

How many cases have we heard where African Americans, through intimidation, trickery, fraud, and outright violence, have been driven from their land or lost family homesteads? In spite of bitter struggles to hold onto their land, many African Americans have lost land involuntarily and have received no remedy to correct these injustices.

We as a people recognize land ownership is an integral source of power. Cases of government-condoned land-taking are viewed by the black community as a campaign to deprive African Americans of our ownership rights as American citizens. For African Americans who have struggled to overcome the legacy of slavery, the loss of lands is particularly devastating. Land ownership is viewed as a source of economic security and prosperity. Since the mid-1800s when black Americans were first promised the opportunity to own land, we have sought to gain economic freedom, prosperity, and respect through our land and pass that legacy on to future generations.

In spite of the fact that our government has failed us and reneged on a promise of yesterday, we have shown that we have the drive and the determination to overcome adversity in our quest to share the prosperity to which we are entitled.

This does not mean, however, that we will accept the discrimination practices and government-sanctioned schemes that served to rob African American landowners of property that they have literally in some cases shed blood, sweat, and tears to attain and maintain.

As policymakers, we have an obligation to respond to the critical issue of land loss in the African American community. The link that has been established between land ownership, community, and democratic participation makes it critical that we are committed in our efforts to help black landowners hold onto their land. We must preserve a legacy that is worthy of passing on to future generations.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S DOMESTIC STEEL INDUSTRY AND THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS PROGRAM ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am going to split my remarks between two areas that will be addressed in the House later this evening.

First of all, I rise in support of our domestic steel industry. Thousands of American steel workers have lost their jobs due to massive levels of low-priced steel imports. In my own district, the 11th district of Ohio, 3,200 LTV steelworkers may lose their jobs while 22,000 steelworkers and vendors in the region have been affected as a result of these imports.

I stand here today to urge the President to take decisive action against the cheap imports that are destroying the U.S. steel industry. This is an industry that has been a cornerstone of our economy and national security over the last 100 years.

The ITC found unanimously that American steel companies and thousands of workers and their communities have been seriously injured by these imports. I say and know firsthand that they have been devastated. The ball is now in the President's hands. He must decide what measures his administration will take to correct the wrong that has been caused by low-priced imports.

I urge the President in the strongest possible terms to impose strong and effective tariff-based relief. The President must impose a tariff of at least 40 percent against all foreign low-priced steel imports. I urge the President to impose such a tariff for a period of at least 4 years, as the law allows.

I also urge the President not to waiver from his commitment to the American steel industry and its workers because strong tariff-based relief is the only remedy that can realistically assist this industry in our United States.

Secondly, I rise in support of the Congressional Black Caucus Black History Month Special Order. Our theme tonight is "The Color Line Revisited: Is racism dead?" We have come together to salute the great history of African Americans in America. I would like to address that African American history and its origins and what it means to our great Nation today.

Let us take a moment to reflect on a time in our history when African Americans were so dehumanized and their history so distorted that slavery, segregation, and lynching were not punishable by law. It was a time when people were being mistreated because of the color of their skin, and as a result, many people began to stand against these terrible acts.

This stand against injustice by many eventually brought about a massive change that divided our Nation and sparked the Civil War. After the war, America stood true to its union as one Nation, under God. The spirit of African Americans was strong and unwavering during such difficult times, which makes the history of African Americans so great.

It is important to reflect upon this time in our history so that what happened to innocent people never happens again. It is largely for these reasons that I am working to make a difference in the life of every American. I believe that we must pick up where African American heroes left off. We must not only know our history but honor it, so that slavery, segregation, and inhumane acts never happen again.

We must be united for access to quality public schools for our Nation's youth, we must be united for access to affordable health care, and we must not rest until our Nation unites and

what will be done for African Americans in terms of reparations.

Right now, inner-city schools, which are overwhelmingly populated by African American children, are failing standardized tests at disproportionate rates. Right now, African American families lack access to quality health care at disproportionate rates. Right now, in the slowing economy, African Americans are losing their jobs at double the rate of white Americans. Right now, African Americans are victims of predatory lending by unscrupulous companies that are stripping our community of her wealth. Right now, the American people have a duty to their fellow countrymen and women to not only apologize for the inhumane acts, but also to supplement it with economic justice.

With all of our efforts, I am sure that we will continue to celebrate freedom and justice for all for many, many years to come.

In closing, racism is not dead; but we are one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. I am proud to be an American, and I am more proud that I am an African American. I salute those African Americans who believed in the fight for justice, believed in their dreams for equality, and paved a path for a brighter tomorrow.

We must stand up and continue to fight to be assured that racism does die. But right now, it is not dead.

CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA'S DESTRUCTION OF TWO UNARMED U.S.-REGISTERED CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-182)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, which states that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2002.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 26, 2002.

THE COLOR LINE REVISITED: IS RACISM DEAD?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to begin the Congressional Black Caucus 2002 Black History Month Special Order. The theme of this year's national African American History Month is "The Color Line Revisited: Is racism dead?"

More than 100 years ago, in 1900, the great scholar, W.E.B. DuBois, addressed a pan-African conference in London where he said, "The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line." It is now the 21st century and a major problem for this Nation is still the color line, but I believe that the color line is shifting, and shifting toward a better future.

