

THE GENTLELADY FROM CHICAGO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our colleague from Illinois, the gentlelady, the Honorable CARDISS COLLINS. For more than 22 years, CARDISS has represented the Seventh Congressional District in "The Windy City" of Chicago. She leaves with a rich history of legislative accomplishments.

In addition to being the longest serving African-American woman in Congress, CARDISS will always be remembered for her championship of quality health care for women and minorities, enhanced consumer protection and promotion of minority business enterprise. Her legislative efforts improved access to cancer screening for poor and minority women. She authored landmark legislation and investigations on both aviation security and toy safety.

Having served with CARDISS as both a member of the Commerce Committee and the Government Operations, now Government Reform and Oversight Committee, I know of no better leader than our current ranking Democrat on Government Reform. The leadership she demonstrated as both the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee chair of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness and the Subcommittee chair of the Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation, only intensified when she became the ranking member of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee. Time and again she was called upon to defend the actions of the current administration; Cardiss did so without rancor and bitterness. Her ability to get the job done with a mixture of wit, intelligence and down right good humor will be definitely missed. It has been my honor to serve with Cardiss during her last 13 years in the House.

TRIBUTE TO HON. TOBY ROTH ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to add my congratulations to Congressman TOBY ROTH. After 18 years of service to his home State of Wisconsin, this will be his last term, and I wish him well in his retirement.

During this time here in Congress, TOBY ROTH has represented his State well. He is a respected Member of Congress on several key issues, and he is particularly well known in Congress for his ability on international matters. No one in the House is more knowledgeable or more articulate on these issues. He has played a part in just about every major foreign policy decisions that has taken place in Congress over the last 10 years.

He and I have shared an interest in lowering Government spending and lowering taxes. That is why we have so often been recipients of the same awards and recognition. I know that I am on the right track on a fiscal issue if I see Representative ROTH voting the same way.

You have been an asset to Washington, and you will be missed. I wish you, your wife Barbara, and your three children much happiness in the future.

REMARKS BY DAVID JONES,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
CARVER FEDERAL SAVINGS,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
THE COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY
OF NEW YORK: ON THE
COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY
OF NEW YORK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. RANGEL. During the Congressional Black Caucus weekend, we benefited from the presentations, advice and counsel of experts in the many issues of concern to the African-American community in the United States. We had a rich 2 days of discussion at the Washington Convention Center, exploring the problems which afflict our community and possible ways to effectively address and define solutions.

My colleague from Queens, NY, Congressman FLOYD FLAKE, held an economic development braintrust forum which reviewed current efforts of community groups in New York City and throughout the Nation to achieve sustainable economic development through the attraction of resources to enable the investment in infrastructure and human resources that will promise jobs, renewed economic activity, and the retention of funds in the African-American community. I want to share with you and my colleagues the contribution of David Jones, who was one of the presenters. David Jones, chairman of the board of Carver Federal Savings and chief executive officer of the Community Service Society of New York, also serves on the board of the Harlem community's empowerment zone.

STATEMENT OF DAVID R. JONES

The distinguished legal scholar Derrick Bell has described the present period as the worst for African-Americans since the 1890s, when the gains of the Civil War and reconstruction were wiped away by the Klan and the black codes.

Some might dismiss Bell's observation as over the top. How bad can things be when an Oprah Winfrey takes in more than \$170 million in one year or when a hard-charging black middle class is seeing unprecedented income growth and participation in all aspects of American life?

But everyone in this room knows what Professor Bell is talking about. Consider the drum beat for attacks on affirmative action. The Supreme Court's single-minded effort to roll back electoral gains in Congress and in the State houses, or the vicious mugging of the Nation's children and poor under the guise of welfare reform.

Add in the increasing abandonment of public education and you know Bell is no alarmist. In urban schools like New York's, with kindergarten classes exceeding 50 children (often with only one teacher) and where inadequate materials and poorly trained teachers are the norm, you have a crisis brewing. At a time when real wages are plummeting for all but the most educated or the well-born, and when everyone including the President has said that only the best prepared

will have a chance to share in real wage growth, our kids' blighted education opportunity almost certainly will destroy large portions of our next generation.

This is not a pretty picture. Still, my sainted grandmother told me never to dwell on today's ills. The point for her and for us is—what are you going to do about it?

And that is why a discussion of economic development and wealth creation is so vital now.

