

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call votes No. 204, 205, and 206 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 204, "yes" on rollcall No. 205, and "yes" on rollcall No. 206.

GOP TAX RELIEF PLAN PUTS MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES FIRST

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats today seem to be characteristically void of facts and rich in rhetoric in their deliveries of one-minutes.

Under the Republican tax bill, the income level of \$75,000 per household or less than \$75,000 is going to get 76 percent of the tax relief. Families with incomes over \$200,000 get 1.2 percent. I do not understand how they can say that is giving more taxes to the wealthy.

Mr. Speaker, in 1992 the President ran on the platform of middle-class tax cuts but instead, as President, in 1993 passed the largest tax increase in history, including the largest-ever increase in welfare. But after a lot of debate, welfare was reformed. Today the number of dependents, people who are dependent on government, has decreased by 15 percent. Yet, the President wants to expand welfare and not give middle-class tax relief.

What I am saying is he wants to give a \$500-per-child tax credit to people who are on welfare and not give it to 11 million middle-class children who need the money very, very desperately for school and education and shelter.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD this information from the Committee on Ways and Means:

The following table shows the amount of tax relief received by people of various income categories over a 5-year period, according to data provided by the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Income level	Tax relief	Percent of tax relief
Under \$75,000	— \$89.0 billion	76.4
\$75,000 to \$100,000	— 19.3 billion	16.6
\$100,000 to \$200,000	— 6.7 billion	5.8
\$200,000+	1.4 billion	1.2

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members are recognized for 5 minutes each:

THE DETROIT NEWSPAPER STRIKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, from grocery stores in Kansas City to casinos in

Las Vegas, from the strawberry fields in California to the K-Mart stores in North Carolina, to the poultry workers who are working across the South, working people across this country are speaking out for justice, and unions are their voices.

There is something special that is happening in the country that a lot of the media is missing. Working people's wages and benefits have been eroding now since 1979. Eighty percent of the American people have only gotten 2 percent of the income increases since 1979, and they are finding out that what made the middle class and what made people strong in this country during the 1940's and the 1950's was joining together and banding together so they could get a decent reward and wage for their work.

This weekend, we will again hear those strong voices loud and clear from Detroit. At least 50,000 workers, their families, and supporters are expected to participate in Action Motown '97, which is a mobilization solidarity for the Detroit community, locked out newspaper workers, and union members.

I am going to be there, and we will be speaking out to workers, to the labor movement in our community and against the management of the Detroit News and Free Press. The News and Free Press have locked out nearly 2,000 hard-working men and women since February of this year, and these workers sought to resolve a 2-year labor dispute by unconditionally offering to return to work.

How were they treated when they tried to jump-start contract talks and tried to return to work? They were locked out, replaced and told to go home.

□ 1300

It is clear to me that the News and the Free Press are willing to lose millions of dollars in an attempt to break the unions. How clear is it? Their combined circulation is down 286,000 readers. Despite huge ad rate discounts, 1,500 advertisers have stayed away from the papers, causing a 24-percent dip in advertising revenue.

Yet the most startling fact is not statistics but a quote made 1 month after the newspaper workers took a stand for justice by Detroit News editor and publisher Robert Giles. He said, "We're going to hire a whole new work force and go on without unions, or they can surrender unconditionally and salvage what they can."

Does that sound like someone who is willing to bargain in good faith? Despite a 1994 Free Press editorial, which stated, "The U.S. Senate should approve a bill that would prohibit companies from hiring permanent replacements for striking workers. The right to strike is essential if workers are to gain and preserve wages."

That was the Free Press in 1994. It seems clear that the hiring of permanent nonunion replacement workers

has been a newspaper goal all along, because the Free Press does not practice what it preaches. The Free Press and its editor Joe Stroud reneged on their editorial and took a gutless way out, turning their backs on these workers. This is what they said in an editorial that was written in an about-face in 1995, and I quote. They said, "We intend to exercise our legal right to hire replacement workers."

