

**January 19,
(Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day):**

• History Channel Undercover: Who Killed Martin Luther King? (9 pm ET/10 pm PT), Channel 42: If James Earl Ray wasn't the trigger man, then who? This History Undercover special offers alternative assassination theories that involve the mob, the FBI and the CIA.

Section

C

January 14, 1998



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 1929-April 5, 1968

Titles can have a way of misleading people. Certainly this has been the case with the "I Have a Dream" speech by my father, Martin Luther King, Jr. While it is the most well-known, and most often quoted speech by Dr. King, it is also the most misunderstood. Too often people have hallowed the portion beginning with "I Have a Dream" without giving any credence to the portion that precedes it. In a real sense, though, "I Have a Dream" is the sweetener that Dr. King mixed in to enhance the flavor of his message.

For indeed, the circumstances out of which the message emerged were a bitter reality for the victims of social and economic injustice. And so, the "I Have a Dream" speech is really a message of hope, whose effect was to comfort the disturbed, but not without disturbing the comfortable.

In the following pages, you will read this message of hope by Martin Luther King, Jr., on August 28, 1963, at the historic March on Washington. I encourage you to remove any blinders that would prohibit you from experiencing the full sense of it, for there is a lot to be gained, even thirty-five years later. The same injustices continue to threaten life in America. Just as those who heeded the message then were able to keep striving for freedom, justice, and equality, the same message calls out to those who are willing to continue the quest to overcome the injustices of the day. After reading this message of hope, may you be inspired to keep striving for the promised land.

*-Reverend Bernice A. King
April 1993-*