

# Point of View

## To Be Equal

### An Urban Marshall Plan For The 1990s

by John E. Jacob

The revolution sweeping eastern Europe has led to calls for a new Marshall Plan and for a new Economic Development Bank to help those countries back on their feet.

Those ideas may make sense, but what about an Urban Marshall Plan to help our own cities and an Urban Investment Bank to invest in our own human and physical resources?

That makes even more sense.

It's not a new idea, either. Back in 1963, Whitney Young and the National Urban League called for a Domestic Marshall Plan. That plan would have rebuilt our cities and invested in developing, the human resources of poor people shunted off to the margins of society.

Had that call been implemented, we would not have the devastation we see in our inner cities today, and despair would long ago have been replaced by hope and opportunity.

In 1990, we have another chance to implement a peaceful revolution of progress in our own country. The experts say that the end of the Cold War means today's \$300 billion defense budget could be safely cut in half.

The \$150 billion savings is the much-derided "peace dividend" that many claim doesn't really exist. But it does -- if we have the political will to use it wisely.

Some people say the peace dividend should be applied to balancing the federal budget, but that is not inconsistent with funding an Urban Marshall Plan.

Up to \$100 billion could go to cutting the deficit. Economists say that would bring interest rates down to around five percent, which would stimulate investment and productivity. There would be a growth in

sales and tax revenues that would further close the budget gap.

The remaining \$50 billion or so would fund an Urban Marshall Plan that is essential to keeping America competitive in the 21st century.

An Urban Marshall Plan would have as its primary goal bringing people at the margins of society into the mainstream to become productive citizens in a productive society.

Some of the Urban Marshall Plan funds would go to repairing our neglected infrastructure -- the base of our economy. America's roads, bridges, water supply and other key infrastructure sectors are in desperate need of modernizing.

That would create blue-collar jobs and put many of our ailing industries back on their feet, while creating conditions necessary for future prosperity.

Part of the Urban Marshall Plan would be targeted to developing our neglected human resources by providing the job training, health care, and housing people need to function at peak levels.

All of America's poor would greatly benefit, but the most immediate impact would be on minorities, who lagged far behind the majority population in the go-go 1980s.

Education is one obvious area where greater public investment in minority and poor children will pay off in a productive future workforce.

Right now we're competing against countries like Japan, where 95 percent of all their people are high school or technical school graduates. We're not doing a good job of meeting the Japanese challenge -- and we won't until 95 percent of our school children get the same solid education that theirs get.

See JACOB, Page 6

The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one depicted as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication.

## Political Points

By

Assemblyman  
Wendell P. Williams

### African-American Men: The New Endangered Species



Almost in every important statistical category from unemployment to school failure, African American males are unchallenged for last place. Moreover, the failure of cultural-specific health delivery systems and increasing homicide rates have impacted disastrously on an already declining life expectancy for African-American men in their prime years.

What is most disturbing, however, is the body count, the toll that life takes on African-American men, which wastes so many lives and which costs so much to try to correct after the damage has been done. It is disturbing also because we, as a society, seem to have forgotten our history and returned to the practice of blaming the victim for his troubles. We seem to have forgotten that a mere 120 years ago, there were no African-Americans. Africans were not citizens, could not own land, and literally did not even own themselves. A mere 20 years ago African men were still being lynched or shot by white men with impunity and with acquiescence, if not the open support of the majority of white Americans.

The following are just some of the many reasons African-American men are the new endangered species:

#### Elementary and Secondary Education Obstacles

1. 83% of elementary school teachers are women, only 1.2% are African-American men. Additionally 46% of secondary school teachers are women, only 3.2% are African-American men.
2. In high schools, African-American students are suspended about three times more often than whites.
3. In 1989, African-American children were 3 times more likely than white children to be placed in classes for the educable mentally retarded.

#### Social and Demographic Obstacles

1. In 1988 over 1/3 of African-American males 15-24 lived in poverty compared to 10% of all white males in that age group
2. African-American males comprise 32% of male drug abuse deaths.
3. African-American juveniles are four times more likely to be referred and incarcerated for a violent offense than their white counterparts.
4. The highest cause of death of young African-American males 15-24 is homicide. Nearly 40% of the deaths in this group can be attributed to murder by other young African-American males.
5. For every 150 African-American women age 20-24 there is only 45 employed African-American men of the same age.
6. Between 1970 and 1979 there were a total of 78,322 African-American male homicide victims.

Clearly if we don't turn things around for young African-American boys by the year 2000, the only place that you will be able to find a sane, articulate, unincarcerated and unadicted African-American man is in the Smithsonian Institution.

Consider these and many other reasons and we can begin to point to why so many are absent from the African-American family. This crisis has taken its toll in early death, in school performance and educational attainment, in incarceration and finally in labor force membership and employability. That is why the most astonishing fact of the African-American male is not that so many succumb and are killed or defeated by the system, but that so many survive and make significant contributions to American Society.

United Church of Christ

## Commission for Racial Justice CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

BY Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

### President Kaunda At the United Nations

One of Africa's most eloquent Presidents delivered an important address to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on apartheid several weeks ago in New York. President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, who is the Chairman of the Frontline States and a leader of the Organization of African Unity, presented the delegates to the United Nations the latest analysis of the situation in southern Africa.

At a time when there is an attempt by the established media to portray President F.W. de Klerk of the racist apartheid regime of South Africa as a moderate transformer, it is crucial that the voices of legitimate leaders from southern Africa be listened to and heeded. It is also interesting to note that while President Kaunda made, what some persons have concluded, one of the most important speeches in southern Africa in the last year, the established news media across the United States chose to ignore coverage.

The Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on "Apartheid and Its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa" was focused on an examination of the overall impact of South Africa's destabilization of the region of southern Africa. The United Nations was also called to consider the Harare Declaration of the Organization of African Unity on the question of South Africa adopted August, 1989 in Zimbabwe. President Kaunda stated, "For us in southern Africa, apartheid represents state terrorism which has also assumed regional dimensions and acts of destabilization against neighboring states." Kaunda affirmed that the Harare Declaration which was presented in the form of a resolution to this Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations "is the single most important document adopted on the question of South Africa since the Lusaka Declaration" which also addressed the need to dismantle apartheid.

The Harare Declaration outlines a process for negotiations leading to the peaceful dismantlement of apartheid and the adoption of a democratic constitution for South Africa. The principles of this peace process have been endorsed by the African National Congress and the Mass Democratic Movement of South Africa. It is therefore, critical for Anti-Apartheid Movement in the United States to educate communities throughout the nation that a peace process has been initiated by the people of South Africa and by the leaders of the liberation movements as well as the Frontline States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of African Unity.

The question remains concerning South Africa's response to these initiatives for peaceful negotiations. The reality in South Africa today is that the South African government's repression has increased and the bloodshed has not stopped. In addition, the United Nations has just released a report documenting the human and resource toll of South Africa's regional destabilization. For example, in Angola and in Mozambique one million persons have been killed since 1980 and most of them were children. Over 60 billion dollars in economic loss has occurred in the southern African region as a direct result of South Africa's terrorist policies of destabilization. Of course, UNITA in Angola and RENAMO in Mozambique continue to be clients of South Africa's brutality against African people. Thus, it is important that efforts be increased here in the United States to cut off all further aid to

See JOURNAL, Page 11

#### POINTS IN HISTORY:

29 years ago on Jan. 27th Leontyne Price made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera.

132 years ago on Jan. 28th John Brown organized the raid on arsenal at Harper's Ferry.