

Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol. (Introduced in the House)

HCON 368 IH

106th CONGRESS

2d Session

H. CON. RES. 368

Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 29, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol.

Whereas the United States Capitol stands as a symbol of democracy, equality, and freedom to the entire world;

Whereas the year 2000 marks the 200th anniversary of the opening of this historic structure for the first session of Congress to be held in the new Capital City;

Whereas slavery was not prohibited throughout the United States until the ratification of the 13th amendment to the Constitution in 1865;

Whereas previous to that date, African American slave labor was both legal and common in the District of Columbia and the adjoining States of Maryland and Virginia;

Whereas public records attest to the fact that African American slave labor was used in the construction of the United States Capitol;

Whereas public records further attest to the fact that the five-dollar-per-month payment for that African American slave labor was made directly to slave owners and not to the laborer; and

Whereas African Americans made significant contributions and fought bravely for freedom during the American Revolutionary War: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That--

(1) the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall establish a special task force to study the history and contributions of these slave laborers in the construction of the United States Capitol; and

(2) such special task force shall recommend to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate an appropriate recognition for these slave laborers which could be displayed in a prominent location in the United States Capitol.

The Capitol's Case Of Slave Labor

Forgotten Blacks May Be Honored For Work on Liberty's Landmarks

By DARRYL FEARS
Washington Post Staff Writer

Decades of backbreaking labor had come down to one very important moment—pouring copper, tin and zinc into the mold of the Statue of Freedom that would be lifted atop the newly built U.S. Capitol dome in December 1863.

Right then, the superintendent in charge of the process complained that his \$8-per-day wage was too low and quit. He told his bosses that he alone knew how to do his job.

He was wrong. He probably didn't notice Philip Reid—a slave assigned to feed the fires under the mold—itching to take charge.

"The Negro took the striker's place as superintendent and the work went on," said a Dec. 2, 1863, article in the New York Tribune.

Reid was just one of hundreds of black slaves and freemen who helped build the U.S. Capitol and White House, two monuments of liberty in a nation that espoused freedom. Like most

slaves, Reid got no money for his work; his owner, Clark Mills, was compensated for his slave's labor.

Reid and the others got no praise, no plaudits, no plaques.

Now, more than 200 years after work on the buildings began in 1792 and 1793, two members of the House of Representatives have introduced a bill intended to honor them. The proposal by J.C. Watts (R-Okla.) and John Lewis (D-Ga.) calls on Congress to establish a committee to explore the contributions of slaves to building the Capitol and the White House, known at the time as the President's House.

Watts said he hopes that the bill, which is on the House floor awaiting assignment to a committee, will lead to a monument to the slaves on the Capitol

grounds. "We have hundreds of thousands of Americans coming to the Capitol every year," Watts said. "I think it's good for the American people to see something that denotes the contribution that

slaves made to this building."

The congressman credited Edward Hotelling, a reporter for WRC-TV (Channel 4), with bringing the subject to his attention. Hotelling unearthed U.S. Treasury promissory notes to slave owners in the Capitol curator's office. He brought them to Watts before airing a report.

The recent announcement of the bill by Lewis and Watts drew a gasp from the national and international media. "White House and Capitol built by \$5-a-month slaves," said a headline in the London Independent. "Temples of freedom founded on slavery," said a headline in the Times of London.

Slaves built the Capitol and the White House? Who knew?

William Allen knew. "I don't know why this comes as such great news," said Allen, an architectural historian for the Architect of the Capitol. "When you think of any building being built in that time period, in a slave state, what do you think?"

Russell Adams knew, too. "When I heard what they were considering, candidly, I chuckled," said Adams, chairman of Howard University's Afro-American Studies Department. "The question never came up before. Who's doing the work? Who's moving the bricks?"

"I try to point this observation beyond the building of the Capitol. Blacks did the same work at Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, the father of American democracy, for crying out loud."

Others knew as well. Lewis and historians throughout Washington visited the issue in 1989, during a debate in Congress over whether to build the Museum of African-American History on the Mall.

Adams said the more recent bill in the House created "an insulting irony. They're saying, retroactively, 'Thanks, George. We forgot to thank you when you did the work.'"

As it turns out, several slaves who worked on the projects were

named George. They were also named Nace, Abram, Charles, Harry, Jerry and Thomas. But little else is known about them, since nearly all of them were listed in the records only by their first names.

A bit more is known about Reid, who earned a laborer's pay of about \$1 per day in the mid-1800s and was eventually freed after the Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War. Like other slave owners in the District, Mills was allowed payment for what had been his property; he asked the government for \$1,500—more than twice the amount he asked for any other slave—to compensate for the loss of what one publication called "a highly skilled mechanic who performed the delicate and difficult task of fitting the Statue of Freedom on the dome of the Capitol."

When the work of the slaves was done, the Treasury Department delivered an IOU to the white owners. One note read: "Please pay to John Hurie the ...

balance due ... for the hire of Negro Emanuel for the year 1794." There about 20 such notes in the curator's office of the Architect of the Capitol, and hundreds more in the National Archives.

A group of archives volunteers recently used the notes to compile a list of workers and found 122 "Negro hire" references, all first names. Among them were laborers, stonecutters and carpenters who did brutal work.

But African American slaves weren't the only people who helped build the White House and the Capitol. French, German, Scottish and Irish immigrants also put in work. They came to Washington when it was still mostly swamp, with hardly any homes built and expensive rooms for rent, said Allen, the historian.

But the slave contribution "is one of the frustrating parts of the story," said Allen, who wrote an article about the role slaves played in the Capitol and White House in 1994 for American Visions magazine.

"The reason it's frustrating is we don't know much about it," Allen said. "There were only first names. No last names. We don't know anything. There's no depth to the story. You have to imagine what these people looked like. You have to imagine where they lived. You have to wonder about the languages they spoke. This is the stuff for movie producers. Historians like myself can't get a handle on it because the records are slim."

Adams, the Howard University

professor, said there's no history because the slaves were considered no more than chattel. "They would serve people food and their private parts would bump against the table, and no one would say these people need clothing, because the people who were talking about freedom thought them to be animals," Adams said.

"Any efforts to notice the work of African Americans as slaves and freemen is appropriate," said Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.). "You can do it by issuing an apology for slavery, or acknowledging that some remuneration is due, or you can do it by getting people to sit down and study this issue all across the board. I think the country needs to come to grips with this whole thing."

Senate Defies Veto, Votes to Abolish 'Marriage Penalty'

Al

putting aside the Social Security program, the budget surplus will be nearly \$2.2 trillion over the coming decade, or \$1.3 trillion higher than the budget office's January estimates.

Last week, the Republicans took a different tack by granting the marriage penalty tax legislation special immunity from filibusters. The House passed its version of the bill for the second time, and

The eight Senate Democrats who voted with the Republicans to pass the marriage penalty legislation yesterday were Sens. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (Del.), Robert C. Byrd (W.Va.), Max Cleland (Ga.), Dianne Feinstein (Calif.), Bob Kerrey (Neb.), Herb Kohl (Wis.), Mary Landrieu (La.) and Robert G. Torricelli (N.J.). Sen. George V. Voinovich was the lone GOP vote against the bill. The Maryland and Virginia senators voted with their respective parties.

THOMAS SOWELL

The first thing to understand about the issue of reparations for slavery is that no money is going to be paid. The very people who are demanding reparations know it is not going to happen.

Why then are they demanding something that they know they are not going to get? Because the demagogues themselves will benefit, even if nobody else does. Stirring up historic grievances pays off in publicity and votes.

Some are saying Congress should at least issue an official apology for slavery. But slavery is not something you apologize for, any more than you apologize for murder. You apologize for accidentally stepping on someone's toes or for playing your TV too loud at night. But, if you have ever enslaved anybody, an apology is not going to cut it. And if you never enslaved anybody, then what are you apologizing for?

