

# Jackson defends dig at Christian right

By Rod Dreher  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Rev. Jesse Jackson is standing by his statements comparing the Christian Coalition to Nazis, slave owners and Jim Crow segregationists.

"The ideological kinship is right down through the years," Mr. Jackson said yesterday. "It's not a personal thing. They've been rather consistent to opposing remedies to historical errors."

The minister and Democratic political activist caused a stir with remarks delivered in Chicago and New York last week in which he likened activists from the "religious right" to white supremacists in other historical eras.

Anti-Defamation League head Abraham Foxman, a staunch critic of the Christian right, was among those denouncing Mr. Jackson's comments as too extreme.

In an interview with The Washington Times, Mr. Jackson said his

comments had been taken out of context. "I don't want these statements misinterpreted. I'm not seeking a confrontation. I'm seeking understanding. I'm seeking an end to polarization."

He said he had only been trying to make the point that some, but not all, Christians in Nazi Germany and in the segregated South violated the true spirit of their faith by supporting evil, often in the name of Christianity.

"I didn't call anybody a Nazi," he said.

The Chicago Sun-Times quoted Mr. Jackson as having said the forebears of today's Christian Coalition "laid down a suitable, scientific, theological rationale for the tragedy in Germany."

Mr. Jackson said yesterday that the Christian Coalition "didn't kill anybody, but the complicity and indifference to the suffering of people other than their own basic orientation is the same."

Of the Christian Coalition's hos-

tile reaction to his analogies, Mr. Jackson said: "I'm surprised that they're surprised."

The minister said examples of un-Christian positions taken by the religious right include opposing U.S. efforts to restore Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power, opposing affirmative action and congressional redistricting creating majority black districts, and "opposing a woman's right to self-determination," meaning abortion.

On Wednesday, House Republicans voted to end funding to all congressional caucuses. Rep. Kweisi Mfume, Maryland Democrat and head of the Black Caucus, likened the action to the imprisonment, torture and killing of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, calling it "ethnic cleansing."

Mr. Jackson said the line was not too harsh, and he accused House Republicans of trying to short-circuit progress by blacks, women and Hispanics.