

# Point of View

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## CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

# THE "CLUBBING OF JUSTICE" CONTINUES IN LOS ANGELES

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

The video sight last year of a "gang" of Los Angeles police officers mercilessly beating Rodney King is still fresh in the minds of millions of persons throughout the world. In the aftermath of the Los Angeles "rebellion" in response to the unjust verdict of "not guilty" given to the police officers responsible for the unjust beating, the residents of Los Angeles are still being threatened with new blows of disrespect from Police Chief Daryle F. Gates.

The latest blow to the system

of justice in Los Angeles was Gates' announcement that he was reconsidering the promise he had publicly made to the L.A. Police Commission that he would retire at the end of June 1992. This act by Gates would serve as an attempt to block and prevent the city from hiring its first African American police chief. In fact, former Philadelphia Commissioner of police, Chief Willie L. Williams, is already in the process of moving his family to Los Angeles to hopefully begin work as the new L.A. Chief of Police prior to July 1, 1992.

We would be the last to suggest that Gates should be treated unfairly. The problem is that once again Chief Gates has put his own personal arrogance as a higher value above the interests of a city already torn by unprecedented racial strife and injustice. One of the manifestations of contemporary racism in the United States is the racist arrogance of officials like Chief Gates who acting under the color of the law, breaks the law to satisfy the hysteria of racial hatred and prejudice.

No resident of Los Angeles

can be treated "fairly" by a police system led by such an "unfair" and "bigoted" police chief. Gates reportedly stated to the Los Angeles Times: "I said I was going to retire at the end of June and my feeling is now....Screw you, I'll retire when I want."

Is Gates the Chief "Bull" Connor of the 1990's, not in Alabama, but in the city of Angels? Can the nation as a whole afford to allow this police chief to put himself above the law and everyone else? What do you think the impact of Gates' recent remarks will be on the tens of

thousands of young people in Los Angeles and in other urban centers as they contemplate the call for "law and order"?

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley aptly responded, "I think the people have had enough of Daryl Gates jerking them around." Ironically as Gates was striking another blow to the people of L.A., a group of White supremacists of the Nationalist Movement based in Mississippi were in California to show their support for Gates and the police officers who had "clubbed" Rodney King. The threat to justice in Los Angeles is a threat to justice everywhere.

It also is evident that Gates does not want the thousands of young men who have joined one of L.A.'s notorious gangs to stop killing each other.

During the "rebellion" a truce was declared between the "Bloods" and the "Crips," and thus yet, on several occasions, the L.A. police have disrupted "truce meetings" between some of L.A.'s gangs. Why do the police want these young people to resume fratricide?

Something is still fundamentally wrong in Los Angeles. Rather than blame the victims of

oppression and racism for their victimization, it is important for acts of solidarity and support to be made in the interest of ensuring equal justice for all peoples.

The justice in Los Angeles continues to be "clubbed" by a ruthless police chief and police officers who are agents of institutionalized racism. When the so-called Watts Riots (Rebellion) in L.A. happened 27 years ago, the McCone Commission was mandated to investigate the causative factors that led up to the rebellion.

Reviewing the McCone Commission Report, one will find a glaring absence of the recognition that racism, racial exploitation and physical abuse jointly have played as primary factors that fuel the igniting of racial and social unrest in Los Angeles and in the entire nation.

But justice and truth will ultimately prevail in Los Angeles common struggle for justice and freedom.

Neither "clubbing" the people nor "clubbing" the pursuit of justice will not stop the unbeatable force of human history that will not rest until justice and freedom are a realization for every child on earth.



## POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams

### BOYS TO MEN

Regardless of how much we talk about how great the "good ole days" were, and how bad the times are today; we simply can't return to the days of "Do you remember the time?" I guess maybe it just makes us feel good to talk about growing up in "our day". I suppose we all fall victim sometimes to the words, "It's so hard to say good-bye to yesterday".

Here's just one example; in June of 1967 I found myself on the campus of Southern University attending what was then known as "Bayou Boys State". It has more recently been changed to "Louisiana Boys State", and it is now held at LSU opposed to Southern.

Boys State is designed for boys during the summer prior to their senior year in high school. A number of selected boys from each school throughout the state attend a week long program designed to teach them about the political process at the state level. This is done by various mock activities where students act out roles in government. They even have elections to select from among them, a governor, legislature, and all other state

officials, allowing these students to carry their own mock government.

Last week here in Nevada, up in Carson City, Boys State was held. It had the exact format as Bayou Boys State had back in Louisiana in 1967. However, there was one distinct difference. In Carson last week there was only one African-American delegate at Boys State. In Louisiana in 67 every single delegate in Bayou Boys State was African-American.

Attending Boys State is an outstanding experience, that in reality, every high school junior should attend. Clearly the week at state is one that a student never forgets. The dividends continue to pay off throughout adult life.

The Southern University, Bayou Boys State provided a situation where the governor was Black, he legislature was totally Black, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Supreme Court Judges, and every single official were all African-American.

That is one pitfall that African Americans encountered as a result of so-called integration in America. Not that this is a message to support separation,

but we must confront and deal with the reality of our children and our lives moving from a community in the 1960's to percentages to satisfy federal quotas, guidelines and grant stipulations for others to attain money.

Examine closely, at Bayou Boys State during 1967, over 900 African-Americans going into their senior year of high school who ran the state from top to bottom, gaining wide range positive experiences for many. However, at Nevada Boys State last week, only 1 African-American going into his senior year of high school participated in running the state from top to bottom.

What if integration was to allow African-Americans to equally mix with whites to exchange experiences, cultures and ideas with each other? Plus allow all students to experience similar situations together.

No one in their right mind would honestly believe that one single African-American student in the entire State is "equal integration." What are the rest of the young males suppose to do?

Again, it may be hard to say good bye to yesterday, but we must realize that because of the



Assemblyman  
Wendell P. Williams

forced quota systems that are the results of today's integration failures, places Black men, especially, in a situation where we must fill the gap that the "we shall overcome mentality" left wide open.

It is refreshing to see a new energy of self-help throughout the community, but policy makers should not be left off the hook that easy. Our youth deserve more. Self-help, combined with good policy, must be demanded at every level.

By the way, the one student that attended Boys State here in Nevada last week, was Edward Miles who will be a senior at Cimmaron High next year. Being the only one did not hinder Edward though. He still worked hard and was elected to the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. And God knows that we need some justice!

But the question that we as adults must face is, what happens to the thousands of young men that were excluded. We as brothers must pick up the slack - Everywhere, all the time, by any means...

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Since the burning and looting in West Las Vegas following the Rodney King verdict, I've noticed how the black businesses that remain are suffering. I can't imagine the blacks in the community being afraid to patronize our businesses in West Las Vegas, as I've been told by some. I just can't believe that a sensible and intelligent person can't see through the media hype. Things aren't as bad as they make it seem. Yes, we had a few young people frustrated and

(See Letters to the Editor, Page 4)

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