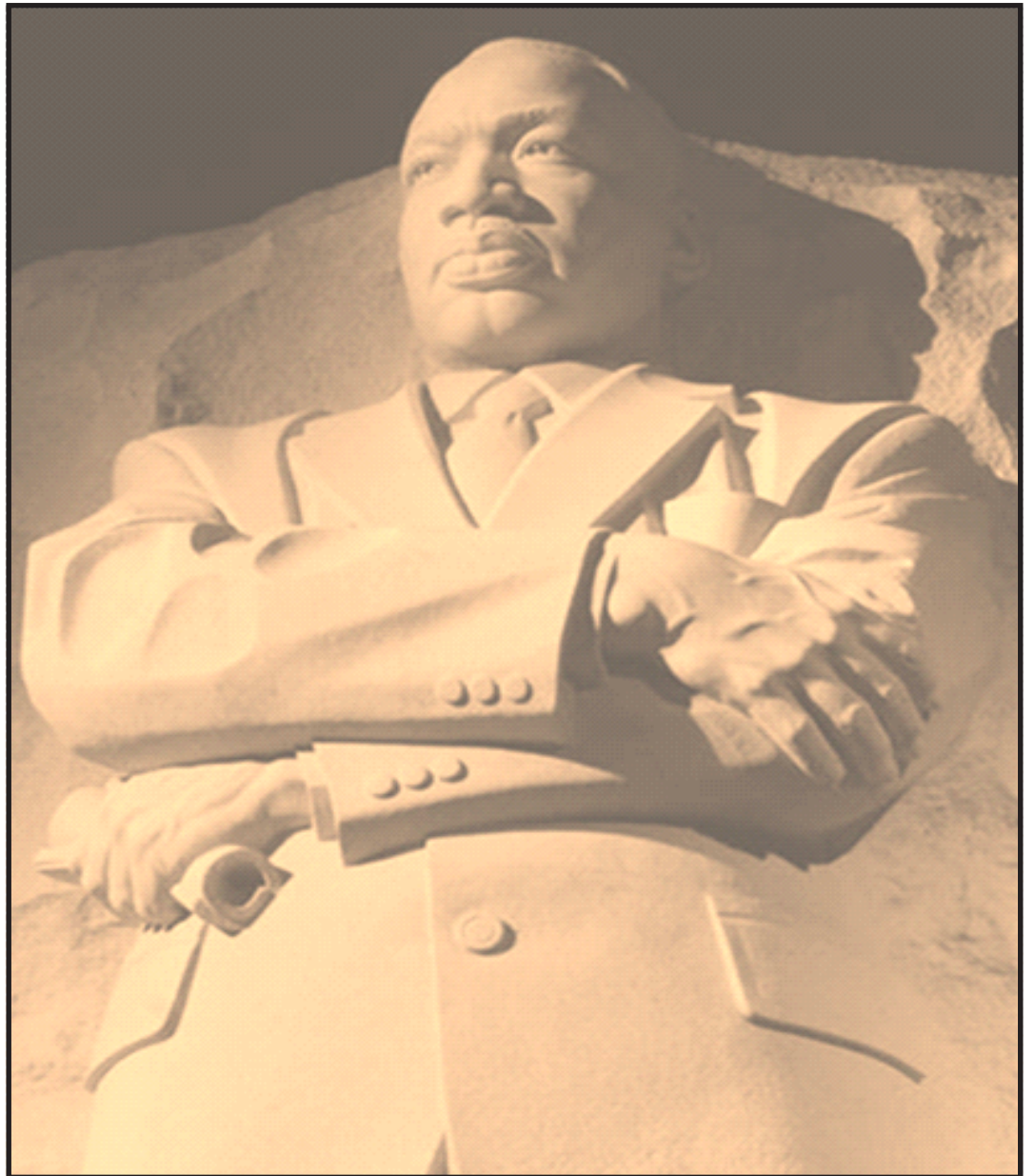


### Boldest Statehood Protest Ever!

Barbara Lett Simmons:  
Tireless Warrior, page 3



### DR. KING WOULD "OCCUPY" D.C. FOR STATEHOOD!



Art by Maria B. Moreland

### President Obama Looking More Like Abe Lincoln

By Charles J. Moreland

There are many parallels between the 44th president of The United States and the 16th – both being from the state of Illinois, each narrowly defeating New York senators on the way to the presidency, both elected to lead a fiercely divided nation in a time of great crisis, and so on.

The country is obviously less divided than when Lincoln presided over the nation, but we are once again debating the issue of ending the unjust disenfranchisement of Americans who deserve equality.

OBAMA continued on page 8

By DeRutter Jones and Valencia Mohammed

On October 16, 2011 the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial was finally dedicated. The resolute visage of the great civil rights leader officially joined the towering giants of American history along the National Mall overlooking the Tidal Basin. George Washington, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson – Dr. King is the only non-president among them.

