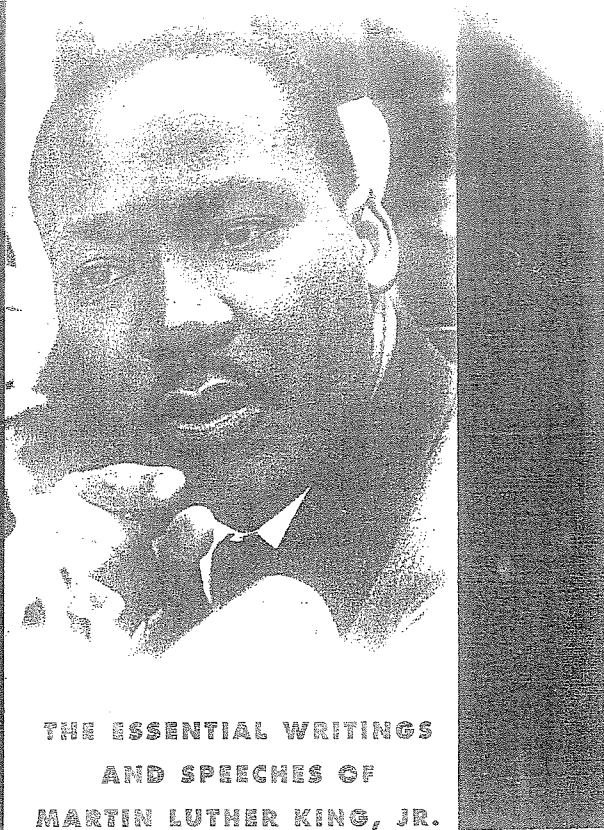


TESTAMENT OF HOPE



THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS
AND SPEECHES OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WAS NOT ONLY A HERO TO THE MILLIONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT TO ALL AMERICANS WHO BELIEVE IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE.

DR. KING JOINED THE STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN MEMPHIS. HE CAME TO HELP THE SANITATION WORKERS ACHIEVE THEIR FIRST CONTRACT. THE SANITATION BOSSES WERE ACTING LIKE THE OWNERS OF GENERAL DIE CASTERS – EMPLOYING EVERY ILLEGAL MEANS TO STOP THEIR WORKERS FROM HAVING A VOICE ON THE JOB. DR. KING WAS ASSASSINATED TRYING TO HELP THE MEMPHIS WORKERS BUILD THEIR UNION.

QUOTES FROM DR. KING ON LABOR UNIONS

ALL QUOTES FROM “A TESTAMENT OF HOPE”

“History is a great teacher. Now, everyone knows that the labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standards of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed levels of production. Those who today attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them.” (Pg. 202)

“The Teamsters Union, ousted some years ago from the AFL-CIO, instead of tottering or perishing, launched an organizing program that has increased its membership to nearly 2 million. It is not well known that the Teamsters have well over a quarter of a million Negroes in their ranks, with some of the highest rates of pay enjoyed by Negro workers anywhere in industry.” (Pg. 601)

“Labor Unions can play a tremendous role in making economic justice a reality for the Negro. Trade Unions are engaged in a struggle to advance the economic welfare of those American citizens whose wages are their livelihood.” (Pg. 476)

“To play our role fully as Negroes we will also have to strive for enhanced representation and influence in the labor movement. Our young people need to think of Union careers as earnestly as they do of business careers and professions.” (Pg. 305)