#### MINUTES

#### MONTANA SENATE 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By Senator Eleanor Vaughn, on January 21, 1991, at 10 a.m. in the Senate Judiciary Room

#### ROLL CALL

#### Senators Present:

Eleanor Vaughn, Chair (D)
Bob Pipinich, Vice-Chair (D)
John Anderson, Jr. (R)
Chet Blaylock (D)
James Burnett (R)
Bill Farrell (R)
Harry Fritz (D)
Bob Hockett (D)
Jack Rea (D)

Bernie Swift (R)

### Representatives Present: Jan Brown, Chair (D)

Jim Southworth (D) Wilbur Spring (R) Carolyn Squires (D)

Vicki Cocchiarella, V-Chair(D)
Beverly Barnhart (D)
Gary Beck (D)
Ernest Bergsagel (R)
Ervin Davis (D)
Jane DeBruycker (D)
Roger DeBruycker (R)
Gary Feland (R)
Gary Forester (D)
Patrick G. Galvin (D)
Harriet Hayne (R)
Betty Lou Kasten (R)
John E. Phillips (R)
Dick Simpkins (R)

Members Excused: Senator Bernie Swift and Representative Fritz Daily

Staff Present: David Niss and Sherry Heffelfinger (Legislative Council), Judy Burggraff and Dolores Harris, (Committee Secretaries)

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Announcements/Discussion: There will be no demonstrations, no placard waving, and no applause during the hearing.

#### HEARING ON SENATE BILL 78

#### Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Fritz, Senate District 28, Missoula, presents Senate Bill 78 which proclaims Martin Luther King Day a holiday in Montana on the 3rd Monday in January. It, also, repeals Heritage

Day so it does not add to the total number of paid state holidays in Montana. Four years ago when Heritage Day was enacted it seemed a way of recognizing the ethnic and cultural diversity of the state. It has become a holiday of convenience and has never recognized anyone's heritage. This holiday has not worked and it ought to be repealed. Martin Luther King Day would commemorate a day in our history and Martin Luther King Day is celebrated by 47 other states and 99% of the American people.

#### Proponents' Testimony:

Angela Russell, House District 99, Lodge Grass, appears as a proponent of this bill and will carry it to the House when it passes from committee. It is time Montana established a holiday recognizing Martin Luther King as a spiritual and political leader of the civil rights movement in this country. He thought the world could be changed by love, because it was better than hate, and by peace, because it was better than war. Freedom must be demanded by the oppressed. The civil rights movement was to end racial injustice. It helped outlaw discrimination and segregation and ensured voting rights for all U.S. citizens. Ms. Russell grew up on the Crow Reservation and learned early discrimination and injustice when they left the reservation. Martin Luther King Day will be a symbol of human dignity for all God's children.

Nancy Keenan, State Superintendent of Schools, appears in support of Senate Bill 78. Children are not born with prejudice, they learn it from adults that different sometimes means inferior. We need to teach children to live, love, work, and respect our multicultural and multiracial world. She gave several examples of children's quotes in support of Martin Luther King Day. Please pass this bill.

Mike Cooney, Secretary of State, emphasized the fact that Martin Luther King fought successfully for passage of a voting rights act that would put an end to literacy tests and dramatically extend voter registration from coast to coast. He submitted his testimony in favor of Senate Bill 78 in writing. (See exhibit 1)

Judy Browning, Deputy Attorney General for Montana, read Marc Racicot's testimony in support of Senate Bill 78 into the record. (See exhibit 2.)

Representative Bob Gervais, House District 9, Glacier County and the Blackfeet Reservation, emphasized that the civil rights movement taught the Indians that they have a right to live free from discrimination because of their race in employment, housing, voting rights, government services. The Martin Luther King civil rights movement gave Indians the momentum to accomplish the 1968 Indians Civil Rights Movement, a law which provides civil rights protection for Indian people within their own communities. He recommends a do pass on this bill.

Representative Paula Darko, House District 2, Libby and Lincoln County, said that the Lincoln County Task Force on Human Rights was organized this past summer, after a year of racist and separatist activity in our community by the Montana Separatist Alliance which is headquartered in Libby. Her support, and that of the task force, is because they see this holiday as a strong statement of their deep feelings for equality and justice and against those who would work against those values.

Francis Belgarde, Executive Director of the Helena Indian Alliance, offered a written statement in support of Martin Luther King Day. The statement is written by Dr. Connie O'Connor, physician at the Leo Pocha clinic, and includes this quote of Dr. King. Dr. King said, "We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.".....If we are to have peace on Earth, our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective...all life is interrelated." (See exhibit 3)

Eric Feaver, President of the Montana Education Association, a statewide teachers organization representing 8500 members. Heritage Day has become a day of convenience, a holiday of no consequence, meaning nothing. Replace it with a day that supports substantially the history and future of this nation. Urge strong support of Senate Bill 78. The MEA is an affiliate of the National Education, a teacher and school employees organization of 2.3 million persons. Periodically the NEA has regional conferences in Montana. Next summer the National Leadership Conference at Big Sky, wherein 400 persons from around the nation will be gathered for a week. The NEA will not hold regional conferences in any state that does not accommodate Martin Luther King Day.

Tom Towe, Senate District 46, supports SB 78 and said we need to show support of the struggles the Black Americans have put forth in this country.

Jeannine Windy Boy, President of Little Big Horn College, a Crow Indian, who lives in Lodgegrass, Montana, subscribes to the idea that we need a peaceful community with justice, dignity and equal opportunity. It's easy for Montanans to think this is a racially peaceful state, but injustice does exist. In 1983 they filed a voting rights case against Big Horn County because they had uncovered discrimination that was similar to those the Blacks suffered in the deep south. They found hypertechnical voting cards that prevented voter registration, unproportionate and uneven delivery of services in the county. Educational tracking still existed in the school. Dr. King's voting rights case gave protection against voting discrimination. Our region is targeted for neo-nazi groups, who are not peaceful, not honorable and not just. Please pass Senate Bill 78.

Harley Warner, Montana Association of Churches, said he represents 8 different denominations which includes about 600

mainstream churches scattered throughout Montana. They support S. B. 78. (Exhibit 4)

Carlene Old Elk, Department Head of General Studies at Little Big Horn College on the Crow Reservation, and a school board member for districts 1 and 17H. The designation of Heritage Day to Martin Luther King Day will emphasize that Montana is ready to study and provide opportunity to children to learn about the principles of peace, nonviolence, liberty and justice. Please support this bill.

Phil Caldwell, President of the Great Falls NAACP, as a proponent of this bill for Martin Luther King Day in Montana. This bill benefits all Americans, all races, all backgrounds, all political persuasions, segregationists and integrationist. It's a dedicated person who will face the "clan", to march on bigots and helmeted troopers and mean sheriff's dogs, to face fire hoses and cattle prods, to live revolution. Martin Luther King died for mankind.

David Rusoff, Montana Human Rights Network, which was formed in the last year to oppose the white supremacy movement, and share civil rights activity information across the state. The Network supports this bill.

Bill Wassmuth, Executive Director of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, whose members are 250 organizations in the 5 northwest states. Eighteen of those are in Montana. They support Senate Bill 78. (exhibit 5)

Mark Kelley, St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral, supports Senate Bill 78. He said the 46 Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana in their 87th Convention voted in support of observing Martin Luther King Day as a legal holiday in this state.

John Ortwein, Director of the Montana Catholic Conference, said he represents the two Roman Catholic Bishops of the State of Montana in matters of public policy. They support SB 78. (exhibit 6)

Wilbur Rehmann represents the Helena Human Rights Taskforce, which was formed to respond to a white supremacist group from California announcing that it wanted to move its national headquarters to Helena. They also want to respond positively and celebrate Montana's rich cultural and ethnic heritage. They support SB 78. (exhibit 7)

Eleanore L. Gowin, Executive Director of the YWCA, Great Falls, stated that there mission and purpose every day is for the dream of equality for all people. The YWCA across the country stands for the spirit of freedom, the spirit of equality, freedom of opportunity. We urge you to honor these ideals of peace and equality by supporting SB 78.

Deborah Stanford, Billings Forum for Racial and Ethnic Equality (BFREE), is dedicated to the dream of equal rights for all. Dr. King recognized the strength of peaceful revolution and preached it in the face of America's giants. The U. S. is founded on the premise that "All men are created equal." By honoring Martin Luther King we are saying we believe in the inherent equality of all humankind. Support SB 78.

Tony Lewis, Roni Graham and Stephanie Hermanson gave written testimony from their Camp Fire group in East Helena in support of SB 78. (see exhibit 8)

Carl J. Donovan, represents Concerned Citizens Coalition, which is a grassroots organization with chapters in Belt and Havre who work on issues of people with low to moderate income. That Coalition gives their employees the 3rd Monday in January off as a paid holiday. That is easier than fighting the racism that exists in Montana. It was 15 days after Martin Luther King's death that Congress passed the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which is one of the last civil right's frontiers. Racism and sexism are deeply rooted in our country's history. Pass SB 78.

Colin Meloy is a Helena High School student who represents the Students Organized Against Racism. They are in favor of SB 78. Martin Luther King fought for all minority rights and all peoples rights. He was an inspiration. Please do pass.

Andy Gordon is a 5th grader at Jefferson School in Helena, who supports SB 78.

Bryan Pelc mentioned Lincoln's heroism in freeing Blacks. He said if the positions were reversed, we would want the recognition so we should give it to them.

