

Martin Luther King Day

President Clinton Signs Fair Housing Executive Order as Part Of King Day Activities

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 trouble areas in Europe--put your ethnic hatreds behind you, take the differences, the religious differences, the racial differences, the ethnic differences 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 accomplished 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



President Clinton hands a pen to Howard University student Charles DeBose after signing the Fair Housing Executive Order that will permit more 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).

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 hous-

ing 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 for application 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 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 cel-

ebration 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 attend 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--Emie Green, Terrance Roberts, Carlotta LaNier and Jefferson Thomas; all the plaintiffs in Topeka, Kansas' 1954 Brown vs. Hunter-Gault who integrated the University of Georgia in 1961; and Sheyenne Webb who at six years old was one of the youngest children to participate in the "Bloody Sunday" march in year James Weldon Johnson wrote "Lift Every Voce and Sing." Mr. Gomillion was the plaintiff in the 1957 Tuskegee, Alabama gerrymandering case.

Other who attended the reception included several former members of the Student Nonviolent 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 of Public Liaison.

Child And Families Studies Program Under Way At PSU

An innovative, interdisciplinary undergraduate degree program in Child and Family Studies at Portland State University--approved last fall--already is under way and will serve 20 students annually in response to community needs in the social services and education fields.

Ten students are already enrolled in the two-year program developed by PSU, Oregon Health Sciences University and dozens of Portland-area social service agencies in response to a growing local need for professionals specializing in young children and family dynamics.

The program focuses on the needs of children up to age 8, plus their families.

"Children and families have needs we didn't hear about or know existed 20 years ago," said Amy Driscoll, PSU professor of education and degree program coordinator. The family structure today is so diverse. There are single parents, families of diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds, parents of severely handicapped children. We felt that students who want a career in this field should have a program that has that same kind of diversity."

To that end, the program emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on 18 different academic fields including anthropology, sociology, women's and black studies, educational policy and administration, speech communication and library services. Students will be able to draw on local social service agencies via internships and practicums to enrich their learning experience.

The degree program is considered a model of PSU as the university retools its undergraduate programs to reflect a more multi-discipline approach. The Child and Family Studies program is one of several undergraduate programs that PSU plans to launch in the next few years.

The program also is notable in that no new funds were required to fuel it. Almost all courses in the program already are in place at PSU, and no new faculty members are needed.

"The departments working with us have been great in cooperating," said Driscoll. "We're sensitive to the dilemma departments are facing. We're using courses from departments in which some of their own majors have difficulty getting into. That's why we're going to limit the program to 20 students a year."

Those students who graduate from the program should find ample job opportunities in the early childhood field.

"Our timing for this program is great," said Driscoll, noting the increase in federal and state funding for programs (such as Head Start) that emphasize working with young children.

"We've known for some time that the early childhood years are the critical years. There will be a pent-up demand for early childhood development professionals," added Margaret

Browning, director of child and family support programs at Mentor Graphics Corp.

Donna Dengel, early childhood specialist for the Multnomah County Library, said a broad-based undergraduate degree program emphasizing child development had been noticeably lacking in the Portland area.

Numerous professionals--from librarians to caregivers, advisers and early childhood teachers--can benefit from having a background in childhood development, she said.

Dengel was one of dozens of local professionals who worked with PUS faculty to shape the degree program.

Of the 10 students currently enrolled in the program, half are working professionals who want to upgrade their expertise. Social service agencies may require childhood and family specialists to gain additional

certification or licensing in the future, Driscoll said.

The Child and Family Studies program should be attractive to area community college students as well, Driscoll added. Plans are under way to allow community college graduates with associate of applied sciences degrees in early childhood education to transfer into the two-year PSU program. Previously, these students had difficulty transferring their two-year base work to a university program.

Driscoll said PSU is in the process of admitting another 10 students to the program this spring.



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