

A COMMON BOND

The lack of a commonly accepted standard today for what constitutes being Black is wreaking havoc on the psyche of many African-Americans, making it more difficult than ever for us to come to terms with, much less define, our own Blackness.

In spite of the fact that we are rapidly becoming diverse, common stereotypes persist. In the past it was easier to relate to one another because we as Black people came from pretty much the same common experiences and background. Today, that has drastically changed.

We're now more economically diverse than we've ever been in this nation's history. In 1990, almost 30 percent of Black families in the U.S. earned \$35,000 or more while 11.5 percent made \$5,000 or less.

The Black middle class is growing, but so is the Black



NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION THE 22 BILLION DOLLAR BOONDOGGLE

By James S. Tate, Jr., M.D.,
Chairperson, NAARPR

Wild Bill Clinton recently announced that he was asking Congress for 22 billion dollars for a "Crimes Bill," which would basically mandate at least 100,000 more police officers on the street, add more jails and prisons, etc. While the Clinton administration may be naive or out right stupid enough to think that people are going to buy the notion that this is something new, when it really isn't. In reality this is the same SB1 or more appropriate (SOB 1) that Teddy Kennedy introduced 15 years ago and it was roundly defeated. It would have virtually turned the United States into a quasi fascist police state that was reminiscent of Nazi Germany. It is also, interestingly enough, not materially different from what his late brother Robert Kennedy had introduced several years before. In that case it was known as the King Albert plan. For those who are real students of history, you will recall that the King Albert plan, whose existence was denied right up to the Watergate Era break in's when it was suddenly discovered and then just as rapidly re-buried so that no one would know what was being

planned. In reality, what the King Albert plan proposed was a basic turning of all of the ghetto's in the United States into military held concentration camps. Among other things it consisted of the rounding up and controlling of persons within the community that the U.S. government felt would be able to exert influence on Africans in this country in other words, preachers, lawyers and doctors. I am not sure that at this point whether a re-evaluation by the government might still find that those three have any influence in the African community. In looking at what is going on today I tend to feel that their influence is probably nil. But that, as you may recall, is a whole other story. In this instance the fact that the announced contender for the throne of governor has in essence approved and agreed with this 22 billion dollar boondoggle means the African, Hispanic, and poor white community in Southern Nevada need to let her know that we feel that this is inappropriate. The

crime rate in this country will decrease when the unemployment rate decreases. As long as people do not have jobs, no matter how many police that are put on the street, it is not going to stop crime.

As I have said before the criminals and the cops are the same people. So unless you plan to go around and find all the criminals you can and make them cops, it ain't gonna work. What we need in this country is not a bill that would increase the numbers of people who are incarcerated. The United States already has the highest incarceration rate per capita of any country; ANY COUNTRY in the world, including South Africa and the former Soviet Union. In fact, the Soviet Union never even came close to what this country has.

What we need is a bill that will create jobs for people not short term, do nothing, worthless activities such as the Clinton administration has recommended in the past. We need



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jobs that have a future and a decent wage and give people hope for the future. Jobs that have a future, not just for today but tomorrow. Jobs that people know that their children can fill and will be available for their offspring in addition to themselves. Without that no number of gun happy cops on the street is going to curtail what is defined as crime, but what in reality is more accurately defined as survival. There also must be a justice system. A system that increases the sentences 10 times for possession of one type of

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NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

THANKS

By R.K. Brown
Today, as we look back on the legacy we call African America, there is great reason for each and every one of us to give thanks.

First, we should thank our forefathers who endured the worst of our racist American heritage. For dying by the hundreds of millions in the last four centuries, it would seem our race and conscience would have been wiped from the face of the earth. But as in the South Pacific, Jamaican Islands, South Africa, and Africa; the elimination of black populations is impossible.

A special thanks for the only two legitimate presidents in the history of black America. Their contribution was incredible. In standing up for the fact that black Americans were citizens, worthy of basic rights; they left themselves in pure isolation, from both sides of the black/white struggle.

Of course conservative whites would call Lincoln and Kennedy, sell outs and black lovers. But today in some modern black circles, the belief is

held that these men didn't have black interests at heart. So in the end, they were murdered, and weren't fully accepted by either, the black or white race.

Thanks to the black youth, who struggle through poverty, discrimination, unequal education, and employment opportunities. To succeed through such monstrous odds, is a testament to the black spirit. Every year there are black standouts; students, artists, and inventors, who we never hear about. They are the reason our legacy continues.

Thanks to the black woman, so sweet and fine. The queen of the earth, the mother of the universe. From slavery to Reaganomics, you have raised black children with dignity and pride. Conservatives talk about the negative effects of single parent households, but without that mother's love, no generation of black family from Douglass to King, would have reached our lofty levels of today.

Thanks to the black man, not always fully understood by his lady, or the outside world. How can one communicate that he

doesn't really want to sell crack? He wants a Benz just like Uncle Sam. He wants to live the American dream, working an honest living, and taking care of his family. he can't get a job, why? The system knows he will come up. He can't get a business loan, why? The system knows he will come up. Because of his ragged clothes and appearance, people can't see that he is really an artist, or educator, or business tycoon; just covered with the shell of oppression. For continuing to exist and endure, all black men are achievers.

Finally, the biggest thanks, to the community of black America. From the brightest yellows, to the deepest milk chocolates, we are the symbols of immortality. Today in every field, science, education, the arts, entertainment, movie making, and making ends meat; we shall always persevere.

1994 will mark a new beginning in African America and the black world population. Black power and glowing strength will burn forever, because our blackness is eternal peace...

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