Each iconic sculptured face now gazes out upon its own particular historical impact on America. Camped out not far away, many of the "Occupy" protesters in Washington, D.C., are undoubtedly reflecting on whether the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be among them as they consider ways to bring an end to the disenfranchisement of the citizens of the District of Columbia.

For more than two centuries, the citizens of our nation's capitol have been denied even a morsel of Congressional representation, while serving at the banquet table of American democracy, and simultaneously carrying the burden of paying taxes, fighting and dying in foreign wars, and carrying all the other duties of U.S. citizenship.

This shameless oppression of the residents of our Nation's Capital continues more than 40 years after Dr. King and city leaders marched

DR. KING continued on Page 6

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**JULIUS W. HOBSON**

The Hon. Julius W. Hobson is recognized as the "key founder" of the Modern day D.C. Statehood Movement. He was elected in 1974 as one of the at-large members of the D. C. Council at its creation, and he served in that position and pushed for D.C. Statehood until his passing in 1977.



*"Oh, I am not worried about Money or degrees, any fool can acquire these, it's the courage of living, the usefulness of life which worries me . . ."*

**JULIUS HOBSON**

**. . . New Columbia would not be in the red!!**

# **REVENUE MILKED FROM D.C. DUE TO CONGRESSIONAL TYRANNY**

**Prohibition on taxing income earned in the District by non-residents:**

**\$2.2 Billion**

**Tax exemptions for federal government property:**

**\$392.7 Million**

**Property owned by foreign governments and property of organizations granted exemptions by special act of Congress:**

**\$45.8 Million**

**Personal property tax exemptions:**

**\$52.1 Million**

**Income tax exemptions for Presidential appointees and certain Congressional staff employees:**

**\$8.3 Million**

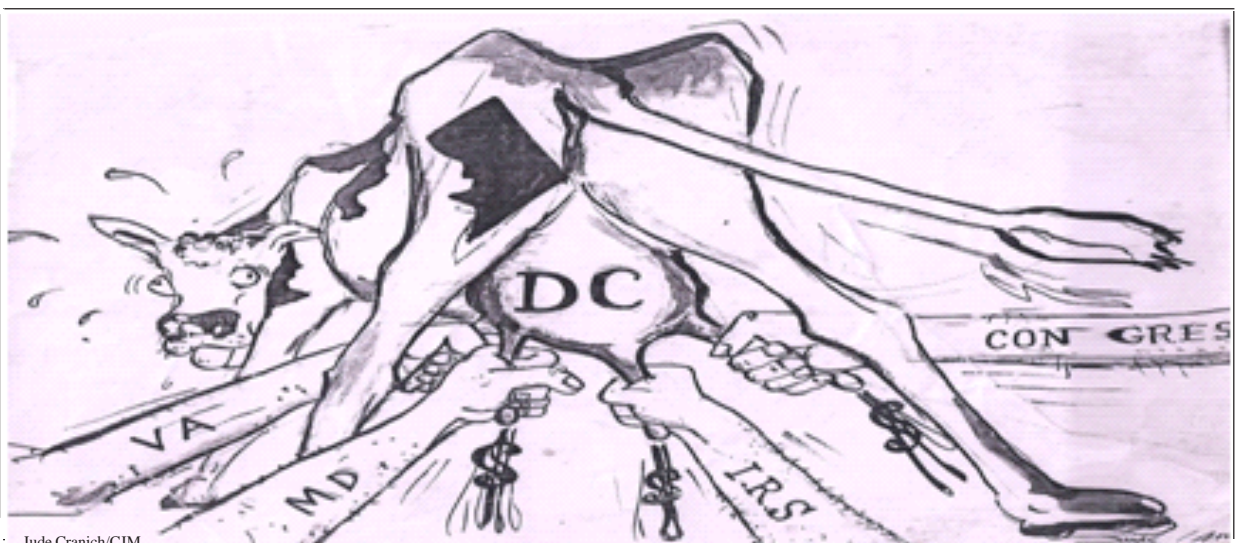
**Exemptions applicable to the Diplomatic Community:**

**\$41.0 Million**

**Exemptions Applicable to the military:**

**\$46.5 Million**

**TOTAL REVENUE LOST: \$2.8 BILLION**



## Truth About Statehood



### From The Publisher

By Charles J. Moreland

I was walking towards the U. S. Capitol after participating in a march with the "D.C. Veterans and Families for Statehood" when I was accosted by a veteran member of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.

I had noticed the officer earlier. He was working with the traffic detail, holding back curious tourists and agitated motorists as the protest inched its way through the intersections along Pennsylvania Avenue.

I heard his voice before I saw him. "D.C. will never become a state," he shouted. Obviously, he had noticed me also. "I'm a native-born Washingtonian," he added, much to my surprise. Good, not another parking ticket, I deduced.

