

# The Future Outlook

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## Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial To Be Established In Atlanta, Ga.

Coretta Scott King, Atlanta, Ga.  
January 15, 1969

Today my husband would have been 40 years old. Under ordinary circumstances this might be considered an occasion for nothing more than sentimentality and tears. But Martin Luther King, Jr. was no ordinary man and these are not ordinary circumstances. So, while sentiment indeed runs deeply within me, at this moment, I am gratified to say that the stirring winds of excitement, anticipation and a profound sense of fulfillment have triumphed over tears. For it is my privilege and pleasure to announce today the creation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center here in Atlanta.

I do this with pride because we as members of the family are convinced that this newly established center will seek with integrity to extend Martin Luther King's best hopes and deeds. What we see beginning now is no dead monument but a living memorial filled with all the vitality that was his, a center of human endeavor committed to the causes for which he lived and died.

This official Memorial Center will be developed here in my husband's native city but it will be for men and women everywhere. It will, like Martin Luther King, emerge proudly out of the heart of the black experience in America but it will address the experiences of all people, especially those who are broken and oppressed, those who desperately search for justice, liberation and peace. In all of its parts, the Memorial will attempt to meet with uncompromising insistence the problems and needs which face black people today: Then, by these very pathways of specific concern the Memorial Center will continue Martin Luther King, Jr.'s never ceasing ministry to the world and all of its largest, urgent needs.

It is our intention that the Center will rise out of the experiences of two different locations in the city: For both cities are necessary to tell the story of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Auburn Avenue, we expect to restore his birthplace and continue the life of Ebenezer Baptist Church, his spiritual home. Together with these, in a Memorial Park, we plan to locate the final place of entombment, and build as well a living, open, freedom hall which will tell for many generations the story of the movement which he led.

The second part of the memorial complex will develop in the vicinity of the Atlanta University community. It will include an Institute for Non-Violent Social Change, an Institute

for Afro-American Studies, and a Museum of Afro-American Life and Culture. Because the goal is to achieve the beloved community through the process of non-violent social change, the technique and philosophy which guided Martin Luther King, Jr., it is our hope that this spirit will permeate the whole experience of the Memorial Center. We hope to make available to students, scholars, artists and activists many opportunities to explore the black and vibrant groups of the people who produced a Martin Luther King, Jr. At the same moment, we invite all who come here to enter the search for those creative ways in which the future of this people and all peoples may be liberated from oppression and fear, set free for that great earthy destiny to which God has surely called us all.

The place in which we meet today is a witness to the life that already characterizes the Center. This is the initial location of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library project, a documentation center for the freedom movement in America. We have already begun to gather staff and develop program for the Institute for Afro-American Studies. The Institute for Non-Violent Social Change is currently under serious discussion, and the search has begun for a director of that element of the Center. We recognize the magnitude of the task to which we have set ourselves. We are aware of the great financial resources it will demand. But we are also convinced that nothing less would do justice to the greatness of the man we honor, and I sincerely believe that men and women here and all over the world will come to our assistance as we move to realize this magnificent hope.

So, on Martin's birthday, we set out on a tremendous adventure and invite all of you to share it with us. For the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center does more than pay homage to a man. It is an experiment in hope in a time of fear. It is an act of faith when men refuse to believe. It is a realistic attempt to carry on an idealist's fight. The fight for which my husband lived and died. The fight for a world in which all men on this earth might one day be free—free at last.

### AUXILIARY TO HOLD MEET JANUARY 23

The L. Richardson Memorial Hospital Auxiliary will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 23, 1969, at 7:00 p. m. in the Staff Lounge. All interested persons are invited to attend.

## "So I Said to Her..."



WHEN GOOD FRIENDS GET TOGETHER, they have much to talk about. Here, the girls are meeting at one of the 103 March of Dimes-supported Birth Defects Centers in the United States. Although each was singled out tragically at birth with a crippling disability, all are receiving modern, comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation that will enable them to lead productive lives. Contributions to the March of Dimes help continue the vital programs carried on at birth defects centers by outstanding teams of medical professionals.

