

They meant well, but they wanted to let someone else do what they themselves could have had a hand in doing.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. King was a man who believed that bigotry and hatred must be confronted, and he understood this one basic premise: those who will tolerate bigotry and hatred, they will do very little to change it. They will find reasons why they can't change bigotry and hatred when given the opportunity.

There is always an excuse. It won't be the Good Samaritan response: If I don't help people who are being discriminated against, who are being kicked off of jobs because they are LGBTQ, who can't get loans because of their ethnicity, because of religiosity—invidious religiosity, I might add. They are being barred, banned.

□ 1045

They won't look to see what is happening to them. What they will do is ask: What will happen to me if I step out there and try to help them?

I don't think they are persons of ill will. I think that they are persons who mean well. But I ask people to understand the context of this time by understanding and reviewing the context of the time that Dr. King lived in and review that letter from the Birmingham jail—the masterpiece—but also read the letter that he was responding to.

Those who will tolerate bigotry will do little to change it.

#### STUDENT LOAN DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, in today's Washington Post, there is a major story on the front page of the Style Section about a young woman name Sarah Pool.

One of the headlines says: "Sarah Pool, 31, has a baby and a job, and loves them both, but she fears she will be paying off student loans till the day she dies."

She got loans totaling \$60,000 but now owes \$69,000. She is quoted as saying: "I keep paying, but it is like pouring into a bucket with no bottom."

Mr. Speaker, for several years, I have been speaking out about how harmful the Federal student loan program has become for many, many hundreds of thousands of students and families around this country.

In May of 2015, I wrote an article for the Washington Examiner newspaper with ideas about how to bring down the cost of college. In that article, I quoted hedge fund manager James Altucher, who wrote: "We are graduating a generation of indentured students."

An Ohio University economist, Richard Vedder, wrote a book several years ago entitled "Going Broke By Degree."

In the February issue of *Chronicles* magazine, which will be out in just a few days, I have another article; and in

that article I say that student loan debt in the United States is now \$1.48 trillion. That incredible sum is a heavy drag on the economy and a burden on young people, and Federal intervention in education is the cause.

It wasn't always this way.

In June of 1965, I began working as a salesman at the Sears store in Knoxville, receiving a 10-cents-an-hour raise over my job as a bag boy at the A&P. At Sears, my wage was \$1.25 an hour. I was required to wear a suit and tie, and I was very proud of that job.

I worked full time that summer and usually around 20 hours a week after I began my freshman year at the University of Tennessee in late September.

After I had worked at Sears for 6 months—I didn't realize I had been there 6 months—I was called to the office for the first time. I was very concerned, to put it lightly. I met David Weaver, who was my same age, 18, at the escalator. I told him: I bet I was hit by one of those Hallmark shoppers—one of the mystery shoppers Sears had at the time. He told me he had just been called by a very angry woman to whom he had sold the wrong color of paint. David said that he was scared and that he had diabetes, and when he got too nervous, he would pass out. I can remember that conversation as if it happened yesterday.

Much to our relief, we had been called to the office so management could give us good news: because we had been working at Sears for 6 months, they were giving us a nickel-an-hour raise.

It shocks students at the University of Tennessee today when I tell them that tuition my freshman year was \$90 per quarter, \$270 for the academic year. By my senior year, it was \$405. I remember hearing our minority leader, Mr. HOYER, say that when he started at the University of Maryland, it was \$87 a semester. Almost no one left college in those days with debt unless they had bought a car or made some other major purchase. Students certainly did not go into debt for tuition because they could all work part time, as I did, and pay all their school expenses.

Now, over 44 million Americans carry student loan debt—some of those debts reaching into the six figures.

Readers Digest recently published an article in the December/January issue entitled "The Student Debt Racket." The authors quote one student who owes \$90,000 as saying: "My loans are a black cloud hanging over me. I am a student debt slave."

Colleges and universities began heavily promoting student loans in the late sixties and early seventies. They were able to tamp down opposition to tuition and fee increases by telling students: Don't worry, we will just get you a loan.

Then, because loans were available, many schools began raising tuition at two and three times the rate of inflation each year, and have continued to do so.

I remember reading an article about 3 years ago in *The Post* which said that student tuition had gone up 4½ times the rate of inflation since 1985. Now the cost of higher education has soared to such great heights that universities are bragging if they hold the annual increases to 2 or 3 percent. They never consider reductions, not even miniscule ones. Thus we have another example of how Big Government liberalism helps the few at the top while harming the many down below.

The Federal student loan program has made the owners of some loan servicing companies very wealthy and has been a boon to most college administrators and tenured professors; and all of this at great expense to students and their families.

When the Knoxville News Sentinel lists the highest paid people in east Tennessee each year, they are almost all at TVA or UT. Yet the pattern continues to repeat: Liberals find a very small group of people who are having trouble paying for something, then insist that the only solution is to let the Federal Government "help." But whenever the Federal Government subsidizes something, the costs simply explode because most of the incentives or pressures to hold costs down vanish.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would say this is why Mark Cuban, the Shark Tank star, has said: If you want to make college really expensive, make it free.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions and difficult times, with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

In these days, give wisdom to all Members, that they might execute their responsibilities to the benefit of all Americans.

Bless them, O God, and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.