

The "Clubbing Of Justice" Continues In Los Angeles

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

The video sight last year of a "gang" of Los Angeles police officers mercilessly beating Rodney King is still fresh in the minds of millions of persons throughout the world. In the aftermath of the Los Angeles "rebellion" in response to the unjust verdict of "not guilty" given to the police officers responsible for the unjust beating, the residents of Los Angeles are still being threatened with new blows of disrespect from Police Chief Daryl F. Gates.

The latest blow to the system of justice in Los Angeles was Gates' announcement that he was reconsidering the promise he had publicly made to the L.A. Police commission that he would retire at the end of June 1992. This act by Gates would serve as an attempt to block and prevent the city from hiring its first African American police chief. In fact, former Philadelphia Commissioner of Police, Chief Willie L. Williams, is already in the process of moving his family to Los Angeles to hopefully begin work as the new L.A. Chief of Police prior to July 1, 1992.

We would be the last to suggest that Gates should be treated unfairly. The problem is that once again Chief Gates has put his own personal arrogance as a higher value above the interests of a city already torn by unprecedented racial strife and injustice, one of the manifestations of contemporary racism in the United States is the racist arrogance of officials like Chief Gates who acting under the color of the law

breaks the law to satisfy the hysteria of racial hatred and prejudice.

No resident of Los Angeles can be treated "fairly" by a police system led by such an "unfair" and "bigoted" police chief. Gates reportedly stated to the Los Angeles Times: "I said I was going to retire at the end of June and my feeling is now....Screw you, I'll retire when I want."

Is Gates the Chief "Bull" Connor of the 1990's not in Alabama, but in the City of Angels? Can the nation as a whole afford to allow this police chief to put himself above the law and everyone else? What do you think the impact of Gates' recent remarks will be on the tens of thousands of young people in Los Angeles and in other urban centers as they contemplate the call for "law and order"?

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley aptly responded, "I think the people have had enough of Daryl Gates jerking them around." Ironically as Gates was striking another blow to the people of L.A., a group of white supremacists of the Nationalist Movement based in Mississippi were in California to show their support for Gates and the police officers who had "clubbed" Rodney King. The threat to justice in Los Angeles is a threat to justice everywhere.

It also is evident that Gates does not want the thousands of young men who have joined one of L.A.'s notorious gangs to stop killing each other. During the "rebellion" a truce was de-

clared between the "Bloods" and the "Crips" and thus far the historic truce has held. Yet, on several occasions, the L.A. police have disrupted "truce meetings" between some of L.S.'s gangs. Why do the police want these young people to resume fratricide?

Something is still fundamentally wrong in Los Angeles. Rather than blame the victims of oppression and racism for their victimization, it is important for acts of solidarity and support to be made in the interest of ensuring equal justice for all peoples.

The justice system in Los Angeles continues to be "clubbed" by a ruthless police chief and police officers who are agents of institutionalized racism. When the so-called Watts Riots (Rebellion) in L.A. happened 27 years ago, the McCone Commission was mandated to investigate the causative factors that led up to the rebellion. Reviewing the McCone Commission Report, one will find a glaring absence of the recognition that racism, racial exploitation and physical abuse jointly have played as primary factors that fuel the igniting of racial and social unrest in Los Angeles and in the entire nation.

But justice and truth will ultimately prevail in Los Angeles provided the people nor "clubbing" the pursuit of justice will not stop the unbeatable force of human history that will not rest until justice and freedom are a realization for every child on earth.

perspectives

by Professor McKinley Burt

Education Update:

Where as it is a fact of life that the economic vitality of any state depends heavily upon the strength of its educational system and therefore its ability to facilitate the growth of its industry and work force, and particularly the ability to attract new companies and investments, it would seem only logical to prioritize lottery income to replace the 152 million shortfall in the education budget.

Having said that, I would again draw attention to the message I repeated so many times during the past two years: That the "Year 2000" date so enthusiastically projected for America to achieve parity in technological education among the nations of the world was no more than a poorly structured dream. Can there be any doubt now, with the financial position of most states on a par with Oregon, or, in some cases, even worse.

This is not an I-told-you-so article, so much as an attempt to prepare for a search for solutions--after, first, accurately identifying the problems. Obviously, we cannot depend upon the same educationists and organizationists that so grossly misled us; just as they did several decades ago with their billion dollar boondoggles that were to have led us to technological superiority among the nations i.e. The New Math, Metric System.

Just last month I interviewed in these pages, Dr. Myles Brand, presi-

dent of the University of Oregon. He was in Portland with the prexy's of the other Oregon institutions of higher learning to discuss the future of Oregon higher education with business leaders and the public. He brought a message of particular interest to minority parents and low-income families in particular.

"The related programs we have in place [for minorities] will not only continue but shall be enhanced... The school will work hard at recruiting and retaining both minority staff and faculty.. There shall be a special effort to secure the most important out come of all, to see that they Graduate."

This month, Dr. Brand has a new message, somewhat ominous. " We will be down sizing this institution at a time when we should be moving in just the opposite direction. If we continue at this rate, by the year 2000 one out of every two Oregonians who want and need a college education will not be served."