Certainly as a nation we could not have watched Vonetta Flowers become the first African American woman ever to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics, ironically during Black History Month, without acknowledging that the color line is shifting.

Certainly when we look at the progress among black-elected officials, we know the color line is shifting. In 1964, there were just three African Americans in Congress and 300 black-elected officials nationally. Today, those numbers have swelled to 9,000 black-elected officials nationwide and 39 Members in Congress, 38 being members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Yes, the color line is shifting; but the problem is still here. In our lifetime, in my lifetime, I have seen Nazism fall, Communism fall, Fascism fall, but why not racism? In our lifetime, we must cling to the belief that we as a united people will celebrate the death of racism.

American-styled racism, loosely defined, is the belief that one race is superior to another. Upon this principle, slavery, Jim Crowism, lynching, economic exploitation, and many other forms of oppression were engraved in law and tradition.

Can we now say racism is dead when 51 percent of African American children are living in poverty, while the civil rights movement fought for the right to vote in the sixties; and now in the new millennium we must fight to ensure that votes are counted, particularly in black areas?

For example, one in 11 ballots in the predominantly black voting precincts in Florida were tossed out, according to a New York Times analysis of the Sunshine State's black vote.

Racial profiling is alive. About 73 percent of motorists stopped and searched on a major New Jersey highway in 1999 were African Americans, even though African Americans made up less than 18 percent of the traffic violators.

Disparities in sentencing and in incarceration have grown. African American men comprise 50 percent of the U.S. prison population, despite representing just 6 percent of the U.S. population.

Reparations were refused to the survivors of the 1921 race riots in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The legislature refused this remedy, even though whites destroyed an African American community, killing 300 residents and destroying businesses and homes.

But they are just a few examples, just a few. There are so many more.

Moreover, when we witness the fights against affirmative action as a tool against African Americans achieving equality in employment and education, we can only conclude that much more must be done to bury racism.

When we review even now that land has been taken from African Americans, that they have had to pay more for life insurance policies, we know that racism is not dead.

But in my closing, the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking in Nashville, Tennessee, on December 27, 1962, are appropriate: "The problem of race and color prejudice remains America's greatest moral dilemma. How we deal with this crucial situation will determine our moral health as individuals, our political health as a Nation, and our prestige as a leader of the free world. The hour is late, the clock of destiny is ticking out. We must act now before it is too late."

I know the Speaker joins me in recognizing the tremendous achievements that African Americans are making to this Nation. When I get on an elevator to come up each day, I know that it was an African American who invented the elevator. Even turning on a light or stopping at a street light, we know that we have been part of it. Standing in this building, we know that African Americans as slave workers built this great Capitol of the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) to moderate the rest of the Special Order.

□ 1745

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), for her leadership on issues affecting African Americans, all minorities in this country, in fact, the entire country, for everyone and for bringing us together here tonight.

As she reminded us so eloquently, in 1903 W.E.B. DuBois wrote *The Souls of Black Folks* and stated that, "the problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line."

Now here in the 21st century, nearly 100 years after the publishing of his groundbreaking work, we really do face many of the same problems, and they are further complicated by an economic divide.

While African Americans have made great strides in many areas in the last

100 years, including the end of Jim Crow and legalized segregation, the color line is still evident and is still costly to African Americans and really to the entire Nation.

Some feel that because legal segregation was ended and that the Civil Rights Act was passed and affirmative action exists in some States, some believe that racism has ended. But I ask you tonight to consider the unfortunate new manifestations of racism as they exist in the year 2002 when we ask the question, is racism dead?

There are more than 44 million people in this country without health insurance. Nearly 20 percent of African Americans have no health insurance.

Thirty percent of children living in poverty are African American. That is about 3.5 million children.

Forty percent of black men in urban areas do not graduate from high school.

There are more young African American men under the control of the criminal justice system than enrolled in higher education.

The unemployment rate for blacks is 12.2 percent compared with 5.5 percent for white.

Homicide is the leading cause of deaths for black males between 15 and 24, and suicide is the third leading cause of death among young black males.

Black men in inner-city neighborhoods are less likely to reach the age of 65 than men in Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Since December of 2000, over 130,000 AIDS cases were reported among women in the United States. Almost two-thirds of all women with AIDS are African Americans. And young girls make up about 58 percent of new AIDS cases among teens in the United States.

Blacks are 10 times more likely to be diagnosed with AIDS than whites and 10 times more likely to die from this disease.

African Americans in this country were emancipated from slavery and given no compensation for their forced labor nor for that of their ancestors. Following this, legalized and institutional segregation marginalized African Americans to separate and unequal education, health services and protections under the law.

This was the inequality that Dr. DuBois was speaking of in 1903, but these inequalities continued to exist and define the state of affairs for much of black America.

Is racism dead? I do not think so. African Americans are still dealing with this terrible legacy of slavery, racism, social and political and economic marginalization.

Until we erase the health disparities, education disparities, unequal economic opportunities, and ensure that there are equal protections under the law, including making sure, may I say, that the votes of African Americans are as likely to be counted as whites in