The very idea of apologizing for what somebody else did is meaningless, however fashionable it has

Reparations rhetoric and reality

become. A scholar once said that the great economist David Ricardo "was above the unctuous phrases that cost so little and yield such ample returns." Apparently many others are not.

The only thing that would give the idea of reparations for slavery even the appearance of rationality is an assumption of collective guilt, passed down from generation to generation. But, if we start operating on the principle that people alive today are responsible for what their ancestors did in centuries past, we will be adopting a principle that can tear any society apart, especially a multi-ethnic society like the United States.

Even if we were willing to go down that dangerous road, the facts of history do not square with the demand for reparations. Millions of immigrants arrived in this country from Europe, Asia and Latin America after slavery was over. Are their descendants guilty too and expected to pay out hard cash to redeem themselves?

Even during the era of slavery, most white people owned no slaves. Are their descendants supposed to pay for the descendants of those who did?

What about the effect of all this on today's black population? Is anyone made better off by being supplied with resentments and dis-

tractions from the task of developing the capabilities that pay off in a booming economy and a high-tech world? Whites may experience a passing annoyance over the reparations issue, but blacks — especially young blacks — can sustain more lasting damage from misallocating their time, attention and efforts.

Does anyone seriously suggest that blacks in America today would be better off if they were in Africa? If not, then what is the compensation for?

Sometimes it is claimed that slavery made a great contribution to the development of the American economy, from which other Americans benefited, so that reparations would be like back pay. Although slaveowners benefited from slavery, it is by no means obvious there were net benefits to the economy as a whole, especially when you subtract the staggering costs of the Civil War.

Should the immoral gains of dead people be repaid by living people who are no better off than if slavery had never existed? The poorest region of the United States has long been the region in which slavery was concentrated. The same is true of Brazil — and was true of 18th century Europe. The worldwide track record of slavery as an economic system is bad. Slaveowners benefited, but that is not saying the

economy as a whole benefited.

The last desperate argument for reparations is that blacks have lower incomes and occupations than whites today because of the legacy of slavery. Do the people who say this seriously believe black and white incomes and occupations would be the same if Africans had immigrated voluntarily to this country?

Scholars who have spent years studying racial and ethnic groups in countries around the world have yet to come up with a single country where all the different groups have the same incomes and occupations. Why would people from Africa be the lone exception on this planet? Groups everywhere differ too much in too many ways to have the same outcomes.

Slavery itself was not unique to Africans. The very word "slave" derives from the name of a European people — the Slavs, who were enslaved for centuries before the first African was brought to the Western Hemisphere. The tragic fact is that slavery existed all over the world, for thousands of years. Unfortunately, irresponsible demagogues have also existed for thousands of years.

Thomas Sowell is a nationally syndicated columnist.

If you would like to respond in the FORUM to a Commentary column, please e-mail your letter to forum@twitmail.com. Letters may also be sent — double-spaced and typed — to FORUM, c/o Brendan Minter, The Washington Times, 3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 or faxed to 202/832-2982. Please be sure to include your daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

ROBERT MAGINNIS

Forsaking our security?

Majority Leader Trent Lott promises that the Senate will soon grant China permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) but at the same time they should send a pro-security message to the next president by passing the "China Nonproliferation Act." Without an aggressive security stand, Chinese spies will continue to fleece America of its technology.

Either our government is incredibly naive about China or it is corrupt. Earlier this week, for example, The Washington Times reported that communist China annually sends hundreds of low wage technicians to work inside American high-tech firms on military-related programs. This is especially alarming given last year's Cox report.

That report warned that Beijing forces American firms to hand over technology to obtain entry to Chinese markets. It also revealed that Beijing uses Chinese nationals employed by U.S. firms to steal technology.

The "China Nonproliferation Act," which is pending passage in the Senate, would restrict the sale, transfer or misuse of sensitive technologies to the communist Chinese. It would require the president to closely monitor all transactions with China that might help that regime's military forces and compel China to stop transferring missile technology to rogue countries such as Iran.

A serious effort to curb China's feast on American technologies is overdue. During President Clinton's stewardship, China has bought or stolen some of our technological crown jewels: secrets to seven nuclear warheads, ballistic missile know-how, and deep-sea and stealth technologies.

Mr. Clinton's Commerce Department blatantly circumvented important security checks to allow high-technology sales to China. Missile and satellite firms like Loral and Hughes sold know-how to the Chinese, which helped their ballistic missile program. The administration liberalized high-performance computer exports to China. These computers are now being used to test and design nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. In 1996, in order to sell technology, the administration falsely certified that China is not a nuclear proliferator, but recent reports indicate that China continues to help Pakistan and Iran develop atomic programs.

Security problems at Los Alamos were exacerbated by Mr. Clinton's first energy secretary, Hazel O'Leary, who dramatically loosened security procedures at the lab. This decision drew national attention last year after the Wen Ho Lee spy scandal broke. At that time, the new energy secretary, Bill Richardson, promised to fix the security nightmare, but this spring, there was more bad news when hard drives containing top secret nuclear information mysteriously disappeared for a time.

The security crisis is pervasive. This spring the FBI discovered monitoring bugs planted inside State Department rooms. The State Department also lost a laptop computer loaded with top secret military information.

Last month, China's Xinhua News Agency, a front for China's Ministry of State Security, purchased a new headquarters building that has a view of the Pentagon's outermost corridor, where senior officials work and an array of antennas on the Pentagon's roof are located. Interestingly, this same complex was once owned by the East German government, known for its aggressive spying. Days after the purchase was publicized, Congress voted to block the sale.

Security against Chinese intrusion isn't much better inside the

Either our government is incredibly naive about China or it is corrupt.

Pentagon. The Defense Department's Technology Security Policy Office (DTSP) that oversees high-tech transfers to potential adversaries is being moved miles away and key intelligence assessments of proposed technology transfers are being shut down.

The DTSP, which was previously known as the Defense Technology Security Administration, has been the lone administration voice that has consistently objected to the Commerce Department's open door treatment of the Chinese.

Recently, Dave Tarbell, who directs the DTSP, made technology transfers to China easier. He directed his staff to cut the Defense Intelligence Agency out of the review process for technologies bound for Israel. Insiders complain that decoupling DIA from the review process removes a major barrier to the transfer of sophisticated technologies to Israel, that could then be sold to China.

Mr. Tarbell's directive came days prior to the arrival of Israeli Defense Minister Ephraim Shen who came to Washington to "straighten things out" over a planned sale of Phalcon, an airborne warning and control system, to China. Under pressure, last week, Israel pulled the Phalcon sale.

Recently, Mr. Tarbell ordered DIA to exclude foreigners who are working for U.S. high-tech firms, so-called "deemed export" cases, from their threat assessment to Congress. This is significant because some of our best technology firms clamor for cheap, highly trained Chinese labor. Beijing eagerly ships them to Silicon Valley where using special visas, they displace American workers and may eventually return to China with our secrets.

American companies and our government have been poor custodians of this nation's technology and the problem has become worse under this administration. Immediate action is needed.

The Senate should reject PNTR but, if Congress must grant China PNTR, then it should protect our technology by passing the "China Nonproliferation Act."

Congress should ask the DIA about Pentagon guidance regarding intelligence assessments of technology bound for Israel and other countries that sell military technology to China.

Congress should also investigate why Chinese nationals with access to U.S. export controlled technology are specifically excluded from their threat assessment.

Finally, the American people must insist that this administration's security ineptitude not be repeated. The next president must appoint reliable people who will guard our secrets.

Since 1993, stolen or purchased American technology has enabled China's military to advance decades beyond where it would have been without our help. That nation, which considers the U.S. an "enemy" and whose defense minister said war with the U.S. is "inevitable," soon will be prepared to face our military on the battlefield.

Robert L. Maginnis is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and is the Family Research Council's vice president for national security and foreign affairs.

