

In connection with the ceremony in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, Bob prepared a written description of the background information on the political history and the art history of the crown. Because of the significance and the interest in this important coronation symbol and historic object, Mr. Speaker, I ask that this description be placed in the RECORD.

THE HUNGARIAN CROWN

"The Holy Crown of Hungary" (Magyar Szent Korona) or "the Crown of St. Stephen" is the medieval Crown that for centuries was the symbol of Hungarian kingship and today remains a powerful symbol of the Hungarian nation. The Crown is depicted atop the Hungarian national crest, which was adopted as the official symbol of the Republic of Hungary.

For centuries the Hungarian Crown has been linked with St. Stephen, the first Christian king of Hungary. Medieval records report that Pope Sylvester II gave a Crown to Stephen for his coronation in 1001. Because of this tradition, the Crown has long symbolized Hungary's cultural, political, and religious links with Western Europe, although the present Crown is not the actual object given by Sylvester II.

The Crown is composed of two parts. The upper portion is composed of two cross-bands with enamel panels with Latin inscriptions. Earlier, it was believed that the Latin portion of the Crown was a remnant of the Crown given by Sylvester II. Contemporary scholars now believe that it is a reliquary or other object associated with Stephen. The lower portion is a Byzantine crown produced between 1067 and 1077 which was made for the wife of King Geza I, and it was a gift of the Byzantine emperor Michael Ducas.

These two separate portions were combined to create a crown for the coronation of one of Hungary's later kings. It was at this time that a cross was placed on top of the crossed Latin bands. Combining the two elements took place about the twelfth century. The first source calling this relic "the Holy Crown" dates from 1256, and by that date, it was in much the same form as it is today.

The Crown was last used for coronations in 1867, when Hapsburg Emperor Franz Joseph II was crowned King of Hungary, and in 1916, when his successor, Karl IV, was crowned. Karl was deposed in 1918 at the end of World War I, but the new independent State of Hungary remained a Kingdom without a king from 1918 until 1945.

Throughout its history the Crown has generally remained in Hungary, but it was frequently moved from place to place and hidden for security reasons. It was buried for four years after the national uprising of 1848-1849.

In November 1944, as the Soviet Army neared Budapest, the Crown guard moved the coronation regalia from the capital to western Hungary and Austria to protect them from damage in the fighting and to prevent their seizure by Soviet troops. On April 26, 1945, the guard buried the Crown in an oil drum at Mattsee in western Austria, and on July 25, 1945, the Crown and coronation regalia were transferred to U.S. Army officers in Augsburg, Germany. The Crown remained in American custody until January 6, 1978. Initially it was kept in the American occupation zone of Germany at a special military facility in Wiesbaden, and in the early 1950s, it was transferred to the U.S. Gold Depository at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

It was always the intention of the United States to return the Crown to Hungary, and it was designated "property of special status held in trust and safekeeping by United States authorities." Plans to return the

Crown to Hungary were put off following the communist coup in Hungary in 1947 and the intensification of the Cold War. The Hungarian uprising of 1956, which was violently suppressed by Soviet troops, also made it impossible to return the Crown. It was only two decades later that gradual but significant domestic changes in Hungary opened up the opportunity for the Crown's return.

When Jimmy Carter became President in 1977, the U.S. reassessed its policies toward the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and determined that the U.S. should encourage relations between America and those Soviet client states which pursued international or domestic policies that differed from the Soviet Union. Since the late 1960s, Hungary's domestic economic and social policy had moved considerably away from the Soviet model and fostered market-oriented changes, which laid the foundation for Hungary's remarkable success in the post-communist period.

President Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, and National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski agreed that the crown should be returned to Hungary. The Crown symbolized Hungary's links with the West and Hungarian national identity, and U.S. officials wanted to strengthen both. As a condition for the return, it was required that the Crown be placed on public display and representatives who accepted the Crown be leaders of a wide variety of Hungarian religious, social, cultural, and other groups.

The ceremony for return of the crown was held on January 6, 1978, in the rotunda of the Hungarian Parliament. The U.S. delegation was headed by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Congressional members of that delegation included Congressman Lee Hamilton of Indiana and Fortney H. "Pete" Stark of California. Three weeks after the return of the Crown, it was put on display at the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest, and it has been on display there since that time.

Return of the Crown led to a marked improvement in U.S. relations with Hungary, and that, in turn, contributed to greater Hungarian self-confidence and encouraged economic and political reform. The changes that took place in Hungary during this period were important in preparing Hungary for the successful transition to political democracy and free market economy in the period after 1989.

