

Point of View

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

United Church of Christ • Commission for Racial Justice

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

STOP MEDIA RACIAL BIAS AGAINST THE AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS

By Benjamin F Chavis Jr.

It is true that the pen can be stronger than the sword. Across the United States, African American leaders continue to be victimized by racist treatment in the established media. Ironically, some of the worst forms of journalistic racism are now being evidenced in cities that have

African American mayors.

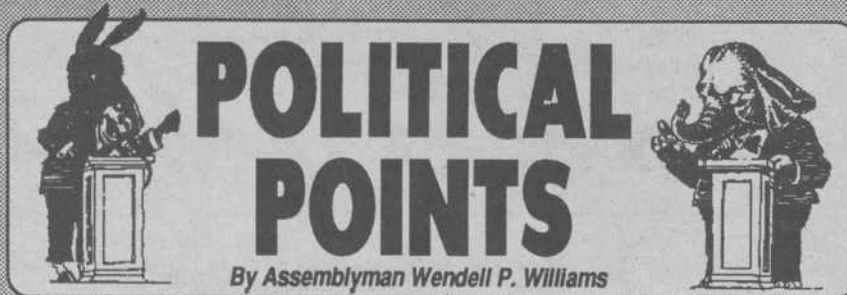
For example, in New York City the major newspapers and television stations consistently blow out of proportion allegations of misconduct on the part of African American leaders. Although Mayor Dinkins has tried to provide leadership in healing the city's severe racial

wounds, there are some media exploiters who continue to spread unsubstantiated falsehoods and allegations about African American leadership.

The media persecution and attempted character assassination of Congressman Floyd Flake from Queens, New York is a case in point. For months, this

freedom-fighting clergyman and effective leader was the subject of spurious attacks in the NEW YORK POST. Massive articles were written concerning Congressman Flake's background, family, ministerial life and church. Yet, after numerous investigations into alle-

(See Civil Rights, Page 18)



INSIDE THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1991

The most insulting thing about the issue of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, is the very idea that people who are born right here in the good ole U.S.A., would have to need legislation to be declared citizens and granted what all humans expect from the constitution.

The second most insulting thing about the Civil Rights Act is that some small minded, insecure and racist individuals still actively fight to defeat a bill that really should not be needed in the first place. Even George Bush found a racist and unjustified excuse to veto the 1990 bill, even after the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate both passed the bill.

Bush along with many other right-wingers used the excuse of quotas to work to kill the Civil Rights Act. Yes, they used the quota issue in the same fashion that they used the Willie Horton issue. Both issues translates into: "Lets make America Frightened of Black folk, by any means necessary."

Anyway, proponents of Civil Rights legislation are still pushing to pass new legislation on civil rights. The Civil Rights Act of 1991 has been

introduced in this session of congress. The new bill was referred to the committee of Judiciary and Education and Labor. As the issue is now beginning to shape up, there are certain things that you should know about key aspects of the 1991 bill.

First, the bill will be referred to as "H.R.1." The bill was reported by the Judiciary Committee on March 19, 1991 with no amendments. It was reported by the Committee on Education on March 12, 1991 with amendments which first changed the bill's title to the "Civil Right and Women's Equality in Employment Act of 1991."

The second amendment provided for an E.E.O.C. Outreach provision designed to allow the E.E.O.C. to make grants to state and local government entities and private organizations designed to inform the public concerning Title VII rights and obligations.

The amendments among other things also provides for eliminating disparities of pay based on sex, race or ethnicity.

From a general stand point, the Civil Rights Act of 1991 makes clear it is illegal to discriminate against women, racial, religions and ethnic minorities in the workplace by harassing,

unjustly firing, or unfairly denying them promotions. It also makes clear that it is always illegal for employers to make job decisions on the basis of prejudice. Plus it guarantees for the first time, the right for women to sue an employer who intentionally discriminates against them, and to sue for monetary damages.

To address the baseless concerns of the Bush Administration, thirty amendments were added including language such as "1. Nothing in this bill" shall be construed to require or encourage quotas", and 2.

"The mere existence of a statistical disparity is not enough to prove disparate impact." I wonder what the next excuse will be? It must be remembered that the quota issue is only raised as a smokescreen to defeat civil rights legislation and to turn back the hands of the clock.

