

# OPINION

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## Bush Budget Cuts Bad for Cities, Bad for America

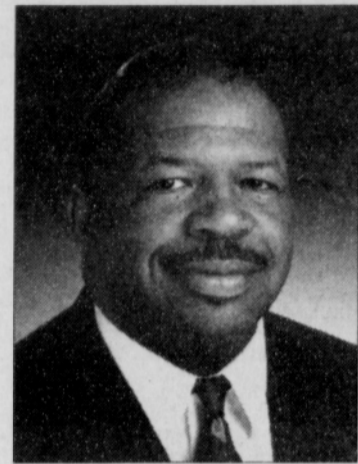
The Bush administration shows a callous disregard to young people in the inner city by cutting the Youth Opportunity grants from \$225 million this year to a mere \$45 million next year. The budget proposal is another illustration of the disdain the Bush administration has for working people and youths that are trying to better themselves. The current unemployment

rate for African-American women between the ages of 16 and 19 is 34.8 percent, and for African-American men in the same age group, the rate is 32 percent. How are these youths going to be able to contribute to the country's economic recovery and growth if the administration continues to destroy the best programs available to these youths? The Rainbow/PUSH Coalition concurs with the United

States Conference of Mayors in the belief that this policy will have a negative effect on major cities. Our youth need investment and training in order to maximize their potential and America's potential. Cutting these programs is bad for our youth, bad for our cities, and bad for America. The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. is the founder and president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

## Civil Rights Movement Has Just Begun

BY ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS  
Black History Month offers us the opportunity to honor those upon whose shoulders we stand. It is also a time to recognize our own place in history by re-dedicating ourselves to creating the better future toward which our past has always pointed. The "era of civil rights" was not a time that came, held the attention of the world, and then passed away. To the contrary, the progressive movement toward universal human dignity has just begun.



U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings

movement. The supporters of civil rights have never been limited to people of color - and the objectives have always been greater freedom and opportunity for all Americans. "In our struggle, the civil rights forces - both black and white - have contributed not only to revealing the contradictions of this society, but, acting as a catalyst, have also set in motion forces to effect creative change." Dr. King declared to the American Jewish Committee in 1965.

"It is also clear," he continued, "that the progress we have made has depended upon the support we have received from vocal and well-organized allies - the major religious groups, the trade-union movement, and various elements of the liberal community."

Today, the historical record of America's progress toward justice for all of our people remains incomplete. Americans continue to be deeply divided in our willingness to recognize - and effectively address - the social "contradictions" that Dr. King and his allies challenged four decades ago.

We must help all of America's children understand that the injustices in their lives can be overcome - if people of conscience work together to exercise the full measure of our citizenship.

In the final analysis, that may be the most valuable lesson that our history can teach us.

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings represents Maryland's Seventh Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. He currently serves as First Vice-Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

*We should not hesitate to remind our children that the foundations of our freedom were laid in our time - as well as during the more distant past.*

-U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, D-Md.

Recently, during a service at Douglas Memorial Community Church in honor of Dr. King, I looked out from the lectern and recognized Captain Jim Smith. I recalled for the congregation how Jim Smith, Ms. Juanita Jackson Mitchell and the Baltimore branch of the NAACP once led the children of my South Baltimore neighborhood in a series of marches to integrate Riverside swimming pool.

We should not hesitate to remind our children that the foundations of our freedom were laid in our time - as well as during the more distant past.

Our history reveals that the equal access to public facilities that our children now take for granted was not given to us. That right had to be won - and the men and women of Jim Smith's generation were up to the task.

Likewise, no American who has learned our history would find it difficult to understand why people of color are determined to reform our election system.

On a "Bloody Sunday" in 1965, a young man named John Lewis

and the people of Selma, Ala., marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to win our right to vote. They were attacked and pushed back that day. Today, however, Georgia Congressman John Lewis stands up for the rights of all Americans.

Those of us who have the opportunity should also teach white children that the civil rights struggle in America has always been a multi-racial

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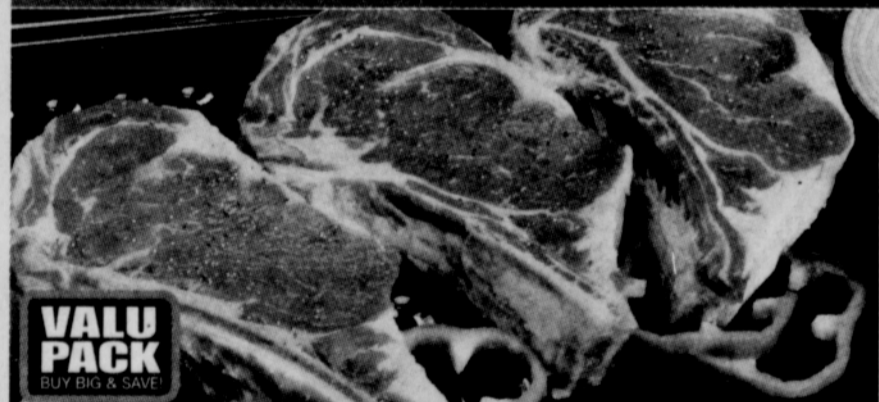
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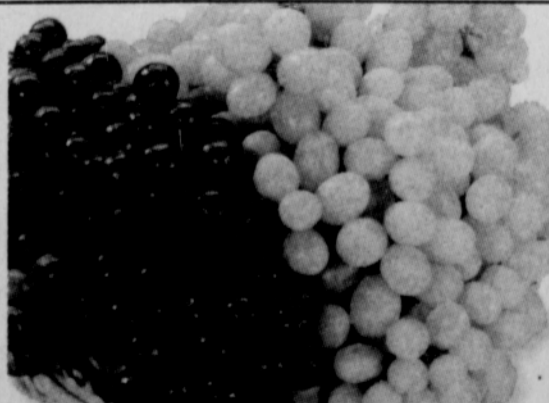
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