IN HONOR OF ST. EDWARD'S BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the St. Edward's Boys Basketball Team and its coach, Eric Flannery. St. Ed's in Lakewood, Ohio won the Division I State Boys Basketball Championship on Saturday, March 28, 1998.

Although St. Ed's was ranked number one in the finals, the Eagles still had to overcome their longtime rivals, the St. Ignatius Wildcats of Cleveland, in order to win the championship. This was the first time two Cleveland-area schools met for a boys basketball championship, and thanks to the skill of Coach Flannery and the teamwork of the players, St. Ed's won 70-61. The Eagles' strong offense and solid defense kept the Wildcats at bay throughout the game. This year's victory makes St. Ed's only the 15th school to win consecutive boys basketball championships.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting the 1998 Division I State Basketball Champions from Lakewood, Ohio, the St. Edward's Boys Basketball Team and its coach, Eric Flannery.

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY M. GRUBE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to honor an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of the 43rd Congressional District is unparalleled. My district has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly given of their time and talents to promote the businesses, schools, and community organizations within their various cities and throughout the district as a whole. Mr. Stanley M. Grube is one of these individuals.

Stan Grube has been extremely involved in several health care membership activities as well as various community education activities. He has served as Chairman of the Corona-Norco Unified School District Year-Round Education Task Force, in addition to currently serving as a member of the Riverside Community College Foundation and La Sierra University's Community Advisory Council for the California School Administrator Credentials Program.

Stan Grube is Chairman and member of the County of Riverside Emergency Medical Care Committee and Externa, Advisory Board Member for the University of Miami Comprehensive Drug Research Center. His community involvement extends from past positions on the Corona Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, President and member of the Board of Directors for the United Way, Corona Rotary Club and the Corona-Norco Family YMCA. In 1997, he was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the Economic Strategy Panel.

Stan's outstanding accomplishments make me proud to call him my friend, community member, and fellow American. I thank him for his contribution to the betterment of the community and I encourage him to keep up the good work.

50 STATES COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM AMENDMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, last year the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program was signed into law. Beginning next year, selected designs from each of the fifty states will be minted on the reverse side of U.S. quarters dollars for circulation. Five states per year will have quarters minted with corresponding designs issued in the order of the states' ratification of the Constitution or admission into the Union.

In addition to the possibility of raising revenue for the federal treasury, attention will be focused upon the states through the diversity

of designs that will commemorate their history. I believe this is a great program and everyone should be allowed to participate. However, this was not the case. As usual, the territories and the District of Columbia were overlooked.

Although this nation supposedly is "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," you have to look no further than the territories and the District to realize that it is not. As a citizen lower station, one who is not allowed to vote at presidential elections—a delegate, not quite a full Member of Congress, who hails from an unincorporated territory with an unresolved political status, I have been designated to be the one from my home island to make sure that we get a fair shake anytime we can. Oftentimes the objective is impossible. We have to work twice as hard in order to get half as much. This is why I strongly support Delegate NORTON's amendment to the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program.

The territories and the District need and deserve all the recognition and attention we can get. Extending the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program for another year to accommodate the territories and the District is equitable, it is sensible, and it is fair. This year marks Guam's centennial under the American flag. It would be a fitting tribute to include the territories in this commemorative coin initiative. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF "TAX ON TALKING REPEAL ACT OF 1998"

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, after serving on the House Committee on Ways and Means for the past three and one-half years, I continue to be amazed at the outrageous provisions that encompass our current tax code. In no small part many of these provisions are a function of a tax code that is spiraling out of control. The irony is that while our tax code has 7 million words it lacks two simple words—common sense.

One of the most ridiculous tax code provisions I have discovered imposes a 3 per cent luxury tax on the telephone service of every single American. The legislation I am introducing today, with my colleague from Louisiana, Congressman BILLY TAUZIN, will repeal this federal luxury tax on talking. Common sense suggests a number of reasons for swift enactment of our legislation to repeal the luxury tax on telephone service.

First, this was a "temporary" tax first adopted in 1898 to fund the Spanish-American War. One hundred years later this "temporary" tax still exists. For over fifty years the tax served as a means to meet revenue needs imposed by the Spanish-American War, World War I, the depression, World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. In 1965, Wilbur Mills, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee declared, "the emergency conditions which gave birth to these taxes have long since disappeared. The taxes have remained, to become a source of discrimination among taxpayers."

