

Many of my colleagues have been looking at scandal within the IRS. Whatever problems they uncover or imagine, the real scandal is how the Republican budget is treating the American public and the people who work for them at the vital service of the Internal Revenue Service.

TRIBUTE TO KATRINA ADAMS, PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Katrina Adams, president of the United States Tennis Association.

Mr. Speaker, the community in which I live, work, and represent is well-known for its production of high-profile and world renowned male athletes, individuals like Ernie Terrell, world heavyweight champion; basketball stars Doc Rivers, Isaiah Thomas, Mark Aguirre, Mickey Johnson, Kevin Garnett; footballer Darryl Stingley; and countless others who have excelled in athletics. All of them are males.

However, I take this opportunity to mention two females. One is Dorothy Gaters, the girls' basketball coach and athletic director at the John Marshall High School in Chicago, Illinois, the winningest high school basketball coach in the Nation. The other is Katrina Adams, who grew up not far from Marshall High School and whose parents still live in the East Garfield Park community.

Earlier this year, Katrina Adams became the first African American and the first former pro tennis player to become president and CEO of the United States Tennis Association, which is a 134-year-old organization that had barred Black athletes from its premier event—the U.S. National Championship, currently known as the U.S. Open—until 1950, when it allowed Althea Gibson to compete.

At 46, Adams is the youngest of the 53 people—among them, just four women—who have been the USTA leaders, an unpaid volunteer position.

In an article done by the Chicago Tribune, the writer states that, although her term lasts only 2 years, Adams understands that her being the face of the U.S. Tennis Association can have a significant impact, especially at a moment when the best female player in the world, Serena Williams, is also an African American.

Katrina is supposed to have said:

I think having an African American as president is a huge statement. It shows how far we have come within the USTA as a whole.

As family, friends, community leaders, old coaches, volunteers, and tennis fans gathered to congratulate and honor Katrina, they were reminded of something her mother, Yvonne, told her many years ago.

Her mother said:

Katrina, other little Black girls may not want to reach where you are, but they will want you to do well, and you are showing them they can do it if they put their minds to it.

Philip Hersch also mentions in his article something that Billie Jean King is supposed to have said to her friend Katrina. She said:

Katrina, if you can see it, you can be it.

Her being the first person of color as the U.S. Tennis Association president—and as a former pro besides—sends a strong message.

Her family, friends, and former classmates at Whitney Young High School, at Northwestern University, and in the East Garfield Park community were, indeed, a proud bunch as they gathered to salute the young lady they had watched grow up in the inner city, become a high school and college tennis star, a tennis pro, and, ultimately, the president of the United States Tennis Association.

Congratulations to you, Katrina. We are all proud of your accomplishments.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME EQUALITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing a bill to extend the Supplemental Security Income program, known as SSI, to Puerto Rico.

Of all of the disparities that Puerto Rico faces because it is a territory and not a State, few are as damaging as its exclusion from SSI.

SSI provides monthly cash assistance to blind, disabled, or elderly individuals who have limited or no income. We are talking about the most vulnerable members of our society. SSI applies in all 50 States and in the District of Columbia. However, since the program's inception in 1974, it has not been extended to Puerto Rico. Instead, the Federal grant program, known as Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, or AABD, applies in Puerto Rico.

The Social Security Administration sends monthly SSI payments directly to beneficiaries; whereas the AABD program is administered by the Puerto Rico Government, using an annual block grant provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The gap between the treatment that is provided to beneficiaries in the 50 States and the treatment that is provided to their fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico is, in a word, shocking.

According to the most recent Federal statistics, the average SSI payment to beneficiaries is \$540 a month and is close to \$650 a month for beneficiaries who are under the age of 18. By contrast, based on the most recent data that has been furnished to my office, the block grant that the Federal Government provides to the Puerto Rico Government is only \$33 million a year.

With this limited funding, the Puerto Rico Government provides an average payment to adult beneficiaries of just \$74 a month. Let me repeat that—\$540 a month in the States versus \$74 a month in Puerto Rico. To add insult to injury, the Puerto Rico Government is legally required to meet a 25 percent match in order to receive this block grant. The States, obviously, do not have to make any matching payments for their residents to receive SSI assistance.

In 2014, the GAO estimated that, if Puerto Rico were a State, it would receive up to \$1.8 billion a year under SSI. That is 54 times as much as the territory receives annually under AABD. Again, let me repeat that—54 times greater. The GAO estimated that, if Puerto Rico were a State, 300,000 island residents would qualify for SSI payments. Under the current program in Puerto Rico, only 35,000 individuals receive assistance. Thus, Puerto Rico's exclusion from the SSI program means that its government cannot provide decent monthly payments to residents who cannot support themselves. It also means that the Puerto Rico Government cannot assist hundreds of thousands of extraordinarily needy residents at all.

Those who seek proof of how Puerto Rico is harmed by its territory status need look no further than the treatment it receives under SSI. Those who want to comprehend why, roughly, 240,000 island residents relocated to the States between 2010 and 2014 in search of a better quality of life should realize that Puerto Rico's unequal treatment under key Federal programs, including—but not limited to—SSI, is a major contributing factor to this migration.

Let me be crystal clear on this point. Politicians in Puerto Rico and the States who defend Puerto Rico's current status must accept the undeniable truth that this status is harming the people of Puerto Rico. When they rationalize or excuse Puerto Rico's territory status, they are complicit in Puerto Rico's mistreatment.

But make no mistake. The era of inequality is coming to an end. I stand side by side with a large and growing army of proud U.S. citizens from Puerto Rico who refuse to accept such shameful treatment any longer. We believe in full equality for Puerto Rico under the American flag. We will fight for it until we achieve it, and we will achieve it soon.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I address the House to discuss a number of concerns that I believe we need to confront as quickly as possible.

Yesterday and today commemorate, sadly, the snatching of over 200 girls from northern Nigeria—the area in which the girls lost their innocence and their right to a good quality of life.