

JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MONDAY – 01/08/2007

HOW DID “MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY” ORIGINATE?

At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Internationally, King is one of the few social leaders of any country to be honored with a holiday. In addition, such status by a member of a country's racial minority is almost unheard of.

King is also the only American besides George Washington to have a national holiday designated for his birthday (Jan 15, 1929).

When President Ronald Reagan signed legislation in November 1983, it marked the end of a persistent, highly organized lobbying effort spanning the nation for 15 years. Arguments concerning money dominated opposition to the holiday - total costs associated with lost services on the King holiday were estimated to be an astronomical \$8 billion for government and the private sector.

A compromise was accepted to move this observance to the third Monday of January – one extra benefit in 1984 was that it would create a three-day weekend shortly before Super Bowl Sunday.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day was the first new holiday since 1948, when Memorial Day was created as a "prayer for peace" day.

M of Z: Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I have a dream