

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

LET'S TAKE A SERIOUS APPROACH TO CRIME

(Part 1 of a 3 part series)

Over the next few weeks the House of Representatives will act on federal anti-crime legislation. If we move quickly, public pressure can win legislation that speaks to the real problems we are facing.

In the process, we can begin to reverse the election-year-timed, right-wing-generated hysteria about crime that is the latest racist and diverse tactic from those who brought us the Willie Horton ads.

The bill already passed by the Senate is a right wing shopping list of measures that will have no positive effect on crime, while intensifying the racist and

anti-working class impact on the criminal justice system. But the House can and must reject the Senate package and take a different direction. Rep. Craig Washington (D-TX), along with over 20 other House members, has introduced the "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform Act." It contains provisions that increase the quality of police and corrections, not just the quantity, and strengthen the criminal justice system by making it more just. They deserve support.

GET SERIOUS ABOUT CRIME

We have to tell Congress (and other elected officials) to stop playing games with the crime issue. All members of the

House and one-third of the Senate are up for reelection this year. Too many are trying to stay ahead of the opinion polls by pushing simple-minded slogans that sound tough on television, but make more problems than they solve. These are life-and-death questions that require serious consideration of what has worked and what hasn't.

Over the past 24 years we have had get-tough crime bills almost every year. Our prison population has quadrupled - from 196,000 in 1972 to 884,000 at the end of 1992. The U.S. now has more people in prison per capita than any other country in the world. It costs \$100,000 in tax per year to keep someone in it. Who could claim that we are

better off?

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED:

Please take a moment to consider what steps you and others you work with could take to fight for justice and against racism and division. Concentrated action over the next few weeks can make a dramatic difference. There is opposition to the Senate bill in the House. Many organizations are finding ways to bring public pressure. All of us can do something. Let us know how we can work with you.

Contact members of Congress from your area, House Speaker Foley (202/225-2006) and House Democratic leader Gephardt (202/225-2671). Con-

tact them even if you know or think they have a good position. They need to hear that you support them.

Demand that Congress hold hearings for public input and thoroughly debate any proposals before any votes are taken. Tell them to reject the Senate bill and pass H.R. 3315, the "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform Act."

Reach out to others in organizations focused on these issues and to the churches, unions, community organizations, and elected officials. Organize letterwriting, phone calls, and visits to members of Congress. Look for ways to organize and deepen the public debate on what to do about crime, letters to the editor, forums, house meeting discussions, etc.

The National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression has been on the front lines of the struggle for freedom, equality and unity for more than two decades. We are the only nation-wide, multi-racial, multi-national coalition with the sole purpose of organizing united, mass struggle against repression.

We have helped to free liter-



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD
acy hundreds of sisters and brothers victimized by the criminal justice system because of their race and/or political activities.

We have mounted campaigns for civilian control of the police. We have developed model legislation for civilian control boards.

We have struggled to outlaw racist and anti-semitic violence and hate groups.

We have struggled to oust the KKK, Nazis and other hate groups from local police departments.

We urge you to join with us. Together we can realize solutions that can curb crime and reform the criminal justice system. Add your strength to ours. Together we can fight back and win.

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IS ALIVE AND WELL

By Bernice Powell Jackson

In many places an address tells a lot about a person. Having a Beverly Hills address or a Scarsdale address has been seen by some as a way of showing status and income, for ex-

ample. Well, in East St. Louis, Illinois, a Trendley Avenue address might mean something quite different. It might mean you are facing an early death from cancer.

Trendley Avenue is directly

behind the Lanson Chemical Plant, where 6,000 gallons of toxic wastes were dumped into the ground following a fire at the plant. In the past few years at least 25 residents of Trendley Avenue have died from cancer

and others are living with the disease. Indeed, very few homes on Trendley Avenue have not been touched by cancer. The residents, some of whom have lived in their well-maintained homes since the late 1950's, are understandably very frightened and angry.

The most disturbing fact is that Trendley Avenue is only one of 23 toxic waste sites already identified in East St. Louis, a city of some 40,000 residents, 99 percent of whom are African American. "We have reason to believe there are at least another 18 sites and possibly 23 toxic waste sites not yet identified by the Environmental Pro-

(See Civil Rights, Page 13)

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY INTEGRATION

By R.K. Brown

When groups begin to say how well blacks have it now in white America, that really puzzles me. But as I reflect on the way whites have treated the world of color in the last 500 years, it becomes clear that this pattern is set in stone, even liberal whites can't break it's devilish curse.

Whites now say that schools are integrated. But, only because blacks did all the integrating. Schools continue to publish racist, self centered textbooks until this very day. If any non-white community of Americans wants to know their history, they have to research it.

If blacks want to live in a classy neighborhood, they have to integrate the white suburbs. Of course to get into one of these communities, you will have to deal with racist loan companies. You will be discriminated against when realtors quote prices, and locations. And if you do finally manage to sneak through all of the hidden barriers, you could still end up with a swastika, or "Blacky go home: painted on your house!

Blacks can't better their neighborhoods because property and lending practices are monopolized by white racists. We

try to live with clean hearts, not hating any white man for the endless legacy of ruthless oppression, and racist insanity.

But even in the church we find that integration is a one way street. Blacks have no place in white religion. History records that the 2 major holy books, the Bible and the Koran, concentrate most of their action in the heart of color! Africa, and Arabia dominate the story of the holy lands.

Today, blacks aren't pictured, mentioned or acknowledged in white religion. To make things worse, white religion has condoned and even profited from slavery, and minority exploitation. They even claim they are a moral majority.

In the news, on TV and radio, the big screen, and in print, if we want to make a positive statement about our community, we

have to do it ourselves. This is the haunting foundation that racist imperialism has created.

Although there will always be liberal whites who fight for just causes, they will always be cut down by conservative villains. By assassination, murder, or scandal, racists will always purify their own ranks.

The road to black independence is one toward true "access" in the American experience. A full concentration is social, political, economic, and technological advancement is essential. We will never integrate, because to do so is to lose our blackness. And what a shame that would be.

America without her blackness is like a paper without ink. It's empty! No life, no expression, no feeling, no spirit, and most of all, w no blackness... peace

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