

There is compelling evidence to show that reaching middle class earnings has been on the decline since 1980. According to the University of Michigan's Panel Study on Dynamics, which has tracked the same families since 1968, they found that 65 percent of white American men who turned 21 before 1980 were earning middle class wages—twice the poverty level—by the age of 30. By comparison, only 47 percent of those who reached the age of 21 after 1980 were able to reach this same level of earning power. Blacks do not fare half as well, reaching 29 and 19 percent, respectively.

Since there are more people without a college education than people with the benefit of a higher education, these workers tend to be far more insecure and anxious.

Education can be an influential factor as to how successful an individual will be in securing a well-paid job. Education is becoming a much more important factor in finding good job opportunities than ever before. As a result, the gap in income distribution is increasing, and this is adding to blue collar anxiety.

We must find ways to encourage our workers to get the necessary jobs skills to compete in this high tech global economy. We must also find a way to provide this training to re-train our workers.

We must expand our technological base and find creative and innovative methods to create new industries. In the past, we have been able to transfer a worker's knowledge and ability into learning new skills to allow them to participate in a new job market. A good example of this is when Henry Ford created the automobile and displaced the horse and buggy trade.

What happened is a lesson that we should all try to emulate. These same workers started working in the Ford factories that had displaced them. The telecommunications bill passed by Congress and signed into law by the President will provide the same type of opportunities by creating millions of new jobs.

So far, President Clinton hasn't delivered. If we balance the budget, we will be well on our way to jump starting.

Why is a 7-year balanced budget so important? Many leading economists believe that a balanced budget would result in a drop in interest rates of up to 2 percent. For a 30-year, \$75,000 mortgage, that's \$37,000 saved over the life of the loan. Americans will have more take home pay because our budget includes a \$500 per child tax credit. We also have true welfare reform, which is a No. 1 priority for most Americans.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER W. KRUEGER, A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II AND FOUGHT FOR VETERANS' RIGHTS

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of an American soldier, a man who dedicated his life to the defense of the freedoms that we enjoy and to the veterans who paid for those freedoms with their sacrifice. I respectfully request that the

U.S. House of Representatives join me in mourning the passage of Walter W. Krueger, a man of both vision and action. Having served this Nation for so long, Walter Krueger understood the problems of our noncommissioned officers. So after his service to this Nation was over, at a time when many hang up their uniforms, salute the flag, and retire, Walter Krueger went to work for the noncommissioned officers of this Nation. And when Walter Krueger went to work, good things happened.

Mr. Krueger served this Nation honorably in the U.S. Army for 33 years. When he retired, he was serving as Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army, Europe [ASAREUR]. He served this Nation all over the world, including assignments in Panama, Korea, Europe and Vietnam. During his long and very honorable career, he earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Distinguished Service Medal.

While still serving this Nation in Europe, Mr. Krueger was appointed to the board of directors of the Noncommissioned Officers Association. Upon retirement, he was elected vice president of the association. A year later, he became president.

Walter Krueger's accomplishment as president of the association are legendary. The Organization received a Federal Charter from this U.S. Congress. The association began its medical trust, which awards funds each year to military families who need the assistance. It significantly raised the funding for and number of scholarships awarded to deserving young people. The NCOA operation appreciation program raised funds for equipment to be used by veterans in hospitals. Under his leadership, the organization began the NCOA national defense foundation, which works to ensure that active duty military enjoy their full right to participate in the democracy which they defend. Mr. Krueger received every award offered by the association, as is fitting for a man who led this organization so well and for so long, a man who fought for the rights and benefits due our noncommissioned officers, and who took every opportunity to honor and fight for our veterans.

I respectfully ask that this U.S. House of Representatives note the passage of this singular and distinguished American, and that we send our deepest condolences to Walter Krueger's wife, Betty Krueger, to his mother, Ruth Drees, to his five daughters, Kathy Logan, Karen Pagel, Judy Shaw, Pam Salada, and Patty Krueger, to his eight grandchildren, and to both his sisters. Walter Krueger was a strong family man, who loved this Nation and all that it stands for, who served all of the citizens of this country, first as a member of our armed services and then as an unparalleled advocate for our veterans. I am proud to call him my friend, and I am proud to ask that the House of Representatives of the Nation he loved so much take a moment to return to him a little of the honor and respect he showed us throughout his life.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am as proud as a father today, to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Vicky L. Bandy, of Beckley, WV, during Black History Month. For more than a decade, Ms. Bandy served as my executive assistant here in Washington, and Ms. Bandy was ever as loyal and dedicated as she was a professional, at all times and in all situations. I knew that I could depend upon her in all things.

Mr. Speaker, on February 24, 1996, Ms. Bandy gave a speech at the Beckley Federal Correctional Institution's Black Affairs Banquet, as part of its celebration of Black History Month.

I am privileged to place in the RECORD at this point, Ms. Bandy's stirring words as she encouraged and surely inspired her sisters as she spoke eloquently about their theme: African-American Women: Past, Present and Future. Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Bandy's remarks to my colleagues for their reading and their remembrance.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

(By Vicky L. Bandy)

"Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died."

Today, we gather 370 years after the first African American landed at Jamestown, Virginia, 133 years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, and 31 years after the Enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which gave African Americans power at the Ballot Box.

Last October, the African American Community pledged itself to pursue a bold new course with the success of the Million Man March.

The success of the effort is still being felt. But today, ladies, it is our turn. The Theme for the 1996 observance of Black History Month is: African American Women: Past, Present and Future.

As I thought about what I would say, I thought about how far we as African Americans have come. I thought of the stories that were told to me by my Grandmother, Ella Bandy. I recall stories about how this Strong Black Woman worked hard in the fields of Alabama. She would leave her babies in a wagon under a shade tree, while she worked the long rows of the fields. At the end of each row, she would run back to check on her babies. Grandmama was a strong African American Woman. She never gave up, she was a woman of principle; and she never gave in. Grandmama's hands, hard and calloused from toiling in the hot Alabama Sun, so that her children and grandchildren could have a better way of life.

Earlier this week, I witnessed the Swearing-In ceremony of Congressman Kweisi Mfume, as President and CEO of the NAACP, an event that was attended by a very small but elite group of people, among them being the President and Vice President of the United States. I reflected back to the point in time when I would ride in the car with my grandfather on election day—a day that I equated to Thomas 'n Joyland carnival coming to town.