Health Lion is a 5th grader at Jefferson School in Helena, who supports Senate Bill 78 because Martin Luther King was a peacemaker. She thinks Blacks should have a holiday of their own.

Sarah Olson is a 5th grader at Jefferson School in Helena who thinks we should make Martin Luther King Day a holiday because most other states already have done that.

Tom Huddleston, City Commissioner and Mayor Protem of Helena, mentioned the hate groups that want to move to Montana. He gave several examples of bigotry and discrimination. As a young platoon sergeant in Viet Nam he fought, lived and died beside all races. Now again they're fighting for our country regardless of race. Dr. King aspired toward greater values and we should take a day to honor him.

Danielia Lumiage, a student at the University of Montana, presented 51 pages of Petitions containing roughly 1800 signatures of who expressed concern for Montana state holiday

recognizing Martin Luther King. These are a number of college students from both UM and MSU as well as community individuals and businesses. (These petitions can be seen at the Historical Library.) (Exhibit 10)

Bonita Stevens from CR Anderson school in Helena, wants Montana to declare a Martin Luther King holiday for 2 reason, 1. because he stood for equality of all men; and 2. Montana will appear to be racist. Please pass this bill. We could lose economically if Blacks boycott our state. He's an outstanding Black American who has won the Nobel Peace Prize. Please pass this bill. (exhibit 20)

Patrick McCleary, represents 10,000 students of the University of Montana, in supporting Senate Bill 78 making Martin Luther King Day a holiday. (Exhibit 11)

Rhonda Langford, member of the Confederate Salish and Kootnai Tribes, Chairman of the Montana Rainbow Coalition, believes this is the right thing to do to make a holiday to honor Martin Luther King. Please pass this bill.

Donna Small, Vice Chairman of the Democratic Party, stated that the Party felt strongly enough about this holiday that they made it part of the Democratic Platform at their convention last June. We should honor Martin Luther King with a holiday of his own.

Linnea Wang, Clerk, Helena Quakers, had her testimony read into the record. (exhibit 12)

Starshine read the testimony of the Great Falls Quakers into the record as written by Judith Raunig-Graham and Kathy Yankoff on behalf of the Quaker Worship group, Religion Society of Friends. (exhibit 13)

Paul Richards has been working with a group of Quakers called the Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration committee. To reject this as a holiday is an embarrassment. He's been a controversial advocate for equal rights, civil liberties, social justice, and peace. He challenged racism, discrimination, inequity and violence. (exhibit 14)

Bobby Balaz is an individual who wants to speak out in favor of Martin Luther King Day being a Montana holiday.

Silvia Dvarskis Robert is an individual who recalled growing up in Wyoming and never seeing any black people. Her father never talked of black people, Africans or Negroes. He talked only of coons and nigers and I always knew deep within myself that he was an ignorant man in that way. I have resisted my father's attitudes but I have carried the scars for 40 years by feeling much shame and guilt and letting those feelings affect my relationships and interactions with people of a different color. I'm not alone in my experiences. If I had had more of an

opportunity to learn of black people when I was young, I would have been strengthened in my young convictions of the absurdities of prejudice. Passing this bill will be a great benefit, to both white and black. If a child is raised in a home where there is much hate and prejudice, but he has the opportunity to go to school and learn where there is a national holiday representing a man of a different color, he will have more opportunities within himself what is truth. I believe that these old ugly prejudices will be weakened and diluted and watered down. I pray that when my grandchildren are in school and they read of the injustices that they will be amazed and in disbelief, for it will be so foreign to their consciousness. I believe that passing this bill will ensure that these will someday be a reality for our children's children.

Dan White is a concerned citizen. There is Black history in Montana. As a college student I wrote an honors thesis on the Black History in Butte, Montana. During the research he found much discrimination of Blacks. At the turn of the century there were 301 Black people in Montana. The job Blacks held were on the railroad, valets, and common laborers. There were only 2 professionals at that time. None were allowed to work in the mines in Butte.

#### Proponents Who Left Written Testimony But Didn't Speak

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Great Falls, MT (exhibit 17)
Brenda Wahler (exhibit 18)
Jefferson School students (exhibit 19)
C.R.Anderson School students (exhibit 21)
53 student signed statements (stored at Historical Library)
Billings Gazette article

#### Opponents' Testimony:

Philip W. Conover stated that he questioned the character of Martin Luther King. He included copies of the Wall Street Journal of Friday, November 9, 1990, wherein the article states that Martin Luther King had plagiarized most of his writings. This was found by a committee who had been appointed to study his writings. Plagiarized means to steal ideas or words of another and claim them as your own. When he signed a paper to get his Doctor of Divinity Degree, he signed as though it was his own writing. The Wall Street Journal article goes on to say that Martin Luther King is a questionable role model for young Blacks. He compared presidential hopeful Gary Hart's adulterous behavior with Dr. King's adulterous behavior with several explicit Dr. King's friends were known Communists. Robert Kennedy warned King about the people he was associating with but he continued having Communists on his staff. Why was his record sealed? He's the only man in the history of the country to have his record sealed. Will it show his shortcoming or will it show him to be a great man? (Exhibit 15) He opposes Senate Bill 78.

Tom Harwood, Shelby, Montana, rebutted Nancy Keenan's statement that racism is a learned response. Someone said we should not be forced against our will. He rises in opposition of this bill on the basis that he does not like holidays. He was in Viet Nam for 2 years, 9 months in combat. In the field there was no color, except green. A man wore the uniform and fought beside you, he covered your back and you covered his. We all bled red. He walked into an all Black bar and was run out of it. have selective memories. What is the purpose of the holiday? making this a holiday is simply coming into compliance with the federal schedule, just declare that all federal holidays will be observed in Montana. Specific days are set for good reasons, such as, Veterans Day on November 11. Schools should teach about the Blacks in Montana from Lewis & Clark to present time. are 5 states in the south that do not celebrate Lincoln's birthday. Without the Emancipation Proclamation and the passage of the 13th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution there would be no civil rights for Martin Luther King to fight for. There are 3 people with holidays named for them, Washington, Lincoln, and Columbus. (Exhibit 16)

Mr. Conover suggested that if we must honor a Black man we should choose Booker T. Washington, or George Washington Carver.

Representative Robert Clark, House District 31, rises in opposition to S. B. 78 and feels that Dr. King did much to elevate the Blacks in this country to a place of equality. There are too many unanswered questions as to what Dr. King really did stand for and about the assocation he had with people who supported the overthrow of this country. Was Dr. King a pawn in a greater plan and his life being cut short deprived us of answers of what he was involved in. The records that were sealed by a federal judge also are hiding many answers that we should have before we enact this holiday. In the year 2027 when these records are open many questions will be answered. states that do not have a holiday commemorating Dr. King are being black mailed when it comes down to withholding events from the state. Dr. King, who stood for freedom and people's rights, would not condone what is happening in the area of withholding events to get a holiday in his honor.

#### Questions From Committee Members:

None

#### Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Fritz closed by saying there are many heroes in American history and none without blemish. Who will cast the first stone? Whenever a person is trying to instigate radical change there will always be negative publicity. He changed America for the better and made justice more equal for all. Thank you for a fine hearing.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment At: 11:45 a.m.

JAN BROWN, House Chairperson

ELEANOR VAUGHN, Senate Chairperson

JUDY BURGGRAFF, House Secretary

DOLORES HARRIS, Senate Secretary

EV/dh

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 1/21/91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. JAN BROWN, CHAIR	1		
REP. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, VICE-CHAIR	/		1
REP. BEVERLY BARNHART	V		
REP. GARY BECK	1		
REP. ERNEST BERGSAGEL	1		
REP. FRED "FRITZ" DAILY	V		
REP. ERVIN DAVIS	/		
REP. JANE DEBRUYCKER	V		sign.
REP. ROGER DEBRUYCKER	V		
REP. GARY FELAND	/		
REP. GARY FORRESTER	V		
REP. PATRICK GALVIN	V		
REP. HARRIET HAYNE	·/		
REP. BETTY LOU KASTEN			
REP. JOHN PHILLIPS	V		
REP. RICHARD SIMPKINS	1		
REP. JIM SOUTHWORTH	V		
REP. WILBUR SPRING	V		
REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES			

Whehe Cooney

SENATE STATE ADMIN. EXHIBIT NO...

Testimony of Secretary of State Mike College SR 78 Senate BIII 78

January 21, 1991

One of my favorite parts of being Secretary of State is talking to people about the importance of voter participation. Each year I give dozens of talks to schools, civic groups and organizations encouraging all Montanans to exercise constitutionally protected right to vote. To us...now...this most precious right seems an inseparable part of our very existence as Americans.

And yet less than thirty years ago, one's right to vote was, in many parts of this country, contingent upon race, education and income. Martin Luther King, Jr. would not accept this inequity, and he fought successfully for passage of a voting rights act that would put an end to literacy tests and dramatically extend voter registration from coast to coast.

The passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is one of those precious events that forever changed the face of our nation. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made it happen. Of King, Ronald Reagan said "he symbolized courage, sacrifice, and the tireless pursuit of justice too long denied. To the world he will be remembered as a great leader and teacher, a man whose words awakened in us all the hope for a more just, more compassionate society."1

As long as history books are written, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 will take its rightful place as living proof of the viability and sanctity of American democracy. Dr. King believed in our democracy, and he believed in the people who make it work. And in the early 1960s, he peacefully took this heartfelt belief to the streets and demanded equal access for all Americans. For this we owe him a debt we can never repay.