Secondly, everyone realizes that having a telephone in your home is no longer a luxury.

Since the enactment of this tax 100 years ago, telephone service has evolved into a vital infrastructure for modern life. The use of telephone services by a select few in the 1930s has exploded to the point that over 90 percent of American homes and businesses, across all segments of society, are wired for telephone service. In 1990, the Congressional Research Service reported, "A consensus has emerged that the telephone today is no longer viewed as a luxury and can best be compared to an item of general consumption. The tax bears no direct relation to any government service received by the telephone consumer."

Third, like all luxury taxes, the federal telephone excise tax is regressive. Consumer expenditures on telephone service are a higher percentage of income for lower income families than for higher income families. In 1987, the Department of Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis, determined that "the communications excise tax causes economic distortion and inequities among households and that there is no policy rationale for retaining the tax."

The repeal of the federal telephone excise tax would instantly accomplish what Congress had hoped to do through the Telecommunications Act of 1996—lower customer bills. Telephone service in America today is a basic necessity, a part of our daily lives. Americans should not have to pay a tax to the Federal Government in order to call their families on holidays or Mom on Mother's Day. Common sense tells us this is an unreasonable tax. Common sense tells us that repeal is necessary.

In closing, I would like to commend my colleague, Representative BILLY TAUZIN, for his willingness to work with me in moving for swift enactment of the Tax of Talking Repeal Act. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this measure.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH—A DEDICATION TO HIS LIFE AND WORDS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to mark the thirtieth anniversary of his tragic death on April 4th, 1998.

Dr. King's life is a testament to our highest values of peace, equality, and justice that we honor in this nation. I shudder to think of our country without the words, the inspiration, and the activism of Dr. King. I shudder to think of this world without his eloquent voice to lead us in preserving civil rights and human rights for all people, no matter their differences.

Mr. Speaker, it is in honor of Dr. King that we must rededicate ourselves to an unfinished task—the elimination of social, legal, and economic discrimination against all minorities, against all disadvantaged Americans. Let us remember his achievements so that his vision of a peaceful, prosperous humanity will not be silenced and will not go unheeded.

During the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's, Dr. King was an advocate

for nonviolent change. His beliefs were the basis for an effective and powerful movement by Americans everywhere to protest against blatant racism in the form of racial segregation. He organized "sit-ins" and boycotts against both public and private institutions participating in the segregation of black people. His immensely influential work with the civil rights campaign earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Our nation was in shock and grief after his tragic and untimely assassination on April 4, 1968.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues share with me the profound inspiration and hope that I experienced as I listened to Dr. King's stirring "I Have a Dream" speech during the 1964 civil rights demonstration in our nation's capital. I still remember the urgency of his words to the poor, the disenfranchised, and the oppressed.

And when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village, from every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands, and sing in the words of the Old Negro spiritual: "Free at Last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Mr. Speaker, we in this Congress know that Dr. King's remarkable dream is still unfulfilled. We know that those who are weak, those who suffer from poverty, from hatred, from ignorance, are those for whom our country is still returning the check that Dr. King denounced—the check marked "insufficient funds." The disease of discrimination still exists in our country in both its most blatant and more subtle forms. Equal political participation still eludes our fight for equal justice for all. Our liberty is incomplete without adequate provisions for the elderly and without quality care for our children.

We cannot succeed in our quest for liberty and freedom without acknowledging, as Dr. King wisely taught us that "there is no peace without justice." Therefore, we must continue to struggle for justice. We must support our President who engages this nation in a dialogue of race with his "Initiative on Race: One America in the 21st Century." We must prosecute all hate crimes, those against race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, against anyone who is different. We must give everyone equal opportunities to education, especially higher education. We must pass just laws which protect those who remain unprotected by our system. We must create and pass a budget which takes into account the needs of all Americans.

Genuine leadership will result in genuine reform. We cannot have genuine reform until we take into account the relative position of minorities, and the relative position of the economically disadvantaged. There will be no peace and true prosperity in this country until every homeless person has shelter and every hungry mouth is fed.

Americans have common needs and common desires, and we must work with each other, not against each other, to achieve our goals. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke to us of unity, not dissension. It is our responsibility to move toward social justice through nonviolent means, and it is our responsibility to prevent violence by examining our laws and their enforcement.

We must learn to enact change, rather than merely react to change. We can start by recognizing the ways in which discrimination operates in subtle and insidious ways within our