

# Forum

## Dead 92-Year-Old Ex-Slave Knew More Than Many Live Ph.D. Blacks In 1993

With tears streaming down his face, 92-year-old "Daddy" Dunn, born a slave in Missouri, ran from one side of his enclosed porch to the other, shouting, "Glory, Glory Hallelujah! His soul goes marching on."

He was delivering to us kids his annual lecture on Abraham Lincoln, John Brown and the Civil War. He was singing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" as best he could.

"As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free," he screamed through his tears. I glanced at my mother who had come to take us home for lunch, and she was crying, too.

By then, "Daddy" Dunn was so engrossed in his message and so overcome by the emotion of his own oratory that he fell to his knees as if in prayer. We kids waited respectfully for him to rise, and he finally labored to his feet.

"Daddy" Dunn was illiterate, but he had an excellent memory even at 92 years old. He was a small man, barely five feet tall and weighing probably about 110 pounds. His head was completely bald but his long, white beard reached almost down to his waist. He always had a pencil and paper in his shirt pocket even though he could neither read nor write. He would ask people to write things down for him and he would bring them to our house for my mother or grandmother to read or interpret. We kids remembered that he was always accompanied and protected by a very large and dour dog that was almost as big as "Daddy." No one bothered the tiny, well-meaning Dunn.

But we remembered "Daddy" more for his ability to hold the attention of people with whom he talked.

"Some say Mr. Lincoln freed us slaves because he had to," "Daddy" would say always on February 12 and anytime he became inspired. We kids had heard these same words repeatedly since we were toddlers. "But in 1863 Mr. Lincoln told us better," he continued. "In two sentences he told the whole world everything."

Raising himself up to his full but short height, "Daddy" would clear his throat, look directly into our childish eyes and begin,

## Riot Prevention: Stop Racism

During the last several weeks there have been numerous speculations about whether or not the spring and summer of 1993 will witness a repeat of urban riots in the United States similar to the Los Angeles "uprising of 1992." Lest we forget this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Kerner Commission Report on Civil Disorders. Although the Kerner Commission concluded in 1968 that "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white - separate and unequal," the persistence of civil disorders or riots in the 1990's is symptomatic of the nation's refusal to deal with one of the basic causative factors: racism.

On this occasion we are grateful that the columnist, Anthony Lewis, reminded readers of The New York Times of a quote from Justice Thurgood Marshall's opinion in the controversial Bakke case of 1978. In that case Marshall concluded, "In light of the sorry history of discrimination and its devastating impact on the lives of Negroes, bringing the Negro into the mainstream of American life should be a state interest of the highest order. To fail to do so is to ensure that America will remain forever a divided society."

In Washington, D.C., the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation has just released another national study on the urban situation. Similarly the Eisenhower Foundation emphasized that the substance of the Kerner Commission's earlier findings are "more relevant today than in 1968, and more complex, with the emergence of multiracial disparities and growing income segregation." Dr. Lynn Curtis, editor of the Eisenhower study said that the emphasis today should be on job training and various community development projects as a strategy to prevent the recurrence of urban riots in the nation.

The Eisenhower report outlined the following recommendations to the Government as remedies: focus on inner-city unemployed youth, particularly those who have been marginalized and discriminated against because of race and socioeconomic status; a focus on drug abuse education, treatment and prevention; priority spending for a ten-year period concentrating on improving the quality of life for inner-city residents and the focus on providing

"Forescore and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that All Men Are Created Equal." By that time he was shouting at the top of his voice. Hear me! Remember this - that All

Men Are Created Equal." These words seem to put "Daddy" into trance, for he would walk around the room, point to each one of us children and shout to each individual, "You are equal. You Are Equal. You Are Equal. You Are Equal. You Are Equal."

"But there is more, "Daddy" would continue after regaining some of his composure. "Mr. Lincoln said also at Gettysburg that 'Now were engaged in a great civil war testing whether that nation or any other nation So conceived and so dedicated can Long Endure.' In other words, this great man was saying that the war tested the life of a nation that was Conceive In Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men were created equal." With the tone of triumph in his voice, "Daddy" would declare that the Civil War was fought to free the slaves and therefore black people were now equal to white people.

Before World War II, in Kansas, every school child had to learn and recite Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and prizes were given for the best "declaration."

Another one of "Daddy" heroes was the great martyr, John Brown, whose statue today sits about 10 or 15 feet high in Quindaro, Kansas, a black community founded more than 100 years ago just northwest Kansas City, Kansas. "Daddy" would dramatize the gun battle at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, and tell how the sons of Brown were killed by bullets coming from the guns of men led by Robert E. Lee, the Confederate general who led the battle to continue slavery.

I wish I could bring "Daddy" Dunn back to life today. His messages and race loyalty would be most instructive for many Black and White so-called "educators" and "leaders."

low-income housing with the help of non-profit organizations.

Today the reality is not limited to a black and white situation. Instead of two societies separate and unequal, in the United States as we move toward a new century there are multiple societies, all separate and all unequal due to racial and economic discrimination and exploitation.

Racism is still the fundamental problem!

Much of the poverty that people of color encounter in the United States is a consistent function and resultant of institutionalized racism.

It is worth pointing out that the recent studies on this critical national problem have failed to go as far as the 1968 Kerner Commission which identified racism as the major causative factor. Until the nation comes to grips with this serious social dysfunction riots and other forms of civil disorders will surely reoccur.

