

Black History Month is an important celebration and recognition of American history, and I am humbled to stand on the shoulders of the great men and women who came before me.

I encourage all of you to read up on the true history of our Nation. The true history of our Nation is that we the people have done it. We the people with our good hearts established the Underground Railroad. I would not be here without their courage, their sacrifice, their vision.

I am so thankful to have been taught to love our great Nation, to love the people before us, that are with us, and those in the future that we will fight for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, proud to be an American, proud to be a Member of this august body, proud to say that I am a free man, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid, proud to speak truth to power and to speak truth about power, proud that my family who loved me dearly instilled in me a belief that I could do anything that anyone else could do.

But they also taught me that there were obstacles in life, and that you will do some things, Alexander—that is my first name—because of, and you will do a good many things in spite of. And that has been the history of African Americans in this country. We have done a good many things because of people of good will who have befriended us, but we have also done a good many things in spite of people of ill will who have done all that they could to defeat us. But still we rise. Still we rise.

And today, I would like to discuss the topic: If not now, when? If not now, when? And this topic I embrace because of the Supreme Court of the United States of America and the possibility of a person of African ancestry who happens to be a female being appointed. If not now, when?

Let's examine the facts. This is Black History Month. This is Black history. And there are facts that are undeniable, indisputable, incorruptible.

Here are the facts, and here is why we find ourselves giving this speech today, making these statements today. Here are the facts. We have had a total number of Presidents of 45. Forty-five Presidents of the United States, one of color. One of color. Forty-five, one of color. Number of women, zero, of any color, any persuasion.

The Presidency of the United States has been an all-male institution, and for the most part, overwhelmingly so, it has been a White male institution. Just the facts. That is all.

Forty-five, one of color, zero women.

Now, there are some people who find it offensive to hear facts. They find these facts to somehow cause them some degree of consternation. My dear friends, can you imagine how these facts impact people of color? How they feel, knowing that we have had 45 Presidents, but only one of color? How these facts impact women? Forty-five Presidents, not one woman?

So if it causes you some degree of consternation, just imagine what it does to people who happen to be women. Forty-five men, zero women.

Now, let's take a look at the Senate. If not now, when? Let's look at the Senate. Total number of Senators in the United States of America. The total number is 1,944. 1,944 persons have had the honor, privilege, and pleasure of serving in the United States Senate. And it is a preeminent privilege, a superlative pleasure, and a splendiferous honor to serve in the United States Senate. 1,944 have had this great, singular honor.

Number of men: 1,886. 1,944 total Senators. Total men: 1,886.

Let's look at the number of men of color: 27. Number of women: 58. Number of White men: 1,857. The Senate has been around for over 200 years. For over 200 years—in fact, more than 230 years—we can say that the Senate has been overwhelmingly White and overwhelmingly White men.

There are some people who find it uncomfortable to hear these things said. Can you imagine how it must make these persons who have been excluded from the Senate, can you imagine how they feel? Can you imagine what they think when they would want to know that their children could have served in the Senate or had the opportunities that others have had? Yes, these are opportunities that have been denied some people.

I love my country. It means something to me to be an American. I believe that we ought to have liberty and justice for all. That is why I do all that I can to make it real. I want to make real the great and noble American ideals, government of the people, by the people, and for the people. That has got to include all of the people. All persons are created equal. That has got to include all persons.

Number of men: 1,886.

Now, the Senate of the United States of America is the institution that confirms persons who will be on the Supreme Court. So for over 200 years, we have had White men making the nominations—Presidents, remember 45, White men for the most part; one, Barack Obama, a recent addition to the august club—White men have been nominating. And White men have been nominating other White men. White men nominating other White men. 1,886 White men confirming other White men.

This is Black History Month. If not now, when will we tell the truth about what is going on?

