

Together, we can take the steps toward a 21st century full of appreciation and hope. Much has already been done; however, I am sure you know that much more must be done.

And may we remember the words from Abraham Lincoln's last great speech—his second inaugural address—when he tells us even today:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish to work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

I appreciate and commend each of you for your leadership within the African-American community, and I want to challenge you to never forget how great this democracy is. It is up to us to reach beyond our differences and pain and hold on to the strength to stand for what is right and what is good so that we are truly united. May God bless and strengthen us all. By his help, we will not fail!

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, it is once again an honor for me to take part in this Special Order for African-American History Month. I know I join with every American in this continuing effort to educate both ourselves and our children about African-American culture and history.

One of the most underappreciated segments of American history are the scientific achievements by African-Americans. For the past one hundred years, African-Americans have made crucial inventions in engineering, performed great scientific feats, and have served as inspirations to all Americans through their perseverance and determination, yet such accomplishments go widely unnoticed.

One of those inventors was Granville Woods. Mr. Woods was a great electrician and inventive genius who developed and patented a system for overhead electric conducting lines for railroads, which aided in the development of the overhead railroad system found in contemporary metropolitan cities such as Chicago, St. Louis and New York City.

As well, in the late 1800's Woods patented the Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph, which allowed train stations as well as moving trains to know each others whereabouts. Train accidents and collisions were causing great concern at the time because train stations had no way of tracking their moving trains. This invention made train movements quicker and prevented countless accidents and collisions.

Garrett Morgan, who was born in 1875, also deserves wide recognition for his outstanding contributions to public safety. Firefighters in many cities in the early 1900's wore the safety helmet and gas mask that he invented. The gas mask Morgan invented in 1912 was used during World War I to protect soldiers from chlorine gas fumes.

In 1923, Morgan received a patent for his new concept, a traffic signal to regulate vehicle movement in city areas. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this event to our country's history. This single invention helped bring order out of the chaos of regulating pedestrian and vehicle traffic on city streets.

In more recent times, Dr. Mae Jemison was our nation's fifth African-American astronaut, and the first African-American female astronaut. In August 1992, she participated in a

successful joint U.S. and Japanese science mission that made her the first African-American woman in space. Dr. Jemison's perseverance and success as an astronaut should serve as an inspiration to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, when we honor great achievements in science by African-Americans, we inspire the next generation of Americans to achieve great things. I hope that all of our young people take a moment during African-American History month to reflect on what they can do in their communities and in their lives to make a difference.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the Special Order regarding Black History Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCREST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 355, DISMISSING THE ELECTION CONTEST AGAINST LORETTA SANCHEZ

Mr. THOMAS (during the special order of Mr. STOKES), from the Committee on House Oversight, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-416) on the resolution (H. Res. 355) dismissing the election contest against LORETTA SANCHEZ, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by saluting my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOUIS STOKES). This is an annual Special Order that he has sponsored for many years, and we regret the fact that this is the last time that he will do it. We thank him very much for keeping the torch alive, and I assure him that in his memory the caucus will continue this tradition for years to come.

The gentleman from Ohio goes home to Cleveland, where there is the whole public library, a brand new pace setting state-of-the-art library, named after him. Cleveland also is a place where there is a new kind of macroeconomics reaching out to encourage and embrace all business, but certainly offering a great opportunity for black businesses, African-American businesses. Cleveland is setting an example with a progressive mayor, I suppose one of the protégée of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOU STOKES), and the whole tradition of the Stokes family there in Cleveland.

So I salute the gentleman. I think the theme of this year's Black History Month is very fitting and proper for

him and the leadership in Cleveland, Ohio.

I also would like to note, Mr. Speaker, that I will take only 30 minutes of the hour, since none of my colleagues are here, and I want to thank the other side of the aisle for agreeing to allow us to do this back to back to give us more time to finish the Special Order on Black History.

I would like to continue in the same vein as my colleagues have proceeded before, saluting black business as a continuation of empowerment. Not a new thrust of empowerment. It is a continuation toward empowerment and it is inseparable.

What is happening with the African-American business community cannot be separated from political leadership and the history of civil rights and political developments related to the struggle for freedom of the African-American people in America. We cannot separate the two. I would like to bring that perspective to my discussion of the importance of this Black History observance this year.

We ought to become more economic minded. We should focus more on economics. We should understand we cannot separate economics from politics. They cannot be separated. They are inextricably interwoven in the history of this country. A lot of people have made a great attempt to separate economics from government, but that is not the case. That cannot happen. It is not true history when we try to do that.

