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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WWMD?

What would Martin do?

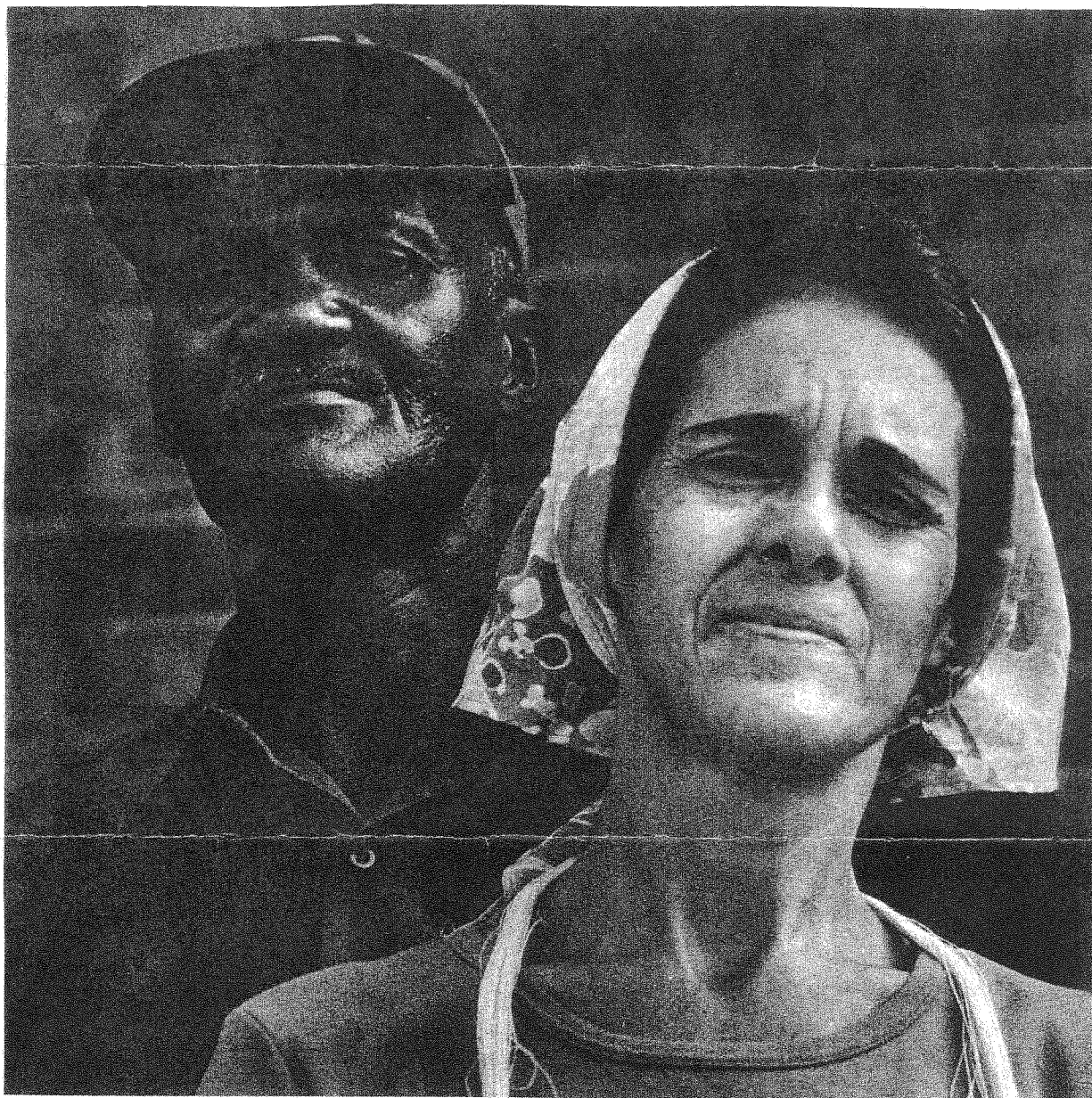
Certainly, he would not attend an event at a labor-boycotted hotel. Not even an AIA Conference event called the "Coretta Scott King Awards Breakfast," sponsored by a Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) task force.

My understanding is that the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees (HERE) International Union, Local 2, which has declared a boycott against the San Francisco Marriott--AIA's headquarters hotel--intended to picket the Marriott several times, including Tuesday morning, June 19th, before and during the CSK Awards Banquet. However, "leaders" of both SRRT and PLG (Progressive Librarians Guild) pressured Local 2 to cancel the Tuesday morning demonstration. Believing that such pressure (indeed, bullying)--presumably exerted to avoid embarrassment for SRRT and the CSK Task Force (although cloaked in phoney claims of "racism")--violates the most elemental principles of social responsibility and progressive librarianship, wholly undermining SRRT/PLG's ostensible commitment to support and demonstrate solidarity with poor and oppressed people, I herewith resign with a mixture of sadness and disgust from SRRT and PLG.

This matter should have been solely about applying leverage on the Marriott to secure justice for its underpaid and disrespected workers, not about avoiding embarrassment for relatively comfortable librarians of whatever color.

I'm also resigning to protest the appalling hypocrisy manifest in the militant, pro-boycott rhetoric appearing in Library Juice and the SRRT Newsletter and the actual, anti-labor behavior of those selfsame "militants."

--Sandy Berman
ALA Equality Award Winner, 1989



"Union Power Plus Soul Power Equals Victory!"
—Slogan of South Carolina hospital workers