Obviously, he just wanted to get into a debate.

I have had this happen before. There are more than a few Washingtonians who have been misinformed about D.C. Statehood.

"Congress will never allow it," the officer offered, as if he was sharing some insider information with me. Before I could open my mouth, he asked, "How will Statehood benefit us?"

A familiar question... Believe me, I am well versed on the many benefits of D.C. Statehood, having myself addressed many groups—locally and around the country — on the issue over the last 34 years. I have debated extreme right wing conservatives, self interested Republicans, very biased ignoramuses — even great statehood advocates like Julius Hobson, Josephine Butler, and Hilda Mason, before I was converted.

I've converted quite a few also, in my day.

I'll never forget when I converted Morton Downy, Jr. (one of the first ultra-conservative talk-radio superstars) right on the air.

I heard that less than six months later somebody from the Conservative Union

un-converted him . . . , but that's another story.

"How will Statehood help the citizens of D.C.?" the impatient officer shouted out again. There are so many ways to answer that question, because there are so many ways that our citizens would benefit from statehood: Full representation in the U.S. House and Senate, an end to Congress' right to review, delay, and veto D.C.'s local budget and local laws, the right to select or elect their own local judges, billions of dollars yearly from a fair tax policy, an end to taxation without representation . . .

"We would never be able to support ourselves as a state," he said."

How could this native Washingtonian — who had matriculated through the D.C. school system, who had been employed by the D.C. Govt. for more than sixteen years — be so fundamentally wrong about D.C. Statehood?

I made my case in less than 2 minutes. "I didn't know that," he responded. "I was taught something different."

Now, the boring particulars of my argument are unimportant. What matters in the context of this article is that the officer had confirmed what Barbara Lett-Simmons had just said to me while I was shuttling her the short distance between Freedom Plaza and Capitol Hill. "There is so much misinformation about D.C. Statehood," she said.

This brings me to our purpose : We will publish the truth about D.C. Statehood and "chronicle every aspect of the valiant struggle of D.C. Citizens to obtain the same rights that every other American inherits as a birth-right."

That is a promise we made to Ms. Simmons last year.

Fifteen days ago she called me and said, "Charles Moreland, if you don't have that paper out in 10 days . . ."

But that's another story.



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# TIRELESS STATEHOOD WARRIOR

**When taxation without representation in Washington, D.C. is brought to a sudden halt, Barbara Lett Simmons will be able to take a fair share of the credit.**

A tireless warrior, life for veteran statehood activist Barbara Lett Simmons has been a ceaseless struggle, both against the U.S. Congress and "collaborators" within her beloved adopted hometown.

But, in a political career that has spanned almost 60 years, the 83 year-old Simmons has never struck a blow for Statehood more telling than the one she struck in 2000.

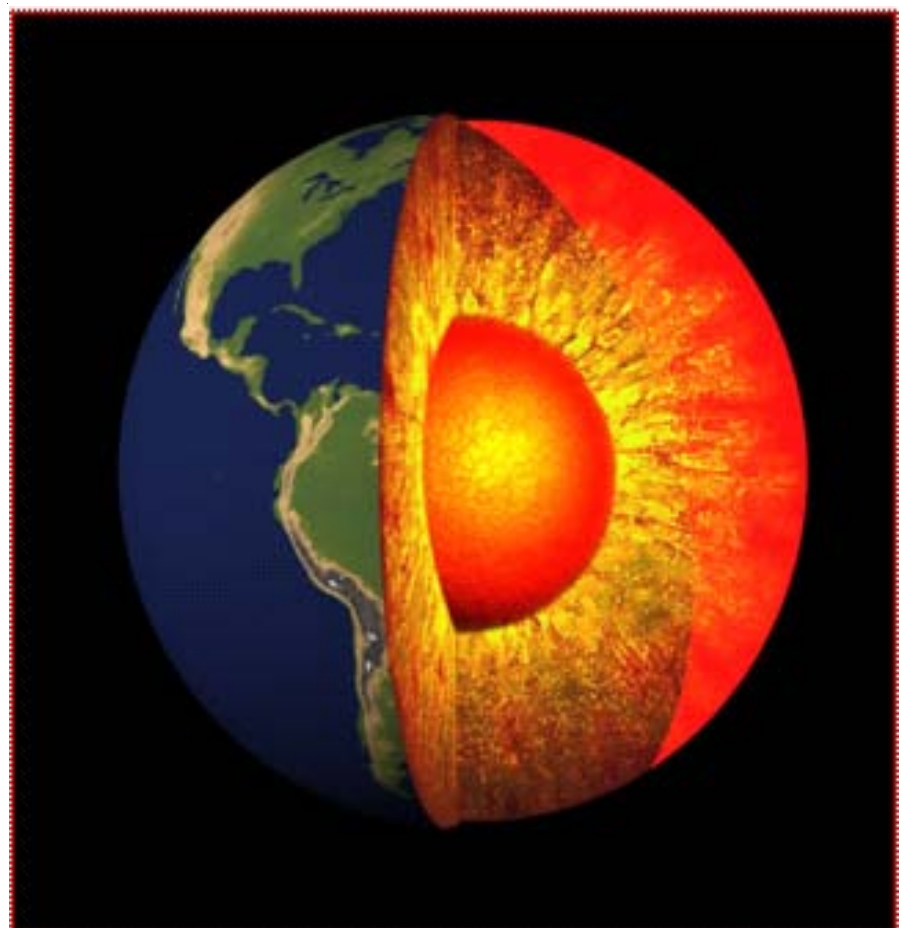
As a Democratic elector from the District of Columbia in the 2000 U.S. Election, she abstained from voting in the Electoral College rather than vote for Al Gore as was expected, in protest of what Simmons referred to as "Washington, D.C.'s Colonial status."