The impact of the transcontinental railroad on the economic development of America is one example of how government, assuming a very aggressive position, created a situation where the industrial and business development of a nation certainly jumped forward by leaps and bounds. If the government had not taken the initiative, if the people in Washington had not said that we will subsidize the building of a transcontinental railroad, a railroad that will link the East with the West, if they had not paid so much per mile and been willing to undertake that giant project, encouraging, of course, contracting with and encouraging private enterprise to do it, it would never have happened. We would not have had the linkage between the East and the West, which made this Nation one nation in terms of business and industry.

And government, of course, has taken the initiative in many other ways, and I want to talk a little bit tonight about one of the latest initiatives. It is very small compared to the transcontinental railroad, or the building of the Tennessee Valley Authority, or the great leap forward we took when we passed the Morrill Act, the act which created the land grant colleges in every State.

Those land grant colleges were very practical institutions. They had the theoretical instruction in the classroom. I say had, but they still exist. They have the agricultural experiment stations; they have county agents that

take the knowledge and information right out to the farmers in the fields and practitioners. It is not by accident that America has the best fed population in the world. It is not by accident that we have the lowest cost food in the world. There was a lot of activity that took place, fostered by government.

The Morrill Act is at the heart of our great agricultural success in this country. We do not have anything like that on the drawing board now, but the empowerment zones that have been created are a small extension of that kind of activity by government.

Empowerment zones are designed to revitalize economically depressed areas. There are two categories of empowerment zones. One is the rural empowerment zone, and we have three of those now; and we have six urban empowerment zones, both designed to revitalize the area, but slightly different sets of guidelines for the two.

□ 2045

We have authorized already in legislation the creation of 15 additional urban empowerment zones and 5 additional rural empowerment zones, and they have a great role to play in the development of African-American business in our big cities. We have to think of business in the context of the environment created partially by the actions of government. Government must still deal with discrimination, the kind of discrimination that denies access to loans, access to capital.

Through the impetus of government, we have certain kinds of community development funds and certain kinds of pressures on banks to do more lending in African-American neighborhoods and to African-American businesses. There are a lot of activities of government that have created a situation where historic racial prejudice has played a role in depressing business activity in the African-American communities.

We have heard some glowing stories here, as is appropriate, of successful businesses and successful businessmen in the African-American community. We have also praised some existing enterprises that are quite large and on the stock market and doing very well. Black Entertainment Television, BET, is one of those examples. But behind the story of BET there is an interesting situation that demonstrates that when people say that money is color blind or the investment community is color blind, it is not true.

BET got a foothold, sort of, in the cable television industry because in the early days of cable, as cable came on line in our cities, there was a deliberate attempt by the entrepreneurs who were the owners of the early cable networks to avoid African-American communities in the big cities. There was this stereotyped notion that these people cannot pay for cable, they will not pay a subscription fee each month, they will not use cable the way the

middle class will use it, or the white middle class and the suburban people. So they avoided and delayed wiring the inner city communities; they were some of the last communities wired.

But much to their shock, because they did not do accurate surveys and they violated some of their own premises in terms of the way we plan for market, the prejudice was so great that they never looked very, very closely. Much to their surprise, they found that some of their best customers and customers who were most loyal and continue and always pay their cable bills, and right now they are at the heart of the cable income in our big cities, are the African Americans, African-American communities. They use cable in great amounts despite the miscalculation, the delayed wiring of our communities.

There was another such miscalculation in the area of fast-food restaurants. For a long time the big restaurants, McDonald's and Burger King, were avoiding the opening of franchises within the inner city communities. They did not do objective market studies. It was not the fact that green is green and we can make money here and, therefore, we shall go where the money can be made; they had their own stereotypes and drawbacks that delayed the development of franchises in the inner-city communities. Now some of their highest-income-producing franchises are in inner-city communities, the fast-food restaurants.

Sometimes I think it is, perhaps, not so good that so many of our young people are existing on so much cholesterol. But that is for another discussion.

So we have an atmosphere that still is not free and objective. The marketplace is not without political interference and not without government intervention. The marketplace is not free and open.

We also need to understand some of the dynamics that have taken place historically and are still taking place which affect and impact African-American businesses. We need to understand that dynamic. We need to understand and not let it get lost, the fact that ownership is the result of inheritance mostly. You know, people who own things can start tracing back to the fact where they inherited something from their parents, and then their parents inherited something from their grandparents; and it goes back and back and back, and the line of people being able to pass things down is one of the predominant factors in the accumulation of wealth, of capital, of assets.

