

to use the necessary procedures to implement this request.

By Order,
Oden Bowie
Secretary

Read and ordered journalized.

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE

House/Senate Bill Number: House Bill No. 551
Bill Sponser: Delegate Wolfgang
Subject Matter: Maryland Home Financing Program

By the Majority Leader:
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate:

The House of Delegates consents to the Senate request for the return of this bill for further consideration in the Senate.

Said Bill is returned herewith.

By Order,
Jacqueline M. Spell
Assistant Chief Clerk

Read and adopted.

PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER PAPERS

Remarks of Delegate Lena K. Lee to the House of Delegates of the Maryland General Assembly on the occasion of the memorialization of the 10th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, ladies, and gentlemen of the House, I stand before you in a different capacity. For twelve years have I resisted making laudatory remarks. This is because I do not like empty words. I say, I can resist no longer—it is my turn.

For that above reason I have no prepared speech. A colleague has provided me with purloined words from the Los Angeles Times. The occasion today is the memorializing of Martin Luther King, Jr.

It now has been a decade—a tenth of a century—since a bullet split the stillness of an April evening in Memphis and stole the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Within minutes of that single, shattering report of the assassin's rifle, a message of anguish, horror and rage had

spread across the country and into the world: tears fell and flames rose.

Within minutes of that single report, desperate doubts began to flood the hearts of blacks and all freedom-loving Americans: "Is hate always to win?"

Grieving questions like these well up every time death takes a beloved leader. But life inevitably goes on and the questions fade away as grief turns to acceptance. Understanding and accepting this process is one way that we today can see for ourselves that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life was different because his life made yours and mine different.

We can now see that when he died a beacon was extinguished and moral leadership in America dwindled to a feeble flame.

In the decade of difficult days since then, our nation has been on retreat—from urban development, from morality, from challenges of conscience. Human rights at home have been neglected.

Dreams of blacks have been deferred and are rotting away. Dreams of jobs, of health care, of housing, and of education have dimmed. A decade ago, riots in the streets were explosive evidence of the social deprivation and frustration. The hardships continue unabated today. But the riots are internal now. The destruction is by implosion.

It is a consequence of moving from confrontation politics to political default. A decade ago, young people campaigned vigorously to secure voting rights for 18-year olds. Today 18-year olds care more about rationalizing drug use than voting. The desire to effect change has languished and is bogged down by America's winters of delay. It is bodies and minds that are destroyed now, not mere buildings.

So, while we have come a long way, we still have farther to go. We—all of us, black, white, brown, yellow—have the power to live as Martin Luther King, Jr. did.

The power that he had was the strength to cope with adversity "in spite of" and not "because of." His power was willpower, not pill power.

To honor him, to honor God, to honor ourselves, we must use that same power.

Note: These statements were from a speech made in Los Angeles by the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, a current well-known leader and King disciple.