Let's now look at the Supreme Court itself. The Supreme Court, the highest court in the land. First assembled in 1790, more than 200 years ago, more than 230 years ago, 233-plus some months to be exact. Since this date when the Court was first assembled, we have had a total number of 115 justices. On the first court there were 6. Total number of 115 justices. The number of men: 110. 110 men. Number of women: 5. Number of Black women: Zero. 230-plus years, 115 persons nominated and approved to the Supreme Court, 110 of them men. Number of women: 5. Number of Black women: Zero.

If not now, when? When? We have had 200-plus years to appoint an African-American female to the Court. If not now, when?

Well, Congressman GREEN, Black women haven't been qualified. Really? If you believe that, there is nothing wrong with Congressman GREEN, there is something wrong with you.

□ 1430

Over this period of time, we have had 40 persons to serve on the Supreme Court who haven't been lawyers; 40 nonlawyers. Over this period of time, we have had justices who had no undergraduate degree; 5 no undergraduate degree; 40 not lawyers.

The rules apply as they are applied, and the rules have been flexible. By the way, there is no requirement that you be a lawyer to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, 40 nonlawyers, 5 persons with no degree at all; yet, not one Black woman on the Supreme Court. There are people who don't want this subject embraced. They don't want it discussed because they would like to kind of see this happen, somehow it just occurs and everybody lives happily ever after.

A lot of suffering has taken place to get to this point, and we ought not allow the truth about the consequences of being Black to escape us. It is just true that color has been a barrier to some people being on the Supreme Court—zero Black women, 115 Justices.

If not now, when? When will we have a President who has the courage to do what should have been done many years ago. I thank God for President Biden, a man of his word and a man of courage. Courage makes the difference.

There were great orators when Dr. King lived. There were persons who understood the issues as well as, and some who understood the issues better than Dr. King. What separated Dr. King from his contemporaries was his courage. He had the courage to do what others were afraid to do. They wouldn't speak up. They wouldn't speak out. Because they knew there were consequences for speaking up and speaking out. But Dr. King had the courage to look faith in the eye and say, I will do that which others could do, and some might even do better, but I will do it. He had the courage. So did John Lewis.

It was courage. This separates those who can do yet don't do from those who get things done.

President Biden made a commitment. President Biden is honoring his commitment. Others have appointed persons to the Court because of who they were. This woman who will be appointed is not going to be a person without credentials. She will be a person who is prepared. She will be a person who is going to serve us well, and she will be a person who will make a difference on a court that over 200 years has had 115 Justices, not one of them a Black woman; 115 Justices and not one a Black woman over some 230-plus years. If not now, when?

Now is the time. President Biden is the person, and we are the people who ought to want to see it happen. I don't have a candidate that I am pushing. I refuse to push a candidate, but I don't refuse to tell the truth about the circumstances that exists.

Mr. Speaker, just to make things perspicuously clear:

First assembled, 1790, Supreme Court.

Number of Justices on the first court, 6.

Total number of Justices since 1790, 115.

Total number of men, 110.

Five women, not one Black woman.

And let us not forget that the Senate of the United States of America has had a total of 1,944 persons, and 1,886 of them have been men; 45 Presidents, not one woman.

What we have here is the definition of the good old boys club. The good old boys. White men who took care of other White men in the sense that they were supporting each other. White men were nominating. White men were approving, and White men got the job. This is the good old boys club. But we are breaking up the good old boys club. Diversity is breaking up the good old boys club. And many of the good old boys are not happy. They like things the way they were when their club was exclusively White and male.

I don't support the good old boys club. I am a free man, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid. Speak truth to power and about power. This is about power. This is about the good old boys club that has had its own form of affirmative action, exclusionary affirmative action. Over 200 years of excluding, and you want to now complain that there is a possibility that one Black woman may be on the Court? And it upsets a good many persons to know that a Black woman may be on the Court.

