

History 228

Re: Notes w/ Harding "King Disturber of the Peace"

The smoothing over of the image of Dr. King. Or down the Memory Hole.

The thrust of Harding's essay is to resurrect the "forgotten" King.

The celebration of King as the praying and marching black leader who appealed to the conscience of white America. The apostle of redemptive Christian love would help redeem the soul of America.

His stirring vision of America that swept all before him (with the Lincoln Memorial as backdrop) at the August 1963 March on Washington. Black and white together--a paen for racial integration in the House of America.

Words of Poet Carl Wendell Hines that "It is easier to build monuments than to make a better world."

Why does Harding characterize King as a "disturber of the peace"?

[Help to know that Harding wrote King's anti-Vietnam speech he delivered on April 4, 1967, at the Riverside Church in New York. "A Time to Break Silence."]

When LBJ's war against poverty became the second victim of the Vietnam War--the first victim was truth--King came forward as a spokesman for all the poor or disinherited of America. From 1967 until his assassination in 1968, King called for a nonviolent revolution in this country. For a radical reconstruction of economic and political power. And a revolution in values that would overthrow the "triple evils" of racism, materialism (economic exploitation), and rampant militarism.

Manifest in the SCLC's planned Poor People's Campaign for the summer of 1968. (point: include all the nation's underclass--the 20% of the population--Poor Appalachian whites, ghetto and rural southern blacks, Chicanos, and native Americans.

A nonviolent massive disobedience campaign in the nation's Capitol.

King's choice of an epitaph: "A Drum Major for Justice."