

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,