Now, there are some unusual situations. Bill Gates certainly is not the richest man maybe in the world because of that accumulation process. He is the beneficiary of something else, you know, the public development of electronics. The fact that the military and the Government of the United States put a great deal of investment into the development of radio, develop-

ment of television, development of the Internet et cetera, laid the basis for people like Bill Gates to use their genius to capitalize on that. So those are the exceptions.

Most family studies that have been done show that in families who can trace back where they are now economically there is some indication that that was the result of money being passed down from one generation to another. Sometimes it might have been only furniture that a couple inherited or got from their parents, or maybe sometimes it is just a home, one home. Or sometimes, in fact, in this day and age, it is usually a contribution toward the down payment on a house that comes from the parents to a modern couple.

College graduates about to start out, large numbers get a little boost in terms of wedding presents or some other kind of gift from their parents which enables them to buy the house that becomes one of their major assets.

So the accumulation of wealth relies very heavily on family generations and things being passed down from one generation to the other. Given that fact, the fact that there were 232 years of slavery where people of African descent not only could not own anything, they were themselves property; for 232 years nothing could be passed down.

We cannot trace back an accumulation of assets from a present-day black family to the time that they, their parents or their ancestors were brought here in chains from Africa. We certainly cannot jump the ocean and go to some country where they had an opportunity to bring some of their wealth from their country, from their family, with them when they came. It might have just been no more than a suitcase.

Many immigrants came to America; all they had was a suitcase with clothing, meager belongings, and a few valuables maybe that were passed down. But that suitcase was far more than any slave arriving on a slave ship had, I assure my colleagues. Slaves were even deprived of association with each other. Deliberately, most slave ships and most slave traders mixed up the tribes and broke down the groups so that any inheritance of a code of honor, mores and traditions, all of that was also wiped out.

We could not have that because people spoke different languages, came from different groups. So we could not even inherit some sense of being and sense of order that came from the old country.

Africa had societies and organizations, and it is well documented, governments of various natures which could have been passed down. But all of that was deliberately wiped out. So certainly nothing concrete, nothing physical, no assets were passed on.

Imagine, 232 years, that is 7 generations, out of the loop. So when we look at people of African descent and where they are economically in the structure of America, stop and think about the

fact that there is a gap there where nothing was passed down, nothing could accumulate, no assets could be transferred for 232 years, for almost 7 generations.

That has an impact of where we are in terms of capital for African-American businesses today, in terms of wealth that exists among families so those families may support businesses.

Of course, we are an integrated society. We are not depending on segregated communities where only African-American families will support African-American businesses. There is a bigger picture now, a global situation.

Let us take a look at the global macroeconomics of today and how that impacts on African-American communities.

Parren Mitchell was one of my great heroes. He sat here. Often, he sat right there. It was his favorite seat. He was the author of the set-asides which required the Federal contracts to set aside a small portion, 10 percent. It went down to 4 percent in some bills.

But the set-aside principle was established by Parren Mitchell. The set-aside principle was based upon the fact that we needed to do something to compensate for the fact that those 232 years were imposed on people. The government was a party to that imposition.

The history and tradition, whatever makes up a country and a nation, has to take responsibility for what happened. One way to try to work out of that situation is to deal with some special treatment, compensatory treatment. What a horrible word, a horrible concept for most Americans. They just do not want anybody to have special treatment. Well, we got special treatment for 232 years. For 232 years, we were treated like no other Americans.

Even the Native Americans, who certainly have much to complain about in terms of the way they were treated, even they were not deprived of their traditions and their whole sense of family structure, as well as the right to own. Their problems are great, and I certainly think that they, too, are owed some special treatment, but we got special treatment.

One way to get out of the situation that we are in now is to have some special treatment which is compensatory. Affirmative action is compensatory treatment. Nobody wants to hear that these days. They want to see everybody as being equal.

In the world of business, nobody wants to talk about giving anybody any special favors, but let us take a look at this world of business. In macroeconomic terms, we are faced with a situation now where the United States of America has bailed out Mexico with the \$20 or \$30 billion loan to help the economy of Mexico. At present, we have contemplated a bailout of Indonesia, \$50 or \$60 billion.

We are not going to be the sole participants in the bailout, but we are going to participate, and we will prob-

ably end up, the people of America, paying the lion's share of whatever is done to bail out Indonesia's economy, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea. They are talking about \$50 to \$60 billion for South Korea.

We are engaged in global economics. We are showering special treatment on certain groups. There is what I call an international banking socialism where government does step in through its International Monetary Fund or a bank.