We must never allow the blend of the hundreds and thousands, who gave their lives to attain humanistic gains to help the next generation fight even stronger and with more determination. Our generation is new, it is our turn to stand up for basic dignity. The Civil Rights Act of 1991 gives teeth to the rights that people with disabilities



Assemblyman
Wendell P. Williams

fought hard to enact last year in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Of all women with children between the ages of 6 and 18, 74 percent are employed. When women are discriminated against, an entire family may be affected.

By the way, three of the four Nevada representatives in Congress voted in favor of the 1990 bill, with Barbara Vucanovich voting against it. With the new bill now on the table, please contact the Nevada representatives by phone or letter at:

US Senator Harry Reid
500 S. Rancho Dr. #7
Las Vegas, NV 89106
388-6545

US Senator Richard Bryan
300 L.V. Blvd., So. #140
Las Vegas, NV 89101
388-6605

Congressman Jim Bilbray
1785 E. Sahara Blvd., #445
Las Vegas, NV 89104
792-2424
Congressman
Barbara Vucanovich
19 W. Brook Blvd., #13
North Las Vegas 89030
399-3555

EDITORIAL PICK OR CHOOSE

We, the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice have a question for you, the reader.

Hypothetically speaking, suppose while in West Las Vegas, someone stopped you and asked for the quickest and most efficient directions to the Excalibur Hotel. What directions would you give?

I'm sure that most of you would send them south on I-15 to Tropicana. Or is it possible that you would send them straight through the heavy traffic and congestion of Las Vegas Blvd. We would certainly hope not.

Well, this seems to be the way the Nevada Voters League has spoken for the community in its endorsements of candidates during the primary elections held earlier this week.

For starters, in the North Las Vegas City Councilman race, the League endorsed only one candidate, when there were two seats open. But that is not half as bad as endorsing two candidates for mayor, Republican Steve Miller and Democrat Jan Laverty Jones.

We find it very hard to believe that those, who are supposed to be the voices of the community, would actually take the easy way out and endorse two opponents for the same office. That's like giving the wrong directions.

Just as the person asking for directions needed the most effective and efficient directions to reach his destination on time, the community needs, in office, the most effective and efficient candidate that is going to get to work for not only the West Las Vegas area, but the city of Las Vegas as a whole.

The Nevada Voters League feels that both Miller and Jones are the best qualified of all the mayoral candidates. This is fine, but there is no room for both of them in city hall.

If the NVL is going to continue to act as one of the many voices of the African-American Community, then they owe it to the community to do the right thing and endorse one and only one candidate.

We ask the NVL to give the best directions.

★★★★★★★★

EXPERT OR FOOL

Once again the management of KCEP, our community minded radio station, claims one thing then does the opposite. For the past few weeks there has been an advertisement aired, to come and enjoy the good life at Laughlin, namely golf courses, buffets and gaming. This bus ride excursion to good ole Laughlin is suppose to give the listener a break away from the norm and help KCEP pay for their flagrant FCC violation fine of \$3000.00. Now if "THE EXPERT" as Mrs. Sylvia Staples, assistant director the Economic Opportunity Board addresses him (EOB is licensee of KCEP), would have kept in touch with the events of the community he would have known that the African-American Summit Conference is holding it's 2nd Annual Meeting that same weekend. So we ask the management of KCEP, why go to Laughlin? Why solicit to take our hard earn dollars to a city where there are less than 3% African-Americans working, less than 2% African-Americans living and less than 1% African-American owned businesses. The management is trying to plead it's case to a branch in the Federal government that, KCEP is serving a useful role in the community. How can that be true when the dollars and the minds of African-Americans will be leaving the city to a place that doesn't even pick up the FM88 frequency? For two years now KCEP has chosen to go on this bus trip to Laughlin in May. And for two years straight it has chosen to go the same weekend as the African-American Summit. Last year in fact, the organizing committee for the summit felt so betrayed by KCEP that is started a petition drive to ask that the bus ride date be changed. It was a known fact that KCEP knew well in advance the times and dates of the Summit. The signed petition was sent to the director of EOB, Mr. James Tyree, nothing was done. The next African-American Summit Conference is fifty two weeks away. Who will decide when the next bus trip to Laughlin will be?