

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT

BY RAY E. WILLIS



COP STOPS

What one person routinely accepts as fact has to be proven beyond the shadow of a doubt to be believed by someone else. Such was the case when ABC's "20-20" prime time TV news magazine aired a revealing feature story last week about Black male motorists and the law in southern California. As reporter Lynn Sherrer, who narrated the segment put it, "We wondered if Black men in cars are stopped and harassed more frequently than White men, so we put some Black men from our own staff in a Mercedes as bait to see if it was true."

Obviously, it comes as no surprise to African Americans that Black men are routinely victimized by police without apparent cause or provocation. That's because we live it every day. But there can be no denying the issue when you see it live and "in living color" on a legitimate news program. Sure enough, as soon as the sweet-back bait of Black men in a luxury convertible pulled onto the roadway, they were immediately intercepted and detained by the police.

What happened next was really no surprise either. With cameras whirling from an unseen location, the cop asked the Black men a series of questions in a threatening, hostile and demeaning tone. At one point the policeman even had the audacity to inquire how the driver could afford to purchase an expensive car like that. Finally, after they were released, they continued on—only to be stopped several more times by other policemen.

To accentuate the fact that Black male motorists are treated differently than Whites, "20-20" next put a group of White guys in a nice car late at night under the same conditions. They filmed the White group cruising the streets, lollygagging and typically just having fun.

They did everything imaginable to attract the attention of nearby police to no avail. Sixteen, count them—16 police cruisers passed the White guys without so much as lifting a finger to obstruct them. The message here being that, "We're

White, so it's not necessary to stop, detain or harass us for no reason at all."

If there was a weakness in the news report it was that the authority source used later on in the segment to respond to questions about police tactics was none other than brand-new Los Angeles Police Chief Willie Williams, himself a Black man. In my view, a Black man is not the best spokesman to respond to a racial issue about Black men when the audience is not Black.

At one point while being interviewed, Williams was asked what can be done to prevent Black men from being illegally detained. He responded by talking about sensitivity training and so forth. Of course Williams was responding like any self-respecting top law enforcement official who happens to be Black would. But he totally misses, or at least skillfully avoids, the real point.

How can a Black man, a victim of racism himself, be a believable spokesman in this instance? He can't change the dynamics of racism. Until or unless racism is eliminated, 20-20 and all the other TV news shows in the world can do non-stop daily news reports about Black men being harassed by the police and conditions will not change. Keep everything clearly in perspective. As long as Black men are treated unfairly we must view news reports like this one as simply a reflection of the society in which we live. Further, the different treatment Black men receive from the police and society in general is a predictable by-product of the dehumanization of our race. Putting an end to racism is the only way to end unwarranted cop stops.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

THE WESTSIDE STORY

THE END OF OPPRESSION!

By R.K. Brown

Now that we've finally kicked those tyrants out of office, we may again be able to live with a certain degree of safety. Las Vegas and the entire nation came out in record numbers to vote out that regime of twisted minds, which almost destroyed this country. Let's take a brief look at what the policies of Reaganomics has left for us all.

Well, their big "argument" is that they were the prosperity makers of the last 12 years. Conservatives claimed that under Carter we had skyrocketing inflation and spending. That may be true, but at least you could buy a house and raise a family! In 1979 America was still the leading exporter in the world, not Japan or Germany. That isn't the case today. America was also the biggest creditor, meaning the world's countries owed us the greatest amount of money. In short, we were still the most prosperous country with Jimmy Carter in the White House.

After winning the 1980 election by underhanded means, these conservatives claimed to be the party of family values. During the 80's family values slipped to record lows! Crime increased 100%. Drug use and homelessness became household words. In the 70's we just didn't have these types of large scale "domestic" problems. Blacks were thrown in prison at "slave" like standards! There are more black men in jail in America, than there are in South Africa.

There were major cuts in all of the minority programs. The civil rights commission, then EEOC, welfare, minority scholarships, you name it; they were all hit hard! Quotas and black crime became "buzz words." There was the major veto of the 1990 landmark civil rights legislation. Countless black figures were "dramatized" in public media scandals.

During all of this, conserva-

tives held a candle to the fact that, "they were at least creating the greatest prosperity and big business growth this century." While all of the things mentioned above were a tragedy, this was the biggest joke! During Reaganomics, we established the highest unemployment rate since World War II. We became the biggest debtors in the world,

meaning we now owe more money than any country. We established the biggest deficit in America's history, and the worst economic record of any presidency since the "great depression."

Finally, we created the biggest racial division since the 1960's. During the last 12 years, we established the most wide

spread civil unrest in 30 years, and the deadliest riot in US history. Pretty impressive...if you want to talk about pure oppression! Hey, I'm just glad it's over, and we're, as usual, alive and kickin'. Brothas in the valley and nation, we're still here; and they are gone. You just can't keep a Black Man Down!

Peace...

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

NAARPR REPORT

On Monday, November 9, 1992 at 10 O'clock a.m. in the court room of Municipal Court Judge Barlow, the charges against Doctor James S. Tate and the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, stemming out of an arrest performed by the Nevada Highway Patrol at the Department of Motor Vehicles on June 27, 1992, were dismissed. The dismissal verifies what has been maintained by the Alliance all along, that the City and the State, in collusion with each other, attempted to

concoct a purely politically motivated criminal case in order to derail the effort at securing civilian control of the Metropolitan Police Department. Indeed in his dismissal, Judge Barlow indicated that even reading the documents submitted as the indicting documents by the City, there was no indication of any criminal activity. In other words, the City of Las Vegas never had a case and does not have a case now, and so the charges were dismissed. It is indeed unfortunate that Judge Barlow dis-

missed the case, and dismissed the charges without prejudice, which allows the City to re-file the charges within the next year and one day. In other words, the Judge was in essence telling the City that you don't have a case now, you didn't have a case before, but you have a year and a day to make one up.

What in essence this does, is allow the City to now go back and get it's lie together. The City Attorney whose competence is clearly shown by this dismissal, (See NAARPR, Page 22)



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