Government steps into the market when the market is in great trouble. Government stepped in in this country to save the savings and loans, the victims of the savings and loan swindles.

The government has stepped in in Mexico. Now it proposes to do that in South Korea, in Malaysia, and Indonesia. Billions, we are talking about billions. They have used it badly.

Obviously, when you have a crash of an economy and you need a \$50 billion bailout, a lot of things went wrong. A lot of things have gone wrong. Mismanagement, corruption, all kinds of things have gone wrong.

How did they get the money in the first place? It is so difficult to get a thousand dollar loan if you are an African American walking into a bank in this country. How did they get billions, and they did not have competence to manage it well? How did they get billions when they had corruption? I mean, obviously corruption could not be hidden. How did all of this happen?

Government was very much involved in South Korea during the war, Korean War. North Korea attacked South Korea, and the city of Seoul was destroyed several times. When I visited there, I was amazed at the metropolis that was built up. It took lots and lots of money and lots and lots of help from the outside, which I do not want to disparage at all. Generosity should be encouraged.

But a lot of businesses existed. We visited steel mills and automobile manufacturing plants. What I am reading in the paper now is that those plants had nothing to do with reality.

The third largest steel producer in the world is in South Korea. It did not make sense. There was no market for that much steel from that place. But they were given lots of money. Billions and billions of dollars flowed into the building of the steel industry in Korea.

□ 2100

The cars that are manufactured, rolling off the line, they do things so beautifully in terms of the mechanics and the engineering, but evidently the financing, there was something radically wrong.

How did they get from the bankers, the hard-nosed investment community, how did they get all that community, and why can't African American communities get a few billion to develop Bedford-Stuyvesant in my district, or Brownsville, to develop New York, a few billion to develop Harlem, to de-

velop Watts in Los Angeles? When they talk about development in the inner-city communities, they start talking about a few hundred thousand here and there.

Even the empowerment zone concept, which is the most generous attempt at economic development, they have limited it to six urban areas to begin with, and three rural areas. Now we are going to add 15 more urban areas and 5 rural areas. That is very much a piecemeal approach in terms of the number of communities that can participate.

But even in the structure that they have set up, where there is the greatest amount of generosity in terms of the Federal Government providing tax credits so that private industry will come in and large amounts of tax credits are available in this situation, at the same time they are going to supply millions of dollars for loans and for some social program investment, et cetera.

It is a great program, but it is not on the level of the kind of aid we have given to Mexico or to South Korea or to Indonesia, the kind of dollars that are flowing. Private industry is not running to get into our neighborhoods, which are very good investments, because we are operating within the context of the United States of America laws. The laws, the codes, the regulations, all the things that protect businesses anywhere else in America protect businesses in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that we come to praise the fact that African-American business is moving forward at a more rapid pace. We come to praise the new opportunities and the middle class that has made those opportunities into reality. There was a great program on public television last night, Henry Louis Gates was the host of a number of interviews dealing with the fact there are two societies in the black community. One is that booming middle-class black community, growing by leaps and bounds, incomes rising, and then the other is the great majority of the black community, the African-American community, where you have tremendous suffering and the prosperity of the 1990's has not caught on there at all. High unemployment in areas like one-half of my congressional district, where unemployment has steadily been up at 15 percent for adults, and for young people it is as high as 30 percent. It has been that way for the last 10 years. It has not impacted.

We must, while we salute the progress, understand that something more has to be made to happen. We have to look at economic development in new ways.

We certainly would like to have an empowerment zone in our community. We are applying for one, along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ), trying to get an empowerment zone in Brooklyn, to get

the kind of stimulus we need to have to encourage and develop and enhance and sustain more African-American businesses, more businesses in the Hispanic community, too.

We have a situation there where hospitals are our largest employers, more than 5,000 people employed in one hospital complex in my district, and there is a danger that the politics of the situation may result in the closing down of the hospitals. The politics now are frightening us because the economic development we foresee if we get an empowerment zone, we see the hospitals being able to generate a whole set of additional businesses in our community, as they do now, they employ large numbers of people. There are cleaning services, food services, there are various other kinds of services, the people that do the repair, the x-ray machines, all kinds of services that are there that will be gone if we do not take care of the politics that are seeking to close down our hospitals and move them somewhere else.

So the politics are inseparable from the economics. We hope the encouragement, the possibilities of an economic empowerment zone, will lead to less of a drive to close down the hospitals and leave a big slum in the middle of our communities.

