

NAACP

Movement in Force

**It is Often Rumored that Civil Rights Struggle is Over
Dead POST CIVIL RIGHTS Voting Rights Act
Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.**

Today, we renew a bill that helped bring a community on the margins into the life of American democracy. My administration will vigorously enforce the provisions of this law, and we will defend it in court. (Applause.) This legislation is named in honor of three heroes of American history who devoted their lives to the struggle of civil rights: Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King. And in honor of their memory and their contributions to the cause of freedom, I am proud to sign this bill.

In 1909 Black and white leaders organized to combined efforts to deal with racial realities of the time

- I. First phase focus -89 years primary order of business was preventing organized violence against African Americans and obtaining the passage of enforcement of anti-lynching laws.
- II. Second phase focus - Seeking equal rights in the military and fair job opportunities for civilians.
- III. Third phase by the 50's the NAACP was plowing judicial ground, including the landmark Supreme Court decisions of Brown vs Board of Education Topeka, Kansas which held public school segregation unconstitutional. Later NAACP members were

instrumental in obtaining legislation mandating equal Voting Rights.

IV. Fourth Phase – forcing implementation of laws. Overt racism dug in and was substituted with institutional – non-traceable racism. You get inside the door but the steps are too steep to climb.

We've made progress toward equality, yet the work for a more perfect union is never ending. We'll continue to build on the legal equality won by the civil rights movement to help ensure that every person enjoys the opportunity that this great land of liberty offers.

NAACP faces a new challenge – that demands fresh approaches

Paradigm Shifts –

NAACP Challenge In CONTEXT

- National to Regional/local
- Cultural Urban Inroads – Disconnect – No sense of historicity or appreciation for the journey - Village myth
- Black Church Mid-wife role
- War in Iraq.

How right we were!

The war has created what its sponsors said was its cause.

In this senseless war, liberators have become occupiers,

and the war's defenders have descended to the lowest level of political discourse – if you oppose the war, you oppose the troops. That's idiotic nonsense. If it was up to us, every uniformed man and women in Iraq would be alive and safe and sound at home. We support our fighting women and men. Our national leaders fail to understand today what one of our earliest leaders – **Dr. W. E. B. Dubois – clearly understood years ago.**

Said

"Honest and earnest criticism from those whose interests are most nearly touched – criticism of writers by readers, of government by those governed, of leaders by those led – this is the soul of democracy and the safeguard of modern society."

PARADIGM SHIFTS

I. Progress has been a Blessing and a Curse

II. Cultural Disconnect With in the African American Community – The Hip Hop Generational Challenge

III. The Role of the Black Church, NAACP, Urban League as mid-wives has changed. We are no longer the voice of the masses

IV. WE have allowed our enemies to peg us as a special interest group

V. We have Lost the Spiritual Moftif for the

VI. struggle

WE ADVOCATE WE MUST BE FAITHFUL TO OUR PAST

- They may try to intimidate us into silence, but we will not be frightened away from the truth.
- Just as they would have you believe that if you oppose the war, you are against our troops, they would also have you believe that if you don't support THEIR CONSERVATIVE judges, you're not a Christian. You're a heathen or worse.

RECALL the words of Galileo, who said:

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason and intellect, has intended us to forgo their use."

LET'S BE CLEAR ABOUT OUR MISSION

GOALS: Equality – Justice - by Eradicating Racial & Economic discrimination

of employment, planning, housing, the exercise of public functions (both by public authorities and also private bodies exercising public functions, for example, privately-run prisons), the provision of goods, facilities and services, education, and education.

I NAACP - RACE -DISCRIMINATION – IS OUR FOCUS

So when we are asked why the NAACP doesn't focus on social service, we respond that we are an organization that fights racial discrimination.

NAACP IS NOT A SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY

There are thousands of organizations in America which deliver social service, and properly so. The NAACP is one of very few which concentrates on social justice. We believe that racial discrimination is a prime reason why the gaps between black and white life chances remain so wide. And we believe that to the degree we are able to reduce discrimination and close these race-caused gaps, we will see the lives of our people improve and their prosperity increase. We believe when our people have more social justice, they will need less social service.

CRITIQUES SAY "RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS

HISTORY" Those who say that "race is history" have it exactly backward - History is race. America, scrambled, after all, spells "I am race."

And America is race - from its symbolism to its substance, from its founding by slaveholders to its rending by civil war, to Jim Crow, from the Ku Klux Klan, from Share Cropping to Katrina. Our nations' history In ONE FORM OF IS ONE OF DISCRIMINATION.

II WE MUST DEVELOPE NEW STRATEGIES

- **REINVENT OR RETROFIT LANGUAGE WORDS -**
- **WE MUST INSIST ON A NEW DEFINITION FOR THE TERM DIVERSITY**

▪ **REINVENT OR RETROFIT LANGUAGE WORDS –
POLITICAL WORKING DEFINITION**

"Bi-partisanship," for example, in Washington means "when the other side caves in."

"Spreading peace" means "pre-emptive war." "Staying the course" means "to relentlessly pursue a disastrous policy regardless of the consequences."

"Compassionate conservatism" translates into "tax cuts for the rich."

"Endangered species in need of government protection" are "the rich people's families who inherit mega estates."

"Activist judges" are "jurists who do not belong to the Federalist Society."

"Non-partisan judicial appointees" are "jurists who do belong to the Federalist

Society

"Faith-based Initiative" means "passing out money and saying 'trust me on equality'"

"Moral Values" equate to "keeping homosexual illegal immigrants from burning flags."

FOCUS – Poverty – The Faces of Katrina Root

Causes

- Orchestrated a massive transfer of wealth from the bottom to the top