The Washington Times
THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2000

Irene Bueno

07/20/2000 08:49:28 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP, Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP, Reynaldo Valencia/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: Legislation to establish task force on appropriate recognition of slave labor of construction of the Capitol

We may be asked for press guidance on this legislation (see below). There was Post article on this yesterday. Please advise how we should respond if asked about this legislation. Thanks.

Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol. (Introduced in the House)

HCON 368 IH

106th CONGRESS

2d Session

H. CON. RES. 368

Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 29, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol.

Whereas the United States Capitol stands as a symbol of democracy, equality, and freedom to the entire world;

Whereas the year 2000 marks the 200th anniversary of the opening of this historic structure for the first session of Congress to be held in the new Capital City;

Whereas slavery was not prohibited throughout the United States until the ratification of the 13th amendment to the Constitution in 1865;

Whereas previous to that date, African American slave labor was both legal and common in the District of Columbia and the adjoining States of Maryland and Virginia;

Whereas public records attest to the fact that African American slave labor was used in the construction of the United States Capitol;

Whereas public records further attest to the fact that the five-dollar-per-month payment for that African American slave labor was made directly to slave owners and not to the laborer; and

Whereas African Americans made significant contributions and fought bravely for freedom during the American Revolutionary War: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That--

(1) the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall establish a special task force to study the history and contributions of these slave laborers in the construction of the United States Capitol; and

(2) such special task force shall recommend to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate an appropriate recognition for these slave laborers which could be displayed in a prominent location in the United States Capitol.

Message Sent To:

Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP@EOP
Barbara A. Johnson/OMB/EOP@EOP
Robert B. Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Debra A. Carr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Barbara Chow/OMB/EOP@EOP

Slavery
June 20, 2000

Does the President support Tony Hall's resolution apologizing for slavery?

As I understand the resolution, it apologizes on behalf of Congress. Now the President has made clear that slavery was wrong and that it caused harm to our country. If a resolution by congress can help in the healing process that's a matter for members of Congress to decide.

The President as you know has long focused on the issue of race in America and the need for reconciliation--that's why he created his Initiative on One America, why he created the office of One America and why he continues to work in a variety of ways to ensure that equal opportunity is there for all America--for example, last week he hosted a strategy session on improving Hispanic student achievement because of the gaps in educational attainment experienced by Latinos--why he calls for increased funding for civil rights enforcement in this year's budget, etc.



Debra Carr <Debra.Carr@usdoj.gov>

06/28/2000 06:00:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Request for help with UN conference(?) on racialdiscrimination -Reply

I don't think there was any specific follow-up that Maria wanted...she was brainstorming on reparations. We do need an answer to this problem, and since the discussion did not result in anything new substantively, I will continue convening WH people to discuss specific options.

I think it would help to have some understanding of what the POTUS and VPOTUS have said on the issue so last week I asked Tracy, one of the interns, to compile this information. She will have it for me on Thursday. With that background, we should be better able to focus on the problem and think through our response and/or talking points, related legislative issues, etc.

By the way, we have a tentative date of July 21 for the first domestic "Discussion Group" for the World Conference. I asked Rochelle last week and again today to check if Maria is in town; it seems she may or may not be traveling with the POTUS to Japan. Since we are already months behind on starting these events it would be good if this date could be firmed up.

DAC


Jena V. Roscoe

06/14/2000 12:28:24 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

Subject: FYI: Reparations Conference in DC/ June 14 - June 20, 2000

The organization that is known as the leading reparations movement among African Americans: N'COBRA, which stands for National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, will host their 11th Annual Reparations Conference at Howard University in the Blackburn Center throughout this week, weekend, and early next week. Some of their invited guest include Congressman John Conyers, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, Reverend Al Sharpton, TransAfrica's Randall Robinson, Dr. Conrad Worrill of the National Black United Front, and Economist/Author Dr. Claud Anderson.

On Monday, June 19, (Juneteenth Day), there will be a "Rally for Reparations" on the Capitol Steps from 12:00pm - 2:00pm. On Tuesday, June 20, participants in the conference will lobby Congress.

Prior to the Juneteenth Day events by the organization, on Saturday, June 17, from 12:00pm - 3:00pm and Sunday, June 18, from 9:00am - 5:00pm, conference participants will hold a National Reparations Rally at the Lincoln Memorial. The rally is also in conjunction with the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation. Presidential Correspondence is preparing a letter for this event sponsored by the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation.

On Friday, June 16, Congressman John Conyers (and Honorary N'COBRA Chair) is slated to provide the Town Hall Meeting Address from 7:00pm - 10:00pm.

Message Copied To:

Reynaldo Valencia/WHO/EOP@EOP
Christine A. Stanek/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maureen T. Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
Adrian E. Miller/WHO/EOP@EOP
Victoria L. Valentine/WHO/EOP@EOP
Vincent Fry/WHO/EOP@EOP
Orson C. Porter/WHO/EOP@EOP

<u>THIS SEARCH</u>	<u>THIS DOCUMENT</u>	<u>THIS CR ISSUE</u>	<u>GO TO</u>
<u>Next Hit</u>	<u>Forward</u>	<u>Next Document</u>	<u>New CR Search</u>
<u>Prev Hit</u>	<u>Back</u>	<u>Prev Document</u>	<u>HomePage</u>
<u>Hit List</u>	<u>Best Sections</u>	<u>Daily Digest</u>	<u>Help</u>
	<u>Doc Contents</u>		

Congressional Record article 1 of 50 *Full Display* - 7,038 bytes.[\[Help\]](#)

RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING FOR SLAVERY (House of Representatives - June 18, 1997)

[Page: H3890] *GPO's PDF*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Hall] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 96. This is a resolution that apologizes for slavery in the United States. It is rather simple. It is only one sentence long. Let me read it:

Resolved by the House of Representatives that the Congress apologizes to African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and the laws of the United States until 1865.

That is simply what it says. It is a very simple idea. The Congress apologizes. It is a powerful message.

When a brother wrongs a brother, he apologizes. That is the foundation for beginning again. That is the price for restoring lost trust. This is the only way to start over. It is a simple gesture. It carries deep meaning. And it is the right thing to do.

When an institution wrongs a people, so it is again the right thing to do. In the name of all Catholics, Pope John Paul II apologized for violence during the 16th century Counter-Reformation and he asked for forgiveness.

Forty years after the Holocaust, the legislature of East Germany apologized for the atrocities committed against the Jews.

Just last month, British Prime Minister Tony Blair apologized for the failure of his country to fully respond to the thousands of deaths during the Irish potato famine of the mid-19th century.

It has been 134 years since slavery ended. Since that time, Congress has taken proud strides forward, done some wonderful things, including civil rights laws. But it is not enough.

Look around. The effects still linger today. Through my work as chairman of the former House Select Committee on Hunger and through my efforts to improve the lives of America's poor, I have seen the effects firsthand. We as a nation must do more. This is not a political gesture, it is not a partisan gesture, it is a very simple gesture and it certainly is the right thing.

The slaves and slave holders are long gone. No one alive today is responsible for slavery. No one alive today was shackled by the chains of slavery in America. Indeed, most Americans are the descendants of people who came to the United States after slavery ended.

All of us today, white and black, live in the shadow of our past. African-Americans today still suffer from the lingering effects. We all pay the price of slavery.

The hatred and racial divisions springing from slavery are very much alive. Let us take this step to bury that hatred with the bones of the slaves and the slave holders.

No Member of Congress today voted on measures to perpetuate slavery . But the Congress as an institution does bear responsibility. The laws we passed ignored, even encouraged slavery . Our Constitution, the foundation for the Congress, and our Government even declared at one time that a black man was only three-fifths of a person.

Congress is a great institution. It is the most respected deliberative body in the world. At least three times in recent years, Congress formally apologized.

In 1988, it apologized to the Japanese-Americans who were interned in the United States during World War II.

