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 nomic support from you.”

Steele urged, “Note the emphasis on ‘withdrawing economic support.’ Now, for those who still did not get it, he was blunt: ‘...We’ve got to strengthen our Black institutions,’ he said. ‘I call upon you to take your money out of the [White] banks downtown and deposit your money in Tri-State Bank. We want a bank-in movement in Memphis... We have six or seven Black insurance companies in Memphis. Take out your insurance there. We want to have an ‘insurance-in.’”

“Dr. King was clear: ‘We begin the process of building a greater economic base. And at the same time, we are putting pressure where it really hurts.’ If you still didn’t get it, Dr. King explained it this way: ‘Always anchor our external direct action with the power of economic withdrawal.’”

Steele said it is even more important that Blacks learn to support other Blacks.

“By 2011, annual Black spending power will reach \$1.1 trillion, representing almost nine cents of every dollar spent in the United States, according to a University of Georgia study. Still, nothing leaves the Black community faster than

a dollar.”

Steele noted that Dr. King, winner of the Nobel Peace prize, was an international figure when he was assassinated 40 years ago. Continuing in King’s footsteps, Steele said SCLC will continue establishing conflict resolution centers around the world in hopes of bringing about peace.

“These are exciting times. I wish Dr. King was alive to see the response to Barack Obama in Europe,” Steele said. “People want change and that was evident in Europe as 200,000 people shouted, ‘Yes, we can’ in Germany.

“And when Obama got to Paris and London, he was being treated like a rockstar. The closest McCain got to Germany was eating in a small German restaurant.”

Steele said it would be a mistake to think Obama’s popularity is limited to the fact that he is an African-American.

“The world is embracing more than just Barack Obama; it’s embracing a new kind of openness. Thousands applaud because Obama says he wants the U.S. to be a partner and not just try to dictate to other countries. It is a relationship of equals that they embrace.”

George E Curry writes for Afro-American Newspapers.

Hate Crimes

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orientation were reported, a 9 percent increase from 2006; more than 90 percent were against gay men. The report said another 105 hate crimes were based on religion — a 17 percent increase — and nearly three-quarters of them were anti-Jewish.

Information in the report is compiled from law enforcement agencies, schools and universities, community organizations and directly from victims. The commission then decides which incidents fit the legal definition of hate crimes, so numbers in the report do not necessarily reflect the outcome of criminal investigations.

According to the U.S. Justice Department, for every hate crime that is reported to police, as many as 28 are not reported, often for fear of retaliation or concerns about talking to authorities.

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations has compiled an annual hate crimes report since 1980.

Profiling

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that the new AG Guidelines will target people based on race, religion and ethnicity. It also asked Senators Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Arlen Specter (R-Penn.) and Representatives John Conyers (D-Mich.) and Lamar Smith (R-Texas), to hold hearings into how the Bush administration intends to reconcile its previous position against racial profiling.

According to the ACLU:

—In February 2001, Pres. George Bush pledged to end racial profiling in America;

—Then-Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft said that using race as a proxy for potential criminal behavior is unconstitutional and undermines law enforcement by undermining

people’s confidence;

—FBI Director Robert Muller said “it is abhorrent to the Constitution in any way, shape and form.”

Empowering the FBI to use race or ethnicity to gather private data about American citizens “with no evidence of criminal activity will not make us safer,” said Caroline Fredrickson, director of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office in a statement.

She pointed back to the aftermath of 9/11 when hundreds of Muslims and Arabs were detained without due process, and added, “Remember that two of the worst terrorists in American history, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski and Oklahoma City bomber Timothy

McVeigh were two White Americans. Racial and ethnic profiling is not just wrong, it is not smart law enforcement.”

The Muslim Public Affairs Council, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the Arab American Institute, and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee contacted John Miller, FBI assistant director for public affairs, to verify the news reports and present their concerns. “If implemented as described in media reports, these new guidelines will make suspects out of our communities and strike a blow to more than seven years of constructive engagement with law enforcement officials,” said Salam Al-Marayati, Muslim Public Affairs Council executive director.

According to the Islamic groups, Miller said nothing in the AG Guidelines can authorize what the law or Constitution prohibits and the FBI will always adhere to that principle.

Expert: Profiling Doesn’t Work

Mike German, policy counsel with the ACLU Washington Legislative Office, echoed sentiments that racial profiling is a completely ineffective law enforcement technique. The former FBI terrorism agent told *The Final Call* that there is no terrorist profile according to terrorism experts, and that the purpose of the strategy is to foil any attempt to identify what terrorists would look like.

“The successful terrorist isn’t going to do exactly what the guy before him did; he’s going to try to do something new because the whole idea is to surprise, so it’s not just illegal and inappropriate from a democratic govern-

mental standard where these agencies are supposed to work for us, the people, and not the other way around, it’s a terrible erosion of our rights,” German said.