We believe that President Clinton should take the initiative to call upon all Americans to place at the very top of the national agenda the elimination of racism in all of its hideous forms. As this society rapidly becomes a multiracial society quantitatively, it is increasingly urgent for this society to become multiracial and multicultural qualitatively.

Again the confession of Anthony Lewis is noteworthy: "Few white Americans want to think remedial strategy was to arouse racial fears, and then use them as a reason to do nothing. But a divided America, damaging to whites as to blacks, will continue until we face the issue of race."

President Clinton has the fresh opportunity to begin to erect a bridge across the nation's racial divide. But this bridge must lift all of those oppressed at the bottom and confront the sin of racism straightforwardly. Beyond racial fear and polarization, we must demand racial justice for all without reservation. Anything less will be utterly insufficient.

### MINORITY REPORT

By JAMES E. ALSBROOK, Ph.D.



**SIN TAXES-**  
"HE RIGHT LEVIES AT THE RIGHT TIME?"

THAT'S WHAT HEALTH CARE REFORMERS ALL OVER TOWN ARE SAYING THESE DAYS WHY NOT TAX THE VERY SUBSTANCES WHICH ADD TENS OF BILLIONS TO ANNUAL HEALTH CARE COSTS?

IT'S A QUESTION THAT PLATOONS OF SIN INDUSTRY LOBBYISTS WILL SOON BE FILLING CAPITOL HILL CORRIDORS TO ANSWER! STAY TUNED...

WELL, OFF TO GUCCI GULCH! YOU'RE SURE YOU PACKED ENOUGH MONEY, ZEAR?

HONEY? DON'T WAIT UP-- I'VE GOT A FULL DAY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AHEAD OF ME!

I WANT TO GET AHEAD OF THE CURVE ON THIS SIN-TAX THING! I'VE SCHEDULED A BIG MEETING WITH SENATOR MUCKETY-MUCK AT FINANCE!

HE CAN'T SEE ME UNTIL NOON, THOUGH, SO LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO KILL A LITTLE TIME AT GUCCI GULCH!

KILLING TIME AT GUCCI GULCH.  
HEY, NICE TIE! THANKS, NICE LOAFERS! GREAT SUIT!  
GOOD HAIR!

MR. BREWSKI! GREAT TO CLAP EYES ON YOU, GUY!  
SAME BACK ATCHA, BUTTSHY-BOY! BEEN TOO LONG!

HERE TO FIGHT THE SIN TAXES?  
ON IT! I'VE BOOKED SERIOUS FACE-TIME WITH SENATOR SO-AND-SO THIS VERY MORNING!

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, O FROSTY ONE!  
HEY, WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER, AREN'T WE? WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE A WAY OF LIFE HERE.

HEY, KILLER! SPEAKING OF WHICH...  
MR. DUM-DUM! BRADY BILL UP AGAIN?

STILL ON A TEAR, MR. DUM-DUM?  
HEY! THE N.R.A. NEVER RESTS!

THE GUN-CONTROL NUTS KEEP TRYING TO SLIP THE BRADY BILL PAST US! BUT IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN! NO WAY!

WE'VE BEEN SHOOTING OUR WAY OUT OF TIGHT SQUEEZES SINCE 1871! AND LOOK AT THE RESULTS! OVER 70 MILLION HAPPY GUN OWNERS READY AND ABLE TO DEFEND OUR WAY OF LIFE!

WOW... ARE WE SAFE YET?  
NOT YET, TRAGICALLY, MANY CHILDREN ARE STILL UNARMED!

SO, MR. DUM-DUM, WHAT SORT OF YEAR HAVE YOU BEEN HAVING?  
QUIET, LIKE MOST YEARS.

IN A TYPICAL YEAR, ABOUT 20,000-PLUS ORDINARY FOLKS GET POPPED-- OR POP THEMSELVES, NORMALLY, NO ONE MUCH CARES...

BUT WHEN A JOHN LENNON GOES DOWN, OR A JIM BRADY, OR A RONALD REAGAN, THEN FORGET ABOUT IT! YOU GET ANTI-GUN BILLS OUT THE KAZOO!

SO CELEBRITY SHOOTINGS ARE A HEADACHE?  
MAJOR. A TOP NAME CAN COST US MILLIONS!

WHERE DID MR. DUM-DUM GO?  
HE SLIPPED IN TO SEE SENATOR WHAT'S HIS FACE!

IT'S AMAZING THE ACCESS HE'S GOT! I REPRESENT TEN TIMES THE CONSTITUENCY HE DOES, BUT LOOK WHO'S GETTING THE FACE TIME!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU CAN'T ORCHESTRATE A MILLION POST-CARDS OVERNIGHT!  
TRUE. OL' LEAD-HEAD DOES SEEM TO HAVE A GIFT FOR GETTING LAW-MAKERS TO SIT UP!

GOOD BOY, SENATOR! THAT'S IT! NOW, ROLL OVER AND BEG!  
NO MORE POST CARDS! PLEASE!



### CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

By BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.

The Eisenhower report outlined the following recommendations to the Government as remedies: focus on inner-city unemployed youth, particularly those who have been marginalized and discriminated against because of race and socioeconomic status; a focus on drug abuse education, treatment and prevention; priority spending for a ten-year period concentrating on improving the quality of life for inner-city residents and the focus on providing

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