

CLINTON SIGNS FAIR HOUSING EXECUTIVE ORDER AS PART OF KING DAY ACTIVITIES



President Clinton hands a pen to Howard University student Charles DeBose after signing the Fair Housing Executive Order that will permit vigorous enforcement of the nation's fair housing laws. Also standing are Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Roberta Achtenberg and Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD).

President Clinton marked this year's Martin Luther King Day federal holiday with words and actions. In his first public speech following his trip to Europe, the President linked the steps toward democracy he saw in Europe to the vision of freedom and democracy Dr. King championed.

Speaking to an audience of students and long-time civil rights activists, President Clinton said, "As I come home on this Martin Luther King Day from a trip that fought for democracy and economic progress and security, I have to ask myself: How are we doing on these things here at home? If we want to say to the people in the troubled areas in Europe — put your ethnic hatreds behind you, take the differences, the religious differences, the racial differences, the ethnic difference of your people and make them a strength in a global economy, surely we must do the same here."

The President commented on some of the domestic initiatives his Administration accom-

plished during the first year. He cited that over 60 percent of the federal judges he appointed were women and minorities, the most highly qualified group of federal judges ever nominated by a President. He also noted that his Administration had filed a record number of housing discrimination cases, a 35 percent increase over the previous year.

Before signing the executive order at Howard University's Cramton Auditorium, the President stated: "Today, I pledge to you continued and aggressive enforcement of the fair Housing Act. I will sign an Executive Order that for the first time puts the full weight of the federal government behind efforts to guarantee fair housing for everyone. We will tolerate no violations of every American's right for that housing opportunity." Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), Assistant Secretary of HUD Roberta Achtenberg, Howard University President Franklyn Jenifer and Charles DeBose, the Howard student who introduced the President, joined in witnessing

the signing of the Executive Order.

In keeping with the spirit of

Martin Luther King of not only talking, but acting, earlier in the day at the White House before a group of business leaders, President Clinton announced the application process of the nine empowerment zones for urban and rural communities. The communities in the designated empowerment zones and 95 enterprise communities will be able to apply for the \$2.5 billion in Federal tax incentives and \$1 billion in grants as part of this new, federally sponsored program. The deadline is June 30 of this year.

"I think the only way we can honor Martin Luther King's memory is...to ask ourselves what we can do to rebuild the communities and families of this country...This empowerment zone initiative, therefore, is a central part of a broadly coordinated strategy. With business people in mind, the plan seeks to

make places more attractive for new investment so that people can fulfill their dreams."

President Clinton and the First Lady concluded the King Holiday celebration by hosting a White House reception for 300 guests in honor of Dr. King and the children of the civil rights movement. Vice President and Mrs. Gore also attended the 2-hour reception that brought together civil rights activists from across the country including: four of the Little Rock Nine, the students who integrated Central High School in 1957 — Ernie Green, Terrance Roberts, Carlotta LaNier and Jefferson Thomas; all the plaintiffs in Topeka, Kansas' 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education case — Linda Brown, Vivian Scales and Zelma Henderson; Charlayne Hunter-Gault who integrated the University of Georgia in 1961; and Sheyanne Webb who at six years

old was one of the youngest children to participate in the "Bloody Sunday" march in Selma, Alabama. The oldest guest was 94-years-old C.G. Gomillion who was born the same year James Weldon Johnson wrote "Lift Every Voice and sing." Mr. Gomillion was the plaintiff in the 1957 Tuskegee, Alabama gerrymandering case.

Others who attended the reception included several former members of the Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee (SNCC); publisher John Johnson; Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Jackson; head of the Children's Defense Fund Marian Wright Edelman; Rev. Hosea Williams; Congressman John Lewis (D-GA); Dick Gregory; Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, and Alexis Herman, Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office Public Liaison.

10

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 2)

hypocritical, lying, drug-using, womanizing adulterer?

I would really like to know what the Black ministers of Las Vegas think of his postulations, that these things are "extraneous" and really don't matter in our leadership.

To those my views are similar too and with no difference to Dr. Tate or anyone else; I suggest, it's the Black Intelligensia as represented by Dr. Tate are a major reason for our collective worsening condition. To aid or abet such won't work and solves nothing!

My ordinary, simple, humble views are so diametrically opposed to those espoused by Dr. Tate that in the context of his terminology (not mine) not only must I have the "demon" in me but I'm now concerned that I might even be a "anti-christ".

Sincerely,
Clyde "Lenny" Dinkins