

L.V. SENTINEL-VOICE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW:

DR. YOSEF A. A. BEN-JOHANNON

PART II

By Muhammad Abdullah

The Sentinel-Voice interviewed Dr. Ben on several topics including: Black History Month, Slavery in America, Purpose of Las Visit, Encouraging Scholarship of America's Black in African American Studies and Egyptology.

Dr. Ben conducts annual tours of the pyramids in Egypt, the Sphinx and other ancient shrines. While on a recent visit to Las Vegas, Dr. Ben conducted a two-day lecture on "The African origin of Western Civilization" on April 1, 1992 at The Greater New Jerusalem Baptist Church as part of The Black Cultural Awareness Society of Southern Nevada's "WHAT THEY DON'T TEACH YOU IN HISTORY CLASS" LECTURE SERIES.

This is Part II of our interview with Dr. Ben. If you missed Part I, please pick up last week's issue of your Sentinel-Voice newspaper.

ABDULLAH - Is Black History Month, in its present form, a slight to other ethnic groups or nationalities?

DR. BEN - I don't know why we can't have African Studies or Arabian Studies or Afrikaan Studies because you can't study Red studies, Black Studies, Yellow Studies or White Studies. Give it the correct name! Studies come from countries by name, not by color. This is what we need in our schools.

ABDULLAH - Dr. Ben, there is presently a movement that is growing throughout the country called Afro-Centrism. The proponents want a total inclusion of African History and contributions by African-Americans and so-called Blacks specifically, in all of the textbooks, and not an isolated month, but ongoing inclusion in America's textbooks. In grammar school through college. Please comment on this movement. Can it be effective without some mention of African Americans' Islamic past?

DR. BEN - I don't see why it should include Islam more than any other religion. But the African American had not much of an Islamic past if you want to be honest. Unless you want to go into philosophical theory, which is just a theory and has no hard,

concrete evidence.

For example, the "ROOTS" fiasco that Alex Haley initiated by a topsy-turvy kind of history, showing Muslims cutting pigs and killing them in Africa is a joke.

Even as fiction it wouldn't qualify as a good fiction story. Now, if there were any amount of Muslims coming over, it was a very small amount. Frankly, what they brought over here to America were people of the "indige-

nous" form of religion. I don't consider Judaism, Christianity or Islam indigenous history (i.e. writings and so forth.) They robbed from it and formed their own, but it is not indigenous.

Now, the people who came here, the vast majority, that is, were of the indigenous religion, but it doesn't exclude Islam, Judaism, Christianity or anything else.

But it wasn't a preponderance of Africans who were

Muslims or Christians. It was neither of the two. There weren't a preponderance of Jews either. That came after. The people were forced into these things when they came here.

Many didn't even have those things before they left Africa. Not from the areas from which they came primarily.

ABDULLAH - Are any of your children or grandchildren taking your lead in becoming African History and Egyptology scholar?

DR. BEN - I think I have some grandchildren that are trying to follow my lead. I have one grandson that seems to be following me.

I have one son Amandi, who wants to follow me, but I prefer that they want to, because if they want to, they will do a good job. I don't want them to do it just because I tell them, but because they want to, because they will become mechanical. You must eat it, live it, and sleep it.

JESSE JACKSON

(Continued from Page 1)



Union advocate, Jesse Jackson, uplifts the spirit of striking Local 226 of the Culinary Union and SEIU members who were holding their convention in Las Vegas. Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice

union members in that they stir up local and national support for the Union causes.

"These rallies mean everything to us. People are constantly visiting Las Vegas and

when they see us protesting and demonstrating, they go back to their respective states and spread the word. You can't buy that kind of publicity," he said.

Arnold conceded that there has been a "Union-busting" trend going on across America, but went on to say that the trend is beginning to reverse itself.

"We are coming back! Last year there were 17,000 members and this year we have 30,000 members. So there is a reverse in the trend. Whenever management pushes around the "little man" (i.e. laborers or union workers) it fuses the movement. It causes more determination to fight for our rights."

"We are dealing with a lady that strictly has an ego problem. She's not a business minded person. It is strictly an ego. She wants to bust out the workers rights, take their pension and health and welfare away from them. She has no intention, and she never did, of settling with us," he retorted.

Rev. Jackson's visit included a visit to Main Street Station on Monday where he voiced his support for the workers there. Earlier on Tuesday he addressed the (SEIU) delegates at the Las Vegas Hilton and culminated his efforts by leading the rally in front of Frontier hotel that after-

noon.

When asked by the Sentinel-Voice his hopes for these efforts and the state of the Rainbow Coalition, Jackson had this to say:

"Take leaders like Steve Wynn. His attitude is "LIVE AND LET LIVE." The workers want the company to make a profit. They want decent wages and job security and they want the customer to have a good product. It seems to me that the "LIVE AND LET LIVE" is civilized, it's American! It's the moral thing to do."

"We want the Rainbow Coalition to continue to grow. Con-

tinue to organize workers, register voters. We will have a big convention on June 12 and 13 in Washington before going to New York. So we intend to have a message of "HOPE." Rebuild America! Stop the nuclear testing. There will be no nuclear war. If there is, there will be no survivors."

Jackson made some references to Chicago and military spending as he concluded our interview.

"Chicago is flooding. The infra-structure is rotting. Cut the military budget without cutting defense. Rebuild America! That is our thrust," he said.

GAMMA PHI DELTA SORORITY TO HOST "THIS IS YOUR LIFE" BANQUET

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Delta Kappa Chapter, will be hosting the the Eleventh Annual, "This Is Your Life" banquet on Saturday, April 25, 1992 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino. This annual event pays tribute to Las Vegans who have made outstanding contributions to our community outside of their respective workplace, with all proceeds benefiting the sorority scholarship fund. The 1992 honorees are Dr. Kenneth Westfield, one of the leading ophthalmologists in the area: The honorable Rose McKinney-James of the public service commission since 1988 and Thomas "Hit Man" Hearn, one of Las Vegas's most popular sports attraction. Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, A business and professional women's organization, who's basic goals are to motivate and stabilize progressive interest in the values of humanity, educate our youth, and to eliminate the social and economic gaps that exists in out society, holds this exciting fun filled event to show appreciation to those Las Vegans who take the time to care, and through it all, it enables us to provide a four year scholarship to a deserving student.

For information call Sarann Knight-Predy at 648-5040, or Ruby Amie-Hines at 648-8530.

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On Saturday, May 2, 1992, Darvez Scroggins and James Davis will air the first broadcast of "Being Black In America." Our show will deal with many issues concerning African Americans. Issues as they relate to economics, morality, and society in general.

"Being Black In America" is directed primarily but not exclusively for the African American community. We intend to educate all races on what it is to be black in this country.

Our format is designed to enlist the most controversial responses from the public as possible. In order to get the listening audience to respond, we must concern ourselves with the issues which most concern them, and we feel we have done just that.

With the majority of our sponsors being black owned and operated businesses, we would also hope to promote the image of spending as many dollars as possible in the black community. We must support our black businesses if we are to survive in the business world.

Once again that is Saturday, May 2, 1992 at 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon on KLAV AM 1230 for our very first broadcast of "Being Black In America," and Thank You for all of your support.

BEING BLACK IN America

Signed: Producer/Director James G. Davis

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