CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOLDS HEARINGS ON CHURCH BURNINGS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker. Today the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) held hearings on the rash of church burnings occurring across the Nation. The list of panelists included government officials, civil rights leaders, religious leaders, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the Anti-Defamation League. Each made a significant contribution to the dialog on increasing the Federal response to the church burnings. However, one of the most poignant was made by the youngest member of the Caucus, Hon. JESSE L. JACKSON, Jr.

I commend Congressman JACKSON's remarks to my colleagues with hopes that his words will be as enlightening to Members as they were to those in attendance at today's hearing.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

Mr. Chairman, I want to commend you for calling these hearings. They are necessary. They are important. They are informative and helpful to educate and arouse the American people and elected officials to corrective action.

I want to commend the Justice Department, and especially Deval Patrick, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, for his tireless and ceaseless efforts at investigating these crimes against God and humanity.

The Congress deserves some credit for passing a stronger law on Tuesday that gives the Department of Justice greater leverage in prosecuting those who engage in the desecration or destruction of property belonging to religious institutions.

I want to thank President Bill Clinton for his forthright leadership in going to South Carolina and seeing first hand the crisis and meeting with the victims whose church has been burned. That is a very effective use of the bully pulpit of the presidency.

What has happened? Over 63 African American churches have been burned over the past five years. Other churches, with African American members, have been burned. There has been a pattern. The firebombed churches have been mostly small rural churches located in isolated areas.

Why is this happening? Is it a legal conspiracy? Is the jury still out—and the investigation is still on—with regard to a legal conspiracy.

Is it a cultural conspiracy? And what is meant when someone says that? Let me try to explain. I am from Chicago and a big Chicago Bulls fan. When Michael Jordan shoots a 3-point shot, Chicago fans jump in excitement because Michael Jordan just made a basket. But guess what? Michael Jordan fans in Los Angeles, Dallas, Miami and all around the country jump up too—a kind of cultural conspiracy.

The 籃 ball terms, Michael Jordan represents the common denominator through which all of his fans relate. What’s the parallel to church burnings? When we talk about cultural conspiracies with respect to church burnings, we are talking about some politicians, some radio and television talk-show hosts, and other hate mongers around the country fanning the flames of economic insecurity and race hatred, fanning the fears of racial animosity with anti-immigration, anti-minority, anti-immigration propaganda from the very top of our nation, creating a kind of cultural conspiracy.

In 1964, in the Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954 and the resulting civil rights movement, Barry Goldwater, a Republican, ran his presidential campaign talking about States' rights. It was a way of saying that States had a way around the equal protection clause of the Constitution of the United States.

In 1968, in response to the 1967 and 1968 riots and the anti-Vietnam war protests, Richard Nixon, a Republican, ran his campaign on a no-tax platform.

In 1972, George Wallace, a Democrat, ran his campaign in reaction to attempts to desegregate the schools, on an anti-busing platform.

In 1976, even Jimmy Carter, a Demo­crat, gave a speech in Indiana talking about ethnic purity.

In 1980 and 1984, Ronald Reagan talked about States' rights, talking about States' rights. It was a way of saying that appeals, not to the best in us, but to the worst in us. And that climate rubs the sticks, strikes the spark, and fans the winds, that eventually bring us the burning down of Black churches.

Even this year, expect affirmative action to be the centerpiece of another political strategy to manipulate the American people onto a so-called race issue—which really isn't a race issue, since white women have been the biggest beneficiaries of affirmative action. It will divert attention away from issues of substance. We need jobs and a full employment economy. We need a single-payer national health care system. We need affordable housing for all. We need an educational system that prepares our young people to work in the 21st century. We need our national infrastructure rebuilt, our roads, sewers, bridges, airports, seaports and rails. We need our cities rebuilt. We need family farmers restored to their land. We need our environment cleaned up.

That is why this hearing is so important. This hearing helps to clarify what is really going on. It helps to identify what politicians are really doing. It helps to educate the American people so they can isolate themselves from such diversion and, hopefully, demand more of those running for public office in 1996.

So I want to thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for your insight and wisdom in calling for this hearing and thank you for inviting me to participate.

Tribute to Juan C. Tenorio

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, back home in Guam this month, the architectural/engineering firm of Juan C. Tenorio Associates is celebrating its 25th anniversary. It is a significant milestone for a company president, Mr. Juan C. Tenorio, a fellow Chamorro who believed in himself and worked hard to achieve success. His is a classic American success story, and I am proud to relate his story for the RECORD.

Juan C. Tenorio was born on May 2, 1946, on the island of Saipan, in the Northern Mariana Islands. He was the fifth of six children, and was raised by his grandparents, as his parents worked long hours on the home farm to make a living.

Juan attended the University of Guam, where he received a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. He then attended the University of Southern California, where he received a master's degree in Civil Engineering. In 1971, Juan married Elizabeth Pangelinan, and they moved to Guam.

Juan C. Tenorio and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children, Jessica and Jason. They are active in the community, and are involved in many charitable organizations.

In 1976, Juan C. Tenorio and his wife opened their own architectural/engineering firm, Tenorio and Associates. The company has grown to become one of the largest in Guam, with offices in both Guam and Saipan.

Juan C. Tenorio is currently serving as the President of the Guam Business Council, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the board of governors of the American Institute of Architects, and is a member of the Guam Civil Engineering Society.

Juan C. Tenorio is a dedicated family man, and a dedicated business man. He is a credit to his community, and a credit to Guam.