It was a blow for D.C. Statehood that was felt around the world. A blow that still inspires statehood supporters.



**On stage at Veterans for Statehood rally, Simmons seemed to be the only one who knew how to keep cool in 96 degree heat.**

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**D.C. STATEHOOD  
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■ **End Taxation Without Representation!**

*D.C. residents are the only Americans who are required to pay federal taxes yet are denied voting representation in Congress.*

■ **Achieve Self-determination!**

*Congress exercises tyrannical control over the lives of D.C. citizens, with the right to veto legislation, fire elected officials, and change the form of government at any time.*

■ **Achieve Budget Autonomy!**

*Congress seizes locally raised tax revenue and tells D.C. taxpayers how they can and cannot spend their own money.*

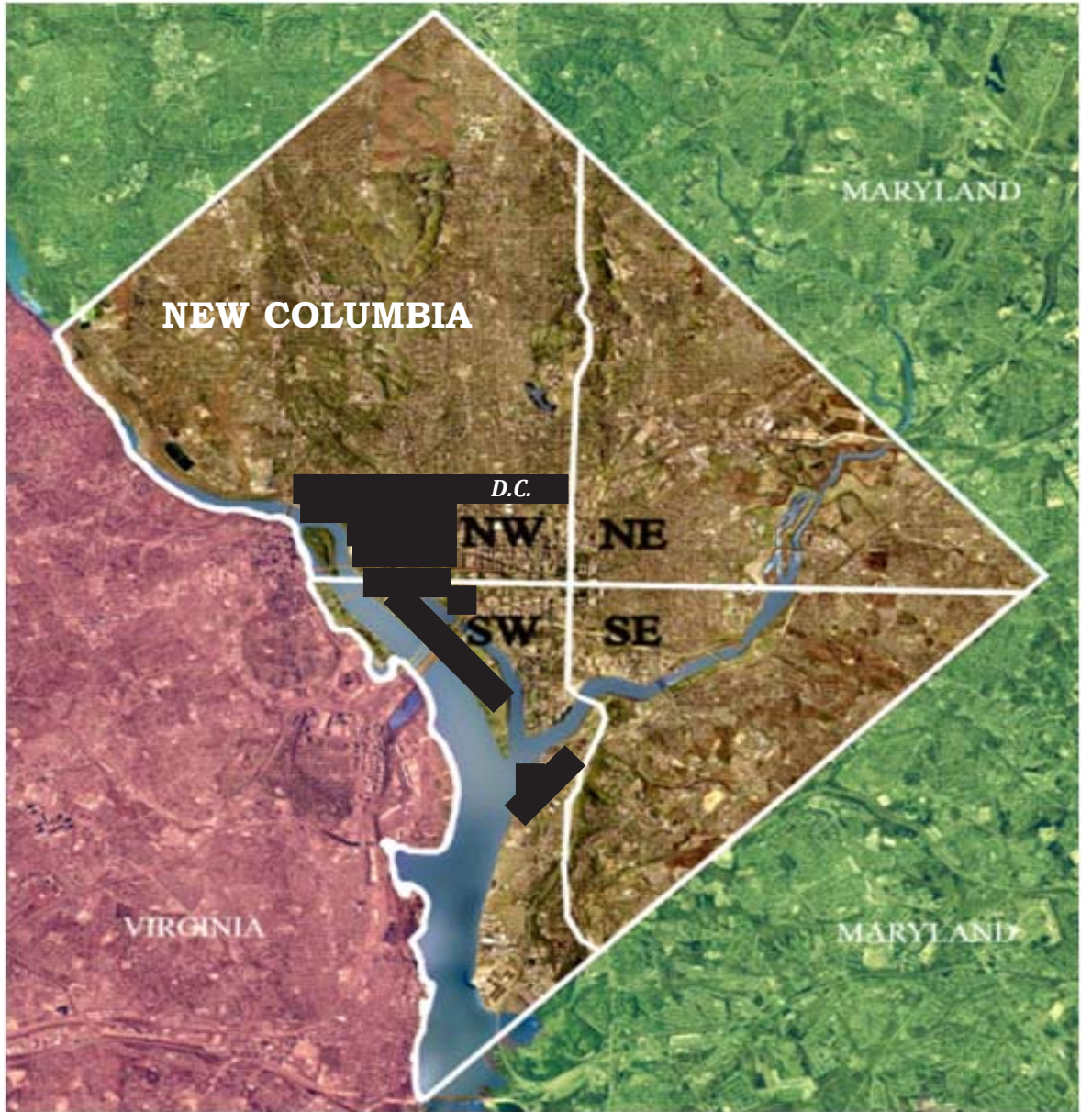
■ **Restore Full Democracy!**

*D.C. citizens are denied the basic human right to freedom. D.C. is operated under a "home-rule" system in which the governing power is held by Congress and each member of Congress is a supreme overlord above every D.C. citizen.*

Help get the truth out by sending a copy of the **New Columbia Times** to your friends, posting it on your website or bookmarking it on your favorite social network.

***THE 51st STATE***

**THE D.C. STATEHOOD BILL WILL CHANGE THE MAP.  
NEW COLUMBIA WILL CONSIST  
OF D.C.'s NEIGHBORHOODS  
AND COMMUNITIES**



**THE SHAPE OF NEW COLUMBIA**

**The Darkened Areas Would Remain Washington, D.C.  
(The Federal Enclave)**



Photo by Valencia Mohammed

**The Hon. Michael D. Brown**

United States Senator  
District of Columbia

**Support D.C. Statehood**

*"Join the fight for equal rights for the 610,000 good citizens of the District of Columbia."*

*"Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country and a finer world to live in."*

*- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from a speech given in Washington, DC.*

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*"When we had a Democratic President and Democratic controlled Congress and Senate, they didn't pass DC Statehood. Now we have a Democratic President again and a majority Democratic Senate, why don't you send the statehood bill to the Senate for a test run?" Let's just see what they're gonna do?"*

*Mark Plotkin (Democratic Party operative, TV host, radio host, commentator) questioning Del. Norton at Statehood press conference, Nov. 8, 2011. Photo by Valencia Mohammed*

