

# Point of View

The views on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one depicted as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication

## CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

# A CALL TO REALIZE THE DREAM

By Bernice Powell Jackson

I sometimes refer to myself as a Brown vs Board of Education baby, to remind myself of the changes I have seen in my lifetime. Growing up in the Nation's capital, I was scheduled to attend one of the segregated kindergartens of that city. But during the summer before school began, the Brown decision changed all of that. Those of us over that age of 30 are intensely aware of the changes we have seen in our lifetime. We know first-hand what that segregated world was like. We remember what it felt like not to be able to stop at a restaurant or a rest room on a long automobile trip. We know what it meant to be able to get any job we wanted, despite our education or background. We remember when there was no Congressional Black Caucus, when no major cities had African American mayors, indeed when many African Americans were denied

the right even to vote.

But for young people that world is history. It is difficult for many of them to understand the emotional and physical toll that living in that world took on African Americans. It is hard for them to imagine what it felt like to be hired for a job or to be paid at a lower wage. They cannot understand easily the significance of the historically black colleges which were the only higher education option for most. They cannot imagine what it was like not being able to try on clothes you wanted to purchase or not being able to get a cool drink of water on a hot day.

That is the real significance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. It is a time for remembering and for sharing that memory with our young people and our children. In order for them not to take for granted living wherever they want, attending whatever school they have the ability and funds to attend or

working at whatever job they are qualified for, they must understand their not-so-distant history. If they are to understand the importance of voting, they must understand what it was like when we couldn't.

But the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday must be more than memories. It must become a time of rededication and revisioning, because the times we are living in are more dangerous to our survival than any time since we arrived unwillingly on these shores. Our children are killing each other. Our men and women, our babies are dying of AIDS. Children ten and eleven years

old are planning their funerals. Children are having children. Mothers, hooked on crack, are abandoning their babies. Fathers have given up any hope of jobs in their lifetime. Our ancestors, who survived the Middle Passage, who survived the horrors of slavery, who survived lynchings and Jim Crow laws, cry out to us. Martin Luther King, Jr. champion of peace, cries out to us.

We in the Commission for Racial Justice use this occasion, after more than a quarter-century of work, to rededicate ourselves to continuing the struggle for racial justice in this country

and the world. My predecessors, Dr. Charles E. Cobb, Sr. and Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. have left a rich legacy for me as I take over the helm of the Commission and for our staff as we begin our new journey together. We thank them for that.

We rededicate ourselves to work tirelessly to help end the violence which is destroying our communities. We say enough. We say enough of the violence which is killing innocent children, which is destroying a generation of our young men. We want to find ways to enable churches and community organizations to take back our children, to steal

them from death's grasp and to give them life and hope — hope for a future which includes them, hope for the world which Martin Luther King, Jr. dared to dream.

We rededicate ourselves to work tirelessly around rebuilding the health and wellness of our communities. Our health care needs parallel those of undeveloped countries. If our young men survive the violence, they face mortality rates in adulthood. We face higher incidences of cancer, heart disease, hypertension, alcoholism and drug addiction. Our babies are more likely to die. AIDS is rampaging through (See Civil Rights Journal, Pg 4)

## ALONG THE COLOR LINE

# "JIM CROW REVISITED"

By Dr. Manning Marable

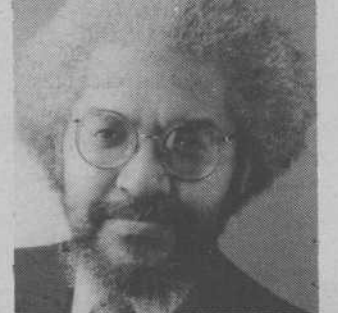
In the era of Brown v. Board of Education, the landmark Supreme Court decision of May, 1954, which finally abolished the

"separate but equal" principle in our public schools, liberal educators and social reformers argued that Jim Crow segregation was designed to perpetuate

inequality.

A half century ago, the most glaring examples of inequality in the public schools were the sharply different material conditions which separated the races, in terms of teachers' salaries, instructional materials, and the basic conditions of learning. In many Southern states, the expenditures per pupil ratio between white and black students was four to one, or even greater. Black teachers would normally receive one-half or one-third the annual salaries of white public school teachers.

