

THE GENTLELADY FROM CHICAGO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our colleague from Illinois, the gentlelady, the Honorable CARDISS COLLINS. For more than 22 years, CARDISS has represented the Seventh Congressional District in "The Windy City" of Chicago. She leaves with a rich history of legislative accomplishments.

In addition to being the longest serving African-American woman in Congress, CARDISS will always be remembered for her championship of quality health care for women and minorities, enhanced consumer protection and promotion of minority business enterprise. Her legislative efforts improved access to cancer screening for poor and minority women. She authored landmark legislation and investigations on both aviation security and toy safety.

Having served with CARDISS as both a member of the Commerce Committee and the Government Operations, now Government Reform and Oversight Committee, I know of no better leader than our current ranking Democrat on Government Reform. The leadership she demonstrated as both the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee chair of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness and the Subcommittee chair of the Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation, only intensified when she became the ranking member of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee. Time and again she was called upon to defend the actions of the current administration; Cardiss did so without rancor and bitterness. Her ability to get the job done with a mixture of wit, intelligence and down right good humor will be definitely missed. It has been my honor to serve with Cardiss during her last 13 years in the House.

TRIBUTE TO HON. TOBY ROTH ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to add my congratulations to Congressman TOBY ROTH. After 18 years of service to his home State of Wisconsin, this will be his last term, and I wish him well in his retirement.

During this time here in Congress, TOBY ROTH has represented his State well. He is a respected Member of Congress on several key issues, and he is particularly well known in Congress for his ability on international matters. No one in the House is more knowledgeable or more articulate on these issues. He has played a part in just about every major foreign policy decisions that has taken place in Congress over the last 10 years.

He and I have shared an interest in lowering Government spending and lowering taxes. That is why we have so often been recipients of the same awards and recognition. I know that I am on the right track on a fiscal issue if I see Representative ROTH voting the same way.

You have been an asset to Washington, and you will be missed. I wish you, your wife Barbara, and your three children much happiness in the future.

REMARKS BY DAVID JONES,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
CARVER FEDERAL SAVINGS,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
THE COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY
OF NEW YORK: ON THE
COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY
OF NEW YORK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. RANGEL. During the Congressional Black Caucus weekend, we benefited from the presentations, advice and counsel of experts in the many issues of concern to the African-American community in the United States. We had a rich 2 days of discussion at the Washington Convention Center, exploring the problems which afflict our community and possible ways to effectively address and define solutions.

My colleague from Queens, NY, Congressman FLOYD FLAKE, held an economic development braintrust forum which reviewed current efforts of community groups in New York City and throughout the Nation to achieve sustainable economic development through the attraction of resources to enable the investment in infrastructure and human resources that will promise jobs, renewed economic activity, and the retention of funds in the African-American community. I want to share with you and my colleagues the contribution of David Jones, who was one of the presenters. David Jones, chairman of the board of Carver Federal Savings and chief executive officer of the Community Service Society of New York, also serves on the board of the Harlem community's empowerment zone.

STATEMENT OF DAVID R. JONES

The distinguished legal scholar Derrick Bell has described the present period as the worst for African-Americans since the 1890s, when the gains of the Civil War and reconstruction were wiped away by the Klan and the black codes.

Some might dismiss Bell's observation as over the top. How bad can things be when an Oprah Winfrey takes in more than \$170 million in one year or when a hard-charging black middle class is seeing unprecedented income growth and participation in all aspects of American life?

But everyone in this room knows what Professor Bell is talking about. Consider the drum beat for attacks on affirmative action. The Supreme Court's single-minded effort to roll back electoral gains in Congress and in the State houses, or the vicious mugging of the Nation's children and poor under the guise of welfare reform.

Add in the increasing abandonment of public education and you know Bell is no alarmist. In urban schools like New York's, with kindergarten classes exceeding 50 children (often with only one teacher) and where inadequate materials and poorly trained teachers are the norm, you have a crisis brewing. At a time when real wages are plummeting for all but the most educated or the well-born, and when everyone including the President has said that only the best prepared

will have a chance to share in real wage growth, our kids' blighted education opportunity almost certainly will destroy large portions of our next generation.

This is not a pretty picture. Still, my sainted grandmother told me never to dwell on today's ills. The point for her and for us is—what are you going to do about it?

And that is why a discussion of economic development and wealth creation is so vital now.

Walking down the streets of my own Bedford-Stuyvesant community provides a clear look at one reason for our disarray. Brooklyn has nearly 1 million African-American residents. So where are our businesses? Big or small, where are the economic engines that could provide jobs and experience for our young people?

And some corollary questions: Where are the financial contributions that could elect leaders responsive to our needs as African-Americans? Where is the funding for institutions that will protect our rights against those who want to strip us of everything we fought for at such great cost?

The capital is there within our own communities. African Americans, whose rate of increase in buying big-ticket items outpaces that of white households, don't see much being recirculated. In fact many communities are hemorrhaging cash.

I want to emphasize that economic development and wealth creation and all too often considered as separate and distinct ways of obtaining equality in American society from other forms of advancement. It's the old Booker T. Washington/W.E.B. Dubois split. But today fighting for economic development is not different from political action and voter registration, or removed from the need to improve educational opportunity. These are all part of the same objective. If we are to rebuild a movement for African-Americans, then political, social and economic empowerment efforts must be melded into one fight.

In this effort we must also recognize that we are in trouble because of a significant class problem that divides us, just as it divides other ethnic groups. Despite our significant presence in American society—nearly 40 million strong and with a collective wealth in the billions of dollars, class and income divisions make it difficult to develop a common agenda that would benefit all.

At the height of the civil rights movement it was obvious to African-Americans at every income level that joint action for equal rights and opportunity was vital to improving everyone's life chances. That movement cinched extraordinary upward mobility for a generation of middle-class African-Americans already well positioned to make the most of its hard-fought social, political and economic gains.

It also opened the door for the tens of thousands of poor and working people who through hard work, wit, and luck managed to escape urban and rural poverty.

But as Harvard's William Julius Wilson has shown so well, many were left behind and their condition is rapidly deteriorating. They have become, because of color and condition, the perfect scapegoats for both major parties and held responsible for everything wrong with America.

Now the Nation has come full circle. Today's attacks on all people of color don't make fine distinctions between some "threatening" ghetto underclass and an alternately benign and assimilable middle class. The attacks are indiscriminate and across the board.

And precisely because the attacks are so broad-brush, they allow for a renewal of understanding that we have a common agenda. They allow for a unity of purpose we have