intolerance and bigotry. It is not enough to reap the benefits of the King legacy. We must remain firm in our call for an end to apartheid in South Africa; we must remain firm in our commitment to affirmative action; we must remain firm in our support of vital job training and educational programs which help the poor and ethnic minorities of our Nation.

Above all this new national holiday should serve as an annual reminder and time for reassessment as to where we are and how much more there is to achieve in our journey toward a truly free and equal world.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King dedicated his life to the causes of civil rights and economic justice for all Americans and peace for all the world's peoples. The new national holiday that we celebrated for the first time yesterday is a fitting tribute to this great American.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man whose eloquence was legendary, whose courage was unquestioned, and whose impact on our Nation was profound and enduring. Without the efforts and sacrifices of the civil rights movement that Dr. King led so ably in the 1950's and 1960's, it is doubtful that this Congress would have passed the Landmark Voting Rights and Civil Rights Acts that have done so much to promote political and social equality and economic opportunity in America.

These steps toward equality and opportunity have not, of course, achieved all of Dr. King's noble aspirations. Discrimination still exists in America, as do social and economic injustices. But we have made great progress since Dr. King delivered his unforgettable "I have a dream" speech in 1963. And, it is also important to remember that the civil rights movement that Martin Luther King, Jr. led helped inspire other movements for equality as well. The movements for Hispanic civil rights and for women's rights certainly did not merely mimic the black civil rights movement. But many of those who have played a vital role in these efforts also fought alongside Dr. King or were inspired by him.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a great American. The example of his life must continue to guide us in the years ahead.

Mr. MAZZOLI. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time cosponsor of legislation establishing a national holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, I

am particularly proud to join in this special order to commemorate him.

The celebration of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a Federal holiday, marks an important point in the evolution of our country. As a nation founded on the principles of freedom and equality, we now pay tribute to one of our great leaders, who not only altered the fate of American blacks, but America in general, and the world as a whole.

We as a nation continue to grow and develop, having removed many of the barriers that once hindered us. However, we must accept the individual responsibility of assuring the continuance of social justice and fraternity, as Dr. King said: "We must learn to live together as brothers or we shall all perish together as fools."

At this time we should look back, we should look forward and we should look all around us. We must never forget. Ever reminded that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." In our "fast-paced" society we often overlook important human concerns. They become overshadowed by the more dramatic and immediate issues. Regrettably, we forget those who have gone before, and sacrificed so much for our country and its people.

Dr. King is a man we must not forget, whose indomitable spirit and insight helped shape and mold this country into a nation that lived up to its basic tenets, that all persons are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Yes, we still have a way to go, but just look how far we have come. Martin Luther King once said, "If you can't fly, run, if you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. But by all means, keep on moving."

So let's keep moving America. This long-awaited recognition of Dr. King's birthday is not an end, but a means to an end—toward a society in which all men are treated equally and measured solely "by the content of their character."

Mr. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I am honored today to join with my colleagues in marking the first national celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of America's most courageous fighters for civil rights for all Americans.

I want to also publicly thank my colleague JOHN CONYERS, whose leadership and inspiration kept this legislation alive before Congress until the majority of our colleagues finally saw the light and ratified it 2 years ago. Although he is receiving far less than his share of credit for this observance, JOHN CONYERS deserves our thanks and praise for his efforts to make the King birthday a national event.

It is altogether fitting that this body honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., since his cause was our cause—the protection and strengthening of national commitment to justice and equality for all our citizens.

If we in this body are to add meaning to the national tribute to Dr. King, however, we must reflect in our legislative actions his full range of concerns, his caring and his love for his fellowman. We must continue his effort to bring out the best in America, and to eliminate the hunger, poverty, violence, and racism here at home and throughout the world community.

The best in America fights for the well-being of all its citizens, assuring food for the hungry,

shelter for the homeless, and employment for the willing and able; the best in America upholds those human and civil rights for which Dr. King fought, and strongly defends against any encroachment or return to the assorted bigotries of the past.

The best in America calls upon us to lead the effort to end the madness of the nuclear arms race; to be an agent for peace and stability in Central America; to speak out unequivocally for a meaningful dialog among all sides in the search for peace in the Middle East, and to make clear that no one is really free in this world so long as 23 million black South Africans are denied the right to govern their lives.

The many honors marking the first Federal holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. have rightly emphasized the urgency of continuing to make his dream a reality. To achieve this we can, and indeed we must, be the catalyst for continuing to achieve the very best in ourselves and our society.

Mr. HUGHES. Mr. Speaker, today we are gathered to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who has stirred the soul of our country with a dream of peace, justice, and the recognition that all people are created equal. I am pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this special order honoring Dr. King for both his achievements and the courage he showed in moving us closer to the fulfillment of his dream of a better world for all.

As you know, Dr. King spent the early part of his life studying theology and religion. During his long years as a leader of the civil rights movement, he never lost sight of the religious values which inspired him so deeply. Dr. King was a man who understood the value of patience, hard work, perseverance, and faith. There are few among us who are willing to make these sacrifices today, as we seek to change society overnight.

Faith is simple when times are easy, but Dr. King chose the hard route during difficult times. Beginning in 1954, Dr. King's life took a new path when he joined the NAACP and put his faith and commitment to the test. By 1955, he had become a leader in the civil rights struggle. Urging blacks to organize and participate in peaceful, nonviolent demonstrations, Dr. King placed himself at the forefront of the movement, while at the same time making himself vulnerable to those who resisted the changes he sought to bring to society.

