

Point of View

United Church of Christ
Commission for Racial Justice
CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

BY Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

STAND WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

For too long the aspirations and the well-being of Native Americans have been trampled upon by the forces of power in this society. The Spring of 1990 finds the stage once again set for a racial crisis revolving around the treaty rights of Native Americans, in particular in the State of Wisconsin. African Americans as well as all other racial and ethnic persons and persons of conscience in the United States should stand in resolute solidarity with our Native American sisters and brothers.

The fishing rights of Native Americans should not be seen as some minor or side issue. Native Americans more than any other community in the nation have contributed to our understanding of how important it is to maintain the proper care for the earth and the environment. Beyond that, the centuries of oppression of Native Americans now demand that all Americans be committed to eliminating the external forces that continue to cause Native Americans to suffer.

The **NEW YORK TIMES** characterizes the SITUATION IN Wisconsin as "Indians' rights vs. whites fears of overfishing." Yet this is an over-simplification of the issue. First, the United States government signed treaties with the Chippewa Nation in Wisconsin as far back as 1836. These treaties gave the Chippewa Nation as well as other Native American nations full rights and access to specific fishing and hunting areas in northern Wisconsin.

We now know that this region, like so many of the other Native Americans lands throughout the United States, contains enormous deposits of copper, gold, silver, uranium and other precious minerals. We have found that a lot of the racial animosity directed against Native Americans is being

fueled by large multi-national businesses that want greater access and control of these lands and minerals. In Wisconsin, companies such as Kennecott Copper, Union Carbide, Kerr-McGee, Western Nuclear, and Exxon now all have extensive mining interests.

The situation in Wisconsin has also been made worse by the gathering of rightwing, white supremacist groups to intimidate Native Americans with threats and acts of racial violence. Thus, the issue in Wisconsin is more than an issue of who can fish and how much fish can be caught. The slogan "Spear an Indian, Save a Fish" is part of a well-planned, funded and coordinated racist campaign to drive Native Americans from their homeland. This cannot be tolerated.

As the United States increasingly evolves into a multi-racial society, the rights and aspirations of Native Americans cannot and should not be forgotten. The treatment of Native Americans currently defines any sense of this society being truly democratic and just. While other parts of the global community appear to be attempting to address multi-ethnic and multi-racial diversity, the United States needs to clean up its act, in particular for Native Americans.

We stand in opposition to national media programs like the Morton Downy Show which attempts to trivialize and joke about this serious matter. Downy had dressed himself in an "Indian costume" and had a fake arrow through his leg as he interviewed on television representatives of anti-Native American groups from Wisconsin. This kind of media generated racism only adds fuel to the fire.

We take note that the Wisconsin Conference of

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POLITICAL POINTS

By

Assemblyman

Wendell P. Williams

1972 REVISED? NEVER!

In 1972 the Clark County School District implemented a controversial intergration plan which resulted in the busing of elementary school children out of the predominantly African-American community to schools over 15 miles away, supposedly to achieve racial balance.

The elementary schools of West Las Vegas were converted to "sixth grade centers," attended by students from throughout the metropolitan area for one year. Only students in schools that already were intergrated were exempt from attending the sixth grade centers.

The policy did achieve some physical mixing of children. But a shameful and troublesome side effect was that children of West Las Vegas could only attend sixth grade near their homes. A plan that is obviously unfair.

Now, 18 years later, the school board is at it again. This time however, the board has a plan that will place even a greater burden on the backs of our children. And there is an attempt to use the issue of street gangs as a smoke screen. If this zoning plan is achieved, our students will once again carry much more than they should of the burden of busing.

Two weeks ago, board member Howard Hollingsworth proposed that school rezoning should be based on street gang turf. And in his mind, he believes that the school district can zone gangs away from each other. This type of proposal will clearly take our children back to the inequities of the 1960s.

The District was set to vote on this proposal on next week; however, we were able to get the decision delayed. On last Tuesday evening at the May 22nd board meeting, we were able to convince the board to delay its decision and allow



Assemblyman Williams

for more parent input from parents of students who will be affected the most by the proposal.

