

How many cases have we heard where African Americans, through intimidation, trickery, fraud, and outright violence, have been driven from their land or lost family homesteads? In spite of bitter struggles to hold onto their land, many African Americans have lost land involuntarily and have received no remedy to correct these injustices.

We as a people recognize land ownership is an integral source of power. Cases of government-condoned land-taking are viewed by the black community as a campaign to deprive African Americans of our ownership rights as American citizens. For African Americans who have struggled to overcome the legacy of slavery, the loss of lands is particularly devastating. Land ownership is viewed as a source of economic security and prosperity. Since the mid-1800s when black Americans were first promised the opportunity to own land, we have sought to gain economic freedom, prosperity, and respect through our land and pass that legacy on to future generations.

In spite of the fact that our government has failed us and reneged on a promise of yesterday, we have shown that we have the drive and the determination to overcome adversity in our quest to share the prosperity to which we are entitled.

This does not mean, however, that we will accept the discrimination practices and government-sanctioned schemes that served to rob African American landowners of property that they have literally in some cases shed blood, sweat, and tears to attain and maintain.

As policymakers, we have an obligation to respond to the critical issue of land loss in the African American community. The link that has been established between land ownership, community, and democratic participation makes it critical that we are committed in our efforts to help black landowners hold onto their land. We must preserve a legacy that is worthy of passing on to future generations.

#### IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S DOMESTIC STEEL INDUSTRY AND THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS PROGRAM ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am going to split my remarks between two areas that will be addressed in the House later this evening.

First of all, I rise in support of our domestic steel industry. Thousands of American steel workers have lost their jobs due to massive levels of low-priced steel imports. In my own district, the 11th district of Ohio, 3,200 LTV steelworkers may lose their jobs while 22,000 steelworkers and vendors in the region have been affected as a result of these imports.

I stand here today to urge the President to take decisive action against the cheap imports that are destroying the U.S. steel industry. This is an industry that has been a cornerstone of our economy and national security over the last 100 years.

The ITC found unanimously that American steel companies and thousands of workers and their communities have been seriously injured by these imports. I say and know firsthand that they have been devastated. The ball is now in the President's hands. He must decide what measures his administration will take to correct the wrong that has been caused by low-priced imports.

I urge the President in the strongest possible terms to impose strong and effective tariff-based relief. The President must impose a tariff of at least 40 percent against all foreign low-priced steel imports. I urge the President to impose such a tariff for a period of at least 4 years, as the law allows.

I also urge the President not to waiver from his commitment to the American steel industry and its workers because strong tariff-based relief is the only remedy that can realistically assist this industry in our United States.

Secondly, I rise in support of the Congressional Black Caucus Black History Month Special Order. Our theme tonight is "The Color Line Revisited: Is racism dead?" We have come together to salute the great history of African Americans in America. I would like to address that African American history and its origins and what it means to our great Nation today.

Let us take a moment to reflect on a time in our history when African Americans were so dehumanized and their history so distorted that slavery, segregation, and lynching were not punishable by law. It was a time when people were being mistreated because of the color of their skin, and as a result, many people began to stand against these terrible acts.

This stand against injustice by many eventually brought about a massive change that divided our Nation and sparked the Civil War. After the war, America stood true to its union as one Nation, under God. The spirit of African Americans was strong and unwavering during such difficult times, which makes the history of African Americans so great.

It is important to reflect upon this time in our history so that what happened to innocent people never happens again. It is largely for these reasons that I am working to make a difference in the life of every American. I believe that we must pick up where African American heroes left off. We must not only know our history but honor it, so that slavery, segregation, and inhumane acts never happen again.

We must be united for access to quality public schools for our Nation's youth, we must be united for access to affordable health care, and we must not rest until our Nation unites and

what will be done for African Americans in terms of reparations.

Right now, inner-city schools, which are overwhelmingly populated by African American children, are failing standardized tests at disproportionate rates. Right now, African American families lack access to quality health care at disproportionate rates. Right now, in the slowing economy, African Americans are losing their jobs at double the rate of white Americans. Right now, African Americans are victims of predatory lending by unscrupulous companies that are stripping our community of her wealth. Right now, the American people have a duty to their fellow countrymen and women to not only apologize for the inhumane acts, but also to supplement it with economic justice.

With all of our efforts, I am sure that we will continue to celebrate freedom and justice for all for many, many years to come.

In closing, racism is not dead; but we are one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. I am proud to be an American, and I am more proud that I am an African American. I salute those African Americans who believed in the fight for justice, believed in their dreams for equality, and paved a path for a brighter tomorrow.

We must stand up and continue to fight to be assured that racism does die. But right now, it is not dead.

#### CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA'S DESTRUCTION OF TWO UNARMED U.S.-REGISTERED CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-182)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, which states that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2002.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 26, 2002.