Congress is ‘probably the dumbest’ in a while

Civil rights leader Andrew Young, a former congressman from Atlanta, had some harsh words in the midst of the shutdown and debt ceiling debate. “We’ve got probably the dumbest Congress we’ve had in a long time.” Young, a Democrat, said in an interview before Nashville’s Meharry Medical College gave him an honorary degree last week. “They don’t have passports. They haven’t been anywhere. When I was in Congress, almost everybody in Congress before me had been in the second world war or in the Korean War. They knew the world. They knew America had to give leadership to the world.”

Young, who was one of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s top aides, was elected to Congress in 1972 and re-elected twice. He resigned within months of his 1976 victory to become the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under President Jimmy Carter, a fellow Georgian.

Young later served as mayor of Atlanta for eight years.

—Michael Cass