Now, we have it that good intentions are in danger of a quick death. The system will dramatically restructure programs by consolidating and coordinating business, nursing, engineering, continuing education, and teacher education programs. And that is just the beginning.

Further, campus leaders have been asked to consider the closing of high-cost professional schools, including the University of Oregon's law school and

Oregon State University's Veterinary and Pharmacy Schools. There is also a plan to eliminate the latter school' College of Veterinary Medicine. Though the School of Dentistry at Oregon Health Sciences University seems temporarily to have been spared, tuition is projected to increase by \$825 a year, or 13%

The School of Medicine anticipates a 40% increase in tuition rising \$3,300 a year from the current level of \$7,800 a year. Unbelievably, this would rank the school among the four most expensive public medical schools in the nation. As stated in the introductory paragraph, "the economic viability of any state depends heavily upon the strength of its educational system.." We may wonder if Oregon's leaders in government and education are going to rise to the challenge. Certainly, we haven't been shown too much to date.

All of this leads us to again examine the role of black leaders, parents and even the students themselves. Do the minorities need an Education Summit of their own? It is obvious that this constantly changing education scenario requires new tools and approaches. It is not getting any cheaper to send kids out of state to traditionally black colleges--or to any other kind, since, as stated, Every State is experiencing the same economic crunch.

This analysis continued next week.

Investment Pays Big Dividends

BY JEFFREY N. KUSHNER

Here's the problem: Doyle, son of an alcoholic, drank heavily for 13 of his 42 years. He had extensive financial and legal problems, he was incarcerated for a felony, and he was divorced. Doyle, his former wife and their four children were all on welfare.

Here's what happened: Doyle entered a three-month alcohol-treatment program in Portland, and his downward spiral began to reverse. Today, he is an insurance-company officer. He has paid his child support, his taxes and restitution for his crime in excess of \$20,000.

Here's why: Treatment for alcoholism works. We figure that every dollar invested in treatment returns \$4 to \$10 in savings.

Most of Oregon's 36 counties operate programs to prevent and treat abuse of alcohol and other drugs, an effort coordinated by the state Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs in Salem. We manage federal and state dollars and set indicators for measuring programs' success or failure.

This effort is intended to help the estimated 201,200 adult Oregonians with alcohol problems, a number greater than the population of Clackamas County, and 148,200 with drug problems.

The state program administers a two-year budget of which nearly 60 percent is federal money.

Half of the tax that Oregonians pay on beer and wine goes directly to pre-

vention, intervention and treatment programs, mostly in local cities and counties, while the rest goes to city, county and state general-fund budgets for other purposes.

Fines that intoxicated drivers pay help to support treatment programs for indigent offenders.

What are the dollar payoffs? Here's what the payback on treatment looks like:

Individuals benefit by increasing achievement at work or school, improving their psychological outlook, and reducing crime and other negative behaviors such as driving while intoxicated.

Insurance ratepayers and taxpayers benefit. We know that, before treatment, health-care costs (often paid by insurance or Medicaid) for an alcoholic's family are about eight times greater than for other families.

Employers and consumers benefit from treatment programs because employees increase productivity by suffering fewer injuries, using less sick leave and reducing their use of accident benefits.

We measure the success of treatment programs on nine specific measures such as employment improvement, education improvement, abstinence from alcohol and drugs, and not being arrested for substance-related crimes.

Statewide, for example, 86 percent of people who receive treatment are

abstinent at treatment's end, 33 percent improve their employability and 25 percent are adding to their education.

Consider how that boosts the human return on investment.

Sherrell, mother of three children, was referred for alcohol treatment by the state Children's Services Division. She was receiving public assistance and a daughter had been placed in foster care to protect her from abuse. Fearful of losing her other children, Sherrell enrolled in chemical-dependency treatment and in classes to help her be a better parent and to manage her anger.

Within a year, with the help of CSD and Adult and Family Services worker, Sherrell was off welfare. She has maintained custody of her children and is successfully resolving family conflicts. She is a part-time college student and a full-time employee for a computer company.

People interested in information about prevention, intervention and treatment may call their local alcohol and drug-services program, listed in the white pages under county government. In addition, we operate the Oregon Prevention Resource Center (378-8000) in Salem where we provide information and referral, videotapes, pamphlets and trainers.

The dollar payoffs of treatment for chemical dependency are impressive. But they pale beside the human pay-offs.

President George Bush's Policy On Haitians is Indefensible, Cruel Racism

BY DR. WILLIAM F. GIBSON
Chairman Of The Board NAACP

As we watch the unfolding tragedy of thousands of Haitians who are desperately fleeing oppression, one shameful fact has become crystal clear; the Bush Administration has chosen a course of moral bankruptcy, fueled by a consistent supply of brutal and intentional racism. The President maintains that the vast majority of Haitian refugees are trying to escape poverty. He asserts that very few have any well-founded fear of persecution or physical harm. In fact, the opposite is true. Many Haitians who have endured abject pov-

erty for generations would never consider the dangerous ocean voyage. But they now choose to risk death in a small boat instead of facing the brutality of an army death squad.