*Readers are encouraged to share their opinions on any matter related to the D.C. democracy movement. Send comments to [newcolumbiapub@aol.com](mailto:newcolumbiapub@aol.com)*

## Are D.C. Officials headed in Right Direction?



*Left to Right: Sen. Michael Brown, Ilir Zherka, Mayor Vincent Gray, Del. Elenor Holmes Norton, Sen. Paul Strauss at Statehood Press conference November 8, 2011.*

*Photo by Valencia Mohammed*

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# Norton Strategy Puzzling

## Fruitless quest for "Voting Rights" crippling D.C. Statehood Movement?

By Glenda Richmond

November 7, 2011. Even as Mayor Vincent Gray and D.C. elected officials held a press conference to announce a "unified plan" to seek ceremonial resolutions of support for D.C. Statehood from local and state legislatures around the country, D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes-Norton unveiled three separate bills supporting different approaches.

Many citizens are baffled by Norton's strategic focus on the so-called "D.C. Voting Rights Bill." Very few want to go on record criticizing her on it (she is, after all, "a very powerful lady"). But the whispers around town are getting louder.

Mark Plotkin, media personality and political commentator spoke up.

Plotkin asked Norton to explain why she had been so reluctant to push D.C. Statehood in Congress, "even when "Democrats held a majority in both houses and the Presidency," he inquired.

Visibly agitated, Norton grabbed the microphone and responded, "I'll tell you what I've done, I've introduced three bills . . . , " never addressing Plotkin's question.

Tom Sherwood, a reporter for Washington's News Channel 4, seemed to be particularly perplexed by the high profile presence of Ilir Zherka at the press conference. Zherka, a perennial fixture at the District Building, is Executive Director of "D.C. Vote," an organization funded by the Mayor and City Council, which spearheads the nationwide campaign to lobby Congress to give D.C. a single vote in the U.S. House of representatives.

Noting that the press conference was called to address a strategy for achieving Statehood, Sherwood asked Zherka if his organization had "changed

its position of promoting D.C. Voting rights over D.C. Statehood?"

"Our ultimate goal has always been D.C. Statehood. We are presenting a united effort," Zherka responded.

Many Washingtonians are downright confused by the way Zherka, Norton, Mayor Gray, and members of the D.C. Council have lavished time, attention and money on Zherka's "Voting Rights" campaign, while giving "only lip service to D.C. Statehood," in the words of Barbara Lett-Simmons, an unwavering statehood supporter.

