

Congressman Duncan speaks in behalf of King holiday



REPRESENTATIVE BOB DUNCAN

Speaking in the House of Representatives on February 19th, Bob Duncan, Congressman from Oregon's Third District, supported the bill introduced by Representative John Conyers (Dem. Mich.) to make Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, January 15th, a national holiday.

Mr. Duncan's remarks follow:

Mr. Speaker I am proud to be a sponsor with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Conyers) of the bill to create a national holiday of Dr. King's birthday, and to appear with the gentleman from Michigan on his special order.

I feel this evening a strong sense of the continuity of the progress in the affairs of humankind. As my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. Pepper), referred to in his remarks, a few years ago in this Capital City occurred the scene of a remarkable phenomenon as hundreds of thousands of

citizens of all ages, persuasions, and origins walked together through the streets of this city. These people came together joining hands, hearts, and voices, in peaceful protest, petitioning long overdue redress of a sad and shameful imbalance in our society. My teenage son and daughter were a part of the crowd that gathered to hear the words of the unique person whose belief in ultimate justice and peaceful protest as a means to that end brought about the unforgettable march on Washington Of August 28, 1963 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The words he said on that day have become immortal, not only because of their ringing persuasion and timeliness, but because of their truth and promise. "We shall overcome," he cried; and the cry was taken up by the thousands massed on the Mall, and millions more all over this land. And a movement became a crusade.

Martin Luther King, Jr.,

was joined in his great crusade by two Presidents of the United States - John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. Proposals were made and bills were drawn; and in 1964 the historic 89th Congress acted upon the rightful demand of its Black constituents for first-class citizenship.

I am proud to have been a Member of that body and to have supported the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as I sponsored and supported similar legislation in Oregon several years before.

Now all three of these memorable leaders are gone from us - President Kennedy and Dr. King in untimely and tragic fashion. But their common achievement and that of all the Americans who marched that day and other days, and who suffered and even died in that cause, as did Dr. King - this achievement, written into law as the civil rights legislation of 1964 lives on. Imperfectly, too slowly, but surely and inevitably these laws are working to effect deep and

permanent change in our society.

Much still remains to be done before prejudice and discrimination are banished. Equality of education and opportunity do not yet exist at the extent we desire. Our Black colleagues feel and know this to a greater degree than can we of a lighter complexion. But men and women of good will of whatever race can here resolve to join together to insure that upward progress of our minority citizens continues, and is accelerated to the point where the statement of that great Scot poet, Bobby Burns, "A man's a man for 'that,'" becomes a reality and we need no longer worry about affirmative action, about Black neighborhoods, busing, and similar devices, because such shall no longer be necessary.

There will be names engraved forever on the consciousness and conscience of America. Martin Luther King, Jr., is very near the top of the list. He

is an authentic American hero of an age, supposedly, of antiheroes. It is time we recognized him as such.

Therefore, I am privileged to join in this special order to honor him and to advance the cause of brotherhood and good will toward all men and women of all races.

Representative Conyers said following Duncan's speech.

May I say to my friend, the gentleman from Oregon, with whom I have not had the pleasure of working extremely closely on too many bills, and whom I have never heard make remarks about the nature of improved race relations and their importance before, that I am very deeply moved by the statement that he has just made, in which he has in a very graphic way, shown how his family was brought - and in some ways all of us - to an appreciation that we are not going through a sentimental exercise here today, speaking eulogistically of a great but deceased American.

can.

From his remarks, I just had the vivid recollection of my coming to Washington to participate in that march on that day in 1963. Somehow, the gentleman's articulation of this event in a personal way brought back those memories, and I am very, very pleased to hear him say what perhaps could be said best by him, better by him than perhaps even the distinguished gentlemen from Texas (Ms. Jordan) or myself.

I think he adds a strength to our purpose. I think that he helped make most of us feel that in this 94th Congress we will finally do what we have said ought to have been done so much earlier, in earlier sessions.

I thank the gentleman from Oregon for those very obviously sincere remarks.

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FROM THE EYES OF MR. W.

By Harold C. Williams

Brothers And Sisters Of The Community:

In the last eighteen months I have interviewed hundreds of students for state jobs and it is embarrassing, to say the least, that most minority students that apply for state jobs can not fill out an application. Too many of the students that I see cannot read above a third grade level, and most only have an understanding of mathematics at the fifth grade level. It is embarrassing for I want to help many of these students acquire jobs, decent jobs, in state service as well as private enterprise. But I am handicapped, for the minority students, especially the Black students, do not have

the basic skill to compete on the job market.

I think it is time that we who are concerned about the Black students in our community demand that they be taught the basics, and further demand that they learn the basics. There are too many job opportunities that are going to be available in the future and we want to have enough competent Blacks in the job market to compete.

It is the responsibility of the parents the teachers and the students to acquire a level of understanding of what education is all about in the Black community. It is not about passing on students to the next grade for passing's sake. Black students are being short

changed thus far with the type of education they are getting. It is time some questions be asked about the type of training they are getting and if the questions are not asked, the next generation of young Blacks will be incompetent, unskilled and unmarketable in the job market.

