EDITORIALS

John J. Oliver, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

Frances M. Draper
President

Mickey Leland

It often takes a tragedy to uncover the true worth of an individual. For years, Rep. George T. Leland has been involved in eradicating hunger in the Third World. Better known as Mickey Leland, he made frequent jaunts to Africa, especially in the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia and the Sudan.

These efforts were not widely publicized, even after he persuaded Congress to establish a Select Committee on Hunger, and let him be the chairman of it.

But there was a lot of negative press coverage when Congressman Leland, as with many other black congressmen, was supposedly under investigation, with a thrust to perhaps bring him before the House Ethics Committee.

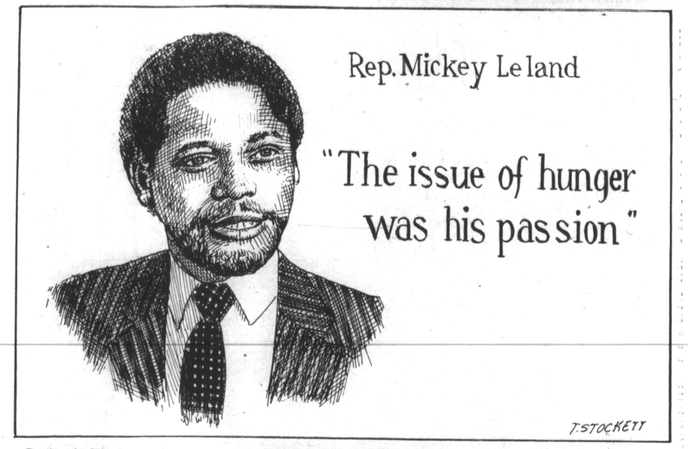
Sen. Al Gore, D.-Tenn., a friend and colleague of Leland, put it best when he stated: It is ironic that it is at his death his good works are becoming known."

"The issue of hunger is my passion," Leland was quoted as saying. "I have dedicated my life to end the physical and mental suffering caused by hunger."

He helped to persuade Congress to spend $800 million for assisting sub-Saharan nations in Africa where starvation had been devastating. "My committee is literally helping to feed thousands of Africans, saving actual generations who would have otherwise died without our help."

It was this dedication which caused his death, for being in Ethiopia was a direct part of his efforts to feed the starving—to see to it that food shipped to the area was parcelled to the right places.

This then is a monument to a dedicated humanitarian. Rep. John Lewis, D.-Ga., longtime friend of Leland summed up succinctly: "The government must implement what Mickey was trying to do with the hunger committee."
They must!



Take that job and ....

Far too often when a black person is appointed to a high ranking position there are folks who rush in to change the rules so that they can stay in control.

This appears to be what some members of the Board of Regents of the University Maryland had planned to do after they hired Dr. Augustus A. White, III, that outstanding Harvard physician to head the six-school professional campus in Baltimore.

Some board members, at their welcoming meeting with Dr. White pompously laid out a plan to sever two of the six schools from under Dr. White's control. And they had the nerve to say that the plan was well on its way to being adopted.

Dr. White, who was to start work in January at an annual salary of $245,000 thought about losing one-third of his turf and told the Regents in so many words to "take their job and stuff it..."

Too many black persons who have gotten into high positions have ended up being more interested in the perks instead of trying to improve the situation. Dr. White, a surgeon, understands that once the cutting of main arteries starts, it is only a matter of time before more cutting takes place.

We want to salute Dr. White for standing up for what he believes is right. We hope members of the Board of Regents understand the message Dr. White has sent.

Kweisi **Mfume**
U.S. Congressman

Mickey Leland

The condolences and heartfelt love of the nation go out to the family, friends and colleagues of Mickey Leland and his 15-member entourage who tragically lost their lives in one of Africa's most troubled regions.

Mickey was on his second "mission of mercy" to the Horn of Africa this year because he was deeply committed to arresting the devastating effects of war and famine in Ethiopia and The Sudan.

Mickey's life was rooted in a personal concern for human rights and the well being of the whole family of man. He was a man for all the people — from the Third District of Texas to the Third World.

We have lost a good friend and an ardent foe of hunger. As chairman of the Select Committee on Hunger, Mickey Leland understood the complex interrelationship between war and famine.

