

Remony & Remarks
Rose Garden, 11:06 AM

The President has seen _____

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

Received SS
1983 OCT 25 PM 5:22

APPROVED
NOV - 2 1983

OCT 25 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 3706 - Martin Luther King, Jr.
Birthday
Sponsor - Rep. Hall (D) Indiana and 108 others

Last Day for Action

November 2, 1983 - Wednesday

Purpose

Establishes the third Monday in January as a legal public holiday for the observance of the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., beginning with January 1986.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Office of Personnel Management	Approval

Discussion

H.R. 3706 would add the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., as the tenth paid holiday for the Federal Government, to be observed on the third Monday of January each year, beginning January 20, 1986. Currently, about 20 States and other jurisdictions observe a day in honor of Dr. King.

The Administration favored national recognition of Dr. King's birthday to honor his memory, but preferred that the commemoration not involve an additional paid holiday for Federal employees. Efforts in the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and on the Senate floor to substitute a day of commemoration without a paid holiday were unsuccessful.

The normal, daily payroll cost for a workday in the Federal Government, excluding the Postal Service, is about \$210 million for salary and benefits. The added cost for extra premium pay to employees who are required to work on a holiday is estimated to be about \$25 million in 1986, when the holiday takes effect. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that this cost would be partially offset by about \$7 million in savings in utility costs from closing down Government offices on a Friday or a Monday during the winter, so that the net added cost of the new holiday to the Government would be \$18 million.

H.R. 3706 was passed by the House by a vote of 338-90 under suspension of the rules, and was passed by the Senate by a vote of 78-22.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David A. Stockman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David A. Stockman
Director

Enclosures

FOR SIGNING CEREMONY

/ The President has seen _____
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

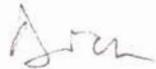
November 2, 1983

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached for your signature is
Enrolled Bill H.R. 3706 - Martin
Luther King, Jr. Birthday.

This Bill is recommended for
approval by OMB, the Office of
Personnel Management, Ken Duberstein,
Dave Gergen, and the Offices of
Cabinet Affairs, Policy Development
and Public Liaison. Fred Fielding
has no legal objection.

LAST DAY FOR ACTION: TODAY



Richard G. Darman

Please Note: This is scheduled
to be signed in ceremony today.

*Ceremony & Remarks
Rose Garden, 11:06 AM*

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David A. Stockman
Director

Enclosures

Ninety-eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the third day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and eighty-three*



An Act

To amend title 5, United States Code, to make the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., a legal public holiday.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting immediately below the item relating to New Year's Day the following:

"Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., the third Monday in January."

SEC. 2. The amendment made by the first section of this Act shall take effect on the first January 1 that occurs after the two-year period following the date of the enactment of this Act.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas P. O'Neill".

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Bush".

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

APPROVED

NOV - 2 1983

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ronald Reagan".

Remarks on Signing the Bill Making the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., a National Holiday

November 2, 1983

The President. Mrs. King, members of the King family, distinguished Members of the Congress, ladies and gentlemen, honored guests, I'm very pleased to welcome you to the White House, the home that belongs to all of us, the American people.

When I was thinking of the contributions to our country of the man that we're honoring today, a passage attributed to the American poet John Greenleaf Whittier comes to mind. "Each crisis brings its word and deed." In America, in the fifties and sixties, one of the important crises we faced was racial discrimination. The man whose words and deeds in that crisis stirred our nation to the very depths of its soul was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King was born in 1929 in an America where, because of the color of their skin, nearly 1 in 10 lived lives that were separate and unequal. Most black Americans were taught in segregated schools. Across the country, too many could find only poor jobs, toiling for low wages. They were refused entry into hotels and restaurants, made to use separate facilities. In a nation that proclaimed liberty and justice for all, too many black Americans were living with neither.

In one city, a rule required all blacks to sit in the rear of public buses. But in 1955, when a brave woman named Rosa Parks was told to move to the back of the bus, she said, "No." A young minister in a local Baptist church, Martin Luther King, then organized a boycott of the bus company -- a boycott that stunned the country. Within 6 months the courts had ruled the segregation of public transportation unconstitutional.

Dr. King had awakened something strong and true, a sense that true justice must be colorblind, and that among white and black Americans, as he put it, "Their destiny is tied up with our destiny, and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom; we cannot walk alone."

In the years after the bus boycott, Dr. King made equality of rights his life's work. Across the country, he organized boycotts, rallies, and marches. Often he was beaten, imprisoned, but he never stopped teaching nonviolence. "Work with the faith", he told his followers, "that unearned suffering is redemptive." In 1964 Dr. King became the youngest man in history to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. King's work brought him to this city often. And in one sweltering August day in 1963, he addressed a quarter of a million people at the Lincoln Memorial. If American history grows from two centuries to twenty, his words that day will never be forgotten. "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

In 1968 Martin Luther King was gunned down by a brutal assassin, his life cut short at the age of 39. But those 39 short years had changed America forever. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 had guaranteed all Americans equal use of public accommodations, equal access to programs financed by Federal funds, and the right to compete for employment on the sole basis of individual merit. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 had made certain that from then on black Americans would get to vote. But most important, there was not just a change of law; there was a change of heart. The conscience of America had been touched. Across the land, people had begun to treat each other not as blacks and whites, but as fellow Americans.

And since Dr. King's death, his father, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., and his wife, Coretta King, have eloquently and forcefully carried on his work. Also his family have joined in that cause.

Now our nation has decided to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by setting aside a day each year to remember him and the just cause he stood for. We've made historic strides since Rosa Parks refused to go to the back of the bus. As a democratic people, we can take pride in the knowledge that we Americans recognized a grave injustice and took action to correct it. And we should remember that in far too many countries, people like Dr. King never have the opportunity to speak out at all.

But traces of bigotry still mar America. So, each year on Martin Luther King Day, let us not only recall Dr. King, but rededicate ourselves to the Commandments he believed in and sought to live every day: Thou shall love thy God with all thy heart, and thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. And I just have to believe that all of us -- if all of us, young and old, Republicans and Democrats, do all we can to live up to those Commandments, then we will see the day when Dr. King's dream comes true, and in his words, ``All of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, `` . . . land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."''

Thank you, God bless you, and I will sign it.

Mrs. King. Thank you, Mr. President, Vice President Bush, Majority Leader Baker and the distinguished congressional and senatorial delegations, and other representatives who've gathered here, and friends.

All right-thinking people, all right-thinking Americans are joined in spirit with us this day as the highest recognition which this nation gives is bestowed upon Martin Luther King, Jr., one who also was the recipient of the highest recognition which the world bestows, the Nobel Peace Prize.

In his own life's example, he symbolized what was right about America, what was noblest and best, what human beings have pursued since the beginning of history. He loved unconditionally. He was in constant pursuit of truth, and when he discovered it, he embraced it. His nonviolent campaigns brought about redemption, reconciliation, and justice. He taught us that only peaceful means can bring about peaceful ends, that our goal was to create the love community.

America is a more democratic nation, a more just nation, a more peaceful nation because Martin Luther King, Jr., became her preeminent nonviolent commander.

Martin Luther King, Jr., and his spirit live within all of us. Thank God for the blessing of his life and his leadership and his commitment. What manner of man was this? May we make ourselves worthy to carry on his dream and create the love community.

Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 11:06 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

As enacted, H.R. 3706 is Public Law 98 - 144, approved November 2.

Courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Archives