Through boycotts, sit-ins, marches, and scores of nonviolent demonstrations which formed the heart of the civil rights movement, Dr. King's faith remained strong, never giving sway to the forces trying to bend it. Dr. King's faith and commitment resulted in a fundamental change in society and the laws which govern it. Among other things, his efforts led to the enactment of the 1964 civil rights bill.

Until his death in 1968, Dr. King continued to work to organize people and to instill in them the values that were the inspiration for his dream of creating a better world. Although Dr. King is no longer with us, his dream lives on in all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I do not stand alone when I speak of the greatness of this man and of his contributions. We, as individuals and as a nation, will always feel a place in our hearts for Dr. King and take great joy in celebrating his birthday.

Mr. TALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

and the dream for which he died. At certain brief and isolated moments, history is seized by the energy and vision of a single man. The life of Martin Luther King was such a moment. Dr. King infused us with the dream of freedom, equality, justice and peace for our Nation and the world. He touched each of us with this dream and then showed us how to bring that dream alive. This legacy remains a constant source of inspiration and responsibility.

In honoring Martin Luther King, let us reflect on our place in his march for freedom and justice. We have a moral obligation to realistically examine how faithfully and how far we have carried "the dream." This reassessment is the first step in what Dr. King called his nonviolent campaign for justice. King noted four basic steps in his campaign: First, collection of the facts to determine whether injustices are alive; second, negotiation; third, self-purification; and fourth, direct action.

I believe we have a responsibility to continue Dr. King's campaign for nonviolent social change. A collection of the facts clearly indicates that domestic and foreign policy violations of civil rights, equality, justice remain prevalent in our domestic and our foreign policy. Certainly, blacks have made significant political, economic, and educational gains. Yet still, minorities in this country are still not given the educational and economic opportunities that are available to their white counterparts. There are heartrending examples of inequality and injustice all around us. Unemployment for blacks stands at 15 percent. Nearly half our black children are born into poverty. The median family income for black families is \$15,432 compared with \$27,686 for white families. Vestiges of prejudice are still prevalent in some of our social, political and economic institutions.

Injustice and inequality remain a part of our foreign policy as well. In South Africa today there are millions of blacks who struggle and long for freedom and equality. This struggle parallels that of black Americans just 30 years ago. We have a responsibility to support and assist them in this struggle.

Negotiation is the second stage. Negotiation is different from concession or regression. Rather, it requires careful consideration and compromise as we work to promote freedom and equality for the disenfranchised. This is perhaps the most difficult stage, demanding tenacity, foresight and cooperation. As Dr. King observed, the negotiator is often confronted with "blasted hopes, and the dark shadow of deep disappointment."

A time of reflection and recommitment is important in this long difficult struggle for freedom. The Martin Luther King holiday provided us such time. The stage that Dr. King termed self-purification is a period for introspection and self examination. This stage allows us to regain courage to confront the reality of injustice and the will to work for peaceful change. Dr. King provides us with the inspiration to recommit. We can gain strength from his unflinching determination to overcome racism and promote equality.

The final stage is that of direct action. "Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such creative tension that a community that has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue," said Dr. King. Neglect of civil rights in America is something that we had to confront during King's lifetime and it is

something that we must confront now. The issue and threat is as real now as it was then. For, as Dr. King observed, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." I am frightened by a complacency and a dullness that seems to have settled across America. Now, more than ever, we must heed Dr. King's advice that "we must use time creatively, and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right. Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy, and transform our pending national elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood."

In conclusion, I would like to share with you a few remarks from the Reverend Boesak. "I am convinced that there is another America. An American that remembers its own struggle, that cherishes its freedom and dignity, that therefore understands the aspirations of an unfree people. An America that lives up to the ideals of injustice and equality so jealously guarded by your constitution and so preciously held in the hearts of your people." It is this America that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned. Let us gather the courage, integrity and commitment to make his dream a reality for all Americans.

Mr. RODINO. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend Representative MICKEY LELAND, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for taking the special order to honor a great American, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King's vision of America at its best—a land of equality, fairness, and compassion for all of its citizens—and his unyielding devotion to nonviolent protest (while facing death threats, jail, and ugly verbal abuse and physical brutality) helped lead our Nation through a turbulent, but necessary, period of growth.

This past Monday, our country of rich and diverse cultures came together to honor Dr. King's memory and rekindle its commitment to making his dream a reality. This national tribute was long overdue. In 1968, shortly after Dr. King's death, I sponsored a bill to designate a national holiday in his honor; 18 years passed before a day was set aside to honor his birth.

I am also pleased to note that I am cosponsoring legislation with Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG to name the planned Federal courthouse in Newark after Dr. King.

However, our celebration of Dr. King's legacy is tempered by the sobering fact that for many Americans, his dream has not yet become a reality. The gap between rich and poor grows dangerously wider each day; blacks continue to suffer disproportionately high unemployment and infant mortality rates; the future of essential social services is threatened by Gramm-Rudman and other budget-slashing schemes; the Department of Justice is working to turn the clock back on civil rights gains of the last three decades.

Let us join together to honor the memory of this great man by carrying on his work.

Dr. King's dream was a dream of social, political, and economic justice for all. He dedicated his life to securing a society that will judge its citizens not by the color of their skin, but by the quality of their character and the contents of their minds. The civil rights laws guaranteeing equal opportunity and equal rights would be legacy enough for most great men. But not for Dr. King. For his is also a legacy of hope and promise that bigotry will be erased, justice will be served, and human