#### MC:dm 87.121

Statement by the President, January 15, 1982. 1. Compilation of Presidential Documents, Volume 18, Number 2, Page 15.

per Paylorles. member of Tincoln Cty Jask Force on Juman Rights Organized this Summer. after about a year of round activity in our community by the Montana Seperatist alliance head frod in Libby had siveral meetings and membership/mailing includes about 80 people who have attended these support of this bill because me su t strong stat. of our,

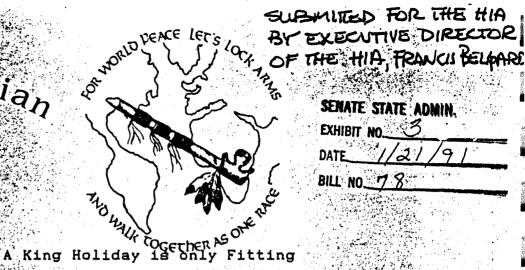
SENATE BILL 78

The observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a legal holiday in the state of Montana would be an outward sign of an authentic and fixed belief in equal opportunity and equal justice for all people without recognition of any qualification. Historically we have observed legal holidays in this country and state by acknowledging those people that significantly influenced the character, conscience, and ideals of this nation in an uncommon and extraordinary way. Martin Luther King did that.

What we seek to remember in our observance is what a person became and stood for as a result of their leadership and sacrifice for the common good.

# nelena Indian

436 North Jackson Helena, Montana 59601 (406) 442-9334



SENATE STATE ADMIN. EXHIBIT NO. BILL NO\_7 8

Dr. Connie O'Connor

I have had the privilege to work at the Leo Pocha Memorial clinic in Helena for two years and it has been a unique experience. serve Native American families and medically indigent people who live in or passathrough our community. They are the underprivileged. Illisten carefully to their life stories. These are real accounts of poverty, unemployment, homelessness, lack of educational opportunity and prejudice in all its forms. It is often painful to see the erosion of human dignity. I listen and try to correct one of the injustices of American life - unequal access to health care. I often ask myself, "What can one person do?

Martin Luther King, Jr. was an exceptional human being who led a concentrated drive against the injustices he saw around him. His 39-year life was dedicated to oppressed people and he was their most articulate voice. He reminded Americans that the rights guaranteed in our Constitution were not just words written on paper. He became our social conscience. President Lyndon Johnson said in 1965, "And who among us can say we would have made the same progress were it not for his persistent bravery and his faith in American democracy.

Dr. King's efforts led to the passage of three specific laws that affect us all. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination in public places. This bill also called for equal opportunity in employment and education. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 eliminated barriers to voting and voter registration. Seven days after Dr. King's assassination, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act) which prohibited discrimination in the sale and rental of housing due to race, sex, religion, or national origin. Since that time the 1988 amendments to the Fair Housing Act have included protection for the handicapped and elderly. Thus, Dr. King is a fine example of what one American can do to effect change.

Great people receive worldwide attention and their message is relevant in any era. Dr. King was awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his ability to effect change through nonviolent civil disobedience. He said, "We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means. " Moreover, Dr. King felt that "if we are to have peace on Earth, our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective...all life is interrelated. " "

This is consistent with the Native American teachings of Chief Seattle that, "All things are connected." Dr. King's message is timely. We have only to think of our human dilemma in the Middle East. I find it ironic that the U.N. deadline for violence falls on the birthday of one of the world's true pacifists who said, "One day we've got to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

Shortly before his death, Dr. King became acutely aware of the shackles of poverty. He lead a "Poor people's campaign to unite poor people of all races in a struggle for economic opportunity."

Unfortunately, he was killed on April 4, 1968, too soon to treative this dream.

I, like Dr. King, have a dream. By creating a state holiday commemorating Dr. King, Montana children will ask their parents, "Who was Martin Luther King Jr.?" and together they will search the libraries of Montana and listen to his message of equality and peace.

Francis Bolgarda

Montana
Association of
Churches

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 7

DATE 1/21/91

BILL NO. 5B 78

MONTANA RELIGIOUS LEGISLATIVE COALITION • P.O. Box 745 • Helena, MT 59624

PHONE: (406) 442-5761

Date Submitted:

January 21, 1991

**WORKING TOGETHER:** 

Bill Number:

SB 78

American Baptist Churches of the Northwest

1

Submitted by:

Harley E. Warner

Christian Churches of Montana (Disciples of Christ) Chairman (Chairperson), members of the committee, I am Harley Warner. I am here this morning representing the Montana Association of Churches.

Episcopal Church Diocese of Montana The Montana Association of Churches is made of representatives from 8 different denominations which includes about 600 main-stream churches scattered throughout Montana.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Montana Synod

The Montana Association of Churches recognizes the great contribution Dr. King made to the American Civil Rights movement.

Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.) Glacier Presbytery We oppose any form of racism and discrimination and we have historically supported each individual's right to be treated with dignity and equality.

Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.) Yellowstone Presbytery The Montana Association of Churches rises in support of Senate Bill 78 and the adoption of Martin Luther King, Jr. day as a legal holiday in Montana.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Great Falls - Billings

Roman Catholic Diocese of Helena

Harley E. Warner Legislative Liaison

United Church of Christ Mt.-N. Wyo. Cont.

United Methodist Church Yellowstone Conference

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SENATE	STATE	ADMIN.	•
EXHIBIT	NO	5	
DATE	1/5	1/91	

BILL WASSMUTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NW MQANITION AGAINST SK 78 MALICIOUS HARASSMENT

JANUARY 21, 1991

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU THIS MORNING. I AM BILL WASSMUTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NWCAMH WHICH IS A COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NW STATES OF WYOMING, MONTANA, IDAHO, WASHINGTON AND OREGON THAT CAME TOGETHER IN 1987 TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF BIGOTRY. WE SUPPORTED THE PASSAGE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR LEGISLATION IN IDAHO AND WYOMING LAST YEAR AND I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF SIMILAR LEGISLATION HERE IN MONTANA.

AMONG OTHER ACTIVITIES, THE NWCAMH MONITORS THE ACTIVITIES OF SUPREMACIST GROUPS IN THE REGION. RICHARD BUTLER AND HIS ARYAN NATIONS ORGANIZATION ATTRACTED ATTENTION TO SUPREMACISTS IN THE NORTHWEST BUT HE IS NOT THE FIRST OR THE ONLY SUPREMACIST GROUP IN THE REGION. THE POSSE COMITATUS AND OTHER CHRISTIAN PATRIOT GROUPS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THE REGION FOR YEARS. CURRENT EXAMPLES IN MONTANA INCLUDE THE GOLDEN MEAN TEAM IN MISSOULA, THE CHRISTIAN DEFENSE LEAGUE IN LIBBY, THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST CHRISTIAN IN THOMPSON FALLS, THE CONSTITUTIONALISTS IN NOXON AND BOZEMAN AND THE CHRISTIAN IDENTITY PROMOTERS IN THE RONAN AREA.

RICHARD BUTLER AND THE OTHER SUPREMACISTS LOOK TO THE NORTHWEST AS A PLACE TO ESTABLISH THEIR WHITE ARYAN HOMELAND. THEY EXPECT TO FIND SUPPORT OR AT LEAST PASSIVE TOLERANCE FOR THEIR RACIST VIEWS AMONG THE INDEPENDENT RESIDENTS OF THESE RURAL STATES.

THESE SUPREMACISTS MUST HEAR THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA. THEY MUST KNOW THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF CITIZENS OF THIS STATE ARE NOT BIGOTS AND IN FACT ARE COMMITTED TO SECURING JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, THEIR CULTURAL BACKGROUND OR THEIR RELIGION. THE INCREASING NUMBER OF TASK FORCES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THIS STATE AND THE RECENTLY FORMED MONTANA HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK ARE SENDING THAT MESSAGE WITH INCREASING STRENGTH.

THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF A MARTIN LUTHER KING JR STATE HOLIDAY IN MONTANA WOULD CONTINUE TO REINFORCE THAT MESSAGE AGAINST BIGOTRY. THE SUPREMACIST GROUPS WOULD HEAR IT; THEY WOULD KNOW THAT MONTANA IS NOT HOME FOR THEM; THAT MONTANA CITIZENS DO NOT SUPPORT THEIR BIGOTED IDEOLOGY.

MONTANA NEEDS THIS LEGISLATION TO PASS. IT NEEDS THIS HOLIDAY TO SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE HATE GROUPS WHO ARE LOOKING TO MONTANA AS A PLACE OF LAST REFUGE.

MONTANA NEEDS THIS HOLIDAY. NOT TO JUST HONOR A MAN WHO CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY FOR OUR COUNTRY -- DR. KING DOESN'T NEED THIS HOLIDAY; HIS IMPACT ON HISTORY IS ALREADY SECURE IN THE BOOKS OF HISTORY. NO, WE NEED THIS HOLIDAY. WE DO! ALL OF US: BROWN, RED, WHITE, BLACK OR YELLOW; CHRISTIAN, JEW, ATHEIST,

BUDDIST, MOSLEM OR WHATEVER RELIGION WE MIGHT PROFESS; IRISH, POLISH, CHINESE, AFRICAN, NORWEGIAN OR WHATEVER OUR ETHNIC BACKGROUND.