In 1993, Congress offered a formal apology to native Hawaiians for the role the United States and U.S. citizens played in the overthrow of the government of the Kingdom of Hawaii 100 years earlier.

In 1990, Congress apologized to uranium miners, people affected by nuclear tests in Nevada, and their families.

An apology by Congress is rare, it is special, but it is not without precedence. Apologizing is symbolic, but it has a great meaning for those who are apologizing and it has power for those who are wronged.

Why apologize to just African-Americans for slavery ? What about all the other people who have been wronged by laws passed by the Congress? The wrongs against African-Americans are clear to everyone. The consequences are severe. Maybe we have wronged others. Maybe an apology to them is due. I do not know. That is another issue. I do know that we need to apologize to African-Americans.

Many people have told me that apologizing is an empty, meaningless gesture. If it was so meaningless, why has the resolution erupted a fire storm of controversy throughout this Nation? If apologizing were so easy, then why is this resolution so difficult?

No, it is not easy to apologize. It is the right thing to do. Today 134 years later, it is not too late, but let us wait no longer. We are a nation of immigrants. Those who came as free men went in one direction. Those who came from slave ships, another. If we are to travel towards a common future, we owe it to our children to clearly mark that the early fork in the road was the wrong way.

This is a simple resolution. It simply reads:

[Page: H3891] GPO ' s PDF

Resolved by the House of Representatives that the Congress apologizes to African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and laws of the United States until 1865.

-
- Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, there is only one thing worse than committing an injustice. There is perhaps only one thing that makes a mistake last forever, and that Mr. Speaker is the failure to offer an apology and to ask for forgiveness. We cannot make amends to our ancestors who were slaves. We cannot right all the wrongs of the past which have contributed to racism and economic injustice. But, we can say that this Nation is very sorry for the saddest chapter in its history.
- One of the most profound changes in the history of this society occurred more than 100 years ago. The Civil War rocked the roots of this Nation. The war tested the resolve of the American people to form a more perfect union. It brought an end to slavery --the curse that robbed thousands of Americans of their basic human rights and sabotaged the fundamental premise of equality to

which every person is entitled.

- The end of slavery in the 19th century and the establishment of the Civil Rights Act in the 20th century were turning points in the history of this Nation. Now, as we approach the 21st century it is time to move further ahead in our quest for a truly democratic society.
- On Saturday, President Clinton gave a major address on the race problem that plagues our Nation. In this spirit we embrace the Resolution to Apologize for Slavery . May we begin now to chart the next course toward the achievement of a truly equal, truly color-blind society.
- Mr. Speaker, I join other colleagues in cosponsoring the House concurrent resolution to apologize to all African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves. This apology is long overdue, but it is never too late to do what is right.

THIS SEARCH

Next Hit

Prev Hit

Hit List

THIS DOCUMENT

Forward

Back

Best Sections

Doc Contents

THIS CR ISSUE

Next Document

Prev Document

Daily Digest

GO TO

New CR Search

HomePage

Help

FROM : THOMAS FOODS INC

PHONE NO. : 908 968 6944

May. 26 2000 03:05PM P2/2

AFRICAN-AMERICAN PERMANENT FUND
P. O. Box 6141
Somerset, NJ 08873

May 19, 2000

Mr. John Podesta, Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

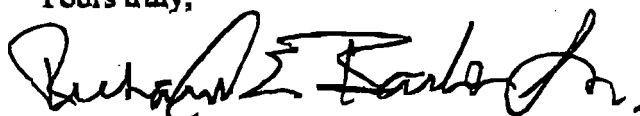
Dear Mr. Podesta:

In accordance with a series of letters over the last year with President Clinton on the issue of reparations for the descendants of slaves, I am requesting a meeting with the President on behalf of the African-American Permanent Fund to present a resolution to this very important matter. The attendees will include a delegation of African-American leaders from religious, academic, business, civil rights and political sectors of our community.

Due to the urgency of this matter and conflicts in schedules, we would prefer that you consider the following dates for a meeting: June 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15 or 16, 2000. Upon confirmation of a suitable date, the list of attendees will be forwarded to you.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. If you have questions, I can be reached at 732-873-3827.

Yours truly,



Richard E. Barber, Sr.
President

FROM : THOMAS FOODS INC

PHONE NO. : 908 968 6944

May. 26 2000 03:04PM P1/2

AFRICAN-AMERICAN PERMANENT FUND**P. O. Box 6141****Somerset, NJ 08873**

TO: Ms. Stephanie Streett
White House Scheduling Office
Fax #: 202-456-6208

FROM: ^{REB} Richard E. Barber, Sr., President
African-American Permanent Fund
Telephone # 732-873-3827

DATE: May 19, 2000

Please note that I spoke with Rachel, in Mr. John Podesta's office, relative to a meeting with President Clinton. (Please see attached letter)

Thanks.

5-26-2000

TO: Ms Carrie Streett
From: Richard E. Barber SR
(732) 873-3827

Per our telephone conversation today,
I am providing you a copy of the
letter faxed to ms. Stephanie
Streett on May 19th. Please
review and respond ASAP. Thanks

AFRICAN-AMERICAN PERMANENT FUND
P.O. Box 6141
Somerset, NJ 08875

December 14, 1999

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

"If not now" - When?
"If not you" - Then Who?

I refer, Mr. President, to my letter to you dated September 22, 1999 and my request that you address "the unfinished business of the 20th Century," referred to as Operation Right Cause. It is within your power to do what no past President has had the moral or political courage to do, and no future President may have the available financial resources and opportunity to do. With an unprecedented period of economic prosperity from Wall Street to Main Street and a federal budget surplus - thanks to your leadership and Administration policies - now is the time to support Operation Right Cause and address "the unfinished business of the 20th Century."

I have met with Congressman Richard Gephardt and provided him a political strategy to consider for successfully achieving the goals of Operations Right Cause. Your last State of the Union Address to the nation would be an ideal forum to announce this initiative.

Finally, Mr. President, on a personal note, one (1) year before you announced your candidacy for the White House, I escorted you and Carroll Willis through the Congressional Black Caucus Prayer Breakfast. I made introductions and took pictures of you and many in the audience, among them were the following:

- Rev. H. Beecher Hicks, Senior Pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, DC.
- Bishop J. Clinton Hoggard, Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Bishop H. Brookins, Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, California
- Ms. Susan Taylor, Senior Editor of Essence Magazine
- Dr. Maya Angelou, Author, Poet, Professor, An American Legend

Little did these persons know and realize at that time, that they were meeting and shaking the hand of the next President of the United States. My point, Mr. President, is that "one good deed deserves another." I pray that now you reciprocate and fully support Operation Right Cause.

I would like to meet with you or your designated representative to discuss this matter in detail. May God continue to bless you and your family, and the America that we both love.

Yours truly,

Richard E. Barber, Sr., President
732-873-3827

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 7, 1999

PERSONAL

Mr. Richard E. Barber, Sr.
President
African-American Permanent Fund
Post Office Box 6141
Somerset, New Jersey 08875

Dear Richard:

Thank you for the copies of *The Economic Emancipation of African-Americans: "Let the Church Say, Amen."* I look forward to reading your work.

Thanks, too, for your thoughtful letter and the materials regarding financial compensation for the descendents of slaves. I appreciate having your insights on this issue, and I have shared your recommendations with members of my staff. Be assured that my Administration remains committed to eradicating all forms of discrimination in our country and to empowering those who, throughout history, have been excluded from political, economic, and educational opportunities. Building on the foundation laid by the President's Initiative on Race, the White House Office on the President's Initiative for One America is working to address the racial issues that have divided our nation for far too long. As we continue working to forge a more just and unified America, I am grateful for your input. Best regards.

