

Date 7-07-82 Time PM Radio/TV  
~~7-08-82~~ ~~AM Radio~~

HOWARD SCOTT: IN A RECENT EDITORIAL, KOMO OPPOSED THE RENAMING OF EMPIRE WAY, MARTIN LUTHER KING WAY. WE SAID A "LIVING" MEMORIAL -- ONE THAT HELPS PEOPLE RATHER THAN CHANGE STREET SIGNS -- WAS MORE APPROPRIATE TO THE LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. EDDIE RYE, JR. RESPONDS:

EDDIE RYE, JR.: DOCTOR KING WAS NOT JUST A CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST -- HE WAS A MINISTER, PHILOSOPHER AND RECIPIENT OF THE PRESTIGIOUS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE. AND IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES, ANY OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR A GREAT MAN OF PEACE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SLIP AWAY. EMPIRE WAY -- NAMED AFTER A TRAIN, THE EMPIRE BUILDER -- RUNS THROUGH THE AREA OF SEATTLE HEAVILY POPULATED WITH RACIAL MINORITIES. BUT THERE ARE ALSO A FEW BUSINESSES ALONG EMPIRE, AND IT IS KOMO'S RIDICULOUS CONTENTION A NAME CHANGE WOULD DO THEM SERIOUS FINANCIAL HARM DESPITE A POST OFFICE STATEMENT THAT MAIL TO THOSE BUSINESSES WOULD NOT BE INTERRUPTED FOR AT LEAST A YEAR AFTER THE NAME CHANGE.

IT WILL INDEED COST THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR THE NAME CHANGE, BUT THE CITY IS ALREADY EXPLORING CREATIVE WAYS TO OFFSET THOSE COSTS. IT IS TIME TO STOP OFFERING EXCUSES FOR SEATTLE'S FAILURE TO HONOR ONE OF THE GREAT AMERICANS OF THE TWENTITH CENTURY -- REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HOWARD SCOTT: EDDIE RYE JR, RESPONDING TO A KOMO EDITORIAL.