

EDWIN J. HUTCHISON
CDCR No.: P-68859
HOUSING UNIT: 2-N-79L
CSP-SQ / ONE MAIN ST.
SAN QUENTIN, CA 94964

FEBRUARY 17, 2014

HELLO WORLD,

I WISH TO START THIS COMMUNIQUE' BY GIVING "THANKS" TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO COME TO THIS PRISON, ON A REGULAR BASIS, TO EDUCATE AND ASSIST THE MEN HERE. I'D LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE TWO OF MY COLLEGE INSTRUCTORS, I'LL CALL THEM QUEEN M&M AND MR. C, ESPECIALLY FOR THEIR SOLID VIRTUES. THEY ARE MY UNBLING HEROES.

NEVERTHELESS, AS "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" COMES TO AN END, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A SOCIOLOGICAL OBSERVATION ABOUT THIS TOPIC.

AS A PRISONER, WHENEVER I'M NOT STUDYING, I TEND TO WATCH QUITE A BIT OF TELEVISION, MY OUTLET TO SOCIETY. I MAINLY WATCH SHOWS ON "PBS" OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND MOVIES. HOWEVER, I FIND THE TV RITUALS DURING "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" RATHER LACKING, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COME TO MR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND HIS LEGACY.

EVERY YEAR STARTING IN MID-JANUARY AND EXTENDING THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY, COINCIDING WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING'S JR. BIRTHDAY, WE GET THESE PERFUNCTORY NETWORK NEWS PROGRAMS AND REPORTS

ABOUT "THE SLAIN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER." HOWEVER, FOR ME, THE MOST NOTICEABLE THING ABOUT THIS ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF KING'S LIFE IS THAT THE LAST YEARS OF HIS LIFE ARE TOTALLY LOST, AS IF FLUSHED DOWN THE MEMORY HOLE OF AMERICA.

WHAT I OBSERVED IS TV VIEWERS ALWAYS SEE A VERY CLOSED LOOP OF FAMILIAR FILE FOOTAGE; E.G., KING FIGHTING SEGREGATION IN BIRMINGHAM, AL (1963), THE RECITING OF HIS "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH OF RACIAL HARMONY AT THE RALLY IN WASHINGTON D.C. (1963), HIM MARCHING FOR VOTING RIGHTS IN SELMA, AL (1965) AND LASTLY, HIM LYING DEAD ON THE MOTEL BALCONY IN MEMPHIS, TN (1968).

YET, AS AN ALERT VIEWER, I NOTICED THE INTERESTING CHRONOLOGICAL JUMP FROM 1965 TO 1968. MY QUESTION WAS "WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT TIME PERIOD?" IN HINDSIGHT, I ALMOST FELL VICTIM TO THE SOCIAL COGNITION OF THIS CULTURAL PHENOMENA OF "MEDIA CONTROL." THE QUESTION I PONDERED WAS THIS, "DID KING TAKE A SABBATICAL NEAR THE END OF HIS LIFE?" I WONDERED. BUT THEN I REALIZED THAT HE WAS, INDUBITABLY, GIVING SPEECHES AND ORGANIZING AS SERIOUSLY AS EVER. NONETHELESS, I REFLECTED AS TO HOW ALMOST ALL OF THOSE SPEECHES "WERE" EITHER FILMED OR TAPED; YET, NONE OF THESE ORATIONS ARE EVER SHOWN TODAY ON TELEVISION. WHY IS THAT?

IS IT BECAUSE ON THIS DAY THAT WE OBSERVE "PRESIDENT DAY" (2-17) AND WE HAVE AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN IN OFFICE, THE ISSUES OF "RACE" AND "CIVIL RIGHTS" MAY BEEM TRIVIAL IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, BUT IT IS IN

FACT STILL CRUCIAL IN TERMS OF TODAY'S SOCIAL CONCERNS OVER COGNITIVE AND CULTURAL FACTORS REGARDING "BLOCKED OPPORTUNITIES" AND THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH "LABELING" SUCH AS WITH STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICE.

I MAKE THIS "SOCIAL THEORY" BASED UPON HISTORICAL, PERSONAL AND SITUATIONAL ATTRIBUTIONS, THAT THESE "LOST FILMS AND TAPES" OF KING ARE NEVER SHOWN BECAUSE THE NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA HAS NEVER COME TO TERMS WITH WHAT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. REPRESENTED DURING HIS FINAL YEARS. I HAVE LEARNED THAT AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTS IN 1964 AND 1965, KING BEGAN CHALLENGING THE NATION'S FUNDAMENTAL "SOCIAL STRUCTURE" AND PRIORITIES. DR. KING CALLED FOR "RADICAL" CHANGES IN THE WAY THINGS WERE ORGANIZED IN OUR SOCIETY; SUCH AS THE ECONOMIC, CLASS, AND THE FAMILY STRUCTURE, AND HE SOUGHT WAYS OF REDISTRIBUTING THE WEALTH AND POWER. AS I EXAMINED THIS SOCIAL PHENOMENA EVEN MORE, I NEVER CONSIDERED THE SITUATIONAL FACTORS THESE "ATTITUDES" BY THE MEDIA TOWARDS KING MAY HAVE HAD UPON HIM AND/OR HOW "SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM" AFFECTED HIS SELF-PERCEPTION, THEREBY INFLUENCING HIS BEHAVIOR DURING HIS LATER YEARS. WITHIN THE NATIONAL MEDIA, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE SOUTHERN STATES, TO HEAR KING'S POWERFUL SPEECHES ON RACIAL, CULTURAL, IDEOLOGICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL "CROSS-POLLINATION", MUST HAVE SEEMED TOTALLY ALIEN TO THE SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF "WHITE" AMERICA.

DR. KING ASKED FOR AN "ECONOMIC" BILL OF RIGHTS THAT CALLED FOR MASSIVE GOVERNMENTAL JOBS AND TRAINING

PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO REBUILD AMERICA'S PLIGHTED INNER-CITIES. KING SAW A CRYING NEED TO QUESTION AND CONFRONT A U.S. CONGRESS WHICH HAD CONSISTANTLY DEMONSTRATED ITS "HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE POOR" BY APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WITH ALACRITY AND GENEROSITY, WHILE PROVIDING FUNDS TO FIGHT POVERTY WITH REAL MISERLINESS.

OVER HALF A CENTURY LATER, KING'S CLAIMS OF DEEP NATIONAL RACIAL AND ECONOMIC DIVISION REMAINS A FACTOR AND THE "NEW JIM CROW" IS ALIVE AND IS GOING ABOUT ITS BUSINESS. WHY? WHAT KING SPOKE ABOUT 50 YEARS AGO STILL SOUNDS SO VERY FAMILIAR TO MANY AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND OTHER LOW-INCOME MINORITIES TODAY. SO WHAT HAS REALLY CHANGED?

SO, I ASK YOU, READER, HOW CAN THIS UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, A NATION OF IMMENSE WEALTH, WITH AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRESIDENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE, AND A DEMOCRATIC-LEAD U.S. CONGRESS, CONTINUE TO ACCEPT THE PERPETUATION OF POVERTY? AS DO MOST NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA OUTLETS.

SO AS "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" IS ENDING, PERHAPS IT IS NO SURPRISE THE "MEDIA" TELLS US SO LITTLE ABOUT THE FINAL YEARS OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S. LIFE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? PLEASE FEEL FREE TO LEAVE ANY COMMENTS OR YOU MAY CONTACT ME DIRECTLY AT MY ABOVE RETURN MAILING ADDRESS.

PEACE,
Zakree
#