Sincerely,



AFRICAN-AMERICAN PERMANENT FUND
P.O. Box 6141
Somerset, NJ 08875

September 7, 1999

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to bring to your personal attention some "unfinished business of the 20th Century," with the hope that you will address this matter with the full authority of your office.

At the dawn of the 20th Century, Dr. W.E. DuBois forewarned America "that the greatest domestic problem it faced would be the color line problem." We near the end of this century still plagued by the "color line problem and with the full realization that "race matters."

Mr. President, the "unfinished business" of which I speak, is the matter of compensation to the descendants of slaves for the "evil institution of slavery." Ancestors of African-Americans labored for 246 years without a payday as slaves to build the economic foundation on which America stands today. The legal end of slavery with President Lincoln issuing the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 did not end the legal oppression of the former slaves. The former slaves and their descendents faced another 100 years of federal and state government sanctioned "apartheid" legislative mandates and enactments, Jim Crow laws and "local customs." These discriminatory federal and state laws blocked and/or impeded their economic, education and social upward mobility of African-Americans even our generation.

Mr. President, in the history of our nation, few events have presented themselves where the President and the Congressional Leadership, acting in unison, could make a decision with profound and lasting impact for all ages. Some of those historical events were:

1. The First Continental Congress under the leadership of John Hancock and the delegates with "courage and vision" in the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

2. The tedious efforts of President Abraham Lincoln and the 1863 Congress to maintain the Union and the integrity of our nation, notwithstanding a divisive and brutal Civil War.
3. The "leadership and vision" of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congress during the post "Depression Era" in the passage of key legislation to lift the nation to its feet economically. Legislation such as the Social Security Act; Unemployment Act; the March 6, 1933 Bank Holiday to stabilize the banking industry; Public Works Projects, and the GI Bill of Rights, were very vital to America's best interests.
4. President John F. Kennedy's unpopular actions during the turbulent racial crisis and the dark days of the 1960's Civil Rights Movement. He forewarned the nation that notwithstanding the racial turmoil and civil unrest tearing at the basic fabric of America, "the real and greatest tragedy would be to do nothing." Also his commitment of America's scientific genius and resources to the Space Program.
5. The courageous and unpopular decision of President Dwight Eisenhower in sending federal troops into Little Rock, Arkansas on September 24, 1957 to protect nine (9) Black students enrolled in Central High School.
6. President Richard M. Nixon's "visionary and historic" trip to China on February 21, 1972 which opened up a vast consumer and commercial market to American businesses.
7. President Ronald Reagan's extraordinary leadership in ending the Cold War between America and the Soviet Union, and the removal of the Berlin Wall of Shame.

Now, Mr. President, it is your turn to act with that same "unwavering courage and statesman-like leadership" as your predecessors mentioned above, you have a "unique and historic" opportunity to act with wisdom and in the best interest of the nation in the spirit of Proverbs 29:18 - Where there is no vision, the people perish." Your positive action and leadership will help "heal and bind up the nation's wounds of the past," help close a "sad and ugly chapter" in America's history, and prepare "One America" to cross the bridge to the 21st Century.

During the debate by Congress of the Tobacco Bill in the Spring of 1998, I provided the Congressional Leadership the attached document on this matter. However, only Senator Lott acknowledged receipt and responded by letter, with no response from the others.

Specifically, Mr. President, I am respectfully requesting your consideration of the following:

1. With America in an unprecedented period of economic prosperity from Wall Street to Main Street – thanks to your leadership and administration policies – a commitment of fifty (50) billion dollars to the African American Permanent Fund from the projected budget surplus of one (1) trillion dollars over the next ten (10) years;
2. Request that the various States, which have reached a financial settlement of 249 billion dollars with the Tobacco Industry, likewise commit (50) billion dollars to the African-American Permanent Fund. The rationale for this request Mr. President is that since the Federal Government has paid a reported fifty-five percent (55%) of Medicaid costs to the States, the Federal Government can rightfully claim a proportionate share of their tobacco settlement.

Subsequent to your review of my letter and the attached document, I would like to meet with you or your designated representative to discuss this matter in detail and a political strategy for its achievement. Finally, Mr. President, please reflect on the possibility that your meeting President John F. Kennedy more than 35 years ago was "divinely inspired," and that meeting ignited something in your "inner soul and spirit" to likewise become President of the United States. Maybe, Mr. President, just maybe, God has placed you in the White House with the awesome power as President "for such a time as this." A time to right a historic wrong, a time to do the right thing at this point in our history, and for the right reasons. African-Americans – the descendants of slaves – rightfully deserve both an apology for the "evil institution of slavery and compensation." It is within your power to do what no past President has had the political and moral courage to do, and no future President may have the available financial resources and opportunity to do. Let history record that you forthrightly addressed this "unfinished business of the 20th Century," to fulfill the obligations of that promissory note of which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke in his "I Have a Dream" Speech at the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963.

I pray that God will give you the wisdom and vision to address this important issue, and may God bless you, and continue to bless America.

Yours truly,

Richard E. Barber, Sr., President

CONFIDENTIAL

June 15, 1998

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
INITIALS: Ry DATE: 9/9/2017
2017-1120-5

TO: Honorable Trent Lott, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Thomas Daschle, Senate Minority Leader
Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House
Honorable Richard A. Gephardt, House Minority Leader

FROM: Ry Richard E. Barber, Sr.
11 Seely Run Road
Somerset, NJ 08873

SUBJECT: A RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION OF THE CURRENT
TOBACCO CRISIS AND A WIN-WIN STRATEGY FOR
THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY AND AMERICA

Gentlemen:

In the history of our nation, few events have presented themselves where the President and the Congressional leadership, acting in unison, could make a decision with profound and lasting impact for all ages. Some of those events were:

1. The First Continental Congress under the leadership of John Hancock and the delegates with "courage and vision" in the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
2. The tedious efforts of President Abraham Lincoln and the 1863 Congress to maintain the Union and the integrity of our nation notwithstanding the divisive and brutal Civil War.
3. The "leadership and vision" of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congress during the post "Depression Era" in the passage of key legislation to lift the nation to its feet economically. Legislation such as the Social Security Act; Unemployment Act; the March 6, 1933 Bank Holiday to stabilize the banking industry; Public Works Projects, and the GI Bill of Rights, were very vital to America's best interests.
4. President John F. Kennedy's unpopular actions during the turbulent racial crisis and the dark days of the 1960's Civil Rights movement. He forewarned the nation that notwithstanding the racial turmoil and civil unrest tearing at the basic fabric of America, "the real and greatest tragedy would be to do nothing."
5. The courageous and unpopular decision of President Dwight Eisenhower in sending federal troops into Little Rock, Arkansas on September 24, 1957 to protect nine (9) Black students enroll in Central High School.
6. President Richard M. Nixon's "visionary and historic" trip to China on February 21, 1972 which opened up a vast consumer and commercial market to American businesses.
7. President Ronald Reagan's extraordinary leadership in ending the Cold War between America and the Soviet Union, and the removal of the Berlin Wall of Shame.

Page 2

Now it is your turn to act with that same "unwavering courage, statesman-like leadership and scriptural vision." "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18. The Tobacco Bill presently being debated in Congress provides you that "unique and historic" opportunity to act with wisdom and in the best interest of the nation just as your predecessors.

The attached document provides recommendations for an amendment to the Tobacco Bill which will help "heal and bind up the nation's wounds of the past," and prepare "One America" to enter the 21st Century. Your inclusion and passage of legislation with these recommendations will confirm your places in history and have a tremendous positive impact domestically and internationally for thousands of years to come.

I would respectfully caution the Congress to refrain from punitive legislation against the Tobacco Industry. While in years past the collective behavior of certain industry representatives may have been considered reprehensible and in many cases less than honorable, lest we forget the billions of dollars contributed to our economy and the millions of our fellow citizens employed in this industry since 1612.