WE NEED THIS HOLIDAY SO THAT WE CAN ANNUALLY REMIND OURSELVES OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN OVERCOMING BIGOTRY IN OUR SOCIETY AND SECURING THE RIGHTS GRANTED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE U.S AND THE STATE OF MONTANA TO ALL PEOPLE.

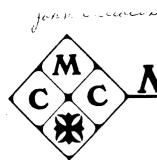
WE NEED THIS HOLIDAY SO THAT WE CAN REALIZE THAT WE STILL HAVE BIGOTRY AND DISCRIMINATION AMONGST US.

WE NEED THIS HOLIDAY SO THAT WE ANNUALLY RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO PURSUING THE DREAM OF JUSTICE FOR ALL IN AMERICA.

DR. KING DOESN'T NEED THIS DAY. IT IS NOT A DAY FOR HIM OR FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICANS IN OUR SOCIETY. IT IS RATHER A DAY FOR ALL OF US. IT IS A DAY TO REALIZE AGAIN THAT FREEDOM IS POSSIBLE ONLY WHEN BUILT UPON JUSTICE. IT IS A DAY TO REALIZE AGAIN THAT HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL OF US ARE INEXORABLY TIED TOGETHER AND WHEN THE RIGHTS OF ONE ARE DENIED, THE RIGHTS OF ALL OF US ARE DIMINISHED. IT IS A DAY FOR ALL OF US.

I URGE YOU TO VOTE THIS LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE WITH A DO PASS RECOMMENDATION. SEND A MESSAGE TO THE SUPREMACISTS. SEND A MESSAGE TO THE ENTIRE POPULACE OF MONTANA THAT THE LEADERS OF THIS STATE ARE COMMITTED TO JUSTICE FOR ALL. LET THOSE WHO ARE THREATENED BY DIFFERENCES AMONG PEOPLE AND PRONE TO VIOLENCE HEAR FROM YOU IN VERY CLEAR TERMS THAT THEIR ATTITUDES ARE NOT THE STANDARD FOR THIS STATE. WHILE THEY WOULD DRAW LINES BETWEEN PEOPLE, I ENCOURAGE YOU BY PASSING THIS LEGISLATION TO DRAW A LINE AROUND ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU.



# Iontana Catholic Confe

	EXHIBIT NO. 4	
	DATE 1/21/91	
January	21, BILL 9801 38 78	

#### MADAM CHAIRMAN VAUGHN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

I am John Ortwein, Director of the Montana Catholic Conference. I represent the two Roman Catholic Bishops of the State of Montana in matters of public policy.

Martin Luther King Jr's call for recognition and protection of civil rights is at its deepest and most fundamental level a call to respect the intrinsic, God-given dignity of all human beings.

In the light of his vision of our innate human dignity, Dr. King saw America as a dream yet unfulfilled, a dream of a land where people "of all races, of all nationalities, and of all creeds can live together" as brothers and sisters.

It was to the fulfillment of this dream that he gave his life. It is to the fulfillment of this dream that a Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Holiday calls Montanans.

U

Hi wa ロコ

I urge your support of Senate Bill 78.

hor"

elli. 14.2



## priests' council • p.o. box 1729 • helena, mt 59624

DATE 1-21-91 HB 5B 78

WHEREAS, The establishment of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a state holiday will commemorate the movement for equality and justice in which King was a leader. Enactment of a King holiday bill is an important symbol of Montana's commitment to equality and justice.

We, the Priests' Council of the Diocese of Helena support the Montana Association of Churches and the Montana Catholic Conference in their efforts to support legislation to recognize the third Monday in January as Martin Luther King Day in Montana. We urge clergy, religious and laity to support such legislation and contact their legislators urging passage of this legislation.

Adopted unanimously at the January 23, 1991 meeting of the Priests' Council.

John Ortween.
Mit Cathalic Conference

The St. Helena Cathedral Christian Concerns Committee hereby resolves that:

WHEREAS, The establishment of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a state holiday will commemorate the movement for equality and justice in which King was a leader. Enactment of a King holiday bill is an important symbol of Montana's commitment to equality and justice.

We support the Montana Association of Churches and the Montana Catholic Conference in their efforts to support legislation to recognize the third Monday in January as Martin Luther King Day in Montana. We urge parishioners to support such legislation and contact their legislators urging passage of this legislation

	STATE ADMIN.	
EXHIBIT N	vo	
DATE	1/21/91	
RUI NO	5B-78	

January 21, 1991

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Madame Chair, Members of the Committee:

My name is Wilbur W. Rehmann, I am here to speak on behalf of the Helena Human Rights Taskforce. The Helena Taskforce was formed over two years ago in response to a white supremacist group from California announcing that it wanted to move its national headquareters to Helena. A group of citizens from all walks of life, business, labor, churches, teachers, and many others came together to respond to the ideas of hate, white supremacy and the threat we saw to our democratic way of life.

But, we also wanted to respond positively by celebrating in Montana's rich cultural and ethnic heritage. We wanted to recognize the many ethnic and cultural achievements throughout Montana's history -- beginning with this regions long native history.

As we have grown as an organization and we have responded to messages of hate from around Montana — our speakers bureau has given presentations in Libby, Kalispell, Ronan, Missoula, Bozeman and Great Falls. Now there are local human rights groups in many communities. In fact, the first such local group was formed in Noxon before many of us in Helena were even aware there was a threat. Now there is even a state—wide network of these human rights groups formed to both educate Montanans to the threat these white supremacist hate groups pose to our way of life and to celebrate our ethnic and cultural diversity.

Make no mistake, there is hate group activity in Montana, last year a "skinhead" training camp was uncovered in the Flathead Valley — white youth were being trained in the politics of hate and were burglarizing Jewish families homes in the Flathead Valley, racist literature turned up in the Helena Public Library and a local Doctor's office, a young black teenager was brutally beaten in Bozeman a year ago by a carload of white males.

We need to send a message to the hate-mongers -- Montana citizens will not tolerate violence, discrimination or hate to find a fertile ground. We need to send a message that we celebrate our glorious and rich ethnic and cultural diversity. What better way then to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a holiday in honor of his long non-violent struggle on behalf of civil and human rights. I implore you to give a do pass recommendation to this bill -- please say yes to all of us and no to the hate-mongers. Let us do the right thing.

Respectfully submitted.

Wilbur W. Rehmann, Helena Human Rights Taskforce

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 8

Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you in support of Senate Bill 78. I am Toni Lewis. Stephanie Hermanson, Roni Graham and I are members of the 8th Grade Camp Fire Discovery Group in East Helena. We started working on a project a year ago to try to do what we can to get the Martin Luther King holiday celebrated in Montana. We have written letters to our legislators and the Governor to see if they could be of any help to us, now we are asking for your help to pass Senate Bill 78.

We think Senate Bill 78 should be passed because Martin, Luther King protected the rights of everyone - the handicapped, Whites, Blacks, and Indians. Dr. King is known for the great things he did to fight racism against minorities - all minorities. Martin Luther King day is not to celebrate Martin Luther King as a person but for these great things he did for all of us. He spoke out for fairness for all races. He was a man who believed in non-violence. Martin Luther King protested to gain freedom for all people. His actions led to his arrest and later to his death, but more importantly, his actions resulted in the passage of civil rights laws that protect all American citizens. Also, Dr. King is a more recent person in history. We as kids need to know that not all men and women who had high ideals lived in the past. Most people think of Martin cuther King as a black leader. We think of him as a people leader because he cared a great deal for all people and helped provide equality for all races not just blacks.

We realize that Dr. King is recognized in the Heritage Day holiday, but Heritage Day does not fall on the same day every year. We think that he should be recognized just himself, on his own day. We have prepared written testimony we would like to submit to you now.

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 8

DATE 1-21-91

BILL NO. 78

TO:

Committee Members

Joint State Administration Subcommittee

FROM:

Stephanie Hermanson

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of SB78

DATE:

January 21, 1991

Members of the Committee:

I am working on this project as part of a Camp Fire activity. My Camp Fire group and I have been working on it for a year. I think that you should consider passing \$878 because of the great things Martin Luther King did to fight racism against minorities — all minorities. Martin Luther King day is not to celebrate Martin Luther King as a person but for the great things he did for us. He spoke out for fairness for all races. I think as time goes on Martin Luther King will become known more as a very big time person in our country. Most people think of him as a black leader. I think of him as a people leader because he helped provide equality for all races not just blacks. I know that there are not very many blacks in Montana, but it is not the Blacks that we are celebrating for it is all the minority people of the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.



EXHIBIT & DATE 1-21-91

TO: Committee Members

Joint State Administration Subcommittee

FROM: Toni Lewis

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of SB78

DATE: January 21, 1991

Members of the Committee:

I am Toni Lewis. I think Senate Bill 78 should be passed because Martin Luther King protected the rights of everyone - the handicapped, Whites, Blacks, and Indians. He was a great man. Most people think of him as just a Black man. He fought for all races, not only Blacks. He was also a man who believed in non-violence. Martin Luther King protested to gain freedom for all people. His actions lead to his arrest and later to his death, but more importantly, his actions resulted in the passage of civil rights laws that protect all American citizens.

My Camp Fire group and I started working on a project a year ago to try to do what we can to get the Martin Luther King holiday celebrated in Montana. We have written letters to our legislators and the Governor to see if they could be of any help to us, now we are asking for your help to pass Senate Bill 78. Thank you very much.