"Eleanor has not really supported D.C. Statehood in the 21 years she's been in that office," Simmons said. "If I had known she felt that way, I never would have thrown my support behind her when she first ran for office. I thought she supported Statehood," Simmons continued. "If our elected officials had put all that time, money, and effort into Statehood, D.C. would be free by now," Simmons added.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. marching for D.C. freedom with Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Rev. Andrew Young, Rev. Paul Moore, and others. (Circa August 1965).

#### DR.KING from page 1

through the city to demand that President Lyndon B. Johnson take immediate steps to free Washingtonians from taxation without representation.

We know that Dr. King cared passionately about the rights of the citizens of the District of Columbia. But, would he have gone so far as to occupy the city in protest?

Speaking at the MLK Memorial dedication services, Obama stated that, "If he were alive today, I believe he would remind us that the unemployed worker can rightly challenge the excesses of Wall Street without demonizing all who work there."

Less than two miles away, Dr. Cornell West, bypassed the dedication to march in protest at the US supreme court. His statements, while being hauled off to jail, echoed the president's sentiments: "We want to bear witness today that we know the relation between corporate greed and what goes on too often in the supreme court decisions ... We will not allow this day of Martin Luther King Jr.'s memorial to go without somebody going to jail, because Martin King would be here right with us, willing to throw down out of deep love."

Dr. West, an outspoken author, professor and activist, felt that the best way to honor Dr. King was to participate in the protest. Shortly before his arrest along with 18 others, he confirmed that he was in "solidarity with the Occupy movement all around the world, because we love poor people, we love working people, and

we want Martin Luther King Jr. to smile from the grave that we haven't forgot his movement."

Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, D.C.'s First Elected Delegate to the U. S. House of Representatives, would know better than anyone whether Dr. King would "occupy."

Rev. Fauntroy knew Dr. King not as a symbolic figure, but as a real human being, a friend who supported Washingtonians in their local struggle to achieve their rights by walking alongside them, praying and helping through his perspective and insight as perhaps the leading moral beacon of his era.

Rev. Fauntroy is one of those living links to that day and time. "Dr. King was a serious advocate for D.C. statehood. When I first accepted the position as Dr. King's personal representative to the president, leaders of the House and Senate, and cabinet agency heads with relevance to our struggle, I did it under the conditions that I not be paid a salary and that he help me achieve D.C. statehood and voting rights," Fauntroy said when asked the question.

"Dr. King promised me that after the signing of the Voting Rights Act by President Lyndon B. Johnson, D.C. sovereignty would be a priority. He marched with thousands of us on Aug. 6, 1965 to let people know he supported D.C. statehood," he continued.

So, the short answer to our hypothetical question is a resounding "Yes!!! And we know that, even now, Dr. King's spirit lifts and inspires each and every Occupy D.C. participant.



Photo by Valencia Mohammed

*"Occupy" campaign is a newer version of Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign. So, Dr. King organized the first Occupy movement in 1967. When we occupied Washington, D.C. We called it "Resurrection City."*

-Rev. Jesse L. Jackson at March for Jobs and Justice.

October, 15, 2011

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## D.C. Robbed of 2 Billion Dollars Annually

By Glenda Richmond

It is no coincidence that some of the richest jurisdictions in the world surround Washington, D.C.

While both Maryland and Virginia prospered last year, elected officials in the nation's capitol were struggling to maintain essential services for its residents.

How can this be when the whole region is benefiting from the many good government jobs in D.C.?

"Because Congress denies D.C. the authority to tax wages where they are earned," according to Walter Smith, Executive Director of D.C. Apple Seed. "D.C. is unable to tax 72% of its workforce," he explained.

According to Smith, "Every state in the country taxes commuting workers who reside outside the state."

Both Maryland and Virginia had a budget surplus last year -- over 300 million dollars for Virginia alone. The money "stolen" would have increased the city budget by 25% last year.

"Money that rightfully belongs to the citizens of Washington, D.C.," Smith said.

## NATION'S PLANTATION SOURCE OF WEALTH FOR WASHINGTON SUBURBS!



By Jude Cranich

**OBAMA** from page 1

On January 1, 1863, as our nation boiled in civil war, the last president from the state of Illinois issued the "Emancipation Proclamation." This executive order was supposed to "free all persons being held as slaves" in America.

Despite its noble intentions, the proclamation had one glaring flaw: it left the citizens of Washington, D.C. disenfranchised and deprived of rights and privileges that all other Americans inherit at birth. And although slavery had been technically abolished in The District of Columbia 8 1/2 months before it was ended in the Confederacy, when the Civil War was over, the brave soldiers from D.C. returned home to "the national shame" of political slavery in the nation's capitol.

