

STATEMENT FROM DR. WILLIAM F. GIBSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAACP FLABBERGASTED ON THE ACQUITTAL OF FOUR POLICEMEN

Greenville, S.C. — Dr. William F. Gibson, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People made the following statement following the acquittal of four Los Angeles officers on the brutal and senseless beating of motorist Rodney King.

When I heard the results of the acquittal of the four Los Angeles police officers, I was flabbergasted and shocked beyond belief. The results of the current unbalanced judicial process is a travesty of justice for all Americans. The biased and ignorant jury sent a message to police officers everywhere, that it is alright to brutally attack citizens. And if a video is used, some slick officer of the court will help you interpret it for an acquittal.

The actions yesterday by Mr. King's "so-called peers" brought back horrifying recollections of the judicial systems of yesterday. For instance, consider the murder of Emmet Till, a young black man in the South, who smiled at a white lady, and was beaten to death. The all white jury found the perpetrators innocent as predicted.

The evidence was overwhelming against the Los Angeles Police officers and its racist Chief of Police, Darryl Gates,

who created an environment that permitted this violation of human and civil rights. Various specialists, fellow officers, and even some police commanders, condemned the actions of the acquitted police officers as "undue, unnecessary and out of control."

This national farce of justice, as carried out by the confused and apathetic jury in California should reinforce support for the principles of the NAACP, and prompt a resounding call for the immediate removal of Chief Darryl Gates, a supporter of brutality and racism within the law enforcement community.

Today, the Board of Directors for the NAACP, received a request for support and is seeking the Association's resources to aid in dealing with the ramifications and implications of this horrible nightmare.

This request came from John Mance, a National board member from the Los Angeles area; Jose Sosa, President of the California State Conference of Branches and Joseph Duff, President of the Los Angeles NAACP.

While we can appreciate President George Bush's belated concerns regarding the outcome of the trial, he still believes that the "court system has worked." The President is obvi-

ously out of step and out of touch with reality. We hereby encourage and demand that the Attorney General of the United States immediately proceed and initiate the filing of federal charges against the acquitted police officers for the severe and inhuman violation of the civil rights of Rodney King.

We are saddened by the

reactions of those Los Angeles citizens who in their frustration have resorted to violence, murder and looting.

We grieve with them over this great American injustice, but cannot support their destructive action that destroys the dreams and accomplishments of innocent Americans. We must continue to work in harmony by

organizing and then implementing solutions to the inequality in Black America.

Furthermore, we thank those white Americans, who have also seen fit to speak out against the acquittals. We must remind them that this ugly and dastardly deed is only the tip of a vast iceberg. Blacks are being beaten and unjustly persecuted everyday by

a society that continues to deny equal pay, upper mobility and employment, quality education, fair housing and economic parity.

This is a time for all Americans to recognize that together we shall stand, but divided, we shall all continue to share in the shame of hypocrisy when looked to as the leader of the free world.

BILBRAY ASSISTS IN PLANNING FOR FUTURE AFTER THE VIOLENCE ESTABLISHES HOTLINE FOR ASSISTANCE TO ELDERLY AND NEEDY FAMILIES

Congressman Jim Bilbray has assigned staff to work directly with the Coalition for Economic Development and Reconstruction. City and community leaders will be involved in bringing relief to the victims of last week's violence and in the planning process for the future.

"I know that every thinking southern Nevadan was outraged by the not guilty verdict in the Rodney King case. I've attended meetings with government and African-American community

leaders in which I've offered my help. I believe that the last thing people in the community need from their elected officials is for them to spend time blaming each other for the conditions which led to the riots. Simply put, "I want to help every way I can," said Bilbray.

Bilbray is concerned about seniors and families who receive assistance from the federal government. In order for them to receive their checks on time, he has opened his office and estab-

lished a hotline to those who need help working with federal government agencies.

The Congressman has assigned Franklin Simpson to help coordinate any reconstruction plans and to bring as much information and as many ideas as possible into the rebuilding process. Said Bilbray, "We've checked with my friend and colleague Rep. Mervyn Dymally in Los Angeles as well as a number of other Congressmen who represent impacted areas and

we've come up with many good ideas for the community here in Las Vegas to consider. In addition my office is open to those individuals who have been put in jeopardy because their Social Security checks weren't delivered or their U.S. Government sponsored housing was damaged in the events following the conclusion of the Rodney King/LAPD case. We've already received several inquiries and I encourage people to contact my office."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Whatever happened to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officer Wayne Carrington?

Especially, in light of the recent revolt within our community, I would like to ask what happened to Officer Wayne Carrington who at one time was assigned to the West Las Vegas Community?

Why should we be concerned with his absence? For starters, he had begun to develop a rapport with many of the troubled youth within our community. Furthermore, he was involved in such programs as Night Hoops (basketball) that kept the youth occupied in a positive way. Officer Carrington was also working on a boxing program

when he suddenly disappeared from the West Las Vegas community as a duty assignment.

Statistics have proven that a police department that works together with people in a community makes it a better community. Should we care that we have caring and concerned police officers working in our community? Why, of course, we should care! In no way, am I implying that Officer Carrington was the only sensitive police officer to work the West Las Vegas area, however, I would say that he was one of the best in terms of his overall sensitivity to residents.

So again we ask, where is Officer Wayne Carrington?
Sincerely, David L. Washington

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