

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 392      Session of  
1990

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INTRODUCED BY RICHARDSON, OCTOBER 2, 1990

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ADOPTED, OCTOBER 2, 1990

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A RESOLUTION

1 Applauding a concurrent resolution of the 101st Congress of the  
2 United States, dated September 30, 1990, deploring racist  
3 remarks by certain Japanese officials.

4 WHEREAS, On September 30, 1990, the 101st Congress of the  
5 United States adopted the following concurrent resolution:

6 "Whereas on September 21, 1990, Justice Minister Seiroku  
7 Kajiyama of Japan, upon observing police and immigration  
8 agents arrest foreign women on prostitution charges in a red-  
9 light district of Tokyo, said: 'It's like in America when  
10 neighborhoods become mixed because Blacks move in and whites  
11 are forced out' ...prostitutes 'ruin the atmosphere' in the  
12 same way;

13 Whereas in 1988 Michio Watanabe, the policy chief for the  
14 governing Liberal Democratic Party of Japan stated that  
15 American Blacks had few qualms about going bankrupt, implying  
16 that African Americans are financially irresponsible and walk  
17 away from their debts;

18 Whereas in 1987 Japanese merchants marketed a wide variety of

1 products using stereotypical portrayals of Blacks in a highly  
2 offensive manner;

3 Whereas in 1986 Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan  
4 suggested that America was intellectually inferior to Japan  
5 'because of a considerable number of Blacks, Puerto Ricans  
6 and Mexicans';

7 Whereas in 1985 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a report  
8 attributing Japan's economic successes to its racial purity;

9 Whereas these continuing reprehensible comments by officials of  
10 the Japanese government are clear evidence of the deep,  
11 pervasive and fundamental racism endemic in that country's  
12 government;

13 Whereas the histories of the Japanese people and African  
14 Americans have long been intertwined--African American  
15 soldiers stationed in Kobe, Gifu, Nara, Yokohama, and many  
16 other cities, personally assisted schools, hospitals,  
17 orphanages and homeless individuals with the very substance  
18 of survival;

19 Whereas Japan sends 40 percent of its exports to the United  
20 States and African Americans, with a combined disposable  
21 income of \$300 billion, purchase about \$7 billion of Japanese  
22 goods;

23 Whereas Japan has recovered (most notably with the help of the  
24 United States) and is a leading world economic power and top  
25 producer of consumer goods, yet the economic gains to the  
26 Japanese have not been returned in kind in any substantial  
27 manner to the African American community; and

28 Whereas the vitality of our economic relationship necessarily  
29 depends upon a basis of mutual respect which cannot be  
30 fostered in a climate of racism and antagonism: Now,

1       therefore be it

2   Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)

3       That it is the sense of the Congress that 1) immediate and

4       direct action must be taken by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu

5       and his administration to combat the racist attitude which

6       presently prevails among Japanese government officials 2) the

7       President should insist upon an official apology to all

8       Americans, in particular African Americans, from Prime

9       Minister Toshiki Kaifu for the remarks of Justice Minister

10      Seiroku Kajiyama, and 3) the President should request the

11      resignation of the Justice Minister of Japan."; and

12      WHEREAS, The House of Representatives agrees that racism,

13      bigotry and prejudice are offensive and intolerable, regardless

14      of where and by whom they are practiced and tolerated; therefore

15      be it

16      RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives applaud the

17      concurrent resolution of the Congress, dated September 30, 1990,

18      and set forth in its entirety herein, and add its support to the

19      Congressional commitment against racism; and be it further

20      RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to

21      the President of the United States, to Governor Robert P. Casey,

22      to presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each

23      member of Congress from Pennsylvania.