In the Horn of Africa, he personally set about to establish lines of communication among the major players with the hope of gaining their cooperation to relieve the suffering of millions of war weary refugees displaced by the chronic civil war and persistent drought.

Mickey's attention was recently focused on the effects of the Sudanese civil war. This war's most pernicious effect was the disruption of the international famine relief efforts that millions of Sudanese citizens depended upon to survive.

Mickey's energetic and astute international statesmanship kept open the delivery of food to and the safety of international relief personnel in the Sudan.

Words fail to express the great appreciation and respect that I have for a man who I am proud to say was my friend. Mickey Leland came to Baltimore two years ago at my request to convene a special Hunger Committee hearing.

Throughout the proceedings he listened intensely interrupting only to ask thoughtful questions which probed the very heart of the hunger.

Every man, woman and child in the church that afternoon learned about hunger in our own backyard from a man whose life's work was dedicated to lending a helping hand.

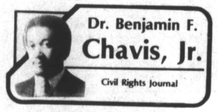
Critics and adversaries of Mickey Leland cannot say that he was a legislator preoccupied only with the concerns and cares inside the Beltway. Mickey's constituents in Houston knew when he left Texas for Washington in 1978 that he would continue on the same road to peace and justice of his predecessor, Barbara Jordan.

For Hugh Johnson, Jr., Patrice Johnson and Joyce Francine Williams, the three staffers who perished with Mickey, their personal commitment and efforts ensured that the needs of the Africa were not only heard but also acted upon.

Knowing them as I do only deepens the pain of this tragedy.

In his life Mickey Leland sowed the seeds for future assistance and cooperation in Africa and he set the agenda for increased understanding and sensitivity to hunger wherever it may exist.

The world knows much more about the furthest reaches of the Africa simply because Mickey Leland decided to take a stand for the naked, the hungry and the downtrodden. He will be greatly missed.



Dr. Benjamin F. **Chavis, Jr.**
Civil Rights Journal

Free African youth USA

During the last twenty-five years, I have consistently advocated the establishment of a uniformed national organization of youth in the United States in concert and in dialogue with the growing organization of youth throughout the world, particularly in Africa.

We have commented time and time again about the difficulties and the opportunities that challenge African American youth as well as other racial and ethnic youth in this nation.

It is with a sense of pride and diligence that I am able to report that recently in the small rural village of Manson, North Carolina, at Oak Level United Church of Christ, a new movement and a new youth organization was established.

I believe this new organization: "Free African Youth: USA," has great potential for providing a positive educational, cultural, political and nurturing alternative experience for African American and other youth who desire leadership development and involvement.

The truth is that although the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts organizations have been criticized for their apolitical and acultural approach to youth leadership in racial and ethnic communities in the United States, these two organizations have historically provided positive experiences for hundreds of thousands of youth.

I am speaking from experience because I remember when I was a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout these experiences gave me my first insights, at a very early age, into the necessity for personal and group discipline.

Even though the Boy Scouts of America in North Carolina back in the early 1950's were racially segregated, I found a fellowship and comradeship in my Scout troop that laid the basis for my early entry as a young soldier in the civil rights movement.

We receive numerous requests from young people all over the nation yearning for an opportunity to be involved in something positive and uplifting at the local level.

One of the great tragedies of this present age is the lack of outreach by national organizations to involve the youth of today in something positive.

The establishment of the Free African Youth: USA was accomplished in part as a response to the Young Pioneer Organization in Angola.

When young children in Warren and Vance Counties, North Carolina learned about the Young Pioneers in the African nation of Angola they were inspired to form a similar youth organization.

They saw how thousands of young Angolans, from ages 7 to 16 were actively involved in the reconstruction and development of Angola.

When the Young Pioneers of Angola learned of the existence of the Free African Youth: USA young pioneer organization in North Carolina, an invitation was extended for a group to travel to Angola to stay for four weeks of fellowship and a range of youth activities. Of course, the group in North Carolina accepted the invitation.

One of the leaders of the Free African Youth: USA is the dynamic and eloquent eight-year old Wiletra Burwell whom we have written about in other commentaries.