Instead of a May 31st meeting to vote on this issue, a June 14th meeting will take place in West Las Vegas to hold a public discussion on the concerns of the African-American community regarding proposed rezoning, including other related issues such as transportation and gangs in schools.

The woes of the 1972 decision have served as a complete failure for our children. We must not allow policy makers to throw together quick-fix plans that will help others at our expense and more importantly at the expense of our children's future.

School board members Yvonne Gates and Howard Hollingsworth are now in the process of scheduling a school board meeting in the West Las Vegas area to give residents a chance to air their views about rezoning. The board will not take any action on rezoning until after that meeting.

Never can we allow what happened in 1972 to be revisited. Never can we allow our tax dollars to be used against our own children. Never can we allow a plan to be used that will only crack our backs. Get involved! Contact your school board representative and get the information that you need to help develop a solid, fair and workable plan.

POINTS IN HISTORY: 136 years ago on May 24th, the 1st African-American College was founded, Lincoln University.

112 years ago on May 25th, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, dancer and entertainer, was born in Richmond, Virginia.

25 years ago on May 26th, the U.S. Senate

"ICE," the Coldest Drug Ever Made, Will Bring the Drug Problem Home

By Tony Brown

A cartoon by Oliphant appeared in New York's **Newsday** newspaper showing President Bush at his desk in the White House facing four hoodlums. The caption read:

"Faced with overwhelming military superiority President Bush signs the official articles of surrender before drug cartel generals in Oval Office."

Absurd? Preposterous? Can't happen here?

For example, the drug cartel in Columbia now receives \$150 billion a year from the pocketbooks of Americans via their nostrils and veins. American drug users' money is used to finance, according to Columbia's President, the most powerful criminal empire the world has ever known.

On the streets of America, the cops are already outgunned, and soon will be outmanned, by hoodlums whose growing power is financed by drug addicts who euphemistically call themselves "casual" drug users. The truth is they are the financiers of America's drug plague and the core of the world's drug problem.

Amazingly, 61 percent of Americans favor sending their non-drug using young men and women to Columbia to fight and die in a war to keep "the white girl" out of America. As criminal, immoral and evil as the Columbian drug kingpins are they work for America's "casual" users — those whose lifestyles "demand" more cocaine.

They've so heated up demand for drugs that America's Evil Empire has made its move to take control of this lucrative market by

passed the Voting Rights Act.

POINT OF VIEW: A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess.—A. Philip Randolph

supplying a home grown, laboratory product called "Ice." Until now, the fastest high (in 20 seconds) and the most exhilarating euphoria (a 15 minute high) came from crack (a cooked-crystal form of cocaine). Ice, a smokeable methamphetamine, produces a much longer period of euphoria (a 24-hour high - that's right - 24 hours) followed by a violent 48-hour psychological crash.

Crack, a stimulant and until now the worst thing to ever hit the streets, produces highly excitable, agitated behavior, followed by a short period of depression. The prolonged ice euphoria is followed by depression, severe paranoia, hallucinations and delusions — a violent and dangerous paranoid schizophrenia.

Originally manufactured in Hong Kong, Korea and the Philippines and smuggled in by Asian drug gangs, it has become a serious problem in Hawaii. Its first stops on the mainland were the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix and central Florida and it's moving inland and east to a drug pusher near you. The havoc ice users will bring, however, will be "made in the USA."

The smokeable ice can be made easily and cheaply in the same laboratories that are now used to make speed, the powdered form of methamphetamine, called the poor man's cocaine. On the other hand, ice is sold in \$50 bags of one-tenth of a gram (or \$400 one-gram bags of large crystals).

Ice, unlike speed, which is mainly restricted to poor rural Whites who snort or inject it, has found a market that cuts across all social, economic, ethnic and racial lines. However, it concentrates among those in their late teens and early 20s, especially females attracted to non-needle forms of drug usage.

America's Evil Empire knows that ice has everything it needs to wrest the \$150 billion U.S. cocaine

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