

register to vote. As a matter of fact, in a State like the State of Mississippi, in 1965 the State had a black voting-age population of more than 450,000 and only about 16,000 blacks were registered to vote. There was one county in Alabama, between Selma and Montgomery, Lowndes County, where the county was more than 80 percent African American; yet there was not a single registered African American voter in the county. In the little county of Selma, only 2.1 percent of blacks of voting age were registered to vote.

People of color not only had to pay a poll tax, they had to pass a so-called literacy test. Interpreting sections of the Constitution of the United States, the constitution of the State of Alabama, the constitution of the State of Georgia and the State of Mississippi, there were black men and women teaching in colleges and universities, black lawyers and black doctors being told they could not read or write well enough. On one occasion, a black man had a Ph.D. degree in philosophical theology and he flunked a so-called literacy test. On another occasion, a man was asked to give the number of bubbles in a bar of soap.

The drive, the movement for the right to vote came to a head in Selma, Alabama. For many months people had gone down to the courthouse to be turned back. They were arrested. Some were jailed. On March 7, 1965, about 600 black men and women, and a few young children, attempted to march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, to the State capital, to dramatize to the Nation and to the world that people of color wanted to register to vote. They were beaten with night sticks, bull whips, trampled by horses, and tear gassed.

That day became known as Bloody Sunday. There was a sense of righteous indignation all across America when people saw what happened to these 600 men and women and young children in Selma. Eight days later, after what became known as Bloody Sunday, President Johnson came to this hall and spoke to a joint session of the Congress, and he started that speech off on March 15, 1965, by saying: "I speak tonight for the dignity of man and for the destiny of democracy." President Johnson went on to say: "At times, history and fate come together to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was more than a century ago at Lexington and at Concord. So it was at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama."

And in that speech on March 15, 1965, President Johnson condemned the violence in Selma, introduced the Voting Rights Act; and before he closed that speech he said over and over again: "And we shall overcome." The Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, and it was signed into law on August 6, 1965, 36 years ago.

Because of the courage of these men and women and these young children,

Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed a non-violent revolution in America, a revolution of values, a revolution of ideas. Because of this march, because of this attempted march, we are on our way toward the building of what I like to call the "beloved community," toward the building of a truly interracial democracy. By marching, by standing up, these young men and women, these young children, on March 7, 1965, and the Members of Congress back in 1965, helped to expand our democracy, helped to open up the democratic process and let hundreds of thousands and millions of our citizens come in.

We live in a better country. We live in a better place because a few men and women and a few young children got in, what I call, the way to make America different, to make America better. Today, Mr. Speaker, I stand here to salute these brave men and women, men and women, with courage, who dared to sail against the wind on March 7, 1965.

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

(Mr. JEFFERSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CLYBURN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONCERNED ABOUT A TAX CUT BILL BEFORE A BUDGET BILL

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

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I come tonight at this late hour troubled somewhat about an event that I think needs some attention. I kind of hesitate talking about it after those wonderful words said by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) about a very important thing. This is on another subject; but I appreciate what the gentleman said tonight, and I want to thank him for it.

Tomorrow, according to our majority leader, we are going to be dealing with the first round of our tax bill, and I am concerned about that. A few days ago President Bush came up to Nemaacolin and talked to our caucus, and we enjoyed that visit very much. We appreciated it. And in the process we asked him, Can we see a budget first? Can we see the budget? For me, that was very real, because before I came here there was a time when I was in our State legislature and had a very significant role to play in working up a balanced budget and getting our State out of bondage and out of debt. So I am very conscious of that. So we appreciated him saying that.

So he sent the document, as he said he would. I thank him for that. I did not expect it to be a perfect thing. It does not have to be, because we have the legislative process. So the document came and we laid it side by side with what our staff has, and I have had for some bit of time, and things just do not quite jive in the sense of what it does for agriculture and what it does for education and some of the things I am very concerned about, the construction in some of our research centers and so on. I think it needs some attention.

I thought, well, that is okay, we have a process. The gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE), along with the ranking member, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), will bring us a document that we can look at, and it will have the refinement of their work, and that will be good, it will be helpful. But that is not going to happen, so I am told, and that is wrong. It is very wrong.

I just have to reflect on what we do in our own families. I travel across my district; and when families sit at the table and talk about what they are going to do with their resources, they want to pay off their debts, if they are planning a vacation, they have to be sure that they have things in order; that the kids are ready for school, they have their clothes, all those things. They see their budget before they spend that which they may not have to spend.

County and city government, I have dealt a lot with them. In our States they have to deal with property tax. That is how they run most of county and city government. Everybody would like to have relief from property tax, me too; but they would not think of declaring a property tax relief until they considered the needs of the budget for that entity. They just would not think of it. Yet here we are about to embark on this.

In 1981, 20 years ago, when the tax bill of that day was passed, I was talking to my accountant, Mr. Chuck Church, down in Des Moines, Iowa, he is a CPA there, and we discussed this. We thought, well, this is pretty good, but then we started thinking about some of the other things that could take place. Now, I bring this up for comparison, budget first, because things are much different than it was 20 years ago.

Twenty years ago, we only had \$1 trillion in debt. Now we have \$5.7 trillion. The service of the debt now is quite a contrast. If we made a mistake then, we had the strength and so on to recover from it. Do we today, if we make a mistake? I do not know. I am concerned about it. I do not think that in those days they were thinking about the baby boomers coming on. They are coming. Now they are just 8 years away before they start entering into the fray, and we have to deal with that. Twenty years ago they were not giving that much attention. And I think that needs attention.