King's legacy must be action

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negligible fraction of whom are black. MIT could make up one-third of the people seeing the news in front of the camera. That's a third of a third—six hundred and sixty thousand a day. It's a handful of us at MIT, photographers sometime doing our job. Find us whenever they need a picture for the front cover of the MIT bulletin.

Out of a few prosperous blacks, many find that they can walk away from the hordes by promoting white positions but have a very hard time getting what they try to advance minority interests. There actually exist at least two black men who would consider a position as Reagan's ambassador to South Africa.

In 1970, MIT had large investments in South Africa; in 1977, those investments are larger. Last December a British newspaper, The Independent, reported that the United States had sent 60 tons of arms to Portugal via Switzerland. Though concrete support for apartheid is stronger than ever, verbal support has noticeably decreased. You never hear of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Nobel Prize, his most recent honor of any kind, in the Civil Rights Act. And you probably now view his life's work as an attempt to enact various legal changes in the official status of blacks. You have seen pictures of Martin Luther King Jr. in church, in an office, or on television. You have not seen him standing in the middle of a herd, as a police officer directs the herding or in jail.

Because the conditions which he protested have not changed, we can assume that, if he were alive today, he would be continuing with his methods of civil disobedience and direct action. His current voice contributes to the civil rights movement methods were his methods. The reason that blacks can vote in the south today is not because a law was passed that is done unto compulsory voting, but because there was a law that stated their right to do so. There was already a law (the Fifteenth Amendment) guaranteeing this right.

And if one law by itself was not enough, there is no reason to believe that another dozen to the same effect would have been enforced simply because they were passed. It was the matches that ignited the jailing that brought about new laws to enforce and reaffirm this already existing right in the form of the Voting Rights Act that stated their right to do so. There was already a law (the Fifteenth Amendment) guaranteeing this right.

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