

# "Strong Delusion"

By J...  
"Ar" ditorials omments

## King's Voice Still Being Heard

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.  
Post Executive Editor

"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountain top. I won't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life...But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will...and I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land."

These eloquent words were spoke by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. just a few hours before he was fatally wounded by an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968. This terrible act silenced King's voice but sent his message loudly around the world.

Because of King's wide and yet humble contribution to the cause of justice and humanity, the POST considers it a rare privilege to pause and salute this great man.

Born in a nation with a cancerous racism, sick with violence, overcome by hatred and engulfed in global conflict, Martin Luther King Jr. nevertheless preached racial tolerance, non-violence, love-thy-neighbor and peace. For this "he was," as one writer said, "stoned, stabbed, reviled and spat upon when he lived, but in death there was a shattering sense that a MAN of ultimate goodness had lived among us."

### Dr. King's Quest

Dr. King's quest for peace and justice was so strong that he gave his life for it and in so doing gained more respect for black Americans in little more than a decade than had been done in all the preceding 100 years.

People who knew him intimately contend that he never uttered a word of hatred for anyone and that "his indictment of segregation, discrimination and poverty was a hurricane of fire that opened a new era of struggle for freedom."

Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech delivered during the "March on Washington" in 1964, was not the talk of a dreamer but rather the echo of a man who had visions of a nation of peace, love and justice. Through his example of unselfishness, humility and God given talent for understanding and communicating a sense of reality, multitudes of black Americans, Harry Belafonte has noted, "emerged from spiritual imprisonment, from fear, from apathy, and took to the streets to proclaim their freedom." King inspired blacks to recognize the nature of their latent power and reminded them that they were a sleeping giant in need of awakening from their sleep of apathy and fear. He reminded blacks that self-disciplined non-violent mass protest is the weapon of a peaceful soldier that can be

used to defeat the enemies of fairness and justice.

History will show that while King was an eminent black leader, it will also record that he was a leader of white Americans too. Through probing the consciousness of the white man's mind, he alerted them to the fact that to degrade blacks and deny them justice required denying themselves the same justice. President-elect Jimmy Carter made this very clear when he said that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did as much for southern whites and it did for blacks and made it possible for himself, a southern, to be elected to the presidency of the United States.

Martin Luther King Jr. has been missed by statesmen, Kings and laymen alike. His Gandhi-like passion for non-violence, peace and brotherhood was a stabilizing influence throughout America and the world. He was always willing, always available, always pursuing justice and peace.

### Act Of Closeness

In spite of his association with great and noble men, King chose to stay close to the common people. It was in such an act of closeness to a group of garbage collectors, seeking an adequate living wage and a share of dignity, that he gave his life.

King's commitment to the needs and problems of the poor, the homeless and those with no hope was so strong that he refused positions of great wealth, power and influence in order to be an instrument of God's power in the salvation of his fellow man.

Born to parents of humble means, Martin Luther King Jr. was instilled with the will to succeed, a God-given sense of humility and a concern for the needs of others. He carried these values with him through his boyhood to the pulpit of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, to the Montgomery bus boycott, to the Birmingham jail, to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, to the capitals of the world, and to his death in Memphis.

### Not Seeking Fame

While not seeking fame, while not seeking wealth, while not seeking greatness Martin Luther King Jr., 1929-1968, was nevertheless one of greatness. He showed this by defining himself in his own obituary in these humble words, "Tell them I tried to feed the hungry; tell them I tried to clothe the naked; tell them I tried to help somebody." This is truly what King did and did so well.

Therefore, King's self-denied greatness was in his efforts to help the helpless and to renew their spirit of hope. In so doing King became one of God's true men, thus, while stilled in death he lives through the deeds and dreams others pursue.

**WE MUST PREVENT OUR OWN CHILDREN FROM TURNING INTO JUNKIES, INTO THIEVES AND PROSTITUTES AND CONFIDENCE ARTISTS, WHOSE PREY IS THEIR OWN PEOPLE. WE CAN ..... PREVENT THAT.**



United Community Leadership Is Needed Now!

**OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION**  
By D. Marie Washington

## Reading And Rhythm

Marshall McLuhan, Canadian communications specialist and professor at the University of Toronto, is considered by many people to be in the class of thinkers with Newton, Freud, Pavlov and Einstein. His works, concentrated in the field of communication, shed valuable light upon many of the problems faced by the schools today.

According to McLuhan, media, or the means by which people receive information, creates an environment in and of itself, and it is this environment which determines people's thinking, culture and behavior in much the same way that weather conditions can shape physical characteristics and a people's way of life.