I fully support and commend your efforts to curb teen smoking and reduce health risks. However, if history is any teacher, an unreasonable increase in the cigarette tax in my judgment, will not achieve it. If teenagers can purchase \$150 to \$200 sneakers, and they do, they will most certainly find a way to continue to purchase cigarettes notwithstanding the tax increase. Parents, schools, and youth organizations must play a vital and key role in this endeavor.

Finally, there is a passage in an advertisement from a January 2, 1915 Saturday Evening Post Magazine entitled "The Penalty of Leadership" which accurately describes the challenge and opportunity presented to you.

"There is nothing new in this . It is as old as the world and human passions - envy, fear, greed, ambition, and the desire to surpass; And it all avails nothing. If the leader truly leads , he remains - the leader. Master - poet, master-painter, master-workman, each in his turn is assailed, and each holds his laurels through the ages. That which is good or great makes itself known, no matter how loud the clamor of denial. That which deserves to live - lives."

I am confident that with your bipartisan leadership, your colleagues in the Congress will enact sound and responsible Tobacco legislation. I would like to meet with you to discuss this matter in detail. I shall await your response.

May God Bless you, and continue to Bless America.

Richard E. Barber, Sr.
(732) 873-3827

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION OF THE CURRENT TOBACCO
CRISIS AND A WIN-WIN STRATEGY FOR THE TOBACCO
INDUSTRY AND AMERICA

By: Richard E. Barber, Sr.
11 Seely Run Road
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-873-3827
May 2, 1998

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
INITIALS: Ry DATE: 9/9/2017
2017-1120-5

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," so wrote Charles Dickens in 1859 in describing conditions in England and France in 1775. Charles Dickens must have also looked through the telescope of time, and observed the current tobacco debate in America when he wrote those lines in his book – The Tale of Two Cities. The comparison seems so appropriate as the tobacco industry faces mounting domestic and international litigation and possibly punitive Congressional legislation on the one hand, and increasing foreign sales and market share on the other.

Since 1612 when Tobacco was first introduced in the Commonwealth of Virginia by John Rolfe, an English colonist, it has been an integral part of the American economy. Over the period of 376 years, the tobacco industry has contributed billions of dollars to the economy through domestic and export of tobacco products and provided employment for millions of American citizens. Notwithstanding these facts, tobacco products in recent

years have been under close scrutiny due to possible negative health consequences according to scientific researchers. The purpose of this paper is to provide a win-win strategy for the tobacco industry and America using historical events as the basis and guide.

While I fully support credible efforts to reduce or limit teen smoking, one must remember that smoking, even with its reported nicotine additive qualities, whether by teens or adults, is a personal choice. Yet, I don't remember nor have ever heard reported a serious vehicle accident caused by a driver "under the influence of nicotine." This in no way minimizes the seriousness of teen smoking, however, I believe that it should be put into proper perspective. As I indicated, I fully support credible, credible efforts to address and reduce teen smoking. However, I believe that the efforts of the Clinton Administration and the Congress to achieve it are both misguided and may be destructive to the economy. Increasing the cigarette tax to \$1.10 per pack, or \$3.00 per pack for that matter will, in my judgement, be no more effective in reducing teen smoking than Prohibition had on the consumption of alcoholic beverages. I believe that efforts to increase the cigarette tax, however honorable, will simply result in contributing to a thriving and lucrative "underground economy," as Senator Orrin Hatch has suggested.

If smoking (direct or secondary smoke), whether by teens or adults, is having such dire health consequences on American citizens, why doesn't the Congress simply outlaw the growing of tobacco and use of tobacco products within our borders? I am sure that China, which produces two and one half times more tobacco than American farmers, would welcome that action and be forever grateful.

It appears to the general public that the tobacco industry as a "cash cow" is more important to the Congress than the actual reduction of teen smoking. Yet, under the guise of a serious commitment to the reduction of teen smoking, Congressional legislative initiatives, which may bankrupt the tobacco industry and aid the "underground economy" continue to be brought forth and debated.

Let me state for the record that my views and assessment of the tobacco controversy may be somewhat bias, in that I grew up on a tobacco farm in the leading tobacco producing state, North Carolina. Thanks to tobacco, seven (7) of nine (9) of my brothers and sisters received their college education, the other two (2) were educated on the GI Bill and by their own efforts. My father was a "Master Tobacco Farmer" for over fifty (50) years, a pipe smoker, cigars and also chewed tobacco. Yet only two (2) of the nine (9) siblings are smokers, and I am not one of them. Smoking

is a personal choice and parents, schools, churches and community groups can play a very vital role in the reduction of teen smoking. The total responsibility for the reduction of teen smoking should not rest with the tobacco industry alone.

In addressing the role that slavery played in the development of the tobacco industry, I do not believe for one moment that it was a "historical coincidence" that slavery was introduced in America (Virginia) in 1619, just seven (7) years after the introduction of tobacco in Virginia in 1612. The American colonists needed cheap labor, or better still free labor for this expanding new crop, and what better way to ^{boost}~~boost~~ its profitability than the institution of slavery.

If forty (40) state attorney generals can make the case that "the tobacco industry should reimburse the states for tax money spent caring for sick smokers," then I can make the case for compensation of African-Americans using that "same logic without any spinology." For it was on the "backs, sweat and toil of slaves" that tobacco became a lucrative crop in an expanding agricultural economy and cornerstone in the building of America. Slaves were simply "chattel property," no different than a mule, an oxen or any other component of the economic system of a young and developing America. Slavery was the ultimate in "full employment," and the ancestors

of African-Americans worked for "246 years without a pay day." Smoking, with possible addiction and health risks, is still a personal choice. Slavery was not by choice, it was an institution sanctioned by the United States Government. Yet, I have read of no serious efforts by the U.S. Congress to compensate the descendents of slaves or other African-Americans for their involuntary or voluntary contributions to this Mega Billion dollar industry.

At this point in the history of our country, it is imperative that the Congress demonstrate the moral courage, a sense of historical fairness, and the bold leadership to address the issue of slavery and reparations in a direct and forthright manner on behalf of African-Americans. Likewise the tobacco industry as a whole should demonstrate that it has the moral obligation to do so as the primary and direct beneficiary of free and cheap labor by African-Americans and their ancestors. My greatest fear now is that slavery and the reparation issue, and institutional racism, with all its divisive and destructive consequences, will be carried over the "bridge into the 21st Century" to plague America for yet another one hundred (100) years. With the support and enactment of the recommendations as outlined in this document, a healing process can begin and all Americans will be the beneficiaries.

For those who may doubt my analysis and assessment of the contributions of slavery to the tobacco industry and the building of America, I encourage them to read that scholarly and insightful book by Dr. Claud Anderson entitled - Black Labor - White Wealth, - The Search for Power and Economic Justice.

Notwithstanding the dilemma in which the tobacco industry finds itself, now is not the time for "Summer soldiers or sunshine patriots." Now is not the time for the Congress to blink, withdraw nor retreat from this battle. The tobacco industry is a legitimate business with certain legal rights and has contributed much to the economic and social fabric of America. While the industry cannot change its history nor past behavior, the Congress can enact reasonable and responsible legislation which provides the industry a unique opportunity for a "new beginning" with the America public.

Therefore, my recommendations to the Congress are as follows:

1. Support and enact legislation which will confirm the tobacco industry's June 20, 1997 368 billion dollar settlement with the various states with the following modifications:
 - Increase the 368 billion dollar settlement by 32 billion dollars for a total of 400 billion dollars, with a mandated stipulation that twenty

(20) percent of the 400 billion dollars, or eighty (80) billion dollars be designated for Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) institutions for education and economic/community development purposes.

Secondly, mandate that the eighty (80) billion dollars to the HBCU institutions be paid over the next ten (10) year period at the rate of eight (8) billion dollars annually.