TO:

Committee Members

Joint State Administration Subcommittee

FROM:

Roni Graham

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of SB78

DATE:

January 21, 1991

Members of the Committee:

My name is Roni Graham. My Camp Fire group and I have been working on a group project since last year to try and get Martin Luther King Day as a state holiday. I think you should consider passing this bill because Martin Luther King played a big role in the civil rights movement. Most people think of him as Martin Luther King – the Black man. But what he really did was work to get civil rights for everyone – not just Blacks. Also, Dr. King is a more recent person. We as kids need to know that not all men and women who had high ideals lived in the past.

We have written to the governor and legislators asking for their help and support. I would also appreciate your help and support.

I realize that Dr. King is recognized in the Heritage Day holiday, but Heritage Day does not fall on the same day every year. I think that he should be recognized just himself, on his own day.

Thank you for your time and concern.



SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO.\_ / O

DATE 1/21/9

BILL NO\_SB 79

January 21,1990

To the Montana State Legislature,

If you examine the Montana state petitions regarding the Martin Luther King Jr. possible state holiday, you will find there are supporters throughout the state of Montana including:

Missoula
Livingston
Big Timber
Kalispell
Bonner
Boulder
Three Forks
Coffee Creek
Sidney
Whitefish

Bozeman Belgrade Corvallis Charlo Polson Ennis

Polson Ennis Lolo Eureka Frenchtown Billings Gardiner Seely Lake

Gallatin Gateway Manhatten

mannatt Dixon Helena

West Yellowstone

Superior

In addition to those individuals in the state of Montana who support such a holiday, many state businesses, various organizations and groups at both UM and MSU as well as university departments showed a great deal of support and concern for such a holiday and for these petitions.

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be f	illed	out	bv	а	person	testifying	or	а	person	who	_	LL N

EXHIBIT NO. \_/\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_/2 | / 9 | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To be filled out by a person testifying or a person who would not like to stand up and speak but wants their testimony entered into the record.

NAME:	DATE:
Patrick McCleary	1-21-91
Address: 318 Miller #3	
Helena, MT 59601	
Phone: 447 - 5.590	
Representing whom?  Associated Students of The	University of Movitana
Appearing on which proposal?  Senate Rill 78	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Do you: SUPPORT? YES AMEND?	OPPOSE?
Comments:	

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

EXHIBIT\_ //
DATE 1-21-91
SB 78

Sanata State Administration

SB 78-Establish Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a State Holiday instead of Heritage Day.

January 21, 1991

My name is Passick McCleary. I am hore temperantismy meanly

10.000 assidence which home the Aranciated Students of the

University of Montana

We support Senator Trito violit which would honor Dr. Martin Luther King. In. with a state holiday in accordance with the established federal holiday. We helieve very scrongry that Dr. King's life serves as a testament to the power of moral principle over analyd force. We believe Dr. King's life demonstrates the inheli-atial metaphatics of institutes, fevr, and statestupes. We believe Dr. Ving's life affines the virting of love over late. Community over self in evest, good ver evil. We believe Dr. King's life overfines as a dividing and obtained Dr. King's life overfines as a dividing and obtained Dr. King's life overfines as an essage some would leaders have conveniently ignored.

The principles Dr. King fought for were not new ones. They are the same principles Moses. Christ. Buddha, and yes Mohemmed clempth of. They are are principles for which Dirictian saints have lived and many times alled. They are the principles that discretions such as Thomsau. Emerson. Lincoln. and Twederick Douglass also must be word and action. They are the principles of which Mahatas Shandi so heroidally fought. They are the principles lifting mankind to a higher level of intellectual and action. Without them, we would not know peace.

All this is not to minimize Dr. King's impact on modern america. No. this only asserts what most people already believe. Dr. King a rafe serves as a modern example of the powers of love, community, and harmony. His legacy is important to all americans, andeed all people, living today.

Montana is held to Dr. King's legacy, as all states are.

Montana, a state which has prided itself on its past, progressive social record, is one of the few current states not honoring Dr.

Wing a lighthay. It is fitting that on this tay set aside in

EXHIBIT	11	
DATE	al	91
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honor of D. Ring by who distings government and 47 of our preference of D. Ring by who distings governments. That this committee vote yes an Senate Bill state governments. That this committee vote yes an Senate Bill 50. It is the least bids and or yes distinguished and in this distance.

Thata A 29.

Patrick McCleary-ASUM Lobbyies

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXH.BIT NO. 12

DATE 1/21/91

BILL NO. 5878

January 20, 1991

#### To Whom it May Concern:

In a world of descension and strife and in a country seeking to find unity in our own diversity, we see Martin Luther King Jr. as a symbol of reconciliation among people. He was more than a civil rights leader. His mission was to help us create a society in which all people would live in equality and mutual respect.

Therefore, we the members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) of Helena, urge our state government to endorse these principles by establishing a state holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sincerely,

Jinnen Wang, Clerk Helena Quakers

SENATE STATE	ADMIN.
EXHIBIT NO	13
DATE //	21/91
BILL NO. SK	78

January 18, 1991

To Whom It May Concern:

We the Quaker Worship Group of Great Falls are writing to support the establishment of a state holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

His dedication to achieving equality for all people through non-violent methods has been acknowledged throughout the world. We believe establishing a holiday is a fitting memorial to Dr. King.

Sincerely, Justh County-Asakam Judith Raunig-Graham

Kathy Yankoff
On behalf of the Quaker Worship Group,

Religious Society of Friends

Bout Eichards

SEMATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 14

DATE 1/2/9/
BILL NO. 3 B 7 8

P.O. Box 422 Boulder, Montana 59632 (406) 225-4235 January 21, 1991

Rep. Jan Brown, Chair State Administration Committee Montana House of Representatives Sen. Eleanor Vaughn, Chair State Administration Committee Montana State Senate

Dear Rep. Brown, Sen. Vaughn and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in strong support of Senate Bill 78, establishing a state holiday in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Only three states fail to honor the memory of Dr. King. For Montana, known for courageous national leaders such as Jeannette Rankin and Mike Mansfield, to reject this important national holiday is truly an embarrassment.

Like Jeannette Rankin and Mike Mansfield, Dr. King has been a controversial advocate for equal rights, civil liberties, social justice and peace. Like Rankin and Mansfield, King resolutely challenged racism, discrimination, inequity, and violence.

#### - THE COSTS OF WAR -

Like Rankin and Mansfield, Dr. King was morally compelled to question the obscenity of war:

"This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation's homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drops of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love," King said during the Vietnam conflict. "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom."

"I am as deeply concerned about our own troops there as anyone else," he continued. "For it occurs to me that what we are submitting them to in Vietnam is not simply the brutalizing process that goes on in any war, where armies face each other and seek to destroy. We are adding cynicism to the process of death, for they must know, after a short period there, that none of the things we claim to be fighting for are really involved, and the more sophisticated surely realize that we are on the side of the wealthy and the secure

#### THE COSTS OF WAR (continued)

"There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings," King explained to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

"Then came the build-up in Vietnam, and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demoniacal destructive suction tube. And so I was increasingly compelled to see the war not only as a moral outrage but also as an enemy of the poor, and to attack it as such."

"Is our nation planning to build on political myth again," King prophetically asked, "and then shore it up with the power of new violence?" 1

#### - NONVIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE -

In his challenge to racism and violence in America, King employed principles of nonviolent civil disobedience first used by Mohandas K. Gandhi and followers during their successful effort to free India from British colonialism.

"You may well ask: 'Why direct action? Why sitins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?'" he asked from a jail cell in Birmingham, Alabama.

"You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored."

"My citing the creation of tension as part of the work of the nonviolent-resister may sound rather shocking. But I must confess that I am not afraid of the word 'tension.' I have earnestly opposed violent tension, but there is a type of constructive, nonviolent tension which is necessary for growth."

"We who engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive. We bring it out in the open, where it can be seen and dealt with."

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#### Brown/Vaughn, p. 3

#### -NONVIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE (continued) -

"Like a boil that can never be cured so long as it is covered up but must be opened with all its ugliness to the natural medicines of air and light, injustice must be exposed, with all the tension its exposure creates, to the light of human conscience and the air of national opinion before it can be cured." 2

#### - PEACE -

"In measuring the full implications of the civil rights revolution, the greatest contribution may be in the area of world peace. . . "

"Sooner or later all the peoples of the world, without regard to the political systems under which they live, will have to discover a way to live together in peace."

"Man was born into barbarism when killing his fellow man was a normal condition of existence. He became endowed with a conscience. And he has now reached the day when violence toward another human being must become as abhorrent as eating another's flesh."

"Nonviolence, the answer to the Negroes' need, may become the answer to the most desperate need of all humanity." 3

#### - HATRED -

Due to his courageous outspokenness, Dr. King was frequently attacked. He received countless death threats. His house was bombed, he was stabbed, and, ultimately, King was assassinated.

"Negroes tragically know political assassination well. In the life of negro civil-rights leaders, the whine of the bullet from ambush, the roar of the bomb have all to often broken the night's silence. They have replaced lynching as a political weapon." 3

"I've seen too much hate to want to hate, myself, and I've seen hate on the faces of too many sheriffs, too many white citizens' councilors, and too many Klansmen of the South to want to hate, myself. And, every time I see it, I say to myself, hate is too great a burden to bear. Somehow we must be able to stand up before our most bitter opponents and say: 'We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will and we will still love you!"