Just as a person who has lost the sense of sight develops the other senses to a high degree, heavy dependency upon a certain medium also alters the senses, says McLuhan. In a culture which is dependent upon the spoken word and other sounds for communication, the sense of hearing becomes highly developed, and a person from this culture can respond and react to information received through the ears very quickly and effectively. On the other hand, in an environment where information is moved primarily through printed symbols or the alphabet, the people will have a highly developed visual

sense and will be able to process information received through the eyes very effectively, but will be less effective in processing auditory information.

In following McLuhan's theories, it becomes clear that many of the differences in reading performance rates which have been attributed to race can be explained more logically in terms of media environments. Due to political and economic reasons, black people have been more or less confined to an auditory environment. In a school system based upon learning through visual symbols, those children from the visual environment have a distinct advantage over those who come from an environment based primarily upon sound.

We are now, according to McLuhan, living in an electronic environment, where pictures and sounds bombard the senses by means of electronic technology. Differences which were once very pronounced between those who grew up in the auditory environment and the visual environment are rapidly disappearing, as the senses of today's youngsters are being shaped and altered by electronic communication systems. Learning to read has now become a problem not only for those who have had very limited access to the medium of print, but also for

the general population of children who spend hours receiving information through the medium of television. Also, highly rhythmic music is no longer the special province of those who live mainly in the environment of the spoken word, but is being performed with equal appreciation and enthusiasm by those who have grown up in a world of sound tracks and stereos.

The implications of the McLuhan theories for schools have to do with more than just reading and rhythm, however. They should make us realize that an educational system where rewards and approval are given according to the student's ability to master the medium of visual symbols will now face serious challenges as children who are products of the electronic environment now fill the schools. It also means that a curriculum which has been built almost entirely upon teaching children to communicate through the written word will be considered more and more "irrelevant" by youngsters who are already receiving all kinds of information through electronic media.

McLuhan's theories are a radical departure from the old line of thinking which promoted ideas of racial superiority and inferiority, and many educators have begun to study the McLuhan theories seriously for some new directions.

# TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

## Carter's Team

In general, the response to Jimmy Carter's Cabinet appointments has been favorable, with some grumblings about some of the designees and considerably more than that about one of them.

That's about par for the course; it's impossible for any President to satisfy everyone in naming a Cabinet. The group assembled by President-elect Carter is at least as good as previous Cabinets and a lot better than some of them.

The Black presence in Cabinet-level posts was limited to two—a bit less than what many Blacks thought would happen. But if the quantity is less than expected, the quality is very high indeed.

Some people have attacked the appointment of Patricia Harris as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on the flimsy grounds that she's not a housing specialist. But few of her predecessors have been, and few can match her competence. She can be counted on to provide leadership in the fight to revitalize the cities.

The appointment of Congressman Andrew Young to the visible and critical UN post has been rightly well received as evidence both of the Carter Administration's determination to conduct foreign policy on a more moral basis and to reach out to the Third World. But few have commented on the unique symbolism of this outstanding appointment; twenty years ago there were few places in the South where Blacks could vote and now a black southerner is America's spokesman to the world!

The most controversial appointee is Griffin Bell, Carter's selection for Attorney General. The attacks on Bell center on his personal friendship with Carter, (many believe the Attorney General should be totally independent of ties with his chief) his appeals court decisions, his endorsement of Harrold Carswell for the Supreme Court and his memberships in private clubs that exclude Blacks and Jews from membership.

Some of these criticisms are valid. The onus is on Judge Bell to prove their implications wrong through forceful action on enforcing civil rights laws, cooperation with minority communities to cut crime, and by appointing Blacks and women to policy making posts in the Justice Department.

That Department has traditionally demonstrated a shameful neglect of Blacks, even in the days when professed liberals were running it. Only a bare handful of Blacks held high posts in Justice even in the days of the Kennedy-Johnson Administrations.

The focus on private clubs' discrimination is useful. The controversy over Judge Bell's club memberships finally put a national spotlight on such discrimination. These clubs are more than just social; they're the place where the elite of industry meet and shape policies. Minorities barred from membership find their career prospects limited because they're cut off from contacts with their white peers.

The real focus should not be on Judge Bell—he's resigning from his clubs. The real issue should be the continued existence of discriminatory practices by private clubs whose "social" aspects also involve informal decision-making that affects many areas of our lives.

## THE CHARLOTTE POST

"THE PEOPLES NEWSPAPER"

Established 1918

Published Every Thursday

By The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.

