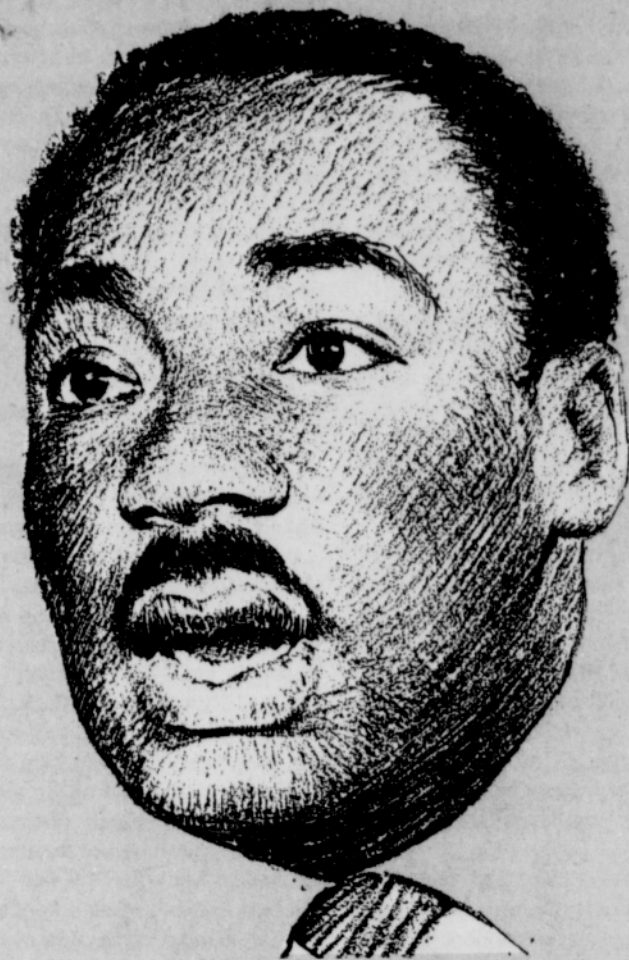


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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
1929 - 1968

Protecting the Legacy of Martin Luther King

by Ron Daniels

As the birthday of Martin Luther King passes and the nation prepared to celebrate the National Holiday in his honor, once again the debate about how to appropriately remember King is heating up. From my vantage point the celebration has become enveloped in so much ritual and pomp and circumstance that there is almost the illusion that the need for civil rights agitation and human rights struggles is passe. The rhetorical ring of "I Have a Dream" reverberates monotonously throughout the nation as if to consciously mask the nightmare that exists for millions of African-Americans and poor people in this country. It is as if the King Holiday has become an annual occasion to coopt the real meaning of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King. It has almost become a harmless affirmation of the virtues of the American dream and the American system.

The American system may indeed have its virtues, but Martin Luther King used the freedom of speech, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to vote and the right to petition the government to confront unjust laws and a hypocritical system which provided sanction for racism, segregation, discrimination, racial oppression and violence. In the spirit of natural rights and the Declaration of Independence, Martin Luther King used non-violent direct action to revolt against and call into question an unjust government. Civil disobedience was used as a weapon to transform a fatally flawed system, so that the idea of an American dream might have some prospect of being realized.

As he neared the end of his life King still had his dream, our dream, but he was well aware that the dream was far from being fulfilled. When King journeyed to Memphis he and his aides in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference were planning the most massive direct action mobilization ever, the Poor People's Campaign. In 1963 King delivered his renowned "I Have a Dream" speech. By 1968 the "promissory note" which King talked about in that same speech was still being returned

marked insufficient funds. Thus King determined to aim a telling blow at the very heart of the America's system of oppression; a value system which propogated greed, profit and property over people and spawned vast extremes of wealth and poverty. King was gunned down before he could launch this radical campaign. But the very idea of the Poor People's Campaign set a direction which King obviously felt was essential if Black people and poor people were to remake America into the promised land.

If one moves beyond the mesmerizing repetition of "I Have a Dream" to King's later speeches and writings we discover a Martin who called the very ethic of the capitalist political economy into question. His was an urgent appeal to cherish people over profit and human and spiritual values over property rights and materialism.

Since Martin Luther King was assassinated it seems that everything has changed, yet in reality nothing has changed. As we enter the decade of the 90s the rich in America are getting richer while the poor are getting poorer. In America the capital of capitalism, the homeless and hungry roam the streets, our inner cities are in decay and drugs are overwhelming entire neighborhoods. And despite the apparent progress of a few African-Americans, misery still abounds among the masses. African-Americans and people of good will still need to use what Martin call moral force to challenge this nation to change.