### - CHARACTER ASSASSINATION -

Others who attacked Dr. King chose character assassination, labelling him "Communist" (a Baptist minister?) or "extremist".

"This normal and healthy discontent can be channeled into the creative outlet of nonviolent direct action. And now this approach is being termed extremist."

"But though I was initially disappointed at being categorized as an extremist, as I continued to think about the matter I gradually gained a measure of satisfaction from the label." 2

## - DEVOTION TO ORDER RATHER THAN JUSTICE -

Dr. King was sometimes frustrated by "pious irrelevancies" and "sanctimonious trivialities" from those who stood "on the sideline" of the "struggle to rid our nation of social and economic injustice."

"I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderates."

"I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Councilor or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action'."

"Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection." 2

Please, members of the committee, end the shallow understanding and outright rejection that has kept Montana from honoring this great American. As a former member of this august legislative body, I ask you - please take this important step to remove the stigma of racism from our beloved state.

For the sake of the native Americans who so graciously allow us to live here, for the sake of the red, yellow, brown, black and white women and men that built this country, please pass Senate Bill 78.

With the passage of this bill, let the Montana legislature

EXHIBIT	12	1
DATE	21	91
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Brown/Vaughn, p. 5

peacemakers - Jeannette Rankin and Mike Mansfield - publicly honor the greatest American peacemaker of the 20th Century - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Let Montana and the United States continue the ministry of Dr. King. As we house our homeless, care for our sick, feed our hungry and educate our young; as we live with joy upon this abundant planet, others will be drawn to our example. There is no need to force our will - let our country's shining moments not be dimmed by the bitterness of bigotry or the cynicism of war.

By joining the rest of the country in honoring Dr. King, let us broadcast far and wide that we respect different races, sexes, religions, and philosophies and that we welcome the cooperation and peace that flow from this respect.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Richards and

## Sources:

- 1 "The Trumpet of Conscience," published text of five Canadian Broadcast Corporation broadcasts from November and December, 1967.
- 2 "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," written April 16. 1963. While in jail, King read a newspaper article in which eight Alabama clergymen criticized his opposition to segregation as "unwise and untimely." These selections are from the lengthy response he wrote on scraps of paper in his jail cell.
- 3 "Why We Can't Wait," Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963 Harper

SENATE STATE ADMIN.
EXHIRIT NO 15
DATE 1/21/91
BILL NO 38 78

## WITNESS STATEMENT

To be filled out by a person testifying or a person who would not like to stand up and speak but wants their testimony entered into the record.

NAME:	,	DATE:
	HILIP W. CONOVER	1/21/91
Address:		•
, (adi 000.	7746 CANYON FERRY ROAD	
	1746 CANYON FERRY ROAD HELENA, MONTANA 59601	
	406-475-3592	
Representir	na whom?	
representi	ng whom?	
Annearing	on which proposal?	The street of the transfer of the street of
Appearing	5B 78	
	0,5 / 5	
Do you:	SUPPORT? AMEND?	OPPOSE?
Comments:		

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1990

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON

50

"The project's discoveries have stirred debate, anguish and soul-searching among scholars who have worked on the project. They have kept the findings secret for nearly three years. Several student-re-searchers wondered why the information should be probed. Some resigned. One summer intern broke down in tears when she found out. Megan Maxwell, who joined the project as a Stanford undergraduate and became assistant archivist after graduation, says her initial reaction was anger, "a combination of 'Why didn't anyone catch him?' and 'Why didn't he know better?

Associate Editor Raiph Luker, a foilower of Mr. King who was jailed during a

civil rights protest, "deep anxieties' over it and "many Pours of -lost sleep."
Seeing the extent

of Mr. Ming's borrowings "had a tremendously shaking. emotional impact on me," .. says · David Garrow, a member



of the project advisory board and author of "Bearing the Cross." a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Mr. King. "To me, \$8% of what makes it most interesting is: Why did he do it? Was he so insecure that he thought this was the only way to get by? It's disconcerting, because it is fundamentally, phenomenally out of character with my entire sense of

Mr. King's school papers comprise his most obscure and insignificant writings. They tended to explore esoteric themes within theology and had little to do with his ability to electrify the nation as a Baptist preacher and civil rights leader with his eloquent pleas for racial justice. In 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and

Please Turn to Page A4, Column 1.

POLITICS AND POLICY: Pundits give bad marks to both parties, A12.

POLITICS & POLICY: Abortion-rights activists gain some ground, A12.

OTC FOCUS: Shares ease on concern over Persian Gulf crisis, C6.

REVIEW & OUTLOOK: Voters give a tutorial on taxes, A10.

OPINION: No budget cuts in the budget deal, A10.

LEISURE & ARTS: Garry Wills's new book on religion and politics, A8.

Inside Today's Journal



To Their Dismay. King Scholars Find A Troubling Pattern William T. W. Willemstern T. J.

Civil Rights Leader Was Lax In Attributing Some Parts Of His Academic Papers

By PETER WALDMAN

FIGT OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL Six years before his death, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. donated a large collection of his papers to Boston University. But the rest of his writings remained in his private study in Atlanta and scat-tered in church basements and file cabinets from coast to coast. :

In 1984, Mr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project to collect the papers and produce a multi-volume collection. And she chose Clayborne Carson, a Stanford University historian, to lead the project.

Now, Mr. Carson and his fellow re-

earchers at Stanford, admirers of Mr. King, have found something they wish they had never discovered. They say that dur ing his seven years of graduate school, Mr. King borrowed words and ideas extensively from other sources for his doctoral dissertation and other scholarly writings without giving proper citations.

"Several of King's academic papers, as well as his dissertation, contain numerous appropriated passages that can be defined as piagiarism," says Mr. Carson, senior editor and director of the project.

For instance, in parts of Mr. King's doctoral dissertation at Boston University, he used the same general structure; many of the same words and the same section titles as another doctoral dissertation written a few years earlier at the university. Though Mr. King paid tribute to his predecessor's work on the fifth page of his dissertation and cited it again in his bibliography, he footnoted the heavily borrowed text just twice in the course of the \$43-page disserTHE LINCOLN INSTITUTE
FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

EXHIBIT 15

DATE 1-21-91

HR SR 78

J.A. Parker President

Dear Friend.

Shocking new evidence just released reveals that the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. plagiarized his academic papers -- a disgraceful breach of honor.

This shocking new evidence of dishonesty, combined with King's incredible sexual misconduct and communist connections leads me to one conclusion: The Martin Luther King National Holiday must be repealed.

Do you agree?

Do you believe the Martin Luther King National Holiday should be repealed?

Will you please pull out the enclosed "Emergency Poll on Repeal of the King Holiday" and answer that one question?

Here's why your Poll answer is so urgent.

Scholars have just uncovered facts showing that Martin Luther King plagiarized important academic papers in order to get his Doctor's degree.

Websters New Collegiate Dictionary defines plagiarize as:

"to <u>steal</u> and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own."

and

"to commit literary theft."

So the question on your Poll really boils down to this:

Do you want to continue honoring with a National Holiday a man who was literally a thief?

Please get your answer back to me in the next 7 days.

Because I want to release Poll results to the media and public opinion leaders here in Washington.

So we can build public support for Repeal of the Martin Luther King National Holiday.

As a black American who wants to see young blacks grow up respecting honesty and family, I'm outraged that Martin Luther King is being held out as a role model for young blacks.

You and I need to show the media liberals that the American people are outraged at being forced to bow down and honor a man who committed "literary theft."

But I can't prove to the media liberals how angry Americans are without your Poll response.

So please don't delay.

Please fill out and return your Emergency Poll on Repeal of the King Holiday today.

In his famous "I have a Dream" speech, Martin Luther King declared that a man should be judged "not by the color of his skin, but by the content of his character."

I agree 100%.

And now it is time to judge <u>King</u> by "the content of his character."

And when people begin to judge Mr. King by "the content of his character", they will come to realize that the King Holiday must be repealed.

Because Martin Luther King's character should not be honored with a National Holiday!

How awful was King's plagiarism -- or literary theft?

It was so bad that even King's liberal admirers are admitting that it grossly violated standards of academic honor.

The author of a book about King, David Garrow, says: "It was very stunning, very depressing."

Another Professor who admires King says:

"It certainly was not the ethical thing to do."

In fact it's a down right disgrace.

White presidential candidate Joe Biden was forced to withdraw from the race for president because he committed plagiarism.

Why isn't Martin Luther King held to the same standard?

King's literary theft is only the beginning of a record that certainly doesn't deserve to be honored with a national holiday.

While preaching the Gospel, Martin Luther King committed adultery on a regular basis.

In the pulpit, King said: "sex is basically sacred when properly used and ... therefore sex must never be used in the loose sense that is often abused in the modern world."

That was what King said in public.

But what did King do in private?

He had affair after affair.

Here again white presidential candidate Gary Hart was forced to withdraw from the 1988 campaign because he committed adultery and lied about it.

has been hailed by the Wall Street Journal as "the most important 1-21-91 journal of black thought in America."

And with the help of supporters nationwide, The Lincoln Institute sends the Lincoln Review to every black college library in America.

I can truly say that The Lincoln Institute is doing more than any group in America to spread the conservative message to black Americans.

