

Nassau County Chapter
National Action Network

President's Reflections

As I rode the bus to Washington, I reflected on the 1963 March imagining what it was like for those that attended 50 years ago. They had to endure segregation, Jim Crow laws that forced them to use restrooms that were for "colored only" or to find a restaurant that would serve them. Fortunately we didn't have to endure anything like that our group hopped on the bus and off we went. So yes in some instances we have made major strides in the fight for justice yet on the flip side when you really analyze it, have we really come a long way?

In 1963 they marched for voter rights, jobs and justice; 50 years later we are marching for the same thing. They succeeded in getting the Voting Rights Act (VRA) passed in 1965 yet in 2013, Section 4 of the VRA is struck down. This is the section used to determine which counties or states were required to get federal government permission for election changes. Unless Congress enacts a new formula, states will no longer be required to get pre-clearance for changes in elections.

Today in 2013 the unemployment rate for Blacks is at 12.6%, almost twice the rate of whites at 6.7%. The economic disparity still exists when Blacks earn just 58% of the median income for whites.

Add to the 2013 agenda racial profiling policies like stop n frisk, stand your ground laws, immigration reform and the LGBT agenda and you can see that 50 years later we have added to our list. Sure we have a Black President in the White House and a Black Attorney General but Congress fights them both on every issue. This behavior goes beyond and is deeper than just the differences of Republican versus Democrat. Never have we seen the disrespect given to a President like this until it's a Black President. President Clinton put the office of the President into a terrible scandal yet the President who has a clean and scandal free life is the one they called a liar from the floor of Congress!

Who is the real liar here? Our forefathers included in the Pledge of Allegiance the words, "justice and liberty for all"; I proudly recite that pledge at special occasions but lately it seems that it's more of a prayer than a pledge. The struggle continues... we need you at NAN, your support will help us educate the communities of color regarding issues of concern and how we can work together to overcome.

Annette Dennis

Chapter President

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