Beyond the King Holiday and beyond the dream, we need a living acting Martin Luther King mounting a renewed assault on racism, racial violence, militarism and poverty. The King Holiday must inspire us to act, to finish the unfinished business. It must not lull us to sleep or have us celebrate into complacency. There is always the danger that the real legacy of King's life will be lost and that his image and symbol will be manipulated and used as an instrument of cooptation and pacification. It is our sacred duty to protect and live out the real legacy of Martin Luther King.

McCoy Seeks Re-Election

Multnomah County Chair Gladys McCoy announced her intention to seek re-election today to a gathering of citizens, supporters and local business and community leaders at the Hilton Hotel.

McCoy outlined her original motivational concerns for seeking the County Chair's Office. "Government needs to exert leadership to do more for our young people, for our elderly, and to improve the health and mental health services in the County."

McCoy has taken bold steps forward to bring direction and a long-range vision to local government. "That vision was for a safe, crime-free community; a positive future for our citizens; and a more efficient and effective government, working in partner-

ship with other jurisdictions for the betterment of all citizens of our County."

After highlighting some of the major accomplishments during her three year administration--teen health clinics, the County's successful implementation of affirmative action goals, improved inter-jurisdictional government communications and cooperation, and a balanced County budget, McCoy stated: "What's most important now is seeing the full vision realized over the next four years. . . . I want to continue to work toward a better community--a community of people working with their government--a community where business and government are partners--a community where citizens are involved in setting the agenda."

Urban League Selects New President

Dr. Darryl S. Tukufu, an assistant professor of sociology at LeMoynce-Owen College and Memphis State University and a former Ohio Urban League executive, has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Portland, its board of directors announced today.

The board has been involved in an extensive nationwide search for a new president since Unseni Perkins resigned from the post in mid-September.

"Dr. Tukufu brings a blend of skills and talents that will be vital in leading the Urban League of Portland into the 1990s. I am very confident that he also will be a valued asset to the Portland Community," said Louis J. Boston, the Urban League board chair.

In addition to his responsibilities at Memphis State University, Dr. Tukufu works as an independent consultant specializing in organizational development and human relations. He also currently serves on the Memphis Urban League Board of Directors.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Tukufu was formerly the executive director of the Fair Housing Contract Service in Akron from 1980 to 1982 and prior to that he was manager of the Neighborhood Services Division of an Akron community action agency.

Other work experiences include assignments as an Equal Employment Opportunity officer relative to public-funded construction projects in Akron and Youngstown, Ohio, and served as deputy executive director of the Youngstown Area Urban League in 1975.

He received his undergraduate degree in social studies from Youngstown State University, followed by a Master of Arts degree in Urban Studies and a doctorate in Sociology--both from the University of Akron.

Dr. Tukufu, who is married with two children, will relocate to Portland with his family by mid-February, according to Boston.

Boston also said that Dr. Tukufu will be in Portland in the very near future to meet civic and community leaders as well as to look for a home.

An Urban Marshall Plan For The 1990s

The revolution sweeping eastern Europe has led to calls for a new Marshall Plan and for a new Economic Development Bank to help those countries back on their feet.

Those ideas may make sense, but what about an Urban Marshall Plan to help our own cities and an Urban Investment Bank to invest in our own human and physical resources?

That makes even more sense. It's not a new idea, either. Back in 1963, Whitney Young and the National Urban League called for a Domestic Marshall Plan. That plan would have rebuilt our cities and invested in developing the human resources of poor people shunted off to the margins of society.

Had that call been implemented, we would not have the devastation we see in our inner cities today, and despair would long ago have been replaced by hope and opportunity. In 1990, we have another chance to implement a peaceful revolution of progress in our own country. The experts say that the end of the Cold War means today's \$300 billion defense budget could be safety cut in half.

The \$150 billion savings is the much-derided "peace dividend" that many claim doesn't really exist. But it does--if we have the political will to use it wisely.

Some people say the peace dividend should be applied to balancing the federal budget, but that is not inconsistent with funding an Urban Marshall Plan.

Up to \$100 billion could go to cutting the deficit. Economists say that would bring interest rates down to around five percent, which would stimulate investment and productivity. There would be a growth in sales and tax revenues that would further close the budget gap.

