



THE RAY WILLIS REPORT
BY RAY E. WILLIS

A POSITIVE REALITY CHECK

Lo and behold. The other day when I opened my R-J newspaper, staring me smack in the face was a picture of newly-appointed Las Vegas City Councilman Ken Brass. The conservative banker appeared dapper and smiling, along with his wife and children.

So what's the big deal? you say. Complimentary photo spreads and articles about Black men and their families appear in the newspapers all the time. Not so. A reality check is definitely in order.

For the record I can't recall too many times when the media has done a positive story about a Black man and his family like the one on Councilman Brass.

No, I don't believe there's a conspiracy not to run positive news about Black families. I do, however, believe that the media gets caught up on the "stereotype syndrome." That is, they tend to stick to the tried-and-true — those stories about Blacks

that fit with stereotypic concepts that are embedded in the long term memory of mostly-white and male news editors and the public in general.

You know the ones I'm talking about. Stories about welfare moms, gangs, drugs, crime — inner city story angles portraying Blacks in a dehumanized way.

In truth and reality there are just as many positive attributes about Black people and Black families that rarely see the light of day. For instance, there are hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of Black families right here in Las Vegas with a profile similar to the Brasses. I'm speaking of solid, middle class families who share the hopes, dreams and aspirations of Americans, irrespective of race or color.

Unfortunately, their stories seldom if ever seem to capture the imagination of the press. Look at it from a reporter's per-

(See Ray Willis, Page 4)

ALONG THE COLOR LINE
WHY DINKINS LOST

PART ONE OF A TWO PART SERIES

By Dr. Manning Marable

To much of America, New York City is identified as a bastion of liberal politics, multiculturalism and social permissiveness. Registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by a five-to-one margin. Conventional wisdom declared that the probability of a Reagan Republican being elected mayor of New York City was something like Fidel Castro's chances of being elevated as mayor of Miami.

Yet political appearances are deceiving. The defeat of incumbent Democratic mayor David Dinkins of New York by former Reagan Administration Associate Attorney General Rudolph Giuliani should have been a major shock. But the sad truth is that David Dinkins was the first, and probably will be the last African-American mayor, for at least a decade.

Dinkins had spent a lifetime preparing for the job, progressing quietly from Harlem assemblyman to city clerk to Manhattan borough president and finally mayor in 1989. Always well-attired, he carefully cultivated an image of cautious optimism. He advanced coalition politics rather than confrontations, and devel-

oped strong ties with the city's large Jewish community. His style as a conciliator represented a sharp departure from the provocative manner of his democratic predecessor as mayor, Ed Koch.

But Dinkins never lived up to most white voters' expectations. True, there were some positive initiatives by his administration, such as the establishment of thirteen walk-in health care centers for the poor. His low income housing rehabilitation program was the nation's largest, with 17,000 units which became available in the past year. But in only four years, the city lost more than 300,000 jobs, and the mayor was the logical public figure to blame.

Critics began to point to one thousand and one examples of New York's social disintegration and escalating violence: the alarming fact that there were 5,761 violent incidents in New York's schools last year, and that one out of five high school

students now regularly carry weapons in the classroom; that between January through October, 1993, 362 black people under the age of 21 were murdered by other blacks in the city; that 125,000 New York residents are estimated to be infected with HIV, and more than 50,000 diagnosed with AIDS to date, creating a massive public health crisis; that 5,700 homeless families in the city are in shelters, an increase of 1700 since Dinkins assumed the mayor's office; and that the city's immediate budget deficit was between \$250 and \$740 million.

Eventually, people blamed Dinkins for the problems of daily life for which the mayor had little or no responsibility or control. On the eve of the election, a New York Times/WCBS-TV study declared that 50 percent of all New Yorkers interviewed "thought life in the city got worse during the Dinkins years." Another thirty percent judged the quality of life to be "the same,"



DR. MANNING MARABLE with only 8 percent claiming that things had improved.

Dinkins' reputation as a racial healer soured with the Crown Heights disturbances, with the failure of the mayor to act decisively. But in the end, what really destroyed Dinkins' chance for reelection was the omnipresent specter of race. When President Clinton came to town last month and said what was obviously true — that many white Americans have difficulty voting for people who are racially different from themselves — the critics went ballistic. New York Times columnist A.M. Rosenthal blus-

(See Along Color Line, Pg 4)

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

WHAT ABOUT IT?

By R.K. Brown

As my dad asked me the other day, what happened to the government's relationship with Haiti? I had no response. In truth, all I could have said was, what about it?

In South Africa, the HISTORICALLY racist whites developed a constitution for equal access. Now all citizens in that country should have voting rights and job opportunity. Because of this event, the U.S. government has suggested that we wave all sanctions against it's white cousin.

America adopted these same types of PAPER ideals in it's constitution over 200 years ago. It wasn't until the 1960's that it conceded basic voting rights to blacks and other minorities. Even America took 175 years just to face it's own racist legacy. No way are whites in South Africa who are outnumbered 8 to 1 going to give up power!

In the Far East, South America, Europe, and the Middle East; our military has gone in and saved independent nation

states. Of course all had to promise to be American puppets, willing to go to war and die for white American interests. The U.S. has employed this practice since the start of the cold war.

But, only in the case of Somalia have I seen our military go to war with the people they were sent over there to help. It just blows my mind that we can send planes and bombs to Israel, weapons and arms to South America, and supplies and intelligence to Bosnia; and always in complete harmony.

In many of these cases the government operates above the heads of the American public. They call it government, or CIA operations. Why can't America send CIA troops to South Africa and train the oppressed blacks? Why aren't they given guns, bombs, planes, and trains, like other American interests? At 8 to 1, they would wipe those racists up pretty quickly?

In Haiti, our government has openly acknowledged that it's shores have been ripped by war and unrest. The OFFICIAL government position is, "the people are torn by war and chaos." If we

look at any period of American history, we find these to be the classical elements necessary to be considered "refugees."

In the 19th and 20th centuries, millions of white immigrants came to this country and were welcomed with open arms. Asian populations in more recent times have come to America because they wanted political asylu., Our most hated enemies, the Russians, openly come into the country by the plane loads in the name of peace.

The government's position on Haiti is clearly "hey they might meet all qualifications we have accepted for over 200 years, but they are still black!" We can't help them and they can't come to the U.S., so we got to get that brotha back in power!

There is no answer to my dad's question because there never was. The only reason they let brothas into lily white America was because we worked for free! The black world is on it's own. And always will be. peace...

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Jim Marsh with Daughter Stacy

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