Walking down the streets of my own Bedford-Stuyvesant community provides a clear look at one reason for our disarray. Brooklyn has nearly 1 million African-American residents. So where are our businesses? Big or small, where are the economic engines that could provide jobs and experience for our young people?

And some corollary questions: Where are the financial contributions that could elect leaders responsive to our needs as African-Americans? Where is the funding for institutions that will protect our rights against those who want to strip us of everything we fought for at such great cost?

The capital is there within our own communities. African Americans, whose rate of increase in buying big-ticket items outpaces that of white households, don't see much being recirculated. In fact many communities are hemorrhaging cash.

I want to emphasize that economic development and wealth creation and all too often considered as separate and distinct ways of obtaining equality in American society from other forms of advancement. It's the old Booker T. Washington/W.E.B. Dubois split. But today fighting for economic development is not different from political action and voter registration, or removed from the need to improve educational opportunity. These are all part of the same objective. If we are to rebuild a movement for African-Americans, then political, social and economic empowerment efforts must be melded into one fight.

In this effort we must also recognize that we are in trouble because of a significant class problem that divides us, just as it divides other ethnic groups. Despite our significant presence in American society—nearly 40 million strong and with a collective wealth in the billions of dollars, class and income divisions make it difficult to develop a common agenda that would benefit all.

At the height of the civil rights movement it was obvious to African-Americans at every income level that joint action for equal rights and opportunity was vital to improving everyone's life chances. That movement cinched extraordinary upward mobility for a generation of middle-class African-Americans already well positioned to make the most of its hard-fought social, political and economic gains.

It also opened the door for the tens of thousands of poor and working people who through hard work, wit, and luck managed to escape urban and rural poverty.

But as Harvard's William Julius Wilson has shown so well, many were left behind and their condition is rapidly deteriorating. They have become, because of color and condition, the perfect scapegoats for both major parties and held responsible for everything wrong with America.

Now the Nation has come full circle. Today's attacks on all people of color don't make fine distinctions between some "threatening" ghetto underclass and an alternately benign and assimilable middle class. The attacks are indiscriminate and across the board.

And precisely because the attacks are so broad-brush, they allow for a renewal of understanding that we have a common agenda. They allow for a unity of purpose we have

not seen since the civil rights era. Economic development is the arena where that response can be framed.

Let's talk specifics.

I am board chairman of the Carver Federal Savings Bank, in New York City. With some \$370 million in deposits and assets, Carver is the largest African-American managed bank in the Nation. Founded in 1948, it now has eight branches throughout the city, and is one of only a handful of African-American institutions that is publicly traded.

Carver was always there for the community, providing the black churches with loans when others wouldn't. Now the bank is beginning to take its place as a vital part of what has to be done.

It was recently approved to grant SBA loans and has just launched a credit-card service. Our main office on 125th Street, destroyed in a fire three years ago, has been rebuilt as a \$5 million four-story state-of-the-art banking facility that is one of the key elements in the revival of 125th Street.

A scholarship fund established in 1986 has already given out some \$320 million to college-bound kids in our communities.

Carver—and the creation and support of similar institutions across the Nation—are just the most obvious vehicles for stopping the cash hemorrhaging from our communities and providing the capital to create and support a vital small-business community. Such work should be a mandate if we want to create a foundation for the next round of struggles around politics, jobs, and education.

Another area that needs serious consideration is the fledgling development of enterprise zones. I serve on the board of the upper Manhattan empowerment zone and chair its economic and physical development committee.

As you know, the empowerment zone initiative is proceeding in eight cities. While not without its critics and with only limited dollars, there can be no doubt that the zone has already generated a substantial amount of investment interest in central Harlem.

A one-stop capital shop for small businesses, offering both loans and technical assistance, has just opened its doors. The first round of proposals, numbering in the hundreds, have been reviewed. They range from expanding funeral homes to creating a Harlem health club, night clubs, credit unions, and a new cable distributor.

So while it is too soon to declare victory, the concept—driven by many members of this caucus—plainly can provide a significant push to economic activity in our communities.

And for it to work, government has to play a role, too. The government at every level has to fulfill its commitment to be a partner in areas the private economy cannot provide. The Community Redevelopment Act forced banks to do community development, but there are no comparable requirements for check cashers, for instance. No community people own them. Making them reinvest in the community is something we can do easily.

And where jobs develop outside the community there has to be a decent transportation system to get people to those jobs. Even the latest projection by the Regional Plan Association, covering education and transportation needs, doesn't deal with how poor urban residents can realistically access jobs in suburban industrial parks.

