

obligational authority of \$58,493,000 for general funds together with not to exceed an annual rate for new obligational authority of \$20,670,000 to be transferred and expended as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act from the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Supplemental Medical Insurance Trust Fund.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

THE OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to review trends in Federal land ownership.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, February 6 at 2 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Those wishing to testify or submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Kelly Johnson or Jo Meuse at (202) 224-6730.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING RECIPIENTS OF THE FORUM MAGAZINE'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN PIONEER AWARDS

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, it is fitting that during February, Black History Month, The Forum magazine awards its honors to African-American pioneers. These outstanding men and women of African-American descent have succeeded in the face of discrimination and other hardships. Chosen for their contributions to the Flint community and other parts of Michigan, they have shown their commitment to excellence in public service.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of the following 1996 African-American pioneer honorees:

Judge Ramona Roberts, the second African-American female judge elected in Genesee County, and the only such judge currently serving.

Dr. Nanette Lee Reynolds, the first African-American female director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

Mrs. Valaria Conerly Moon, the first and only African-American female director of the Valley Area Agency on Aging.

Louis Hawkins, the first African-American city clerk for the city of Flint.

John Selmon, the first African-American dean of the Detroit College of Business-Flint campus.

Joseph Abraham, president of the AFL-CIO, the longest serving—at 20 years—union president in Flint and one of the longest serving in the United States.

Clydell Duncan, Sr., the recently retired police chief for the city of Flint—the second African-American police chief and the first African-American captain in the Flint Police Department.

And last but certainly not least, Mayor Woodrow Stanley, who has done such a fine job as the first African-American mayor elected to serve two terms in the city of Flint.●

THE STATE OF RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICA

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to place in the RECORD a copy of a speech about the wrenching subject of racism, written by a good friend and colleague. Mr. Jim H. Paige III is the West Virginia Secretary of Tax and Revenue, and he recently gave this speech before the 115th Annual West Virginia Council of Churches Governing Assembly. Its words struck me as most sincere, insightful, and educational. I hope it will be just as beneficial to everyone else.

Despite America's proud history as the melting pot Nation, we still struggle with the signs and attitudes of racism in virtually every corner of our society. It is a problem that most Americans would say is abhorrent and unjustifiable, but also one that will not disappear without even more effort.

But I believe it is not only possible to combat discrimination, it is also essential. Diversity in background, skin color, family ancestry, religion, and geography should be celebrated and viewed as the way to build a stronger nation.

The more thought and study each of us give to the issues of racism and discrimination, and the more discussions we hold with others on how to spread tolerance and equality, the more we can enlighten and educate ourselves to move toward making equality for all people a reality.

It is my honor to submit this compelling text by a very fine West Virginian into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The text follows:

SPEECH TO THE WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES GOVERNING ASSEMBLY, OCTOBER
19, 1995

(By Jim H. Paige III)

It is indeed an honor to be asked to participate in your Annual Governing Assembly.

I have been intrigued with the forum which has been organized here and impressed that you set aside a special time to discuss the hopes and concerns of West Virginia's spiritual community.

I was asked to speak here tonight about racism.

It is a topic that deserves our most intellectual thoughts and energies.

Historically, as you know, in the 1860's the most divisive issue in the United States was slavery.

The issue of slavery divided the nation.

The industrial North had very little use for slave labor.

However, the agricultural South had a great need for a large slave labor pool.

At that time, slavery was based strictly on race.

The Civil War was fought and the slave issue was settled, but the issue of racism was not resolved.

Even after the Civil War and during the reconstruction period, our nation still struggled with the issue of racism.

Because even after slavery, we had a legacy of Jim Crow laws—of segregation—and this issue of racism was based purely on color.

So, although the Civil War was over, our nation was still confused about Lincoln's notion that "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men were created equal."

And over 100 years later, in the 1950's and 60's, the nation was still divided by race.

As a result, there was a whole movement led by the Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who was basically trying to get America to live up to the Constitution.

As Lincoln had noted earlier, our preamble states "We hold these truths to be self-evident—that all men are created equal."

From a historical perspective I think it interesting that during the 1860's there was a strong polarization based on slavery.

And in the 1960's that polarization still existed—not on slavery, however, but on segregation, in an attempt to separate our races.

So the Civil Rights movement resulted in legislation that was to end this segregation.

Therefore, we experienced a desegregation of schools, of public facilities.

We now have laws on the books that make segregation illegal.

We come to an interesting stage in this brief historical perspective, because what the laws could not do were to change racial attitudes—the way people think and the way people feel about each other.

Although tremendous strides have been made, even 30 years after the great Civil Rights movement, the issue of racism is still prevalent in our society today.

The recent O.J. Simpson trial and verdict brought back to the surface again this cancer of racism.

But the questions that still linger "What is racism and how do we solve it?"

How do we define racism?

In order to deal with a problem, we should try to define it first.

I define it as an attitude people have in which they feel they are superior to another group of people, and that superiority gives them certain privileges of authority over those people.

Now the result of racism is that the people who have been victimized by racism respond with bitterness and resentment toward those who exercise that authority.

And, the alienation becomes even greater.

So, if you think about it in a logical fashion, racism is based purely on ignorance.

Because racism takes one criterion, a superficial criterion—race—and it passes judgment on an entire group of people.

Utilizing folklore, tradition, and stereotypes—not facts, not any type of intellectual analysis—racism concludes that all the people in a certain classification are a certain way.

I think we all could conclude that this type of deductive reasoning is unwise and unproductive.

Whether it's black against white, whether it's white against black—it doesn't matter.

This type of attitude is unproductive, unhealthy and undesired in our society today.

Now that we have defined the issue, how do we find solutions to address this evil?

I don't believe racism is an issue that our government can solve.