But these worthwhile programs have caused a financial burden for The Lincoln Institute.

Only your generous support can keep these programs going.

Will you help support The Lincoln Institute with a contribution of at least \$24?

I know \$24 is an unusual amount. It stands for \$2 for every year The Lincoln Institute has been bringing the conservative message to black Americans.

Your contribution is tax deductible.

So please try to send your check for \$24 or more today.

Because if The Lincoln Institute doesn't win this fight, Martin Luther King will continue to be honored with a National Holiday.

Please don't let that happen.

Please give \$24, \$50, \$100 or \$250 or more -- and please send it today.

I'm even hoping at least a few Americans will step forward and send \$500, \$1,000 or more to fund this vital effort.

10.1

1:2

You can bet that the liberal black establishment will leave no stone unturned in their attempt to keep the Martin Luther King Holiday.

Your contribution of \$24, \$50, \$100 or even \$250 or more is  $\underline{\text{the}}$  key to beating them.

So please return your check and your completed Emergency Poll in the postage paid envelope I've enclosed for you.

I'm counting on you to reply today. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

**J.A.** Parker President

P.S. Should we continue to honor with a National Holiday a literary thief, an adulterer and a man who called America "The greatest purveyor of violence in the world." Or will you stand up and say enough is enough and return your Poll on Repealing the King holiday.

Shouldn't Martin Luther King's Holiday be withdrawn as well?

One member of his entourage described King's Southern "Christian" Leadership Conference as "a raunchy exercise."

When King was asked to explain, he replied:

"F\_king's a form of anxiety reduction."

Do you believe we should honor <u>this</u> man with a National Holiday? The only man to be so honored by this nation.

Or should we repeal this National Holiday?

If you haven't made up your mind, there's more:

<u>Conservative Digest</u> pointed out "Martin Luther King, Jr. <u>did have</u> the close personal support of Soviet agents and the official Communist Party."

And previously secret FBI files reportedly quote King as saying: "I am a Marxist."

During the Vietnam War Martin Luther King called the United States "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world." He even compared the U.S. to Hitler's Germany.

Even the liberal <u>Washington Post</u> criticized King for supporting Communist Ho Chi Minh in the Vietnam War.

I can never forget that while Americans fought and died in Vietnma Martin Luther King gave his full support to the North Vietnamese Communists.

Now you see why I'm conducting this Emergency Poll on Repealing the King Holiday.

This nationwide Poll is being taken by The Lincoln Institute -- an organization I founded back in 1978.

I'm proud to say that The Lincoln Institute is the largest black conservative group in America.

We're the only group in the nation reaching black Americans with the conservative message of free enterprise and self reliance.

And we've been doing it for almost a dozen years.

My conservative radio commentaries are now heard on over fifty radio stations in over 39 states reaching massive numbers of black listeners.

Thanks to radio, we've been able to reach more black Americans than I ever dreamed possible.

But The Lincoln Institute uses more than radio to spread our message to black Americans.

Our Speakers Bureau sends well known black conservatives to lecture before student and civic and professional groups.

And The Lincoln Institute's quarterly publication Iingoln Review

## RONT PAGE

## The Secret File on M.L. King

On August 2, 1983, the House of Repsentatives voted to declare the third onday in January a national holiday to observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Since 1969, attempts to ave Dr. King's birthday officially methorialized in such an extraordinary way by Congress had failed. But the Senate llowed the House's lead on October 19, 183. January 20, 1986 will mark the first compulsory national observation of the day.

From his first days as an activist, Mar-Luther King's activities and associates have been and continue to be centers controversy. Allegations of King's mmunist association have been dismissed by his supporters as examples of "McCarthyism" and "Redbaiting." Hower, for the sake of truth and historical curacy, a close inquiry into the affiliations of Dr. King's most intimate inlvements and relationships, even in e face of warnings by President Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy, can not be simply dismissed as poical witch-hunting or smear tactics. It must first be made clear that no re-

sponsible critic of Dr. King has ever acused him of being a member of the Comunist Party. Furthermore, these critics certainly recognized that Dr. King had every right to take advice from and asciate with whatever political elements chose. The objection held by most who opposed a national holiday commemoting King's birthday was that if he was be the only American so singularly honored (what was formerly George Washington's Birthday is now desigated "President's Day" to honor all residents), a thorough inquiry into his private and public life — both of which ere filled with controversy — would we to be made. To do otherwise would lead to a demeaning of all Americans and a disservice to historical accuracy. Until A allegations concerning Dr. King are lly answered, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday will remain the occasion for

Leading the forces opposed to the King holiday, Republican Senator Jesse

spicions about the man it is meant to

mmemorate.

Helms of North Carolina made some serious accusations linking Dr. King to Communist Party members, former members, and operatives. According to Helms, such unsavory individuals were taken into Dr. King's confidence and became some of his closest advisors. Through King, Helms theorized, the Communists would have attempted to manipulate the civil rights movement and create an atmosphere of fear and hatred between blacks and whites that would erupt in racial warfare and destabilization. If the Senator's allegations are indeed true, then it must be concluded that King was unwittingly or passively allowing himself to be used for violent goals far removed from what he publicly preached.

During a speech on the Senate floor, Senator Helms revealed that in the early 1950s, the Federal Bureau of Investigation recruited two former high-ranking Communist Party members, Morris and Jack Childs, to serve as informants on the party's secret activities and sources of funding. Code-named Operation Solo, the FBI investigation lasted until 1980, during which time it was learned through Jack Childs, that the Soviet gov-

ernment funded the Communist Party USA to the tune of approximately \$1 million per year. This funding clearly made the CPUSA an illegal American branch of the Soviet government. Informant Jack Childs also reported to the FBI, in 1953, that New York attorney Stanley David Levison was not only knowingly being used as a conduit for Soviet funds, but also assisted in managing the secret party coffers. Levison was introduced to Dr. King by Bayard Rustin, a King associate, in the summer of 1956.

Levison would later be described by King's widow, Coretta Scott King, as a "devoted and trusted" friend of her husband. Levison assisted King in organizational matters and political strategy. wrote some of his speeches, and advised in hiring personnel to staff King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). According to Senator Helms, "There is no evidence that Levison broke with the CPUSA . . . . Levison had been involved not as a rank-and-file member [of the CPUSA] but as an operative involved with clandestine and illegal funding of the CPUSA by a hostile foreign power."

After the FBI informed Attorney Gen-



Rev. King is the only American citizen honored with a national holiday

eral Robert Kennedy of Dr. King's affiliation with Levison, King was advised in January 1962 by the Attorney General to sever his relationship with Levison. The advice went unheeded. In May of 1962, Levison wrote the speech King delvered to the convention of the United Packinghouse Workers of America. A year later, still having failed to act on the Attorney General's advice, King again was personally warned about his involvement with subversives — this time by President Kennedy himself, who told the civil rights leader: "They're Communists. You've got to get rid of them."

Another Communist to whom President Kennedy was specifically referring was Hunter Pitts O'Dell, alias Jack H. O'Dell, hired by King to work as his executive assistant in the SCLC at the urging of Levison. O'Dell had Communist ties going as far back as the 1940s. In 1956, he was questioned by the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security about his work on behalf of the Communist Party in New Orleans. Four years later, he was questioned by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. On both occasions he refused to answer the committee's questions. According to government sources, O'Dell was a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party as of 1959.

After his meeting with President Kennedy, King accepted O'Dell's resignation from the SCLC. But intelligence sources reported that O'Dell continued to work out of SCLC's offices advising and influencing Dr. King. He formally rejoined the SCLC staff in 1970.

It should be noted in passing that, from 1980 to 1983, O'Dell was listed as a member of the World Peace Council, probably the best-known and most influential Soviet front organization operating in the West. Furthermore, as of 1984, O'Dell was in charge of international affairs for Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity).

As for Stanley Levison, after King had received a second warning to avoid him, the two men agreed that they would communicate solely through an intermediary named Clarence B. Jones. This clandestine method of communication went on from 1963 to 1964 and is by itself a very powerful indictment of Martin Luther King's all too willing collaboration with agents of Communist subversion.

It should be reiterated that no evidence has been found to prove that King was himself a Communist. Nonetheless, if a national holiday had been proposed to honor a white person who had maintained advisors affiliated with such anti-American groups as the Ku Klux Klan or the National Socialist White Peoples' Party (Nazis), would there not be ample cause — and even a duty — to oppose the move?

King's support for causes and events sponsored by the Communist Party or one of its front groups must also be considered in light of his national holiday. In late 1962, he addressed a meeting of the National Lawyers Guild, which was officially cited as "the foremost legal bulwark" of the CPUSA. It was also affiliated with the Soviet-controlled International Association of Democratic Lawyers. Either King did not bother to check the background of the NLG before appearing at its functions, or he simply decided to overlook its clear CPUSA affiliation.

With the above evidence to back them up, the FBI and its Director, J. Edgar Hoover, requested and were granted permission by Attorney General Robert Kennedy to maintain surveillance, including wiretaps, on Dr. King's office and hotel rooms from 1963 until his murder in 1968. That surveillance produced so many transcripts of wiretaps that, to gether with testimony from witnesse and informants, it filled almost fourteen cabinet files.

