

# REV. JOSEPH LOWERY FEATURED SPEAKER AT NAACP FREEDOM FUND BANQUET, SAT., OCT. 27

The local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.) Banquet will be held October 27, 1990 in the Gable Room of Bally's Grand Hotel, with no host cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Theme of the banquet is "The Struggle Continues". Tickets priced at \$100.00 per person are available through the NAACP office, 940 W. Owens Avenue, or by calling 646-1662.

Featured speaker for the Banquet will be Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, one of the founders and the current President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Joseph Echols Lowery has led the organization he co-founded with Martin Luther King, Jr. and others, to new levels of vigor, effectiveness and visibility. Lowery is the meaning of the word dedicated. He organized and led the 2,700 mile pilgrimage which gained meaningful extensions and strengthening for the Voting Rights Act. That march passed through five states and seventy cities in 1982.

Lowery went to jail twice for leading a resistance campaign against dumping toxic waste in a small predominantly Black community in North Carolina. Because of his efforts a Congressional investigation discovered that there was overutilization of poor and Black communities for toxic waste disposal sites.

He has led campaigns against the Ku Klux Klan, police brutality and has fought for increased employment, job training and economic opportunities in both the private and public sectors for Blacks and other

ethnic groups.

According to an article done by the Atlanta Journal and Constitution in 1986, Lowery is an easy man to like: "witty, intelligent, caring, good-natured and direct, even a bit mischievous."

But he also doesn't mind not being on the list of "acceptable" people at some 'polite' elitist receptions. He takes pleasure in being described as one who "disturbs the comfortable and comforts the disturbed."

Lowery has broadened SCLC's involvement in foreign policy and the peace movement. In 1979 he became the first Black American leader to fly to the Mideast for meetings with Yasar Arafat and other area leaders including the president of Lebanon. In 1983 he flew to Nicaragua

to meet with President Daniel Ortega and three top leaders of that nation.

He has also led attacks against U.S. businesses having contracts with South Africa before it became popular to do so. As early as March of 1977 Lowery and the SCLC demonstrated against the the Atlanta-based Southern Company urging it to cancel a 10-year contract which allowed it to purchase 10 million tons of coal from South Africa. Lowery also was among the first five people arrested in November of 1984 in the South African embassy in Washington, D.C.

He has preached in the Russian Orthodox church and received the Medal of Honor from the Moscow theological Seminary. "He's preached on the Sea

of Galilee and has administered Holy Communion in the Upper Room, and baptized in the River Jordan."

In fact, many of Lowery's views and actions revolve around he is first and foremost a Christian preacher.

In 1968 he became Pastor of the Historic Central United Meth-

odist Church, Atlanta's oldest predominantly Black United Methodist Church. In June, 1986, he became Pastor of the Cascade United Methodist Church, a 2,400 member congregation located in Atlanta's southwest community.

Lowery's sense of Community extends beyond affiliation

with the SCLC and his congregation. He also serves Atlanta as a board member of MARTA: Metro Atlanta's Rapid Transit Authority and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

A former school teacher and newspaper editor, he has served  
(See Rev., Page 7)

## THE RAY WILLIS REPORT

### It's a Wonderful Day in the Neighborhood

By Ray Willis

**"It's a wonderful day in the neighborhood, it's a wonderful day in the neighborhood! Now, listen up boys and girls. Today's lesson is about airplanes and what makes them fly. Have you ever wondered why airplanes fly? — Mister Rogers**

The soft, soothing voice of Mister Rogers has become his most recognizable trademark as the guru of children's educational television. Mister Rogers' captivating presence is so appeal-

ingly wholesome that African-American laughman extraordinaire Eddie Murphy parodied him in skits while he was a regular on Saturday Night Live. Murphy's parody made Mister Rogers Black and had him living in a ghetto apartment, Murphy's light-hearted skits poked good-naturedly at Mister Rogers. Sort of like "here's what Mister Rogers would be like if he were really black and living in the ghetto."

But who could have envi-  
(See Willis, Page 7)



Ray E. Willis

## THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott  
President  
Las Vegas, NAACP



The Las Vegas Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People met in its monthly meeting on October 14, 1990 and voted unanimously to request the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, the F.B.I., United States Senators Harry Reid and Richard Bryan, Congresspersons James Bilbray and Barbara Vucanovich to assist the NAACP in getting a fair, complete and impartial investigation of the Charles Bush killing by officers of the Metro Police

Department.

The District Attorney of Clark County, Mr. Rex Bell and Mr. Brian McKay, Attorney General of the State of Nevada have failed or refused to abide by their sworn duties to uphold the Nevada Statutes and U.S. Constitution relative to the protection of the civil rights of all its citizens.

The NAACP rejects the grand jury involvement in the Charles Bush case because of its history of suspicious findings in similar cases in the past. The association is requesting an open, not a closed door hearing on this case. An open selection of witnesses to give direct testimony and to undergo cross examination by the prosecution and the defense. The good 'ol boys must not be allowed to have their way as they had in the no cause finding of the coroners jury. There must be an investigation that will look into the possible motive of robbery also.

To be continued

**Keep Hope Alive!**  
**STOP THE VIOLENCE!**

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