There are numerous other examples of how the politics have to be in place and have to work hand in hand. The government and political situation have to go hand in hand with the economic development. The whole area of tourism, which Cleveland understands very well, Lou Stokes from Cleveland, the Mayor there, understands the building of a Rock and Roll Museum in the heart of Cleveland is a great step forward economically. Just build the place that has a great attraction for people, and when they come, they bring their dollars and they support many other kinds of businesses.

The development of our big cities is one of the most outstanding museums of African-American history, is now in downtown Detroit, and they had written off downtown Detroit 10 years ago and said it would never come back. Downtown Detroit is coming back in many different ways, and one of the ways it is coming back is the political leadership has chosen to make an investment in the downtown in many ways. One of the ways they are making the investment, of course, is the building of facilities like an African-American museum that has the highest attendance of any such museum anywhere in the country.

As I close, I would like to bring to your attention the fact that I came here from a special showing by HBO of the film, *Four Little Girls*, a documentary film directed by Spike Lee. In that film, one of the things that I noticed right away as they depicted the Birmingham community out of which those four little girls who were murdered by the bombing in the church on a Sunday morning, they came out of

very well-organized families. They came out of a community which was low- and middle-class probably, but you could see from the houses, from the neighborhood, very stable. They came out of the kind of environment that I grew up in, much poorer, we did not have brick houses, but wood houses, but there was an order and stability there, especially as the prosperity of World War II came to our communities and the prosperity right after the war. And when you have jobs and families had income, you did not have the drug problems, you did not have the disintegration, you did not have the need for large numbers of welfare.

When you take care of the economy and do what is right by the economy, and spread and share the wealth, then many other problems get solved. It is amazing how many of our communities have been torn asunder that once had so much organization, so many middle-class institutions, those kids belonged to the Girl Scouts and the Sunshine Club, and all the stuff that we now have to try to recreate in our urban communities that have been torn apart by the lack of jobs and disintegration of families, the coming of drugs, et cetera.

So the economics will blossom, the economics must blossom. They are key to revitalization of our communities and our people, but they cannot happen, it does not happen by itself. The market forces need to work hand in hand with government, and government needs to assert itself and understand that it should be there, more than just for multibillion dollar bailouts. That kind of socialism we do not need.

It should be there in terms of stimulating the economy, as it did with the Morrill Act, as it did with the Transcontinental Railroad, as it did with the GI Bill of Rights, which created a whole work force that could step forward, an intelligent, well-educated work force, created overnight, in large numbers, from the returning GI's because we provided an education, and on and on it goes.

Government and business need to work together to guarantee that there will be a continuing empowerment through business and economic development in the African-American community.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OWENS. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have a few thoughts on black history that I thought that I would present tonight, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say I am here today to recognize a part of black history that sometimes people forget about, and that is that African Americans, as we all know, African Americans have played a tremendous role in ensuring American prosperity since the founding of our country. But

all too long and for all too often, people are just focusing on the labor that was provided by African Americans who began as slaves and then became part of our labor force.

It is well-known that they have contributed much, and it is also well-known that in recent years African Americans have become increasingly owners of small businesses and mom and pop shops, all the way to Fortune 500 corporations.

But what is less well-known is a subject dear to my heart, and that is that black Americans have made and continue to make a vital contribution to the technological edge that America has and have made tremendous contributions to America's technological success, from the earliest days of our republic. Black Americans have, over the years, benefited from our country's strong patent system, and we have the strongest patent protection of any Nation in the world, but through the invention of black Americans, utilizing this right, by the way, at times their other rights were being totally trampled upon, but their rights for patent protection were being protected. Because of this, they have made tremendous contributions to our country, that sometimes are totally overlooked, and these contributions have added greatly to our way of life, to the quality of life of Americans.

I have a list here, quite a few African American inventors that have done things. How many people know that Elijah McCoy, a black American in 1872, had over 57 patents on engines and machinery that were part of the whole steam engine and the basis for the settling of the West and the basis for our whole industrialization of our country? Those steam engines and the parts he invented were so important that when people went back at the turn of the century to ask for parts to an engine, they would say, "Now, is this the real McCoy?"

That is where that came from. The real McCoy was a black American who was an inventor who played such an important part in the development of the steam engine.

Lewis Howard Latimer in 1881 took Thomas Edison's light bulb, and we all know Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, but it was not practical until Howard Latimer, a black American, took that and invented a long-lasting carbon filament that replaced this original bamboo filament that Edison had been working with.

How many of our fellow Americans understand that and appreciate these types of contributions?

BLACK HISTORY RECOGNITION

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