

her beliefs then they are due a profound amount of credit because the conviction was genuine. All we can judge a person by is what they do and what they say when there is a price to pay for saying and doing it. There is a man named Lenin, some might pronounce it "La - nane", who stated that, "individuals who try to bring about changes in society are fought every step of the way by those forces that are opposed to change but after the individual has died and no longer appears to be a threat, the very society which led to the creation of conditions that took his life will then try to coop that individual, make him or her into an icon as a type of sop to the oppressed group that he or she represented and by so doing, distract those people's attention from the importance of trying to continue the struggle for freedom and justice for which the individual in question gave his or her life." I could not stand on this floor and say that I could carry myself in the way that Martin Luther King carried himself. I know I couldn't allow somebody to spit on me. I know I couldn't be in the presence of women and children whose legs and arms are broken with chains and axe handles and I say what we must do is pray for the ones who are perpetrating this violence. I could not say as Martin Luther King said that in these confrontations between unarmed, black and white people, trying to protest peacefully and nonviolently to make realities of the promises of America, I could not say as he said, "That when these bloody confrontations occur, if blood must flow in the streets let it be our blood and not that of our oppressors." That is not the attitude of America as a nation. It is not the attitude of the National Rifle Association. It is not the attitude of the American military but here is a man in a world of violence in a country that thrives on violence, in a country whose heroes are violent individuals, Bonnie and Clyde, Jesse James, "Legs" Diamond, Al Capone, folk heroes, standing up against every bit of rationality as I perceive it and saying, in all of this violence the way to bring it to an end is to be nonviolent. A man like that certainly is worthy of a resolution such as the one being offered today and I'll be honest with you. There are times when despite the disposition that I have when I wonder if his way could possibly work for those people who believe in it. If somebody genuinely believes that way I would not tell them that they are wrong but in total honesty I would have to say it is wrong for me. My disposition will not allow me to do what this man did and perhaps that is why he got the Nobel Peace Prize but I can assure you of this. Martin Luther King was not a man of violence. Martin Luther King did not seek the overthrow of this country. As a matter of fact, during the period of time when he lived and was functioning he represented and symbolized the best that this country could produce and stood for what this country is trying