## JEW'S SHOULD TAKE OVER MIDDLE EAST?

By Ricardo Raffles

They have come back to Palestine. They have come back to Israel. That is as it should be. It was a prophecy made thousands of years ago and is now a prophecy come true. The tragic lesson of this happening still has not taken birth in the minds of Syria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and other countries of the Middle East. They have allowed the winds of hatred over hundreds of years of Anti-Semitism to be fanned by an un-Godly group of would be rulers who under the guise of Nationalism, have kept the millions of poor Arabs stirred up against the Jews. Millions of illiterate, uneducated and impoverished Arabs 'til this day do not know that they have blood ties with their brothers, the Jews, dating back to the days of Abraham and Isaac. Isaac having married a Syrian girl by the name of Rebecca; millions of Arabic descendant beings having their ancestral heritage and blood kinship dating back to biblical days, of the intermingling and intermarriage of Hebrews, Babylonians, Assyrians, Syrians, Egyptians. With all of this blood kinship background, why has there been bloodshed, wars, hate, killings? Why, after a period of thousands of years, this country which has been endowed with every natural resource at their hands, should still be a backward nation, an impoverished nation, a people of starved bod-

ies and minds?

With all of the billions of oil reserves, the great agricultural potentialities, its many fine harbors and seaports, tremendous mineral reserves and a year around climate ideally suited for the greatest fruit and vegetable and meat and dairy production in the entire world, yet they are suffering of hunger and disease by the millions. Why? There can be only one answer: The masses of people have been betrayed by their selfish and greedy leaders. The thousands of miles of land has been under the ownership and vassalage of a few hundred Sheiks, Emirs and Omars; Sultans and Princes and Kings. Here is a land area comparable to the United States in size, as well as resources; yet in three hundred years America has become the most powerful, richest, educated nation in the world. On the other hand, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Iran, all of Arabia are still one of the most backward, most illiterate, most impoverished nation, in regards to human beings; yet, still materially wealthy land-wise.

Israel, a land one-eighth the size of the State of North Carolina, and with less people, have in a period of thirty years made this small nation one of the richest producing nations in the world. Just in the period of thirty years, enormous agricultural productivity has taken

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## From Veterans Adm. Regional Office

The new year could begin with a financial jolt for thousands of veterans and widows on the Veterans Administration's pension rolls who thus far have failed to return their annual income questionnaire to VA.

Totally and permanently non-service-connected disabled veterans and wartime veterans' widows who meet income limitations are eligible for pensions.

W. R. Phillips, manager of the Winston-Salem Veterans Administration Regional Office, said the law requires these beneficiaries to report their income each year in order that the VA can determine the amount of pension, which is related directly to income, to which they are entitled.

The questionnaire, Phillips said, requesting data on 1968 income received and 1969 income estimated, was sent 2,033,000 pension recipients about the first of November. Deadline for returning the questionnaire to VA was set at January 15.

With this deadline fast approaching, approximately 645,000 pensioners have not returned the questionnaire.

Until the VA receives 1969 income estimates from these beneficiaries, it cannot determine or pay any pension benefits in 1969 to them.

And in 1969, discontinuance of pension payments could be more costly for many of these beneficiaries than in the past.

Starting January 1, VA pensions will be completely restructured. Income limits will be raised \$200 for all pensioners. Further, the present three income levels used in determining the amount of benefits a recipient may be paid will be increased to between 13 and 28 income levels in \$100 increments.

For approximately 1.2 million beneficiaries on the VA pension rolls, this restructuring will mean higher monthly payments in 1969.

Thus, failure to return the income questionnaire could mean the loss of \$110 a month in pension payments in 1969, compared with the present rate of \$104, for the veteran with no dependents and little or no income. The loss could be \$130 a month instead of the present \$119 for the veteran with three dependents and little or no income.

Phillips urged those who have not returned the questionnaire to complete it and mail it in the self-addressed envelope without delay.

It also reminded these veterans and widows that any information and assistance they may need in completing the questionnaire may be obtained from their nearest VA Office.