King supporters claim that the FBI's surveillance on King was illegal. But the precedent for it was President Roosevelt's 1940 Executive Order authorizing such surveillances, with the written consent of the Attorney General, in cases affecting national security. No court ever ruled against the procedure in such

Did Martin Luther King's surveillance involve matters of national security? It must be remembered that King at the time was being advised by a man who had been in charge of laundering Soviet monies destined for the CPUSA. It must also be noted that the early 1960 marked the beginning of what would be a particularly unstable decade in American history. Based on these facts, on can hardly call the FBI surveillance frivolous or unwarranted.

In 1976, the staff of the Senate Intel





Attorney General Robert Kennedy (L.) and President John Kennedy (R. fruitlessly warned Dr. King about his association with Communists

DATE 1-21-91



Communist Carl Braden helped King to polarize Americans

ligence Committee concluded that the FBI surveillance of Dr. King amounted to harassment. Based on the committee's findings, the SCLC and former King aide Bernard Lee filed a suit against the United States government asking for monetary damages and requesting that the tapes and files on Dr. King be destroved. On January 31, 1977, Federal District Judge John Lewis Smith Jr. declined to award monetary damages to Lee and the SCLC but ordered all of the FBI tapes and transcripts of surveillance on King to be sealed in the National Archives for fifty years. Although not a complete victory for the pro-King forces, the sealing of the critical tapes would in the long run make it easier to have the King holiday approved by Congress.

The history of the King holiday bill reveals that extraordinary measures were undertaken to rush it into law. In 1979, for example, supporters of the holiday in the House failed to obtain the two-thirds majority required to suspend the rules, which would have limited debate and prohibited amendments. On July 29, 1983, Democratic Representative Katie Hall of Indiana reintroduced the King bill. After the measure was assigned to



King urged Communist Anne Braden to join his organization

a House committee, the King forces gathered enough strength this time to suspend the House rules and send the bill to the floor. Four days after it was introduced, the bill was passed by the full House. In the Senate, Republican Majority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee refused to send the bill to a committee. as is usually the case with any important piece of legislation, but instead put the bill directly on the Senate calendar. On October 18, 1983, in an attempt to have the King files released from the custody of the National Archives, Senator Helms and others requested that the seal order of 1977 be overturned. But Judge Smith refused to reverse his earlier decision.

Critics of Helms accused the Senator of trying to smear King by requesting that the FBI files be opened. But, in a well-argued emergency motion filed with the Supreme Court on October 19, 1983 on behalf of Helms and Republican Senator Steven Symms of Idaho, attorneys Lawrence Straw and William J. Olson noted that "legislation is pending which seeks to elevate Dr. King to the status of a national hero, on a level above our founding fathers whose birthdays have not been elevated to the status of a na-



Communist Hunter Pitts O'Dell: fired by King, rehired elsewhere

tional holiday. Dr. King would thereby, become a role model for future generations. In extraordinary circumstances such as these, a Senator must have access to all records which could relate to that person's character and the principles espoused by him. The constitutional duty of a member of the United States Senate is to thoroughly and dispassionately review all information which could influence his vote, debate that information on the Senate floor, and then cast a vote in accordance with his analysis of the information."

The attorneys also questioned whether Judge Smith was acting within his constitutional authority when on the previous day, he refused the Senators access to the tapes. Since the surveillance order on King was not in violation of the law and had come from the Executive Branch, it must be accepted that only the President could order the FBI to seal the tapes. In addition to the federal courts overstepping their constitutional authority, the attorneys argued that if the sealing order was not lifted, then the Judicial Branch would in effect have the authority to control the Legislative Branch's access to vital information pertaining to its Sust true of Keidays ? The selection of season of the story in the season of the Ruspose of Holdoy? specific day suchas Votens

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SENATE STATE ADMIN.	·
EXHIBIT NO. 17	
DATE 1/21/91	
BILL NO SK 18	

14-Jan-91

Montana State Legislators State Capitol Helena, MT 59601

Re: Montana State Recognition of Martin Luther King Day

Dear Legislator;

We the undersigned members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Great Fall, Montana, request that you do all within your power as our elected representatives to enact legislation, during the 1991 session, to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King Day in our state.

Dr. King represents the best of the human condition: respect of the dignity and aspirations of every human being irrespective of race, gender or creed. As members of a community rooted in God's grace, we urge you to include Montana in the family of states honoring this person of vision and action.

Sincerely,

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SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 17 A

DATE 1-21-91

BILL NO 78

6101 Marsh Creek Road Charlo, Montana 59824

January 20, 1991

To the Legislators of the state of Montana:

We respectfully ask that you support and establish a state holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In honoring Dr. King, Montana would be recognizing and giving appropriate attention to the human and American values he has come to represent—peace, justice, freedom, human dignity, non-violence, courage in leadership, and kindness in the face of cruel bigotry. Dr. King was a healing force who, by naming the suffering that exists in our society, has made it more accessible for healing.

We would also like to express our disagreement with and disapproval of the tactics of the legislator who labeled Dr. King a "communist". We trust that such red-baiting tactics hold no sway with the rest of our legislators. We do agree with him that there should be a state holiday honoring Native American leadership, but that day should be a different day than the day now set aside nationally to honor Dr. King.

We thank you all for the hard work that you do for Montana, and we urge you to join with the forty-seven other states who have established a holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King.

Sincerely,

Rob and Mary Herak-Sand

Mony Herak

BUDDIST, MOSLEM OR WHATEVER RELIGION WE MIGHT PROFESS; IRISH, POLISH, CHINESE, AFRICAN, NORWEGIAN OR WHATEVER OUR ETHNIC BACKGROUND.

WE NEED THIS HOLIDAY SO THAT WE CAN ANNUALLY REMIND OURSELVES OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN OVERCOMING BIGOTRY IN OUR SOCIETY AND SECURING THE RIGHTS GRANTED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE U.S AND THE STATE OF MONTANA TO ALL PEOPLE.

WE NEED THIS HOLIDAY SO THAT WE CAN REALIZE THAT WE STILL HAVE BIGOTRY AND DISCRIMINATION AMONGST US.

WE NEED THIS HOLIDAY SO THAT WE ANNUALLY RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO PURSUING THE DREAM OF JUSTICE FOR ALL IN AMERICA.

DR. KING DOESN'T NEED THIS DAY. IT IS NOT A DAY FOR HIM OR FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICANS IN OUR SOCIETY. IT IS RATHER A DAY FOR ALL OF US. IT IS A DAY TO REALIZE AGAIN THAT FREEDOM IS POSSIBLE ONLY WHEN BUILT UPON JUSTICE. IT IS A DAY TO REALIZE AGAIN THAT HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL OF US ARE INEXORABLY TIED TOGETHER AND WHEN THE RIGHTS OF ONE ARE DENIED, THE RIGHTS OF ALL OF US ARE DIMINISHED. IT IS A DAY FOR ALL OF US.

I URGE YOU TO VOTE THIS LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE WITH A DO PASS RECOMMENDATION. SEND A MESSAGE TO THE SUPREMACISTS. SEND A MESSAGE TO THE ENTIRE POPULACE OF MONTANA THAT THE LEADERS OF THIS STATE ARE COMMITTED TO JUSTICE FOR ALL. LET THOSE WHO ARE THREATENED BY DIFFERENCES AMONG PEOPLE AND PRONE TO VIOLENCE HEAR FROM YOU IN VERY CLEAR TERMS THAT THEIR ATTITUDES ARE NOT THE STANDARD FOR THIS STATE. WHILE THEY WOULD DRAW LINES BETWEEN PEOPLE, I ENCOURAGE YOU BY PASSING THIS LEGISLATION TO DRAW A LINE AROUND ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU.

SEMMIE 3	IVIT VANIE
EXHIBIT N	18
	1/21/91
	SB 78
BILL NO.	2010

Brenda Wahler 108 11th Ave. Helena, MT 59601

Senate State Administration Committee Capitol Station Helena, MT 59620

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON SB 78--ESTABLISH MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY AS A STATE HOLIDAY

I am writing to urge the committee to report out SB 78 with a Do Pass recommendation, and to encourage the Montana Legislature to take the long overdue step of establishing a holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The committee need not be reminded of Dr. King's committment to peace, justice, equality and human rights. As a Nobel laureate, he has long been acknowledged as an individual worthy of our respect and honor.

However, there are those who oppose granting the honor of a state holiday to the late Dr. King. You will hear their arguments, and I will not trouble you with them here. But as a history teacher, I must point out that we honor individuals not for their faults or shortcomings, but rather for their successes.

The people we currently honor with state and federal holidays were not saints. That is not the role of heroes. We remember George Washington not as a slave owner and stern disciplinarian, but as the Father of our Country. Abraham Lincoln is not remembered for his paralyzing bouts with depression, but for freeing the slaves and preserving the Union. Columbus is honored for his bravado in sailing into unknown waters in search of a new route to China. We forget that he sold the Arawak people into slavery to make his voyages profitable for the Spanish government.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. succeeded in awakening a nation to the need to end injustice. He succeeded in bringing new hope and dignity to the oppressed people of the United States. Dr. King taught us all the meaning of the term "Civil Rights" and was instrumental in ending America's system of Apartheid.

Once again, I ask this committee to vote in favor of SB 78. By honoring Dr. King, we are honoring the worth and dignity of all human beings. For Montana, a state with the tradition of valuing freedom and the worth of the individual, I can not think of a more fitting example. Thank you.

Au whathaklice

Exhibits 19, 20, and 21 consist of 22 letters written by Helena students. The originals are available at the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

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