Mel King, candidate for Congress

Interview

By Julian West

Third in a series.

Melvin H. King served as state representative from Boston's South End between 1971 and 1982. Since graduating from Harvard Law School, he has devoted his time to community development programs in Boston. In 1983, he attracted national attention as the runner-up in Boston's mayoral race. King has been an MIT adjunct professor of urban studies since 1971.

The last thing that I will be doing will be working with the Congressional Black Caucus, the most progressive group in the Congress. We will bring that to the district, as we will bring the support of the Rainbow Coalition to the district. It is a district which has a small number of people who want clean air, clean water, to stop the wharf owners. A woman named Betty dysfunction was stopped by only one of the administrators of Boston College, others who were doing business with the Rainbow Coalition. They didn't think they could win because of the small number of black people in the district. That is a sorry state of affairs, because what was

and I'm going to continue to do that.

We want MIT to divert. We have been working with other colleges, they should consider, to what extent it is feasible, to what extent it is feasible, to divert the surplus of the United States for Africa.

How about the situation in Central America? What should we be doing with regard to Nicaragua?

A: Obviously, the first thing we need to do is to stop support of the Contras. The second thing we need to do is to be willing to sit down with the Contras and peace talks, and I think the Nicaraguans have expressed their willingness to do that.

I am not really very interested in fine tuning the proposals; I think the essential issue is what is your attitude. Are we pursuing peace and really working at it?

It seems to me that it is in the interest of the Soviet Union, given its situation, to want to have some things that will allow for the reduction of the use of their resources for the military. So I would see our role fundamentally as having a serious purpose behind it. That purpose is to get to the resource into the consumer, because people want things that are useful, and not just to do with the internal fragmentation of dissatisfaction with the government.

Q: Is that also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

A: Well, absolutely, I heard [Chrysler Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Lee] Iacocca when he spoke at the graduation that we have a colony because we are buying the products from Japan and Germany. He didn't go on to say, however, that the genius here at MIT is being co-opted into working on weapons of destruction, and not resources for consumer consumption. In Japan and Germany their genius works on items for consumption, their resources aren't going to the military.

In short, what we need to take a look at, on both sides, is that we need to have a more efficient use of resources, because the Soviet Union and the United States are already obviously have more of a need for reducing their military goals, but we also need to see. Jesse Jackson used to say the bankers go off in malnutrition and infant mortality, even though they stay in the slums. The very fact that we build them means that the resources aren't available for child care, nutrition programs, elderly health programs, and so on.

Q: Let's start here at MIT. What can you tell me about your role here?

A: I've been here since 1971, with the Community Fellows Program, which I developed. It is designed for community activists who have done things to empower people. People come for school here to work on a project or opportunity action, mainly for things that help to empower people. People come for school here to work on a project or opportunity action, mainly for things that help to empower people. People come for school here to work on a project or opportunity action, mainly for things that help to empower people.

Q: What is the idea of the Rainbow Coalition directly stated in The Book? It was a covenant between the Creator and the people on earth.

A: The Rainbow Coalition. People who are small business entrepreneurs, they're in the Rainbow Coalition. People who don't want to work for a living, they're in the Rainbow Coalition. People who are colored. A woman who was wearing my button was walking by the street and said, "Yes, they're walking away from their responsibilities.

Q: What are you doing on a national scale? It is going to be of real significance when the Democratic party, the Congress and the country see that this district can elect a person who is black. That is going to say quite a bit to the Democratic Party, which has been missing to the right: "Hey, they've elected a black person, a progressive person in Massachusetts." That ought to say something about what is possible to happen, so that's going to have its impact in terms of the party and the Congress on a national level.

Q: You called for protests against Gramm-Rudman. Could you spell out your opposition to that?

A: What has happened under this administration has been the dismantling of the government. What they are attempting to dismantle is the tripartite system; the military, the legislative, the judicial and the executive. They want to control the judiciary. And with Gramm-Rudman they are controlling the legislature because we will be autonomous cuts made by a bureaucrat, which is far from what was the mandate of the Constitution and the declaration that they would do. It's a permanent setup that the people would be governed, Gramm-Rudman in a permanent setup that the people would be governed.

Just on the face of the attempts to end the tripartite system, one has to be opposed to the policies of this administration.

Not only does Gramm-Rudman do that, it cuts out basic services. That means that it affects all people. If you are concerned about toxic wastes in those dumps, and you don't have a recourse to get rid of them then you're not going to have the money. It's things like libraries, museums, things that enhance the quality of life.

There's been much talk about how people whose incomes are low: the fact that they have malnutrition, that they can't afford to pay for universal medical care. And that is absolutely critical for us to deal with, because this is an illusionism, this is a way to make people who are in adverse way. Student loans, scholarships, programs that provide for training, those things will be down the tube and the Congress on a national level.

And the worst of it is, the Congress is supposed to be making decisions that are going to raise the taxes. And they are walking away from their responsibilities.

Q: Are you taking money from political action committees?

A: As of now, I have not. The Rainbow Coalition may have a PAC. As I am a participant in helping to develop that as an organization, I share those values. I'm taking a look at the availability of funds, not taking money from the Rainbow PAC, but I haven't made a decision yet.

Q: Could you comment for us about South Africa, particularly about apartheid?

A: I got through the legislature the strongest divestiture legislation in the country—in my last term in office. In the previous term I got the money on the table now; neither side is accepting the other's proposals. It is a district which has a small number of people who want clean air, clean water, to stop the wharf owners. A woman named Betty dysfunction was stopped by only one of the administrators of Boston College, others who were doing business with the Rainbow Coalition. They didn't think they could win because of the small number of black people in the district. That is a sorry state of affairs, because what was

and I'm going to continue to do that.

We want MIT to divert. We have been working with other colleges, they should consider, to what extent it is feasible, to what extent it is feasible, to divert the surplus of the United States for Africa.

How about the situation in Central America? What should we be doing with regard to Nicaragua?

A: Obviously, the first thing we need to do is to stop support of the Contras. The second thing we need to do is to be willing to sit down with the Contras and peace talks, and I think the Nicaraguans have expressed their willingness to do that.

I am not really very interested in fine tuning the proposals; I think the essential issue is what is your attitude. Are we pursuing peace and really working at it?

It seems to me that it is in the interest of the Soviet Union, given its situation, to want to have some things that will allow for the reduction of the use of their resources for the military. So I would see our role fundamentally as having a serious purpose behind it. That purpose is to get to the resource into the consumer, because people want things that are useful, and not just to do with the internal fragmentation of dissatisfaction with the government.

Q: Is that also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

A: Well, absolutely, I heard [Chrysler Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Lee] Iacocca when he spoke at the graduation that we have a colony because we are buying the products from Japan and Germany. He didn't go on to say, however, that the genius here at MIT is being co-opted into working on weapons of destruction, and not resources for consumer consumption. In Japan and Germany their genius works on items for consumption, their resources aren't going to the military.

In short, what we need to take a look at, on both sides, is that we need to have a more efficient use of resources, because the Soviet Union and the United States are already obviously have more of a need for reducing their military goals, but we also need to see. Jesse Jackson used to say the bankers go off in malnutrition and infant mortality, even though they stay in the slums. The very fact that we build them means that the resources aren't available for child care, nutrition programs, elderly health programs, and so on.

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?

Q: You said in your speech announcing your candidacy that you should not participate in the Star Wars, what is your opinion on the Star Wars.

A: That's also true in the United States? Could we also use our resources more efficiently?