2. Recommend that the African-American Permanent Fund be established with a fifteen (15) member Board of Trustees to manage the allocated funds with membership consisting of the following persons selected by their respective organizations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| - National Association for Equal-
Opportunity (NAFEO) in Higher
Education | Four (4) members one of whom
shall serve as Chairperson. |
| - United Negro College Fund -
(UNCF) | Three (3) |
| - Tobacco Industry | - One (1) |
| - Congress | - One (1) to be named by
Congressional Black Caucus. |
| - National Association for the
Advancement of Colored
People (NAACP) | - One (1) |

- National Urban League - One (1)
- Southern Christian Leadership Conference - One (1)
- National Council of Negro Women - One (1)
- National 4H Council - Two (2) youth representatives under twenty (20) years of age

Further recommend that the Congress and the Philanthropic community match the eighty (80) billion dollars HBCU allocation on a 50/50 basis at the rate of four (4) billion dollars annually paid over the next twenty (20) year period.



RICHARD EARL BARBER, the son of a Trenton, North Carolina farmer, was born December 22, 1939. His determined efforts through undergraduate school at North Carolina A&T State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and graduate school at the University of Southern California with a Master of Science degree in Systems Management, with additional graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh in Business Administration, earned him numerous awards, accolades, and the reputation of having that unusual combination of sensitivity and courage.

His concern for others and a strong personal desire to improve the economic status of the poor and downtrodden serves as the great motivating forces in his life. These forces prompted him to give up a promising corporate career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation in 1969 to join the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) as Deputy Director. He considers Dr. Leon Sullivan his economic mentor. He co-founded Urban Talent Development (UTD) Inc., a management Development and Business Orientation Center, with Brady Keys, Jr., former Pittsburgh Steeler. During his seven (7) years as President, UTD trained and placed more than 1400 unemployed and underemployed persons in meaningful employment. The UTD story is a classic in manpower and management success and was cited in the Congressional Record in 1974 as one of the Nation's most effective manpower development programs. Under his dynamic, creative and inspirational leadership, New World National Bank, the only African-American owned full service commercial bank in Pennsylvania was organized in Pittsburgh. Referred to as the "Economic Evangelist", he organized 200 churches and raised \$800,000.00 to open the bank on March 17, 1975.

He served as Deputy Executive Director of the National NAACP with Dr. Benjamin Hooks in New York and as Regional Administrator of the Small Business Administration in the Carter Administration. In this position, he was responsible for small business activities in the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. At the state level, he served as Deputy Secretary for Procurement for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In 1984, he founded Penny Lovers of America, Inc., a scholarship and economic development organization and serves as National President.

Some of the numerous awards and recognitions he has received include the George Washington Freedom Medals - 1963 and 1964 for creative writing, Pittsburgh Jaycees' Outstanding Young Man of Pittsburgh - 1971; A&T State University National Alumni Achievement Award for 1971; one of the ten Outstanding Young Men of America for 1975 by the U.S. Jaycees; Man of the Year in Business by the Pittsburgh Business and Professional Women for 1975; Man of the Year by the World Wide Bible Deliverance Church for 1975. In March of 1990, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of North Carolina A&T by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO).

Barber served his country as a military army officer rising to the rank of Captain.

Articulate, intelligent and dynamic, Dick Barber's many achievements are the result of his pragmatic and positive attitude to life. In whatever role he is placed, one can always expect devotion, dedication and total commitment.

"This book presents an unparalleled challenge to the church community with a practical and comprehensive economic blueprint for African-Americans".

Dr. Manuel Dillingham
Pastor, Church Baptist Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

"A creative and innovative road map for African-Americans seriously committed to entrepreneurship and economic independence".

Parren Mitchell
Former U.S. Congressman
Baltimore, Maryland

"An extraordinary book reflecting genius, vision and an inspirational message of economic self-reliance so necessary for these difficult times".

Wynona Lipman, Senator, Newark, New Jersey

ISBN 0-9634704-0-X



9 780963 470409



50795

<u>THIS SEARCH</u>	<u>THIS DOCUMENT</u>	<u>THIS CR ISSUE</u>	<u>GO TO</u>
<u>Next Hit</u>	<u>Forward</u>	<u>Next Document</u>	<u>New CR Search</u>
<u>Prev Hit</u>	<u>Back</u>	<u>Prev Document</u>	<u>HomePage</u>
<u>Hit List</u>	<u>Best Sections</u>	<u>Daily Digest</u>	<u>Help</u>
	<u>Doc Contents</u>		

Congressional Record article 1 of 50 [Full Display](#) - 7,038 bytes.[\[Help\]](#)

RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING FOR SLAVERY (House of Representatives - June 18, 1997)

[Page: H3890] [GPO's PDF](#)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Hall] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 96. This is a resolution that apologizes for slavery in the United States. It is rather simple. It is only one sentence long. Let me read it:

Resolved by the House of Representatives that the Congress apologizes to African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and the laws of the United States until 1865.

That is simply what it says. It is a very simple idea. The Congress apologizes. It is a powerful message.

When a brother wrongs a brother, he apologizes. That is the foundation for beginning again. That is the price for restoring lost trust. This is the only way to start over. It is a simple gesture. It carries deep meaning. And it is the right thing to do.

When an institution wrongs a people, so it is again the right thing to do. In the name of all Catholics, Pope John Paul II apologized for violence during the 16th century Counter-Reformation and he asked for forgiveness.

Forty years after the Holocaust, the legislature of East Germany apologized for the atrocities committed against the Jews.

Just last month, British Prime Minister Tony Blair apologized for the failure of his country to fully respond to the thousands of deaths during the Irish potato famine of the mid-19th century.

It has been 134 years since slavery ended. Since that time, Congress has taken proud strides forward, done some wonderful things, including civil rights laws. But it is not enough.

Look around. The effects still linger today. Through my work as chairman of the former House Select Committee on Hunger and through my efforts to improve the lives of America's poor, I have seen the effects firsthand. We as a nation must do more. This is not a political gesture, it is not a partisan gesture. It is a very simple gesture and it certainly is the right thing.

The slaves and slave holders are long gone. No one alive today is responsible for slavery. No one alive today was shackled by the chains of slavery in America. Indeed, most Americans are the descendants of people who came to the United States after slavery ended.

All of us today, white and black, live in the shadow of our past. African-Americans today still suffer from the lingering effects. We all pay the price of slavery.

The hatred and racial divisions springing from slavery are very much alive. Let us take this step to bury that hatred with the bones of the slaves and the slave holders.

No Member of Congress today voted on measures to perpetuate slavery . But the Congress as an institution does bear responsibility. The laws we passed ignored, even encouraged slavery . Our Constitution, the foundation for the Congress, and our Government even declared at one time that a black man was only three-fifths of a person.

Congress is a great institution. It is the most respected deliberative body in the world. At least three times in recent years, Congress formally apologized.

In 1988, it apologized to the Japanese-Americans who were interned in the United States during World War II.

In 1993, Congress offered a formal apology to native Hawaiians for the role the United States and U.S citizens played in the overthrow of the government of the Kingdom of Hawaii 100 years earlier.

In 1990, Congress apologized to uranium miners, people affected by nuclear tests in Nevada, and their families.

An apology by Congress is rare, it is special, but it is not without precedence. Apologizing is symbolic, but it has a great meaning for those who are apologizing and it has power for those who are wronged.

Why apologize to just African-Americans for slavery ? What about all the other people who have been wronged by laws passed by the Congress? The wrongs against African-Americans are clear to everyone. The consequences are severe. Maybe we have wronged others. Maybe an apology to them is due. I do not know. That is another issue. I do know that we need to apologize to African-Americans.

Many people have told me that apologizing is an empty, meaningless gesture. If it was so meaningless, why has the resolution erupted a fire storm of controversy throughout this Nation? If apologizing were so easy, then why is this resolution so difficult?