Mr. Speaker, 230-plus years. If not now, when? And if not this President, which President? I love my country. I believe that change is that which we bring about. Yes, the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice, as Dr. King put it, but it bends toward justice because we put our hand on the arc of the moral universe and we use our strength and our might and our will-

power to bend it toward justice. Not just for some, but for all. We, the people, includes all of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing this great day when there will be the first African-American female on the Court, and I assure you that I will never forget the President who made it happen. If not now, when?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I heard my colleague on the other side of the aisle and I certainly appreciate his friendship and service.

I would take some disagreement with my celebrating the extent to which the President of the United States has announced beforehand the race and sex of the next Supreme Court Justice. And I would remind my friend, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, in general, the extent to which the current President rejected, filibustered, blocked Janice Rogers Brown—notably both Black and female—he did so because she wasn't the right kind of Black and female. You see, she was a conservative. She was not a leftist, a liberal.

So the current President blocked, when he was in the United States Senate, filibustered, fought, broke the rules and the traditions of the Senate to do it. By the way, Janice Rogers Brown, a Black female, qualified but conservative, judge. So he refused to let her advance. Why?

Now, the President of the United States is going out and lauding, praising his predetermination that the next Justice must be Black or female, undermining the nominee before even making the nomination.

I would note also that the President blocked, attacked, voted against Miguel Estrada. And did so, we know, for one reason. He was a Hispanic conservative. Now, how do we know that? We have a memo. Yes, indeed, a memo in black and white, spelled out among Democrat Senators and staffers back in 2003. I happen to know this because I was a lawyer on the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. But my, how this town loves to sweep aside little details, like the current Democrat President of the United States working in coordination with Democrat Members of the United States Senate when he was a Senator to stop, to block, to filibuster Miguel Estrada because he is a Hispanic conservative.

And we can't have that, can we? Because it breaks the narrative. It destroys the narrative. Republicans are anti-Hispanic. Republicans are anti-Black. We can't have a Black conservative woman advance under a Repub-

lican President, George W. Bush. We can't have Hispanic Miguel Estrada advance under a Republican, George W. Bush.

But, no, no, will you hear Jen Psaki talking about that at the podium at the White House? Or will you hear more lies, lies about the whipping of migrants at our border? Will you hear her talk about the fact that no report has been generated by the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security or anybody else about the alleged whipping of migrants, which did not occur, which we know didn't occur. By fact, we know it didn't occur.

But yet, the President of the United States and his own White House Secretary sat at the podium and accused them, "them" being our Border Patrol agents, standing on the front lines, being ignored, underfunded, chastised, refused to say any apology since that day. They refused to look at the Border Patrol agents and say, You know, we are sorry. We got that wrong. No report forthcoming.

Anybody sensing a theme that my Democrat friends and colleagues in the White House on the other side of the aisle love to make race an issue? But they are going to sweep aside the killing of Miguel Estrada's nomination because he is a Hispanic male, Hispanic conservative; sweep aside the blocking of Janice Rogers Brown; sweep aside running to cry racism and whipping of the Rio Grande when it is the policies of the Secretary of Homeland Security that is specifically and intentionally endangering the American people; causing our young children across this country to die from poisonings and overdoses; causing bullets to be fired upon our law enforcement officers in Texas; ranchers to get overrun, livestock to get out, cartels to get empowered. And the Secretary of Homeland Security literally refuses to enforce any of the laws to stop that from happening.

But, oh, no, he can't bring himself, and Jen Psaki can't bring herself, and the President can't bring himself to look in the eyes of the Border Patrol and say they apologize for saying that they were whipping human beings.

□ 1445

That is the state of the Democrat Party's commitment to race. It is all a fraud. It is all a fiction. It is all a front. It is all about continuing to foment racial division for partisan political gain. It has nothing to do about judging people by the content of their character and not the color of their skin because if it were, Janice Rogers Brown would not have been blocked and Miguel Estrada would not have been blocked. The President of the United States wouldn't be standing up at a lectern today predetermining the race and the sex of the next Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, I came down here today to talk about our law enforcement