



DR. KING'S GIFT - Appearing at the Sheraton Centre, Sunday, to keynote the 12th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day luncheon of the Black Agency Executives, Rev. Jesse Jackson, 2nd l., holds up Manhattan Borough President

David Dinkins' hand and in his speech calls him "Dr. King's gift to New York." At left is David Jones, BAE president, with Bishop Emerson Moore at right.

(Pictorial Enterprise photo)

Dinkins is Dr. King's present, says Jesse

By **SIMON ANEKWE**
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"In 1989 David Dinkins is Dr. King's birthday present," Rev. Jesse Jackson said at the Black

Agency Executives 12th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day luncheon, Sunday, at the Sheraton Center.

Manhattan Borough President Dinkins who is expected to announce his candidacy for Mayor by Feb. 15, sat next on Jackson's left as the latter stated:

"I feel a certain vibration in the air in New York City. The fullness of time is among you. Time for change and challenge. David Dinkins is the point man."

Showing that a Dinkins victory is feasible, Jackson recalled that in 1984 he and his supporters organized "a credible political campaign," in the Democratic presidential primary here.

"We won New York City in 1988," Jackson went on. "We can do it again in 1989," in the mayoral race. "David Dinkins does not need to run for Mayor but the people need him to run."

Describing him as a man with integrity, intelligence, commitment, perseverance and wisdom, Jackson said: "We need and deserve this leadership" by Dinkins, as Mayor of New York City.

And addressing Dinkins he said: "You run for Mayor and our children will run for" college degrees and the professions.

The turning to the executives, Jackson went on: "Dinkins needs more than encouragement and prodding. He needs your commitment," like in taking "a leave of absence and working to get out the vote."

In seeming ecstasy Jackson cried out: "Happy birthday, Dr. King. We have a present for you in David Dinkins."

Then the preacher in him came out as he added: "A child is born" unto us; and "a govern-

ment shall rest on his shoulders."

Moving towards President-elect George Bush, Jackson first took on outgoing President Reagan. He said that 18 years after King's death, Reagan called the civil rights leader "a Communist," on the CBS 60 Minutes television program.

King's "ideology and cries for justice" hadn't touched Reagan Jackson continued. In his tenure he re-opened desegregation cases reignited old hostilities, destroyed the credibility of the Civil Rights Commission, among other things.

What in King disturbed Reagan so much that 18 years after his death, he should be "throwing stones on his tombstone?", Jackson asked.

Turning to the incoming White House occupant, he said "the challenge for President-elect Bush is to enforce civil rights laws;" and "not to monitor but to match" Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev "in commitment with bold leadership."

Jackson praised the Black Agency Executives most of whom, he said, were better educated than "our parents," and yet chose service careers rather than more lucrative pursuits.

Then he urged them not to be content with social service but to foster "social change." Thus they would render not just service to the needy but "build a system that protects them," thereby making themselves into "social engineers" with "bold leadership."

In introducing Rev. Jackson, David R. Jones, president of the Black executives and general director of the Community Service Society had indicated that they would go beyond normal social service functions.