Here's where government needs to play a role today. It lies in such areas as subsidizing work on a high-speed rail system so inner-city youths can access suburban jobs. It means a WPA for national infrastructure projects, putting needed services in place while training young people as a new class of

artisans. It means getting away from the childishness of left and right that says government and business have to fight each other. They have always collaborated; the question is—in whose interest?

We can make them work together for our community, and that is what self-reliance means. Community leaders must demand government programs—in education and skills development, in transportation, and in the transition from welfare to work—that ensure self-reliant traits can flourish.

But government won't provide unless it is pressured. That pressure has to come from organizations in our community, and particularly from members of this caucus. So what shape are the institutions in that protect African-American empowerment? Why haven't we been able to fund our own groups?

And what of the institutions that are supposed to be on the front lines? Even Kweisi M'Fume has said how difficult it is to raise money for the NAACP from inside our community. Plainly, we have work to do.

In closing: as the struggle for resources in America becomes more brutal, we had better have a serious discussion about how we can fund our own defenders. I mean the members of this caucus along with our civil rights, political, and social institutions. Keeping them alive and fighting is a major part of what makes economic development so critical today.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3610, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997, AND PASSAGE OF H.R. 4278, OMNIBUS CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I make these brief remarks to explain the provisions of section 631 of the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations Act, 1997 which were incorporated in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 and which were made a part of that bill at my suggestion. At hearings held this spring before the committee I chair, the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, it was disclosed that several Federal agencies had engaged in significant lobbying activities, using appropriated funds, designed to affect the outcome of legislation pending before the Congress. It also became apparent that existing statutory restrictions on the use of appropriated funds for lobbying activities were ineffective in controlling agency lobbying. The conferees have, therefore, agreed to language which would apply a governmentwide limit on agency lobbying.

The statutory language contains two prohibitions on the use of appropriated funds. The first applies to grassroots lobbying in which agencies make both express and indirect appeals to the public to contact Members of Congress in support of or opposition to pending legislation. The second applies more broadly to the preparation, distribution or use of specified types of publications designed to foster support or oppose pending legislation. Following enactment of this prohibition, which is similar to prohibitions found for a number of

years in the Labor-HHS and Interior appropriations bills, all Federal agencies receiving appropriated funds will be subject to a uniform set of restrictions.

COMMEMORATING FREEDOM FOR THE HMONG REFUGEES IN THAILAND AND THEIR EXODUS FROM BAN NAPHO CAMP

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that after a long and arduous process, the summary forced repatriation policy against Lao and Hmong refugees in Thailand was reversed this year. We are very fortunate that a small dedicated group of individuals persisted in their effort to end this policy.

Mr. Speaker, many of the Lao and Hmong refugees being forced back to the Communist regime in Lao they fled were former combat veterans. They fought as staunch allies alongside the U.S. military and Central Intelligence Agency during the Vietnam war.

Thousands of Lao and Hmong veterans and their families in the Ban Napo camp in Thailand have now been given political asylum in the United States. Some will join relatives in my congressional district in Wisconsin. Critical to the success of the policy battle were a number of key individuals who played a leadership role in the enormous and intense struggle to free the Lao Hmong refugees. In particular, I would like to cite the efforts of Maj. Gen. Vang Pao, Dr. Shur Vangyl, Stephen Vang, Pang Bliang Vang, Nhla Long Xiong, Pia Vang, and Kue Xiong of the Lao Veterans of America which has its Wisconsin chapter headquartered in my district. Likewise, Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt and Philip Smith helped spearhead the difficult battle in Washington, DC, and in Congress, to save the Lao and Hmong refugees. They worked very closely with my office to provide information and implement strategy.

In May 1995, I attended a human rights forum, at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. The forum was organized by Stephen Vang and Pobzeb Vang at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and was attended by many from Wisconsin and across the United States. It was essential in developing support for this important initiative.

Mr. Speaker, in tribute to the Lao and Hmong people, and their elaborate history, I request that my remarks from the University of Wisconsin-Stout conference be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

You have before you many experts, more expert and certainly much more heroic than me to deal with this cause. Mr. Philip Smith and Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt can talk to you at length about the situation as it exists today and the reasons that we sent the congressional staff to the area over Christmas and New Years as well as the forced repatriation and other events that have occurred since that time. The purpose of the trip was not successful by its end result; the trip was successful by facts which I think it has established and the truth which I believe it has exposed. We will do our best to try and articulate those facts and the truth as we see it this week on the floor of the United States