Since the legitimate government of Father Jean Bertrand Aristide was overthrown on September 30, the army has turned terrorizing civilians into a recreational activity. Every morning, bullet-riddled bodies are found on the streets of Port-Au-Prince. Mr. Bush's executive order, which repatriates all Haitian refugees without even attempting to interview them, has the same effect as sentencing many of them to

torture and even death. How could the leader of the free world be so grossly insensitive?

Recently, an unidentified Haitian man who was part of a group being returned to Haiti on a U.S. Coast Guard cutter jumped overboard. When rescuers reached him, he tried to fight them off while screaming, "I prefer to die." Clearly, this man knew what kind of reception the army and police would

give him when he returned to Haiti. As the violence continues, the body count is sure to rise and the waves of refugees will grow. *Continued On Page 3*

VANTAGE POINT

by Ron Daniels

1992 "Just Might Be The Year Of The Ballot Or The Bullet"

In 1964, a Presidential election year, Malcolm X, in commenting on the options available to the Black Liberation Movement proclaimed, that "this just might be the year of the ballot or the bullet." To his death Malcolm remained convinced that the liberation of the Black masses and other oppressed people required a revolution. His reading of history suggested that revolutions are always tumultuous and bloody. Therefore, Malcolm was skeptical of the prospects of a "non-violent" revolution. Nonetheless, in 1964 Malcolm was willing to suggest that perhaps the ballot could be used by Black people and the oppressed to achieve a peaceful revolution. However, Malcolm never retreated from his position that in the final analysis it was "freedom by any means necessary."

In 1992, another Presidential election year, 38 years after Malcolm's famous "Ballots or Bullets" speech, the question of which path/road to liberation for the masses of Black people and the oppressed is still an open question. What is absolutely certain is that a revolution - a radical redirection of values and a radical reorganization and restructuring of this nation is required if the masses of oppressed people are to breathe free. The insurrection/rebellion in Los Angeles brought the question of the ballot or the bullet into stark relief. For far too long the people of South Central LA and the hundreds of south centrals across the U.S. have suffered peacefully. The uprising in LA was a long overdue response to a long season of intolerable acts heaped upon Black people and oppressed people in this country.

To allow the top 1% of the people in the U.S. to control more worth than the bottom 90% is intolerable. To allow

a small band of wealthy bandits to loot the savings and loan industry to the tune of \$600 billion, a trillion dollars over the next thirty years with interest, thereby depriving innocent people of desperately needed resources for housing, health care, education and jobs is a crime which is intolerable. To squander .50 cents of every federal tax dollar on the military/defense/war budget while the masses of poor and working people, women and minorities have little or no "defense" against poverty, unemployment, underemployment, disease, inferior education, illiteracy, drugs, violence and a polluted and poisoned environment is intolerable. To continue to promote an anti-labor climate where unions and their workers (from PATCO to the UAW at Caterpillar) are threatened intimidated and broken by the government and the corporations is intolerable. These and a multitude of other intolerable acts must no longer be tolerated.

U. S. society must be radically changed/transformed, and Black people, people of color, women and poor and working people, the oppressed must be in the vanguard of the struggle to create a new society. It is the charge of progressive political leadership in this period to stand firm on the principle that there are certain "inalienable rights" which must not be violated by any government. This principle was affirmed by no lesser document than the Declaration of Independence of this nation, and so there can be no apologies for the insurrection/rebellion which was erupted in Los Angeles and spread to more than thirty cities across this land. It was/is a rebellion against massive inequality, neglect, abuse, and they tyranny or the corporations, a revolt for a new, more humane and democratic so-

ciety. The insurrection/rebellion must continue at the ballot box and in the streets. At the ballot box the oppressed must declare independence from the establishment parties and the pro-corporate candidates. Neither the Democrats or the Republicans or pseudo-independents, neither Bushism, Clintonism or Perotism will save us. The progressive movement must forge an electoral force rooted among the masses of the oppressed, committed to the proposition that we will save ourselves. The oppressed must fight for power.

And that fight for power cannot not be confined to ballots alone. Those who would seek to promote the vision and values essential to create a new society must also engage the fight for power in the streets. Picket lines, demonstrations, boycotts, civil disobedience and general strikes are instruments which the masses of Black people, Naive People, Latinos, Asian Pacific People, Arab Americans, other minorities, women and poor and working people must use to bring down the "walls of Jericho."

In this year it must be clear that simply rotating presidents within a flawed and failing racist and capitalist system will not liberate the masses who suffer in this country. What we must fashion is a movement that will accept nothing less than a new future within a new society. And in the crusade to create a new society, it must be equally clear that it will either be "freedom for every body of freedom for nobody." The oppressed must become ungovernable if necessary to defeat the tyranny of corporate dictatorship. The lesson of the insurrection/rebellion in Los Angeles is that 1992 "just might be the year of the ballot or the bullet" or both - "freedom by any means necessary."

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