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HIST 1312-005

November 3, 2014

The Progressive Era and Congressman George H. White’s Farewell Address to Congress

This essay is about a political speech, which was delivered by Congressman George H. White addressing to the U.S. House of Representatives in the time period of Progressive era (1890-1920). This political speech was written by George H. White and addresses to the U.S. House of Representatives on January 29, 1901. One of the reasons why he addressed his speech was, with the rise of segregation, disfranchisement, and a vicious white supremacy campaign in his home state of North Carolina. White, the only black congressman at the turn of the 20th century, chose not to run for a third term, seeing his chances of being re-elected as hopeless, so he gave his last speech on the floor of congress on January 29, 1901. It would be another 28 years before another black representative set in congress.

He begins his speech by holding responsible the congressmen for the persistent discrimination against black men and misogyny against the black women. He recounts to the people the sense of superiority Mr. Kitchin's actions reflected where he deprived illiterate Negros of making laws for the sovereign state, while an equally illiterate white man had access to all such rights. Mr. White also addresses the fluctuation between votes and voters during the general election for state and country officers. Clearly offended by the comparison drawn by Mr. Otey's inference of whites as lions and blacks as lambs, Mr. White replies by pointing out how lamb signifies the purest of all souls existing and questions his discriminant deduction by quoting from the Bible that all men are made of the same flesh.

Mr. White's eye opening speech aims to bring forth the discrimination against black men in the entire political system. He puts forth statistics as to how in the most brutal circumstances, the black men shone out against all odds, as how the entire race bailed through something as brutal as slavery and yet didn't quite on hard work, evident in the impeccable hard work by the black to bring themselves up in the most inhabitable circumstances. The black's who, in the face of Jim Crow's law rapidly improved their and the country's condition have an underlying capability of achieving so much more under the racism-free ambience.

The black Congressman fiercely speaks about the issue and addresses to us his futile attempts to bring about a change, for he seems to be the only concerned candidate in Congress about this profound issue. The deep rooted discrimination between black and white, even though it is completely irrational, persists in the society even after the heavy and difficult steps taken by the black men in circumstances no animal can survive.

Comments\_IR:

* + **Format (F)** : You used too much spacing. Use footnotes to provide citations. Your essay has to be 2 pages minimum.
  + **Language (L)** : see the side comments for language revisions.
  + **Content (C)** : Expand the three sections of you essay (Introduction, main body and conclusion) Select and discuss several keywords of your primary source. Where are the 3 secondary sources I asked you to discuss in the main body of your essay? Use footnotes when citing them.