

WHITNEY MOORE YOUNG, JR., late Executive Director of the National Urban League and long-time articulate Civil Rights leader. Tragically taken from us at an early age, he will live in our memories as one of the great men of our troubled times. He desired to be measured by whether he had helped to improve the economic, political, and social future for Black people, and on that scale he is to be measured in the first rank. Equally at ease among corporate heads, politicians, and the Black poor whose cause he championed with such distinction, he converted the Urban League from a middle class oriented social work group to the nation's primary non-governmental force working for the self-sufficiency of the Black American poor. He stands as one of the great leaders among this nation's fighters for freedom and for human dignity. A man of the greatest courage and integrity, he fearlessly fought for the cause of Civil Rights, a cause in which he sagely observed, there is no such thing as a moderate. He once noted that "the difference is whether or not one is all rhetoric or relevant." Our sense of the overwhelming debt this nation owes him for his tireless relevance is made deeper by our sense of loss that he no longer personally leads us in the quest for realization of man's humanity.

Honoris Causa, DOCTOR OF LAWS