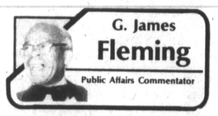
I witnessed Wiletra and four other members of the Free African Youth: USA board a Air France jet plane at Kennedy Airport to fly to Angola. They were accompanied by Wiletra's mother, Mrs. Dollie Burwell, who serves as one of the founding adult advisors to the group.

They were all dressed in the red, black and green colors of their uniforms which are the liberation colors for the African American freedom and liberation movement.

They were all excited about going to Africa and in particular to Angola. They carried their organization's red, black and green flag as well as the United States flag and the flag of the State of North Carolina.

I am sure that this group of young pioneers will represent the African American community well.

It is our hope that the enthusiasm and determination and sense of purpose of the Free African Youth: USA now emerging out of North Carolina will soon spread throughout the nation.



G. James **Fleming**
Public Affairs Commentator

Tale of 2 men Lucas, Pierce

They are both African-Americans, both lawyers, both Republicans, both appointed to high offices by Republican presidents.

One was confirmed by the Senate and became Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Samuel R. Pierce, Jr., of New York City; the other, William Lucas of Detroit, was rejected by the Senate Judiciary Committee for the position of assistant attorney general for civil rights.

Another point of similarity: Both men seem to have been named to the two prestigious positions for similar reasons. They were named because it was known that they could not, or would not exercise the powers of their respective offices.

In the case of Pierce, no one who knew him as the young, bright, Cornell University - educated lawyer, the first of his race to become partner of a downtown New York law firm, can believe that he was not equal to the cabinet housing job. He also had other varied experience in the public service.

Why then, are such endless revelations of sloppy administration, mismanagement, misfeasance if not malfeasance, and many contradictions in that department? Why so many times does Pierce need to say, in effect, "I don't know" or "it was decided upon by one of my deputies" or "this did not get my hands on attention."

This column fears that Pierce was appointed with the understanding, stated or implied, that he would be surrounded by underlings who would make the real decisions and who would have access to the White House.

He followed his instructions, we believe, and played dumb or dead, in a thankless job which he did not need in the first place.

Why? He wanted to serve the Good Old Party, his life-long love; but the party only wanted a showcase black to whom it could point with pride, not one actually to run a department.

* * *

William Lucas was named with the same kind of scheme in mind. He had become an unquestioning Republican. No matter that he admitted he was ignorant of civil rights law and weak in all law. No matter he had no courtroom experience as a lawyer (to his credit, he has served as sheriff and as county executive of Wayne County).

It appears that Lucas was named, with the understanding that, while he would hold that title of chief of the Civil Rights Division, others under him would make the real and "expert" decisions — the same arrangement as presumably made in the case of Sam Pierce.

It is no surprise that it was President Reagan who appointed Pierce. Some expected something better of President Bush. This, however, may be wishful thinking because the same forces that influenced Reagan in black/white situations, are at play, more or less, in the Bush White House.

(Then, too, there are only a relatively few black Republicans of stature available for appointment to high national office, this especially in the legal profession).

The pattern followed in the nomination of Sam Pierce and William Lucas, we hope, will not dog the days of Dr. Louis W. Sullivan in his cabinet office of Secretary of Health and Human Services.

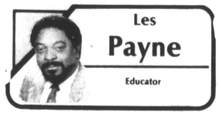
So far, it seems as though Dr. Sullivan is functioning as "the Secretary" of his department, despite his pre-inaugural confusion over the issue of abortion versus anti-abortion.

Just as Samuel Pierce, Dr. Sullivan did not need the cabinet job in order to earn a hefty salary. He was already well paid as the president of the Morehouse College Medical School and his future is already taken care of.

Serving for the honor mostly, then, he can afford to act as "the Secretary" with all the rights, privileges, powers and responsibilities thereto appertaining.

The Afro-American MEMBER The Audit Bureau MDDC NNPA UPI

COMMENTARY & OPINIONS



Les **Payne**
Educator

Leader casts an iron shadow

Nelson R. Mandela recently slipped into his 72nd year on this planet, the last 27 of which have been spent in the maximum security grip of the South African prison system.

Each new wave of change washing over that racist republic has sprayed Mandela supporters with the hope that he would soon be released.

The latest indication supposedly occurred on his birthday, July 18, when a large number of relatives were allowed to visit him in the quarters where he remained imprisoned. But that was last month, and Mandela still has not been released.

