

tained through the workplace or labor union. Medicaid does provide welfare clients (and working people with low incomes) with a wide range of services at no cost. If Medicaid didn't exist, most welfare clients wouldn't have any way of getting health care that they could afford. (Eliminating or sharply reducing eligibility to programs like Medicaid means letting poor people go without any care when illness requires them to seek medical services.)

MYTH NO. 5

Welfare, Medicaid, food stamps, etc., etc., look at all these hand-outs that I wind up paying for.

REALITY

In the national budget, welfare and similar programs like food stamps and Medicaid account for about 10% of federal spending this year, as compared with the approximately 32% chunk absorbed by defense-related expenditures. The reason why welfare costs fall so heavily on New York taxpayers is because the federal government doesn't pay its fair share for what is really a national problem, not a local one. (If Washington agreed to pay the full cost of welfare programs next year, New York State would save about \$3 billion. Property taxes that support the state's welfare budget in many upstate communities could be greatly lowered if this were to happen and in New York City, the so-called fiscal crisis which is causing so many cuts and layoffs would come to an immediate end.) (As things stand now, New York City has to pay the highest share of welfare costs of any city in the nation.) If the federal government refuses to act to assume its just share of the burden, the state could provide the city and all counties with a great deal of tax relief by agreeing to pay for a larger share of the program's cost here. Finally, all taxpayers would save enormous amounts of money each year if the country decided to create jobs for people who can't find them now. That's the real solution to the problem for taxpayers and for all Americans.

MYTH NO. 6

People come to New York just so they can go on welfare.

REALITY

Studies which analyse whether the level of welfare benefits attracts families and individuals to New York City indicate that very few migrants apply for welfare soon after arriving here. Most examinations of this issue conclude that migration is *not directly* caused by varying welfare benefit levels among states. Rather, population movement to New York City from outside and inside the United States is attributed to the search for employment, improved income and better life prospects.

Enrolling in the welfare program or accepting unemployment insurance is a last resort for the vast majority of those who go on public assistance.

A SALUTE TO MARTIN LUTHER KING

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RODINO) is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. RODINO. Mr. Speaker, today we honor a great man and the even greater vision that he labored, and died, to serve.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was great because of the imperishable dream that he nurtured throughout his life. He gave it new meaning and new promise—but he realized better than anyone that the dream was not original with him.

The hope of human liberty and justice has existed throughout the history of mankind. Here, in America, it has approached its fulfillment. Dr. King saw that hope being thwarted for millions of men and women—including himself. Because he believed deeply in the American dream, he could not see this failure without acting to correct it. He paid for his dedication with his life.

We have come far since 1963 when Dr. King stood at the Lincoln Memorial and put into words what was unspoken in uncouth hearts. What made his message that August day the most eloquent of the 20th century was that he knew what was in those hearts. He understood the suffering and the deprivation—and he understood as well what would be needed to turn that dream into reality.

We who remember him have seen his efforts grow and bear fruit. We have seen that the dream can be fulfilled—for it is ours as much as it was his—and that was how he wished it. Today, we are closer than ever before to making this a nation, a society, where freedom is the unquestioned birthright of every child.

But there are grave responsibilities that go along with that dream. For if freedom is a birthright, it still can be lost, or stolen, or sold.

And that is why, as we rededicate ourselves to the memory of Martin Luther King, we must rededicate ourselves as well to continue the difficult task that he set for himself.

We have come far in the struggle for human rights. We have a long way yet to go. Dr. King's life, his devotion, and his memory have helped us mark the path.

Mr. Speaker, like many cities across America, Newark also observed Dr. King's birthday with a number of special events.

On Thursday morning, the Young Men and Women's Christian Associations sponsored a commemorative breakfast, chaired by my close friend, Ms. Connie Woodruff. About 300 persons attended this sixth annual event, including many leading State and local officials and business leaders. Bishop Joseph A. Francis, of the archdiocese of Newark, delivered a moving and inspiring address.

On Friday night, there was a rally at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Newark. The Reverend Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference—founded and led by Dr. King until his death—spoke not only of Dr. King but of the challenges, the hopes, and the promises that lie ahead.

Then on Saturday morning, Operation PUSH of Essex County held its third annual breakfast at which Charles Gray, executive director of the Julius Nyerere Institute in New Brunswick, N.J., was the keynote speaker.

Dr. King has been the subject of a great many tributes, but these gatherings in the name of human rights show clearly that his memory and the work he began are stronger than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to participate in some of these living memorials to a great man and to a vision of liberty

and justice which we in America must make a reality for all people.

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEVITAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LEVITAS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

LEGISLATION TO PERMIT SERVICE ACADEMIES TO SELECT THEIR OWN STUDENTS

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. CORNELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CORNELL. Mr. Speaker, everyone who has served in this House knows the incredible variety of duties which fall upon a Member of Congress. I rise today to introduce a bill which would remove from this long list of responsibilities the role of dean of admissions for our military academies. Our bill permits the service academies to select their own students. We believe this step is overdue and that compelling reasons exist for making this change.

First of all, although each congressional office tirelessly endeavors to select the best candidates from among the applicants, it is still true that no single established standards of admissions exists to guide us. Therefore, the nominees are now being chosen in a variety of ways instead of having all applicants judged by one set standard.

Our bill eliminates the congressional role in the selection process but retains the present geographical distribution pattern so that we can continue to draw our future officers from across the entire country. This means, in short, that the number of positions allotted to the congressional districts, the States on an at-large basis, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia, Guam, Virgin Islands, Panama Canal Zone, and American Samoa remains the same but now the academies themselves will make these selections solely on the basis of merit.

Second, the existing system for naming candidates has political overtones and leads many people to believe, however falsely, that one must personally know the Member of Congress in order to have his son or daughter appointed to the military academies. This misunderstanding has undoubtedly dissuaded some qualified students from even applying. Members of Congress are also placed in the difficult position of having to break the news to the disappointed applicants who were not chosen since there are usually more candidates than vacancies. Under this bill, the Representatives will continue to make the public announcements of those chosen for the service academies but they will play no role in the decision on admission.

Third, for the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y., we believe the best procedure is a purely competitive