National Council of Negro Women Announces Frito-Lay/NCNW "Salute" Winners



Pictured here, back row, from left to right: Charlene Johnson, vice president and co-founder, REACH, Inc.; Ruth Poole, advocate for the poor, homeless and imprisoned; Myrtle Davis, co-founder and president/CEO of St. Louis Comprehensive Health Center; Clementine Barfield, founder and director of Save Our Sons And Daughters, and Melba Moore, singer and guest performer of the awards banquet.

WASHINGTON, D.C.--A nationwide search for unsung African-American heroines culminated in Washington, D.C. earlier this month with the naming of the five winners of the "Salute to Black Women Who Make It Happen" awards program. The "Salute" sponsored by Frito-Lay and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), was hosted by Oprah Winfrey, who announced the 1989/1990 winners.

Chosen from a field of 15 finalists, the five winners included: Clementine Barfield, Detroit, founder/director of Save Our Sons and Daughters (SOSAD); Myrtle Davis, St. Louis, MO, president/CEO of St. Louis Comprehensive Health Center; Charlene Johnson, Detroit, president of REACH, Inc.; Marjorie Joyner, Chicago, beauty culturist/

community activist, and Ruth Poole, Durham, NC, advocate for the homeless, hungry and imprisoned.

Ms. Winfrey, who also was honored by NCNW as an "Outstanding Woman of Achievement" said, "As Black women, we have a history of struggle, coupled with a strong work ethic. The outstanding, tireless and often thankless public service extended by the "Salute" finalists is in the spirit of Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman and other sisters who seek no recognition for their good deeds."

In addition to being honored by the nation's foremost Black women's organization, the "Salute" finalists were also invited to the White House by Barbara Bush, for an afternoon visit and personal tour of the First Family's private quarters.

"Mrs. Bush is an enchanting, personable woman who sincerely extended a warm welcome to us, giving us a feeling of being close friends who hadn't seen each other in years," said Grace Stephenson, one of the finalists.

In his keynote address at the "Salute"

dinner, Frito-Lay President and CEO, Robert H. Beeby said. "Our finalists serve as an inspiration for us all to do more in the area of public service." He paid tribute to the countless numbers of African-American women throughout the U.S. who include public service as a daily part of their lives.

This year's contest, attracted 160 nominees, from the fields of: politics/law, education, medicine, arts, music, and all aspects of community and volunteer services. All were judged on the following criteria: The need for the contribution, the level, the current and future impact of the achievement and the obstacles overcome by the nominee.

Each of the five winners received a 21-inch bronze statue designed by Black sculptor, Elizabeth Catlett, and a \$1,000 cash award from Frito-Lay. American Airlines provided complimentary air travel for the 15 finalists.

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Blue Cross Executive Ronald A. Williams Receives National Award



Ron Williams, Executive Vice President Health Services and Products Group Blue Cross of California

Ronald A. Williams, executive vice president of the Health Services and Products Group for Blue Cross of California, was honored recently by Dollars & Sense magazine as one of America's Best and Brightest Young Business and Professional Men for 1989.

Williams, 40, was among a national group of 72 African-American executives recognized during a three-day gala held at the Chicago Hilton and Towers from Dec. 8-10. The honorees were selected on the basis of scholarship, professional achievements and dedication to the advancement of their community and its youth.

Williams joined Blue Cross of California in early 1987 as vice president of corpo-

rate services, with 17 years of experience in services marketing and services management. In 1988, he was promoted to senior vice president of marketing and corporate services. He was recently promoted to the newly created position of executive vice president.

Prior to joining Blue Cross, Williams founded and served as senior vice president of Vista Health Corp., a Los Angeles-based alternative delivery system for outpatient psychological and substance abuse services.

Previously, Williams held numerous positions of increasing responsibility with Control Data Corp., a Minneapolis-based computer and financial services company. He left Control Data as director of marketing in 1983 to become a Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Simultaneously, he was a Bush Leadership Fellow.

As a Sloan Fellow, Williams earned his master's degree in management.

In addition to serving as an administrative assistant for the State of Illinois Office of the Governor for three years, Williams was a senior associate with Greenleigh Associates for three years, a national management consulting firm in New York City specializing in public sector organizations. He also founded Integrative Systems, a Chicago-based organizational psychology consulting firm.

A native of Chicago, Williams holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Roosevelt University. A California resident since 1984, he currently lives in Los Angeles with his wife and son.