I think Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit best put it when he said, "The hiring of permanent replacement workers is not an acceptable solution. If striking workers are threatened with being permanently replaced, this practice seems to undermine the legitimate purpose of the union and to destroy the possibility of collective bargaining."

The News and the Free Press are owned by two of the biggest conglomerates in the world, Gannett and Knight-Ridder, who have deep pockets and are willing to lose millions of dollars to set an example in Detroit. They are trying to break the backs of unions and deprive 2,000 workers of their jobs and their families of sustenance. Their actions are unfair, they are unjust, they are illegal, and we will be marching as we marched in Decatur for workers in that city, as we marched for strawberry workers in California. We will be in Detroit because many of our parents and grandparents fought too hard and too long for the gains that unions have made, for the 40-hour workweek, for pensions, for health care benefits, you name it.

I could go on for 10 minutes here with all the things that unions have brought America, not just people who belong to unions. Those benefits benefited everybody in our society. Now they are being taken away one by one, piece by piece by conglomerates and multinationals like Knight-Ridder and Gannett. We are going to be there, I encourage everyone to be there, I encourage everyone to join Action! Motown '97 this weekend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAMBLISS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GEKAS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING FOR SLAVERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 96. This is a resolution that apologizes for slavery in the United States. It is rather simple. It is only one sentence long. Let me read it:

Resolved by the House of Representatives that the Congress apologizes to African-

Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and the laws of the United States until 1865.

That is simply what it says. It is a very simple idea. The Congress apologizes. It is a powerful message.

When a brother wrongs a brother, he apologizes. That is the foundation for beginning again. That is the price for restoring lost trust. This is the only way to start over. It is a simple gesture. It carries deep meaning. And it is the right thing to do.

When an institution wrongs a people, so it is again the right thing to do. In the name of all Catholics, Pope John Paul II apologized for violence during the 16th century Counter-Reformation and he asked for forgiveness.

Forty years after the Holocaust, the legislature of East Germany apologized for the atrocities committed against the Jews.

Just last month, British Prime Minister Tony Blair apologized for the failure of his country to fully respond to the thousands of deaths during the Irish potato famine of the mid-19th century.

It has been 134 years since slavery ended. Since that time, Congress has taken proud strides forward, done some wonderful things, including civil rights laws. But it is not enough.

Look around. The effects still linger today. Through my work as chairman of the former House Select Committee on Hunger and through my efforts to improve the lives of America's poor, I have seen the effects firsthand. We as a nation must do more. This is not a political gesture, it is not a partisan gesture, it is a very simple gesture and it certainly is the right thing.

The slaves and slave holders are long gone. No one alive today is responsible for slavery. No one alive today was shackled by the chains of slavery in America. Indeed, most Americans are the descendants of people who came to the United States after slavery ended.

All of us today, white and black, live in the shadow of our past. African-Americans today still suffer from the lingering effects. We all pay the price of slavery.

The hatred and racial divisions springing from slavery are very much alive. Let us take this step to bury that hatred with the bones of the slaves and the slave holders.

No Member of Congress today voted on measures to perpetuate slavery. But the Congress as an institution does bear responsibility. The laws we passed ignored, even encouraged slavery. Our Constitution, the foundation for the Congress, and our Government even declared at one time that a black man was only three-fifths of a person.

Congress is a great institution. It is the most respected deliberative body in the world. At least three times in recent years, Congress formally apologized.

In 1988, it apologized to the Japanese-Americans who were interned in the United States during World War II.

In 1993, Congress offered a formal apology to native Hawaiians for the role the United States and U.S. citizens played in the overthrow of the government of the Kingdom of Hawaii 100 years earlier.

In 1990, Congress apologized to uranium miners, people affected by nuclear tests in Nevada, and their families.