No, it is not easy to apologize. It is the right thing to do. Today 134 years later, it is not too late, but let us wait no longer. We are a nation of immigrants. Those who came as free men went in one direction. Those who came from slave ships, another. If we are to travel towards a common future, we owe it to our children to clearly mark that the early fork in the road was the wrong way.

This is a simple resolution. It simply reads:

[Page: H3891] GPO's PDF

Resolved by the House of Representatives that the Congress apologizes to African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and laws of the United States until 1865.

-
- Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, there is only one thing worse than committing an injustice. There is perhaps only one thing that makes a mistake last forever, and that Mr. Speaker is the failure to offer an apology and to ask for forgiveness. We cannot make amends to our ancestors who were slaves. We cannot right all the wrongs of the past which have contributed to racism and economic injustice. But, we can say that this Nation is very sorry for the saddest chapter in its history.
- One of the most profound changes in the history of this society occurred more than 100 years ago. The Civil War rocked the roots of this Nation. The war tested the resolve of the American people to form a more perfect union. It brought an end to slavery --the curse that robbed thousands of Americans of their basic human rights and sabotaged the fundamental premise of equality to

which every person is entitled.

- The end of slavery in the 19th century and the establishment of the Civil Rights Act in the 20th century were turning points in the history of this Nation. Now, as we approach the 21st century it is time to move further ahead in our quest for a truly democratic society.
- On Saturday, President Clinton gave a major address on the race problem that plagues our Nation. In this spirit we embrace the Resolution to Apologize for Slavery . May we begin now to chart the next course toward the achievement of a truly equal, truly color-blind society.
- Mr. Speaker, I join other colleagues in cosponsoring the House concurrent resolution to apologize to all African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves. This apology is long overdue, but it is never too late to do what is right.

THIS SEARCH

Next Hit

Prev Hit

Hit List

THIS DOCUMENT

Forward

Back

Best Sections

Doc Contents

THIS CR ISSUE

Next Document

Prev Document

Daily Digest

GO TO

New CR Search

HomePage

Help

Irene Bueno
06/14/2000 12:31:21 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: robert b. johnson/who/eop@eop, minyon moore/who/eop@eop, broderick johnson/who/eop@eop, maria echaveste/who/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: Slavery - apology proposal 

I could not find anything from this Congress but below is the text of the resolution that was introduced during the last Congress.

RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING FOR SLAVERY (House of Representatives - June 18, 1997)

[Page: H3890] GPO's PDF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Hall] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 96. This is a resolution that apologizes for slavery in the United States. It is rather simple. It is only one sentence long. Let me read it:

Resolved by the House of Representatives that the Congress apologizes to African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and the laws of the United States until 1865.

That is simply what it says. It is a very simple idea. The Congress apologizes. It is a powerful message.

When a brother wrongs a brother, he apologizes. That is the foundation for beginning again. That is the price for restoring lost trust. This is the only way to start over. It is a simple gesture. It carries deep meaning. And it is the right thing to do.

When an institution wrongs a people, so it is again the right thing to do. In the name of all Catholics, Pope John Paul II apologized for violence during the 16th century Counter-Reformation and he asked for forgiveness.

Forty years after the Holocaust, the legislature of East Germany apologized for the atrocities committed against the Jews.

Just last month, British Prime Minister Tony Blair apologized for the failure of his country to fully respond to the thousands of deaths during the Irish potato famine of the mid-19th century.

It has been 134 years since slavery ended. Since that time, Congress has taken proud strides forward, done some wonderful things, including civil rights laws. But it is not enough.

Look around. The effects still linger today. Through my work as chairman of the former House Select Committee on Hunger and through my efforts to improve the lives of America's poor, I have seen the effects firsthand. We as a nation must do more. This is not a political gesture, it is not a partisan gesture, it is a very simple gesture and it certainly is the right thing.

The slaves and slave holders are long gone. No one alive today is responsible for slavery. No one alive today was shackled by the chains of slavery in America. Indeed, most Americans are the descendants of people who came to the United States after slavery ended.

All of us today, white and black, live in the shadow of our past. African-Americans today still suffer from the lingering effects. We all pay the price of slavery .

The hatred and racial divisions springing from slavery are very much alive. Let us take this step to bury that hatred with bones of the slaves and the slave holders.

No Member of Congress today voted on measures to perpetuate slavery . But the Congress as an institution does bear responsibility. The laws we passed ignored, even encouraged slavery . Our Constitution, the foundation for the Congress and our Government even declared at one time that a black man was only three-fifths of a person.

Congress is a great institution. It is the most respected deliberative body in the world. At least three times in recent years Congress formally apologized.

In 1988, it apologized to the Japanese-Americans who were interned in the United States during World War II.

In 1993, Congress offered a formal apology to native Hawaiians for the role the United States and U.S. citizens played in the overthrow of the government of the Kingdom of Hawaii 100 years earlier.

In 1990, Congress apologized to uranium miners, people affected by nuclear tests in Nevada, and their families.

An apology by Congress is rare, it is special, but it is not without precedence. Apologizing is symbolic, but it has a great meaning for those who are apologizing and it has power for those who are wronged.

Why apologize to just African-Americans for slavery ? What about all the other people who have been wronged by laws passed by the Congress? The wrongs against African-Americans are clear to everyone. The consequences are severe. Maybe we have wronged others. Maybe an apology to them is due. I do not know. That is another issue. I do know that we need to apologize to African-Americans.

Many people have told me that apologizing is an empty, meaningless gesture. If it was so meaningless, why has the resolution erupted a fire storm of controversy throughout this Nation? If apologizing were so easy, then why is this resolution so difficult?

No, it is not easy to apologize. It is the right thing to do. Today 134 years later, it is not too late, but let us wait no longer. We are a nation of immigrants. Those who came as free men went in one direction. Those who came from slave ships, another. If we are to travel towards a common future, we owe it to our children to clearly mark that the early fork in the road was the wrong way.

This is a simple resolution. It simply reads:

[Page: H3891] GPO's PDF

Resolved by the House of Representatives that the Congress apologizes to African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and laws of the United States until 1865.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, there is only one thing worse than committing an injustice. There is perhaps only one thing that makes a mistake last forever, and that Mr. Speaker is the failure to offer an apology and to ask for forgiveness. We cannot make amends to our ancestors who were slaves. We cannot right all the wrongs of the past which have contributed to racism and economic injustice. But, we can say that this Nation is very sorry for the saddest chapter in its history.

One of the most profound changes in the history of this society occurred more than 100 years ago. The Civil War rocked the roots of this Nation. The war tested the resolve of the American people to form a more perfect union. It

brought an end to slavery --the curse that robbed thousands of Americans of their basic human rights and sabotaged the fundamental premise of equality to which every person is entitled.

The end of slavery in the 19th century and the establishment of the Civil Rights Act in the 20th century were turning points in the history of this Nation. Now, as we approach the 21st century it is time to move further ahead in our quest for a truly democratic society.

On Saturday, President Clinton gave a major address on the race problem that plagues our Nation. In this spirit we embrace the Resolution to Apologize for Slavery . May we begin now to chart the next course toward the achievement of a truly equal, truly color-blind society.

Mr. Speaker, I join other colleagues in cosponsoring the House concurrent resolution to apologize to all African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves. This apology is long overdue, but it is never too late to do what is right.

Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno
06/14/2000 12:20:35 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP, Robert B. Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: minyon moore/who/eop@eop, broderick johnson/who/eop@eop, maria echaveste/who/eop@eop
bcc: Records Management@EOP
Subject: Re: Slavery - apology proposal

Ben - I meant to send this too you. sorry
Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno
06/14/2000 12:19:52 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP@EOP, Broderick Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Slavery - apology proposal

Per Maria, April Ryan is very interested in our position on Rep. Tony Hall's resolution that the government apologize for slavery. Maria asks what we should say about this proposal. I will search for the text of this resolution but I recall that Rep. Hall introduced this resolution in the past. Please let us know. Thanks.