2606-B West Blvd.-Charlotte, N.C. 28208

Telephones (704) 392-1306, 392-1307

Circulation 7,185

58 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

Bill Johnson..... Editor-Publisher  
Albert Campbell..... Advertising Director  
Rex Hovey..... Circulation Manager  
Gerald O. Johnson..... Business Manager

Second Class Postage Paid at  
Charlotte, N.C. under the Act of March 3, 1878

Member National Newspaper Publishers  
Association

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

Deadline for all news copy and photos is 5 p.m.  
Monday. The Post is not responsible for any  
photos or news copies submitted for publication.

National Advertising Representative  
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

45 W. 5th Suite 1403 2400 S. Michigan Ave.  
New York, N.Y. 10036 Chicago, Ill. 60616  
(212) 489-1220 Calumet 5-0200

# as i see it

## Poor Folks Can't Move To Rich Neighborhoods

By Gerald O. Johnson

The Supreme Court has ruled that zoning to keep low income housing developments from being constructed in suburban neighborhoods is not unconstitutional. In simple terms, this means that poor folks can't move out in rich neighborhoods without no bread. Compendez-vous all vous plais. Black groups, like the NAACP, have taken this as a slap in the face.

But the fact is that the situation is much more complex than what has surfaced. Most Blacks consider the situation a White and Black case. But, as I see it, the situation is more of an economical one than a racial one.

The first question I asked myself was why would anyone want to build a low housing development in a suburb for the poor folks. You see, it just doesn't add up. If the people are poor then they must have some domestic job or be on welfare. This would mean that they get most of their services

from the inner city. They must use public transportation to get around. All of this would imply that a suburban low income housing development would inconvenience those people that it is trying to help. Why then is there so much fuss about housing developments in the suburbs? To fix up the down town area would be much more practical.

But then most poor folks aren't arguing so much about where the housing is located, as long as it is decent housing. To be truthful, I haven't put my finger on why the fuss about where the low income housing is located. But there is big money in helping poor folks. Ironically poor folk remain poor, while those helping poor folk get richer and richer and richer.

This is the crux of the fight. Those who invest in low income housing get aid from the government and they do quite well. I have to suspect block busting as a motive for wanting to put a low income



By Gerald O. Johnson  
housing development in the suburb. But, like I said I haven't put my finger on the situation completely. But I will. Believe me, I will.

A lot of money is poured into Civil Rights groups to pave the way for investors. Most of this is unknown to the Civil Rights groups.

But it works like this. A man donates \$100,000 to a Civil Rights group's legal fund to

help with the cause. He gets an immediate tax break for this donation. The Civil Rights group then fights for the rights of others, i.e. low housing developments in the suburbs. Once the fight is over and if the Civil Rights group wins the fight, the first person in a position to benefit from all this is our big investor. He can afford to get in on the ground floor. I know I sound a bit cynical but this is not above most people.

I will repeat, there is big money in helping the poor. Hence, from the above point of view, the entire fight is stemmed from a economical base and not a racial one.

On the other hand, those suburbanites who are fighting so hard to keep these low income housing developments from springing up in their neighborhoods are thinking dollar and cents, also.

The rationale here is that the low income housing would cause their property value to go down. In this sense zoning is used to preserve the quality

of the neighborhood. Again the matter is economical.

But property is for all men and zoning is unconstitutional in itself. Property ownership should be unconstitutional. On this basis it seems a fair argument that any housing should be able to go up anywhere.

This would probably work, except, Judges live in suburbs. They own property, also. It would be too much to ask to have a Judge uphold a law that might have poor folk living in his back yard.

In closing let me say that the decision made by the courts was inequitable. However, I think the case brought before the courts was inequitable. The morals of our society are inequitable. But this you already know.

A System Of Force  
I can remember back some thirty odd years ago when I was a month old. I remember lying on my mother's bed sucking my thumb and checking the place out. When I cried, I got fed. When I mess-

ed in my diapers, I got cleaned. I thought to myself that this was the life.

But after the passing of two years, the treatment started changing. One day I was sitting at the dinner table waiting for some one to feed me, when all of a sudden a spoon was shoved in my hand. I was being forced to feed myself. Well, I didn't appreciate this one bit. To show my discontentment with this situation I threw my dish on the floor. One clean up and two backhands later, I realized that these people meant business. So, I began to feed myself. "What next?" I thought to myself.

But it took me until now to see what all of this forcing was intended to do. It was the training ground to prepare me for working in this capitalistic society. You see after the last big force, you go out, get yourself a job. And for what? So you can be forced to pay "Taxes."

You just can't win!