D.C.'s Civil War veterans had no Senators and no U. S. Representative who could pin Medals on their chests, or to whom they could address their grievances, or seek help with veteran's problems or services, no one who could represent their interests in Congress.

As freedom-loving Americans all over the country greeted the end of slavery with great jubilation, disenfranchised Washingtonians could not earnestly join the celebration.

Slaves are, by definition, people who are ruled by others without their consent. So, D.C. citizens are political slaves. Seeking to rectify the problem, January 2011, D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton introduced three "freedom" bills in the U. S. House of Representatives: *The New Columbia Admission Act* (providing for statehood), the *District of Columbia Equal Representation Act* (authorizing Senate and House seats), and *The District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act* (giving the city a House vote).

Norton introduced the bills one week after the Republican controlled House stripped the District of its right to vote in the "Committee of the Whole," a cynical farce that allowed Norton's vote to be counted only when it does not count.

But, according to Del. Norton, the three bills were not introduced as an act of frustration or retreat. Norton said in her statement to members of Congress, *"We accept no imposed limit on our American citizens, and all until the day when in citizenship between the residents of the District of Columbia and other American citizens."*



Yet, the fact that Congress has not acted on either of Norton's bills, or any bill to grant full, first-class citizenship to D.C.'s political slaves since 1791, is compelling proof that, like Lincoln's Congress, the present Congress is incapable of repairing this glaring blemish on our American Democracy.

Faced with what he believed was "Congress's inability to abolish slavery," Abraham Lincoln emancipated the slaves by Presidential Decree. *The New York Times* (September 23, 1862) called Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation "the most far-reaching document ever issued by the government," saying "its wisdom was unquestionable, its necessity indisputable."

Like Lincoln's civil war, Obama's war on terror could be shortened by a sincere and uncompromising commitment to democracy. Obama could convert potential terrorists into freedom-hungry allies, much like Lincoln did when hundreds of thousands of former slaves poured into the Union Army following his emancipation proclamation.

But how can we earnestly inspire liberation movements around the world to fight for freedom while our U.S. government refuses to grant even a pretense of real democracy to the residents of our nation's capitol? Like Lincoln, President Obama would become one of the greatest presidents in history if he would publicly call on Congress to immediately pass the D.C. Statehood Bill. Pending statehood, President Obama could sign a proclamation freeing D.C. residents, and all Americans, for that matter, from taxation without representation.



We ask all who support democracy in D.C. to petition Pres. Obama to sign the following proclamation, or one with similar language supporting D.C. Statehood:

**DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA,**

**I HEREBY PETITION YOU TO SIGN THE D.C. STATEHOOD/NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION PROCLAMATION!**

As a Patriotic American, I proudly ask you to call on The U.S. Congress to immediately pass the D.C. Statehood Bill, H. R. 265. Mr. President, please don't wait for Congress. Pending passage of a D.C. Statehood Bill, I petition you to issue a proclamation outlawing taxation without representation everywhere in the United States of America, immediately emancipating the citizens of Washington, D.C. from this shameful form of tyranny.

Please issue the following proclamation, or one with equal effect, and push both the House and the Senate to fast-track D.C. Statehood. Let us demonstrate to the world our sincere support for liberty and democracy for all mankind.

You can support this petition by emailing the New Columbia Times to your friends, posting it on your website or bookmarking it on your favorite social network.

**Go to [newcolumbiapub.com](http://newcolumbiapub.com) to sign the petition.**



**PROPOSED  
D.C. STATEHOOD / NO  
TAXATION WITHOUT  
REPRESENTATION  
PROCLAMATION**

**To be signed BY: PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA**

*"No Taxation Without Representation"* is recognized as the rallying cry of the Founding Fathers of our great nation. Yet, by historical accident, this blemish on our American Democracy still exists in our country today. The elimination of this last vestige of colonialism is the unfinished business of The American Revolution. Admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a State would make ours a more perfect Union.

Now, Therefore, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim that taxation without representation shall be and is illegal in the United States Of America, and that all persons living within every state, and the District Of Columbia, shall be from henceforward, and forever, free from taxation without representation; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service, shall recognize and maintain the freedom of all American Citizens from taxation without representation, and will do no act or acts to oppose such persons, or any one of them, in any lawful and peaceful efforts they may make to maintain and preserve such freedom.