This failure speaks volumes about how little the Boers learn from the lessons of history. British oppressors were experts at jailing an indigenous leader during times of turmoil and releasing him when his symbolic value surpassed any possibility he had of meeting his people's expectations.

When Jomo Kenyatta became most valuable to the Kenyans in jail than out, the Brits released him — and to this very hour they reap the economic benefits of that former colony without the political liabilities.

The South Africans are so fixated on the potency of Mandela in chains that the thought of Mandela unbound makes them catatonic. It is true that most revolutionaries, from Mugabe to Mao and Ho Chi Minh, did their most effective work after being released from the oppressor's prison. But such men were set free relatively young, with fire still in their eyes and snap in their trigger fingers.

There are some who argue that at 72, Mandela would be of little use to the black armed struggle that so terrifies the cowardly Boers. They seem to enjoy nothing so much as shooting down African youngsters and old women in the streets while their leaders are locked away in jail.

Others argue that were Mandela to be released, the divisions that exist between competing anti-apartheid activists would increase.

Others say that the great man's release would so appease the international community that any attempts at armed struggle would be broadly undermined. His release, in an incredible way, appears to some as the only obstacle barring South Africa's embrace by the world community of civilized nations, so-called.

It is difficult to understand why the Boers haven't released Mandela — until one looks at the man, even at his age, up close. Nothing is more frightening to an oppressor than a fearless victim who has no price. Mandela has no price.

Pretoria offered to release him years ago if only he would preach nonviolence to millions of Africans oppressed by the bloodthirsty Boers. Mandela laughed them off; he was never much given to compromise.

An anecdote Mandela wrote about his youth at his 1964 sabotage trial offers a clue to where the enterprising, free-thinking leader was headed:

"On my first day at the (law) office (where Mandela was a 24-year-old clerk), the white senior typist said, 'Look, Nelson, we have no color bars here. When the tea-boys bring the tea, come and get yours from the tray. We have brought two new cups for you and Gaur Radike — another African employee. You must use them.

"Tell Gaur about your cups. Be careful of him, Nelson, he is a bad influence.

"I duly told Gaur, whose response was, 'I will show you. Do exactly as I do.' When the tea arrives, Gaur boycotted the new cups and picked one of the old ones. I had no desire to quarrel with him or the senior typist, so for months I did not drink tea."

Mandela is not an easy man to sway. Born to parents who never attended school, Mandela completed college and set up a law practice in 1952. Before being convicted of sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the apartheid government in 1961, he helped found the military wing of the previously nonviolent African National Congress.

During his long incarceration, Mandela has become legendary for his total unwillingness to compromise to gain favor for himself or his family. "One of Nelson's great virtues is his simplicity," says Michael Dingake, a fellow ANC member who served time with him on Robben Island.

"There is no image of cultism around him. In prison he could easily have used his national and international image to amass personal privileges from the authorities.

All commanding officers ... would have been happy to be in the good books of Mandela ... Nelson sought no personal privileges and participated fully in all common duties in the section."

To this very hour, Mandela steadfastly refuses the Boers' requirement that to free himself from prison, he must split in the eye in his revolutionary ANC. While admitting to sabotage at his trial, Mandela saw it as a counter to the government's violence against the overwhelming majority of South Africa's population whose only crime was having been born black.

"Above all, we want equal political rights, because without them our disabilities will be permanent," Mandela said in open court.

"I know this sounds revolutionary to the whites in this country because the majority of voters will be Africans. This makes the white man fear democracy. But this fear cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the only solution which will guarantee racial harmony and freedom for all."

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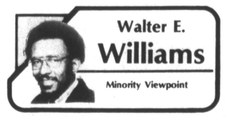

Walter E. **Williams**
Minority Viewpoint

Education sellout

The tragedy of black education is common knowledge. By any standard of academic achievement, black youngsters are well below the national average, a fact made worse considering the national average is nothing to brag about.

In some schools, black dropout rates approach 50 percent or even higher. Many of those who do graduate cannot fill out a job application, pass police or fireman entry examinations, or read and comprehend simple instructions.

The stubborn fact of fraudulent education persists despite our pouring billions of dollars into general education and remedial programs.