According to German, the first AG Guidelines were developed to correct initial abuses by the FBI Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) by preventing the FBI from engaging in investigations of purely political activities and making sure the agency focused on criminal activity and not First Amendment-protected activity.

FBI Up to Old Tactics, Tricks?

“A lot of the tactics that they are engaged now openly they’ve always been engaged in behind the scenes with Blacks and so it’s not shocking in the sense that it might be for the average White American—where they can’t imagine that the government would try to impose itself on their privacy in that way. But African people we’re used to the government imposing itself on our privacy and we expect, we joke when we hear clicks on the phone, like, ‘There they go again. They’re listening,’” said Nana Gyamfi, L.A.-based civil and human rights attorney.

The fact that the U.S. is allowing these practices to occur openly shows that it regards the Constitution as worthless, she said. Although many Blacks feel they have no rights under the Constitution, they still rely on the hope that it will be available, the attorney added.

As usual, she said, the fight is to organize against White supremacy and a federal government that is increasingly creating its own definition of innocent behavior and criminalizing people.

“If they could see Barack and Michelle Obama do a fist pound and decide it’s a terrorist fist jab, try to figure out where it comes from and talk about it for a week, doing scholarly articles tracing the roots to see where it comes from, you can imagine what they’re going to do with the different symbols, discussions and shortcut words that people are using in their communication,” Atty. Gyamfi said.

Unified Effort Needed to Stop Profiling

Activists say a strong collaborative effort will be needed to challenge the potential racial profiling component of the new guidelines, which was still being formulated at *Final Call* press time.

Ronald Hampton, executive director of the National Black Police Association, believes the bill presents risks because even some Democrats are fuzzy on whether racial profiling should be allowed in the context of homeland security. Racial profiling is wrong under any circumstance, whether homeland security, public safety, and especially as an official policy of a law enforcement agency, Hampton said.

“It’s going to take a coalition and huge effort from traditional and non-traditional civil and human rights organizations, if we’re going to be successful in turning this back. Because once they build up full steam ahead, it’s going to be very difficult to get in between them and stop this from coming in to affect and having a negative effect on Black and Brown and poor communities,” he continued.

One way voters can fight is by putting pressure on their presidential candidate, Hampton noted. “I’m cau-

tiously optimistic, although I’ve been disappointed in this Democratic Congress and its behavior regarding issues that they’ve traditionally stood for. I thought the Democrats had a mandate coming into office that amounted to getting out of Iraq and changing some of the other legislative matters before the House and Senate for the people of this country, but they’ve been hesitant about it,” he said. For now, said Kareem Shora, executive director of the National Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee, pressure must be kept on the Justice Department, which must know people are watching. “It’s not just people here in Washington, but it’s across the board, and it’s not just Muslims and Arabs, but all Americans that care about this issue,” he said. Shora urged contacting members of Congress and asking whether the guidelines profile people based on religion, ethnicity or national origin. “We want members of Congress to be asking those questions and any of them can do it. If things get more serious and we become aware of more details, and they finalize the guidelines without changing them, then obviously we will have to reconsider and take stronger action in either the form of litigation or much more advocacy with Congress,” Shora told *The Final Call*.

Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.), chair of the House Judiciary Committee and Rep. Carolyn Meeks Kilpatrick (D-Mich.), could not be reached for comment by *Final Call* press time. Rep. Conyers has been a stalwart on civil liberties and Rep. Meeks chairs the Congressional Black Caucus.

Charlene Muhammad writes for the Final Call.

Edelman

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eats regularly and stays on her medication schedule?

The challenges of securing continuity of care and appropriate services for youths and young adults, especially those with serious emotional or mental disorders, who are transitioning to adulthood are enormous.

A June 2008 General Accountability Report, *Young Adults with Serious Mental Illness* (GAO-08-678), documents these challenges but also highlights positive efforts underway to address them in selected states and at the federal level.

To ensure these youths and young adults receive appropriate support, U.S. Senators Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) and Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and Reps. Pete Stark (D-Calif.) and George Miller (D-Calif.) recently introduced the Healthy Transition Act (S. 3195/H.R. 6375).

This measure would provide states planning grants to identify these youths in their states, ascertain the help they are currently receiving, determine what more they need and discover the barriers to getting care for them. The bill would also develop a system for coordinated service delivery and support a quality workforce that understands the mental health problems of these young adults and can respond to their needs.

States also could receive implementation grants to establish youth ombudsman programs; peer support networks, independent living and life skills programs tailored to these youths; systems for improved access to services; and specialized workforce training.

Reforms like these will help to level the playing field for millions of young Americans who deserve immediate attention. Ask your Members of Congress to help ensure that the Healthy Transition Act moves forward this year.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children’s Defense Fund and its Action Council.