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Bridges to success

Mississippi Water Crisis

I was watching espn/first take on my phone when there was a segment about Brett Farve the football legend popped up and Stephen A. Smith, my favorite sports analyst, spoke on the Brett Farve money scandal where he used welfare checks from Mississippi to build a volleyball gymnasium for his daughter's college. This truly piqued my curiosity to learn more about what truly was going on in Mississippi. I discovered the Mississippi water crisis and the huge welfare scandal that Brett Farve was apart of.

As I watched the welfare trial the judge asked John Davis what his reasons were for misusing millions dollars of welfare checks for numerous years before he was caught by accident. John Davis stated "it was not okay, and I can't tell you other than it shouldn't have been okay ". After hearing this I was shocked and disappointed because how could someone who could dictate thousands of people who were impoverished black communities and do that to his own citizens/fellow Americans and most of all human beings. As readers I'm sure after learning this you feel somewhat angered towards John Davis. I am saddened for the citizens of Mississippi who've been getting robbed for years.

The water crisis in Mississippi has been a huge human rights violation and about 200,000 people have been without safe running water. This has caused schools to close

restaurants and stores also are running out of safe water and were closing 1 by 1.

Mississippi is one of the poorest states in America. This could be the historical racism and not enough investment in the majority black city leading to poor water infrastructure and low funding.

To fight to survive this crisis the Mississippi citizens have taken steps to get out clean drinking water such, but the government hasn't taken the necessary steps to find a solution. Ashley Hughes states "set up a place where they are handing out bottled water, but as of that they've done nothing". For the government to only be handing out packs of water to it's citizen and not fix the root of the problem which is the dirty sewage water getting mixed up in the pipes with the clean water.

People in the community such as football legend Deion Sanders says "I gotta get these kids off campus, the ones that live on campus, the ones that live in the city of Jackson into a hotel and accommodate them so that they can shower properly and take care of their needs". This shows how much having dirty water can affect even athletes and college students who are struggling with this huge problem too.

The struggle within the Mississippi state has caused citizens to take matters into their own hands because they are unsure of their future and if the Mississippi government will take the right course of action. Owens says " she's never quite sure what might happen when she turns on the kitchen faucet. She has enough flow for flushing, but for

a while she had set up a portable camp toilet for her family”. This is a great example of the resilience by the people of Mississippi trying their best to keep their daily lives going as best as possible.

There’s organizations such as the Mississippi rising coalition, the Mississippi rapid response coalition, cooperation jackson, and immigrant alliance for justice and equity. News articles such as CNN reported on this human right crisis and stated “similar investigations into the tainted water crisis in Flint, Michigan led to criminal changes and a slew of lawsuits”. The same is happening in Mississippi right now there investigating the corruption by the government and even football packers legend Brett Farve.

To have water to use the residents had to boil the water in order to do regular day things like drink, cook, wash dishes, shower and even brush their teeth. This was due to the water being brown with bacteria. This is crazy because in America this is seen as disgusting and highly unacceptable and a violation of their rights, but in many third world countries this is the type of water they drink/use on a daily basis. They were given 40 million to repair it’s water system, but the city really needs a billion dollars to replace their system. The people of Jacksonville Mississippi even have to pay tons of money for a water bill that is unsafe to drink. Anna Lois Callen states “I have often gone months without receiving a water bill and then received an \$800 water bill, I may or may not have drinkable water during that bill”

If the water isn't cleansed more E Coli and dangerous bacteria will grow out of hand and the recent flood that happened doesn't help the situation. Bridges says "Any house we go to in Jackson, you have to realize people have been traumatized, and you just have everybody almost in a daze".

To make this situation even worse Mississippi had its welfare checks stolen by government officials such as John Davis who stole 77 million in welfare checks and funneled 250,000 to organizations and his friends like Brett Farve, got 5 million dollars that was supposed to be used for the Mississippi citizens welfare but was used to build a volleyball gym for his daughters college.

Brett Farve was paid 500,000 and 600,000 dollars for speeches that he didn't even attend but has returned most of the money ever since he was caught. There were text messages between him and the Mississippi governor conspiring about how they were gonna use the welfare money for their own benefits. John Davis, the man in charge of Mississippi's welfare, was misusing the money and claimed he was giving it to two non-profit agencies.

Davis worked for then governor. Phil Bryant who claimed he had no knowledge of the welfare money being used inappropriately. Now Davis has pleaded guilty to all charges brought against him and is looking at a maximum of 15 years in prison for his greediness. During the trial the judge asked John Davis why did you do it he said "it was not okay, and I can't tell you other than it shouldn't have been okay". This response is

terrible and shows just how thoughtless he was with his role as a department of human services chief.