High schools in the Northern major cities such as Chicago or St. Louis frequently denied admission to African American students, at least up to the Great Depression. Older textbooks which had been used for years by white students, which were filled with outdated and even



DR. MANNING MARABLE

erroneous information, were distributed to black elementary and secondary school children. Black high schools, when they did exist, frequently did not have courses in physics, calculus, chemistry or foreign languages. The equipment in the biological sciences was inadequate and often nonexistent. It is hardly surprising that within the Jim Crow learning environment many African-American students lagged behind their white (See Along Color Line, Pg 4)



## POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams



## GARBAGE: FIT FOR A KING

The year, 1968, the day, February 12th, 185 years earlier, ole Abe Lincoln was born. However, on this day in '68 down in Memphis Tennessee the garbage workers went out on strike. On this day as well, Martin Luther King Jr. was busy at his Atlanta office working on strategy for the upcoming Poor People's campaign in Washington, D.C. Because of the strike however, King's plans changed which called for him to go to Washington by way of Memphis Tennessee. It was on March 30th after a very emotional and spiritual long staff meeting that King decided to take his nonviolent principles to Memphis. At that point Martin Luther King Jr. had five days to live.

As we now find ourselves in the midst of the Tenth Anniversary of the National

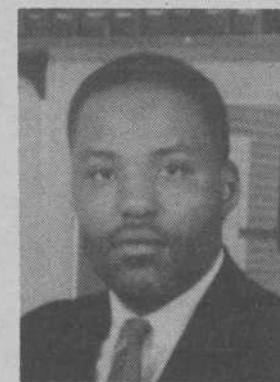
King Holiday in America, and the Thirteenth Annual King Week in Las Vegas, it's ironic that twenty-six years after Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis while there to lead a non-violent demonstration for striking garbage workers, we find today in 1994 many Las Vegas garbage workers will observe the upcoming King Holiday by being locked-out of their jobs. Who says we've come a long way?

It seems that the more things change the more they really stay the same. Let's go back and compare. There's an old saying, "If you don't know and understand your past, you're doomed to repeat it." On Monday, Feb. 12, 1968, 1,300 African-American sanitation workers in Memphis walked off their jobs. Their union was the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The strike had started over a

sewer workers' grievance. Twenty-two African-Americans of that department who reported for work on January 31 were sent home when it began raining. White employees were not sent home and when the rain stopped after an hour, they were put to work and paid for the full day. After the African-American workers complained, the city tried to mollify them by paying them for two hours work. The mayor of Memphis, Henry Loeb, refused to recognize the union; maintained that the strike was illegal; and refused to even discuss the workers' grievances until after they returned to work.

In addition, Memphis' African-Americans felt deeply offended by the racist attitude shown by a cartoon in the local paper. They were also outraged because they felt that the police had overreacted to a protest by African-Americans by spraying



Assemblyman  
Wendell P. Williams

mace into the faces of the demonstrators. An aroused, angry group of ministers led the community into a campaign which broadened the original issues of the strike. It included a boycott of all downtown stores, the Memphis newspaper and more.

Meanwhile, the city secured a court injunction prohibiting striking against the city or picketing city property. Under it's provisions, union leaders could be held in contempt and jailed if they disobeyed the injunction.

Also, two Memphis senators in the state legislature at Nashville, introduced bills which would have outlawed the sanitation strike and prohibited union dues checkoffs (See Political Points, Pg 27)

## Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice

Nevada's only African-American community newspaper.  
Published every Thursday by Brown Publishing Co., Inc.  
1201 South Eastern Avenue • Las Vegas, Nevada 89104  
Telephone (702) 383-4030 • Fax (702) 383-3114

Betty Brown, President/CEO  
Lee Brown, Publisher / Editor  
Ramon Savoy, Advertising & Marketing Dir.  
Lourdes Cordero-Brown, Office Mgr.  
William G. Ramirez, Sports Editor  
Willis Brown, Production Manager  
Thomas Hill, Distribution  
Don Snook, Graphics

Contributing Writers:  
Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams  
Ray E. Willis (CCSD)  
Rev. Jesse Scott (NAACP)  
James S. Tate, Jr., M.D. (NAARPR)  
R. K. Brown  
Gwen Walker  
Diana Aird

Members:  
National Newspaper Publishers Assoc.  
West Coast Black Publishers Assoc.  
This newspaper is audited by:  
Community Papers Verification Service,  
6225 University Ave., Madison, WI 53705  
(608) 238-7550

Subscriptions payable in advance  
Six months \$15.00  
Twelve months \$25.00  
The rates apply to  
Continental United States only