Self-appointed black leaders, black politicians, and the public education establishment, through their misguided visions, have done more to thwart black educational excellence than any racist organization could ever have done.

Part of this misguided vision is being played out in Kansas City. According to **Newsweek** (7/31/89), Kansas City schools are under a 1985 court-ordered desegregation plan.

In meeting that plan, the city has developed a magnet schools program.

More than 3,000 blacks have been shut out of those schools (even though there are 2,311 vacancies), because the judge decreed that 40 percent of enrollment had to be white — a ludicrous order since system-wide, only 26 percent of Kansas City students are white.

Black parents have filed a lawsuit demanding that Kansas pay for their children to go to the city's private schools which have 4,000 vacancies and are willing to accept students receiving aid.

Judy Rivarde is one of the parents who wants that option for her son. According to Rivarde, her daughter graduated from high school with good grades and a spotty attendance, but couldn't pass college entrance tests. She says, "I'd like to know how she pulled A's in some of those classes she wasn't attending."

Black leaders are vehemently opposed to Judy Rivarde's, and other black parents', suit for a voucher plan. Public education activist Clinton Adams says, "Everybody's entitled to a good public education supported by taxpayers."

Most black civil rights leaders, politicians, and educators agree, but many, including Jesse Jackson, are not sacrificing their children's education in the name of saving public schools; their kids go to private schools.

A nationwide voucher system, operating along the lines of the World War II G.I. Bill, would be the single best thing we could do for education in general and black education in particular.

Under a voucher system, the state would simply give each parent a voucher which could be used as tuition payment at the school of the parent's choosing. In Philadelphia, a parent might use his voucher to send his kid to Ivy Leaf School.

Ivy Leaf is a black private school whose students come from low- and moderate-income families but, according to Mrs. Liller Green, its principal and owner, 85 percent of the students test at grade level, and in some cases two or three years above.

Ivy Leaf's annual tuition is $1,750. By comparison the annual per student in Philadelphia's public schools is nearly $5,000.00 and most of its black kids are below grade level.

Now I ask you: Doesn't it make sense to develop a system where we have more kids in lower-cost schools providing better education than in high-cost schools providing inferior education?

And wouldn't taxpayers also benefit since $1,750 is less to layout than $5,000? But black leaders in service to the public education establishment don't see it that way.

In the name of desegregation and protecting public schools, they are willing to commit a generation of black youngsters to mediocrity, dependency, and despair.

Black leaders, who play a vital role in the civil rights struggle of the '40s, '50s, and '60s are now useless, obsolete, and destructive.

GUS HAWKINS:

Report on black life

A recent report, prepared by a blue-ribbon panel of leading scholars from the National Research Council entitled, "A Common Destiny: Blacks and American Society," on the condition of black life in America over the past 50 years, confirmed what many of us already knew: that after making significant gains since the 1940's, blacks on average have lost ground or remained the same since the early 1970's.

The report, however, was an important and significant statement to use as a springboard for national action.

The report states in its general opening statement:

"*By almost all aggregate statistical measures — incomes and living standards; health and life expectancy; educational occupational, and residential opportunities; political and social participation — the well-being of both blacks and whites has advanced greatly over the past five decades. By almost all the same indicators, blacks remain substantially behind whites.*"

The report indicated that the progress of blacks since 1940 was made possible by a rapidly growing economy; passage and enforcement of civil rights laws, federal programs such as the Job Corps, Head Start and others.

Despite these gains, the engine of progress slowed down in the early 1970's. Part of this stagnation was the result of a slow economy during the decade and beyond.

There were also a number of other factors, including the continuing presence of racial discrimination in our society.

Recent rulings by the Supreme Court on issues such as affirmative action have rocked the very foundation of the guarantee of civil rights in this nation, and will only add to the numerous barriers which thwart Blacks's progress.

These significant barriers are the result of a number of social conditions which many whites do not encounter, at least not in the high percentages which blacks do. For example, one-half of black families with children must manage their affairs with only one parent, who is almost always a woman and overwhelmingly poor.

Black youths are more likely, than their white counterparts, to grow up in unsafe or unhealthy living environments.

