

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

"THE VERDICT, PART II"

By James S. Tate, Jr., M.D.,
Chairperson, NAARPR
Well, finally the Rodney King

Civil Rights Trial in Federal Court
in Los Angeles is over, ending
with the conviction of two of the

four officers that were indicted. While two of the police officers were acquitted, clearly the phrase "Guilty beyond a reasonable doubt" saved these last two. Many people in the past have indicated that there should be a three part verdict rendered in this country, as it is in Britain, which is guilty, not guilty, and

innocent. The middle phrase being not guilty, because there has not been a preponderance of evidence presented to convict the person, but who the jury still feels was not totally innocent, and with the better presentation of evidence would probably have been found guilty. For in this case every police officer, who

appeared on that video tape should be tried, convicted and imprisoned. This being necessary to send a very clear message to police officers that you are: 1. Not above the law. 2. You are employees, who have been hired to uphold the provisions of the law and not at any point in time are you authorized



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD
to take the law into your own hand nor seriously injure one of
(See NAARPR, Page 25)

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT
BY RAY E. WILLIS

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

TOGETHER

— JUST US —

Following weeks of racial tension, in a split second after the Rodney King Two Trial verdicts were announced, mass hysteria instantly subsided leaving America free to lapse quietly back into complacency for a while.

"It was unbelievable," expressed one West Las Vegas resident who requested anonymity. "White people were way out of line being so scared of us without any reason to be," she said.

Before the verdict, Whites by the droves raided stores buying up food staples and drinking water in anticipation of the rioting that never came. They armed themselves with automatic weapons, handguns and shotguns, prepared for the violence that they expected would occur in the wake of the trial verdict.

They sought the latest "intelligence" information on the movement of Black gangs and speculated on whether Blacks would bypass their own community to overrun White communities "this time." Local government agencies bought in to the pre-verdict panic by establishing "Rumor Control" centers to field questions ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous from a panic-stricken populace.

Everyday of the trial exposed incredible twists and turns. Irrational fears replaced sound judgement. Preconceived racial stereotypes took many people's thoughts and actions.

A Black resident of a predominantly White Las Vegas area community expressed a concern very similar to the West Las Vegas. "With all of the talk we constantly hear about racial harmony, they (Whites) showed us what little they actually think of us by their silly actions before the verdict," he said.

The difference in opinion about the eventual outcome of the trial between Blacks and

Whites was like night and day. News accounts confirmed most Blacks didn't buy in to the notion that there would be violence, if the verdicts were fair and just.

On the one hand you had Blacks who from personal experiences distrust the criminal justice system because it disfavors Blacks. On the other hand you had Whites who know that Blacks are more likely to get a raw deal from the courts. And Blacks wonder whether the uneasiness of Whites over the King trial might have been prompted because they know the courts do not generally mete out equal justice.

The King trial is over. As the old saying goes, "It ain't over 'til it's over." The next benchmark will be literally during the hottest part of the summer. At that time, equal justice will be in the line again in the case of three Black men on trail for beating White truck driver Reginald Denny during the L.A. riots.

At nearly the same time the two police officers convicted of violating King's civil rights are also scheduled to be sentenced.

It will be interesting to see what the public perceptions are. Will it be a case of Black Robes, White Justice? Or, in the final analysis, will it be JUST US?

To know is to grow. Until next week.

By R.K. Brown
We have all observed the way several communities, including Las Vegas, and Los Angeles, have come together to heal the wounds of civil unrest. We have seen corporate, police, civilian, and public sponsored peace rallies. With this cooperated effort, we know that ALL of us, are in this together.

This brings me to an interesting observation, that my dad has brought to my attention. In situations where blacks and minorities have moved to the streets to riot for justice, the following months and years have culminated in calls for peace and togetherness.

I can truly understand this reasoning because we are all Americans, and the people of color have as great a stake in the positive occurrences of the U.S. system as whites do. If minorities begin to kill and loot, then long term prosperity for EVERYONE can't begin to occur.

What is sad and frustrating, is that so many times it seems white conservative factions, don't want to become a part of the "American Team," until people of color take their frustration to the streets! For 12 years none of the suburban population seemed to have much use for "coming together." White incomes during the 80's rose to unprece-

dened levels. Today the top 1% of the white population controls 75% of the wealth and money in this country! The tax burden for upper income whites fell, while the amount of taxes paid by the working poor increased by record levels.

During all of this there were no cries for "togetherness"

among most white communities. At the same time blacks reached their highest unemployment level since World War II. Blacks went to prison at slave like standards. Half of black children fell under the poverty line. Finally, affirmative action became "quotas," and civil rights legislation was frowned upon and vetoed. So

the 80's was a very bad time for people of color.

Locally, Las Vegas exemplified the greatest growing boom of any city in the United States! Prestigious suburban communities including the Lakes, Spanish Trail, Summerlin, and Green Valley, ranked first in the whole
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