It is a shame that in all the state government, we do not have thirty Black secretaries and it appears that in the next year we will have even less. What are Black students being taught? Are they being taught to be competent in society and given tools so they can function in the job market? Or are they being allowed to be stupid and non-functional for the future?

Blacks protest POIC Wallace award

A Black civil rights leader has protested the special award given to Alabama Governor George Wallace by OIC (Opportunities Industrial Center) and a board member has resigned in protest.

John Lewis, director of the Voter Education Project and former chairman of the

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) said, "Black people giving Wallace an award is like the Anti-Defamation League giving a posthumous award to Hitler."

Lewis, who was beaten and jailed in Alabama during the 60's is uneasy about Black support and public admiration for Wallace. He remembers the reign of terror in Alabama that caused the deaths of Black men, women and children during the civil rights struggle while Wallace was governor.

Lewis believes that some change in Black political reaction toward Wallace is influenced by sympathy, since a 1972 assassination attempt, Wallace has been paralyzed from the waist down and it is hard to imagine a demagogue in a wheelchair.

Additional support comes from Black elected officials whose political futures are dependent on the revenue they get from Montgomery.

George Wallace, in spite of his condition, remains a symbol of the most brutal forms of violence inflicted against poor and Black people in Alabama," Lewis said.

Wallace committed no violence personally while governor during the bloody '60s, Lewis explained, but he created a climate and atmosphere of hate that

triggered white lynch mobs and official brutality against peaceful marchers.

"I am troubled by the newly found admiration for a man like George Wallace. Why this pilgrimage of respect to him?"

"I really believe that this one man more than any other single figure has done more to fan the flames of racism and hatred and bitterness in the last few years. People suffered and died in that state, and young people, Black and white, who don't remember those years must not forget that."

Lewis credits Wallace's recent moderation on the race issue with national civil rights laws and court orders, "Wallace has never said he's seen a great light and been converted. He's just a clever politician and he wants to be president."

Tyrone Brooks communications director for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and a board member of Atlanta OIC, resigned from the board in protest of the award which won Governor Wallace his support of OIC in Alabama.

"Wallace is one of the most notorious racist public officials that this nation has ever produced," Brooks said, "Tears came to my eyes when I saw a newspaper photograph of the Black woman director of the

Alabama OIC kissing the Governor."

"By honoring George Wallace, you insulted Black America because America knows that it has been people like George Wallace that prevented Black people in this country from gaining complete freedom and equality," the SCLC official said.



Corvallis hosts NAACP

Rollie Smith, President of the Corvallis Branch, NAACP, announced that the Corvallis Branch will host the Northwest Area Conference of Branches on March 7 through 9th. The conference is expected to draw delegates from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska.

"In addition to the conference, the branches annual Freedom Fund Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 8th, at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Althea T.L. Simmons Director of Training, from the NAACP National Office in New York City.

Theme for the conference is "More Power... Through Affirmative Action, a growing membership actively involved in the political process, and improved communication of the goals and objectives of the NAACP."

The opening business meeting on Saturday morning will be chaired by Arlington Carter, Area President. Workshop subjects include: Working with the Media, Building Membership, Plugging into the Political Process, and Affirmative Action.

All meetings will be held at Nendell's Inn at Corvallis. All members and friends of the NAACP are invited to attend. Further information can be obtained from the Corvallis Branch Office, Box 934, Corvallis 97330, telephone 753-1125.

Pageant seeks girls

Applications are being accepted from girls who are interested in the Junior Miss Black Oregon Pageant. Contestants are to be 10, 11, and 12 years of age. The pageant will be held April 27, 1975 at the Sheraton Motor Hotel. This year's theme is "The Wonderful World of Magic". The winner receives a trip to Disneyland for two.

Any girls interested should call Brenda Knapper, 281-9568 to obtain an application. Application deadline - March 1, 1975.

Getting Smart

BY WALTER L. SMART

The poor in America have a higher unemployment rate, greater incidence of hunger, malnutrition and disease than their more affluent counterparts. To

the long list of problems of the poor, has been added one more. Recent federal crime statistics indicate that poor people are more likely to be victims of violent crime such as rape,

robbery and assault, than those persons with money. According to the survey, both whites and Blacks from families earning below \$7,500 a year "had the higher rates of violent victimizations" than did persons with higher incomes.

The survey, conducted by the Census Bureau for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration also found that 85 of every 1000 Black males were victims of a crime in the first half of 1973, 72 of every 1000 white males, 58 of every 1000 Black females and 54 of every 1000 white females.

These statistics tend to prove what most of us have already known: the growing correlation between crimes of violence and deteriorated neighborhoods where essential human services are grossly inadequate. Government and corporate insensitivity would make us believe that it doesn't matter if children don't receive a proper education in the ghettos or adequate nutrition in their homes, but very obviously the facts show otherwise.

In noting these facts the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration Administrator, Richard W. Velde, has appropriately said such new information will complement crime statistics of the police and Federal Bureau of Investigation. However, just adding of information isn't enough. It is important that all persons working in combating crime sensitize their efforts in accordance with this and other such information.

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