

**REPRESENTATIVE CUSHINGBERRY:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to sit and listen; and I just wanted to, as a former adjunct member of the faculty here, express my dismay at the use of certain language by members of our faculty when it comes to expressing African-American attainment and achievement. We're not inferior.

The fact that the idea that some whites would think that because of their performance measures, which are largely culturally biased, which have historically been questioned and continue to be questioned by true educators so much so that I really don't think that the measures that we use to determine what is so-called success are fair. They're certainly not equitable.

I would suggest to those members of the faculty that we don't push the Jensen-Shockley-type thinking any further in this country. That's what's led this country to its current state of disarray.

And, no, this is not a one-state recession. This recession is worldwide. The distinction is -- is that it's masked because the increase in gas prices make people have irrational exuberance in terms of the way it filters into the marketplace. So, no, this is not a one-state recession.

Two, there are over 160,000 students in the Detroit Public Schools. Only 115,000 of them are in the city's schools proper. The others are in other districts as well as in charter schools.

Now, what else we have to recognize is that Wayne State University, when I was chairman of the Association of Black Students in 1972, had 17,800 black students. It's down to 9,800. The institutions right here, since we have been talking about the people -- the institutional racism that's right here at Wayne State which said to me, when I was an undergraduate student in state and local government, that I should be happy to get a C, because "You ain't nothing but a poor black boy from the projects," who said to me, because my father didn't make over \$5,000 a year, that I would never succeed. That same institutional racism exists today, and I can't scream it loud enough. It permeates itself in so many different ways in every aspect of our life. So I can't understand why some people turn against themselves all the time as opposed to one another. If this country wants to succeed globally in the economic sector, we have to remember that the great Italian geneticist told us that 96 percent of our genes are the same no matter what color we are. So there is nothing inherently improper or immoral or inferior about anybody of color.

And then, finally, it's ridiculous for us to have another category in the census. It's ridiculous. The census is the biggest fraud that we have as an agency today, and too many people want to accept their numbers as accurate. Since 1950 we have said that there was a gross census undercount in the African-American, Native, and in the Hispanic-American communities. Yet the Congress, under control of so many, have failed to admit that and add the extra numbers.

We not below a million people in Michigan. They just ain't counting them in this city.

There is 1,650,00 African-Americans, Native-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and other nonwhites in southeastern Michigan of the 5 million; but it's not being reported.

The facts are hard to get through today because there is so much talk of everything but the facts. We need to get back to the United States of America that accepts the facts and realizes that we went too far with these trade agreements. Look, ain't nothing Japan is making that is better than what we making in the city. But we got people believing that, if it's from someplace else, it's better than what we do, which is, I think, therefore I am because I've been told for so long that I should be distressed about who I am.

Look, we need to come back to the reality that this country will not survive divided the way that it is. And if we don't come together very quickly, we're going to find ourselves having to spend even more money on war, which is nonproductive use of capital.

Now, finally, there is some good signs for those of us who actually go into the schools and talk to elementary school students. You'll find that they're much smarter than you realize. These poor kids in this city are very bright. They just need an opportunity.