Has anyone pondered the hardship of an elementary school-aged child living in a drafty home, with little food to eat, who has a parent with a limited education? Many young blacks begin their schooling with severe social and economic disadvantages. Black children simply do not start out on an equal social and economic footing, as many white children do.

While the report vividly portrays a somewhat dismal picture of the overall condition of blacks since 1970, we do know what programs and policies have been effective in advancing opportunity over the past 50 years. The "unfinished agenda" must include a comprehensive effort to:

Vigorously enforce civil rights and equal opportunity laws;

Fully fund programs of proven effectiveness, i.e. Head Start, Job Corps, Chapter 1, WIC, child nutrition, etc.

Increase the number of federal job training programs, with focused attention to those most in need;

Expand educational opportunities, by using proven methods of instruction and school organization to improve achievement scores among children of poor; and

Improve the quality of health care delivery for blacks, especially in the area of prenatal care.

We are still picking up the pieces from the damage wrecked by the Reagan years. Perhaps we need to awaken the voices from the past, which were so critical in achieving progress in the decade in the 1960's, and begin to move toward addressing the "unfinished agenda."

As we start this struggle anew, let us recount the words of optimism and hope ensconced in our proud memory of the civil rights movement:

"Deep in my heart I do believe/That we shall overcome some day."

During last year's presidential campaign, Jesse Jackson issued a statement in support of Kowalski and Thompson, which declared:

"We question the wisdom of any legal ruling which seeks to separate mutually consenting adults who have made a life commitment to each other.

"Homophobia, sexism and handicapism should never again be allowed to limit the potential and abilities of any person."

The struggle for civil rights is not simply based on color and ethnicity — it is rooted fundamentally in the belief of equality for all human beings.

Should disabled people be judged by the dominant society solely by their physical handicap, or by the affects of a disease? Half of all Americans over age sixty five suffers from some type of disability.

The struggle for equality must include the abolition of all discrimination creating a second class citizenship for the disabled.

Dr. Manning Marable is professor of political science at the University of Colorado.

Manning **Marable**
Along The Color Line

Discrimination against the disabled

Suppose you applied for a job and were told bluntly that your physical appearance was simply too offensive and objectionable to the patrons?

Or that when you waited at the bus stop, you weren't able to climb aboard? Suppose you could not obtain access to schools, churches, and most business establishments?

And suppose the vast majority of Americans complained that any change which would accommodate your concerns were well beyond the means of taxpayers?

No, we haven't returned to the era of Jim Crow, to the segregated buses and lunchcounters. We're referring instead to another form of discrimination — the segregation and prejudice against Americans who have physical disabilities.

About 43 million Americans, one out of every six individuals, is affected by some type of disability.

This includes not just people in wheelchairs or who are deaf, but also who have epilepsy, learning disabilities, and diseases such as AIDS.

The disabled are frequently dismissed from jobs, or are denied jobs despite their educational backgrounds or professional experience.

People who contract cancer and are in treatment, for instance, can lose their jobs.

Many jobs in industry or commercial establishments which do not require physical mobility or dexterity deny opportunities to those confined to wheelchairs or to amputees.

And perhaps the most vicious discrimination targets those who have contracted AIDS. Instead of viewing victims with compassion, millions of Americans refuse to rent apartments or houses to people with the disease.

Children with AIDS are shunned from public schools, and infants of AIDS parents frequently aren't adopted.

Immediately after her accident, Thompson devoted months assisting Kowalski to relearn basic movements, and assisted her overall physical therapy.

When Kowalski's parents learned of the lesbian relationship between their daughter and Thompson, they angrily refused to permit Thompson to have any access to her. Thompson responded by filing for guardianship, and a legal battle erupted.

The Kowalski case illustrates two types of bigotry — homophobia, or hatred of homosexuals and lesbians, and handicapism, the paternalism and mistreatment of disabled individuals.

Kowalski has been denied the right to freedom of association, the right to the counsel of her own choice, and the right to be examined for competency.

When many individuals suffer disabling accidents, they can be denied their full legal and human rights even by well - meaning but misguided relatives. One classic example is provided by the controversial case of Sharon Kowalski.

For four years, Kowalski lived together with another woman, Karen Thompson. In late 1983, Kowalski was in a serious automobile accident which left her unable to move physically or to speak.