

MR. CUSHINGBERRY: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Moderator, Senator, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, who have in this room collective capabilities, memories, and histories to do whatever we need to do throughout the world to make it a better place for everybody.

There is still a lot of violations of the various international accords here in Detroit by both its government and by the federal government in continued ways. I would mostly note the Helsinki Agreement, which I think is probably one of the documents that ought to be reviewed in terms of the violations of international law that we see right here in the United States and in the city of Detroit.

The question that is pervasive is the question of police abuse, abuse by those who have control of the means of locking one up, the criminal justice system, and the various other systems where we have seen patterns of de jure and de facto segregation. I would suggest to you that our No.1 role is to recognize that the Nazi movement and the Ku Klux Klan are alive and well in this country. They have magnified themselves now with the skinheads and others to produce hate groups and terrorists who are right here in the United States of America.

Many of us who travel in Metropolitan Detroit -- I don't have to talk about Northern Michigan. I feel better sometimes up north than I do right next door to me because it's still a fact that driving while black is in existence.

My approach to looking at this panel today, Mr. Chairman, is that you have such a distinguished panel that I would like to take the time to listen and suggest to you that the electorate here with this last confusing Civil Rights initiative is a part of also a dangerous national movement that is designed to strip the ability to be able to right the wrongs of the past. We are in huge denial in this country and in this state about the race issue. The race issue is permeating so much that it is very frightening at times to continue to work.

The solutions, however, are not in social programs. They're in markets. We have a lot of people who can tell you that the economics of Detroit will always include something called automobiles. The distinction is -- is that in this war we have spent \$3 trillion -- and just think, if we had 1 trillion of 3 trillion to be able to invest in urban America, we could make the kinds of progress that we need to make economically so that people have equal opportunity and an equal opportunity as well as equal rights and equal justice.

I practice law; and, Mr. Chairman, I've done over 600 trials already. And it's not because I don't want to. I'm not getting rich. It's because there's so few of us who hold professional degrees of all races who are willing to come down into the inner city and provide credible and good representation. It is a violation of the United States Constitution, the under-funding of counsel for indigent people, and it needs to continued to be under the jurisdiction of some court where we've had the largest failures in this country.

This Supreme Court is hostile to people who look like me. Seems to me that they want Plessy v. Ferguson to come back to life backwards.

What they would like to see is as long as I'm not looking at it for you to do whatever you want to do, people shouldn't have any rights to say nothing to you.

The economic and eco-terrorism that continues to be foisted on all of the people of color in this country, where we have these old smokestacks and other industrial situations that have been the arsenal that has created the wealth of this country and has made it the greatest creation in the history of mankind. But the fact is, is that there is a lot to do, and this is not always a black and white thing. This is a have/have not thing.

If you analyze what's going on in this country, because of the denial of large populations in many of our suburban and metropolitan communities, I don't always find that kind of problem amongst people in the agricultural economy areas of this state, who have also faced the kinds of devastations that the people in inner cities have.

Mr. Chairman, I could go on with my testimony, but I think it would be wise for me to listen to this distinguished panel that you have, if you would, please; and I could confer with my colleagues here at the university in the political science department and perhaps prepare some background material for the remarks that I have made at this point.

I would suggest to you we are making progress, however, in the state budget to strengthen in the areas that are necessary for survival -- because that's why I bring up Helsinki. Everybody should have a right to survive. Everybody should have a right to be able to know that they have an opportunity for food, water, and shelter and the basic necessities of life. Every human being should have the opportunity to improve the conditions that they were born in by having the opportunity for education.

Now, if this country is going to wake up to being the great country it's to be, it needs to get away from this attitude that we are better than everybody else. No, we're not. That's the same white supremacist talk that has permeated and Euro-centralized the world. At some point we need to get away from it and give people an opportunity to provide the talent that they have so that we can have even a greater economic standard -- we can increase the value of living -- the standard of living for the poorest country by \$200, it would produce a boom unheard of in the United States.

I would suggest to you -- we do have this -- that one of the ways you could help us in the city of Detroit is to buy a new DHS Cadillac, or if you don't like that, we've got a whole bunch of other ones. And believe me, this eco- and this economic terrorism that we're facing in this country, especially when it comes to equal playing fields for the products that we make, is very, very real. And it's one that needs discussion and analysis in order for us to be able to correct and make a plan for it.

Thank you very much.