An apology by Congress is rare, it is special, but it is not without precedence. Apologizing is symbolic, but it has a great meaning for those who are apologizing and it has power for those who are wronged.

Why apologize to just African-Americans for slavery? What about all the other people who have been wronged by laws passed by the Congress? The wrongs against African-Americans are clear to everyone. The consequences are severe. Maybe we have wronged others. Maybe an apology to them is due. I do not know. That is another issue. I do know that we need to apologize to African-Americans.

Many people have told me that apologizing is an empty, meaningless gesture. If it was so meaningless, why has the resolution erupted a fire storm of controversy throughout this Nation? If apologizing were so easy, then why is this resolution so difficult?

No, it is not easy to apologize. It is the right thing to do. Today 134 years later, it is not too late, but let us wait no longer. We are a nation of immigrants. Those who came as free men went in one direction. Those who came from slave ships, another. If we are to travel towards a common future, we owe it to our children to clearly mark that the early fork in the road was the wrong way.

This is a simple resolution. It simply reads:

Resolved by the House of Representatives that the Congress apologizes to African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and laws of the United States until 1865.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, there is only one thing worse than committing an injustice. There is perhaps only one thing that makes a mistake last forever, and that Mr. Speaker is the failure to offer an apology and to ask for forgiveness. We cannot make amends to our ancestors who were slaves. We cannot right all the wrongs of the past which have contributed to racism and economic injustice. But, we can say that this Nation is very sorry for the saddest chapter in its history.

One of the most profound changes in the history of this society occurred more than 100 years ago. The Civil War rocked the roots of this Nation. The war tested the resolve of the American people to form a more perfect union. It brought an end to slavery—the curse that robbed thousands of Americans of their basic human rights and sabotaged the fundamental premise of equality to which every person is entitled.

The end of slavery in the 19th century and the establishment of the Civil Rights Act in the 20th century were turning points in the history of this Nation. Now, as we approach the 21st century it is time to move further ahead in our quest for a truly democratic society.

On Saturday, President Clinton gave a major address on the race problem that plagues our Nation. In this spirit we embrace the Resolution to Apologize for Slavery. May we begin now to chart the next course toward the achievement of a truly equal, truly color-blind society.

Mr. Speaker, I join other colleagues in co-sponsoring the House concurrent resolution to apologize to all African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves. This apology is long overdue, but it is never too late to do what is right.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE "MARV" TEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. BOB SCHAFFER, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and work of Mr. George "Marv" Teal. Marv was born July 4, 1943, to Genevieve O'Brien Teal, while his father, George Vincent Teal, served in the Philippines during World War II. As a boy he thought it was wonderful that the city threw him a big birthday party each year with a parade and fireworks. George was tagged with the nickname "Marv" in high school and it stuck with him throughout his life.

Marv died May 21, 1997 in Greeley, CO, where he and his family settled 15 years ago. He was laid to rest at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver on May 27, 1997. He was married to Kathy for 29 years. Together they raised three children: A son, George Patrick Teal who is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army serving as a special projects officer. He has two daughters, Suellen and Kathleen, who are both computer technologists. He also has a granddaughter Laurel, who will be 2 in August. Marv and Kathy raised a lovely family and supported many community activities.

A staunch Republican, he spent many years in leadership roles as precinct chairman, district captain, Weld County vice chairman, county and State assembly delegate, and of course as delegate to the Colorado Fourth Congressional District. He also served as election judge and canvass board member. He contributed his efforts to individual campaigns over the years and was an effective strategist helpful in planning the time lines necessary for the success of those campaigns. George was always to be seen at late night committee meetings, at county and State assemblies and at busy intersections waving campaign signs. There was never a time when a call for help went unheeded. There was also never a time when he expected to be recognized for his efforts. Marv did what he did out of principle. Many people have been influenced by this wise, experienced man. He knew the secret of multiplying his influence by encouraging others of like mind to take leadership in the public realm.