And by virtue of the power vested in me, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons residing in the Fifty States of The United States of America, and Washington, D.C., are, and henceforward shall be emancipated and free from taxation without representation; and that the Executive Government of the United States of America, including the Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the Congress of the United states to expeditiously pass all necessary legislation and make all necessary laws to ensure that every American Citizen residing in the District of Columbia and every state in the United States of America shall be forever free from Taxation without representation; and **I recommend to The U.S. Senate and The U.S. House of Representatives that, in as soon as possible, they labor faithfully to pass a Bill to make Washington D. C. a state.**

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, and the expressed intent of the Founding Fathers of this nation, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand this 4th day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

By the President: BARAK H. OBAMA

**DC Vote**  
Working to End Taxation Without Representation

Founded in 1998, DC Vote is an award-winning organization dedicated to securing full voting representation in Congress and full democracy for the more than 600,000 residents of the District of Columbia. Americans living in our nation’s capital pay full federal taxes, fight and die in wars and serve on juries, but are denied voting representation in the House and the Senate.

While DC residents have an elected mayor and city council, all locally passed laws and the local budget must be sent to Congress for review and approval. In many cases, Congress overrules decisions of the local government. DC Vote is working to end this injustice and to protect DC’s local democracy.

As the recognized leader and go-to source of information on the DC voting rights movement, we educate people from across the nation about DC’s status, work to prevent congressional interference in DC’s local democracy, and advocate for critical DC voting rights legislation.

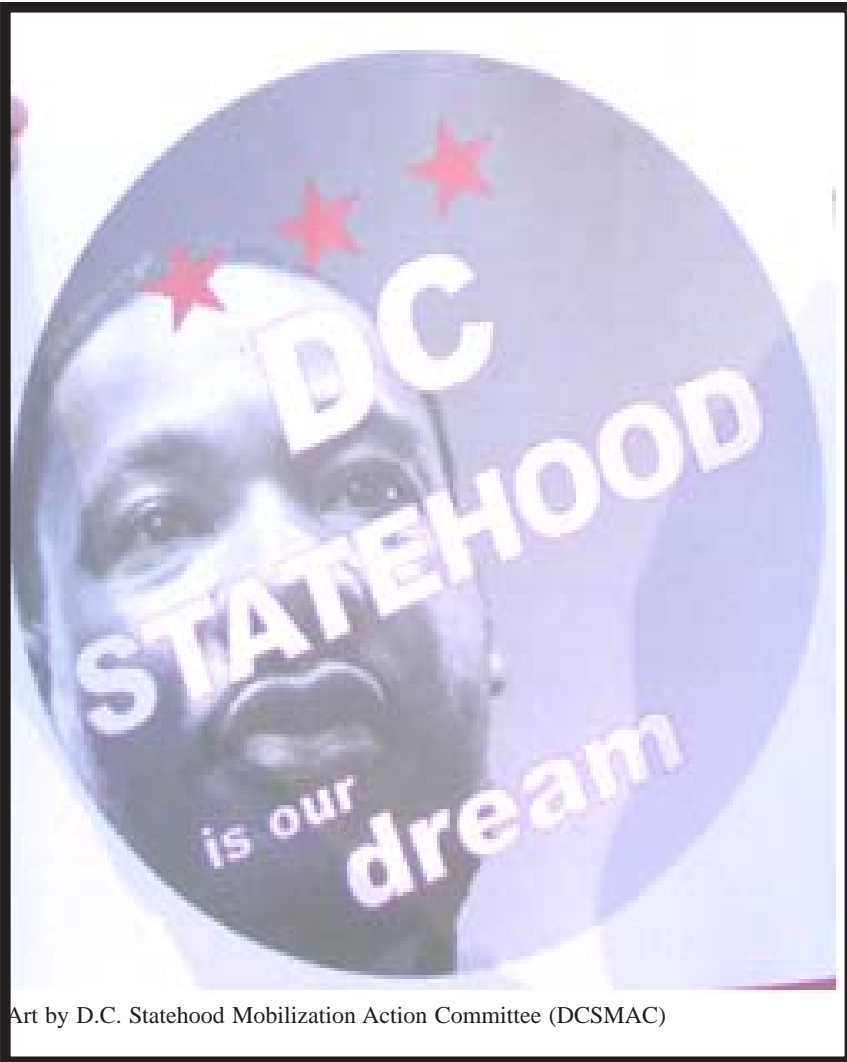
Our grass roots lobbying efforts led to the historic Senate passage of the DC Voting Rights Act (H.R.157/S.160) on February 26, 2009. We continue to research and explore legislation to provide full local democracy and to make Washington, DC the 51st state in the union.

DC Vote also organizes protests to publicly object to unjust laws that impose the will of Members of Congress from across the country upon our people. These protests have, when appropriate, included civil disobedience. Over the past several months, 72 protesters for DC Democracy were arrested in demonstrations organized by DC Vote against efforts by Congress to interfere in local affairs.

With voting representation equal to that of other Americans, DC will be better empowered to end congressional interference in local matters, have an equal vote on important national issues and tackle local problems with more resources and greater freedom. DC Vote will continue to fight the injustice of the denial of democratic rights to the residents of our Nation’s Capital.

Please join our cause. [www.dcvote.org](http://www.dcvote.org)

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