

contract with our veterans and we have to make sure that the check that was written never comes up insufficient funds!

Lastly, I would like to thank Ron Armstead, Executive Director who was instrumental in putting together this Braintrust. And I would certainly be remiss without thanking the members of our Congressional staffs Jolanda Williams, Daisy Hannah, Beverly Gilyard, and Nick Martinelli who worked so hard to make this event a success. Again thank you.

GOD is good, all the time. All the time, GOD is good.

And GOD Bless America.

30 YEARS LATER: REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF BLOODY SUNDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in remembering one of the most tragic days in the history of Northern Ireland. It was on January 30, 1972, that British soldiers opened fire in a brutal show of force against Irish Catholic protesters which left 13 dead and a number of others wounded. Following the example of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the demonstrators had been engaged in a peaceful protest against a repressive system which deprived them of basic rights in their own country.

As a member of the House International Relations Committee who has visited Northern Ireland a number of times to monitor the Orange Order parades and document civil rights violations against the Catholic residents of Garvaghy Road, I understand the historical roots of the conflict and the intense passions of those on both sides of the divide.

The tragic events of September 11th in our own Nation have drawn us closer to the people of Northern Ireland and other countries where fear of violence and personal harm is a fact of daily life.

As we stand in solidarity with the people of Northern Ireland, I believe the United States should do everything in our power to ensure the success of the peace process which was moved forward through the work of former President Clinton's special envoy, Senator George Mitchell.

In order to continue progressing towards a future of peace and reconciliation, it is important that the disturbing questions of the past be put to rest. Therefore, the new investigation into Bloody Sunday must be far-reaching and complete. There remains a strong sense of outrage regarding the original inquiry into Bloody Sunday, when Lord Widgery's probe hastily concluded that the violence against unarmed civilians was justified.

Mr. Speaker, the history of our nation is intertwined with that of Northern Ireland, and it is fitting that as we remember the victims of Bloody Sunday and their families, we continue to support the cause of peace and justice in Northern Ireland.

IN HONOR OF HORACE SMITH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Horace Smith from my home State of Ohio who in many ways exemplifies the qualities of our great citizens. Horace Smith was a man greatly committed to our community and its people.

Mr. Smith, born August 12, 1917 in Knoxville, Tennessee, moved to the area 45 years ago. Among his honorable achievements, Mr. Smith received numerous awards as a Staff Sergeant serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. He received the medal for Good Conduct, the American Theater Medal, and Four Bronze Stars.

Horace Smith was dedicated to his job at Virden Lighting For 20 years before retiring in 1978. In addition to his strong dedication to his job, he committed his time to numerous organizations in Cleveland. Mr. Smith was a devoted member of the Morning Star Baptist church where he served as both a Trustee and Leader of Boy Scout Troupe No. 436. Furthermore, he was a member of the 32nd Degree Mason, the Shriners King Solomon Lodge No. 18, and Bezaleel Consistory No. 15.

While serving the people of Cleveland as their mayor, I was honored to have Mr. Smith as a member of the Cleveland Planning Commission. He served Cleveland in countless ways including over 30 years as Precinct Committeeman 8-B, a member of the Cuyahoga County), Democratic Party Executive Committee, and a member of the board of Directors of Glenville Y.M.C.A. Mr. Smith also volunteered his time with other local officials during political campaigns including former Congressman Louis Stokes, former Mayor Carl Stokes, and former Mayor Michael White. It has been a great honor for all of us to work with Horace Smith.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Staff Sergeant Horace Smith, a highly honored man devoted to our community for over 45 years. His achievements and service to the community, have earned him great respect by his family and all of us in the community.

HILLIARD DELIVERS "STATE OF RURAL AMERICA" SPEECH BE- FORE PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, The State of Rural America is akin to most third world countries. I see poverty everywhere. The Alabama Black Belt, the Mississippi Delta and many reservations, are suffering in far greater degrees than the rest of America in this economic recession.

Agricultural America is suffering in a far greater degree than the rest of the nation. During the Great Depression of 1929, the Deep South suffered earlier than other parts of the nation and more severely.

The reasons for this suffering in rural America are many, but the lack of jobs and economic infrastructure are the primary reasons. Most Americans who live on small farms do not get their income primarily from them—they get it from jobs in the cities and towns, and there are too few jobs in rural areas, and when they exist, they tend to pay poorly.

To deal with this long-time suffering, Congress needs to concentrate on rural development like never before. We need to create increased incentives to bring industry and jobs to rural America. We must realize that small farmers and independent producers recycle wealth into their communities, while large, absentee farmers may not. Investments made in small and independent farmers and businesses stay in the rural areas and grow.

We need to increase educational opportunities there, so that the children do not hit dead ends in their development. We need to see that the children get fully nutritional meals—it is one of the cruelest ironies and greatest injustices in America that the children of farmers are often undernourished.

We need to increase programs that support cooperative arrangements between farmers, making them more sustainable as they work together, purchase and sell together.

Rural areas need micro-loans—they have small economies and the businesses are small. However, we need to make the micro-loans more usable, and the Small Business Administration's micro-loan program needs to be expanded to make the loans available up to \$50,000, rather than the \$35,000 cap, which is presently active.

The 8A program of the Small Business Administration has been essential in supporting business development in rural areas. It is in danger of being destroyed by the present administration, which has already published proposed rules which will make it unusable. We absolutely must defend the 8A program!"

NUTRITION

"The Food Stamp Program is one that provides a market to many farmers and nutrition to many poor people. The current minimum of \$10 is too low, and shows a lack of concern for the hungry Americans who live in the richest nation in the world. People on Food Stamps should get at the very least \$120.00 per month.

Further, the Food Stamp Program must be extended to legal immigrants. These workers are legally here, they contribute not only labor but also pay taxes to the American economy, and they should be able to access sufficient food for themselves and their children.

The Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) should be funded sufficiently to meet the needs of the pregnant women and infants in this nation—this means that it must not be flat-funded in this recession, but expanded. However, the diet it provides, while necessary, is not sufficient in all ways, and is supplemented efficiently by the farmers market nutrition program, which makes available fresh fruits and vegetables necessary for the healthy development of our next generation. It must not be cut to make it seem that food stamps are being maintained.

Finally, we must deal with the crisis affecting black farmers. In 1910, at the worst of times for black Americans since slavery, 100,000 black farmers were landowners. Today there are only about 10,000 farms owned by black farmers—a drop of 90%! We