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The biggest issue facing Black journalists today is the fairness in news coverage between other ethnicities in the media. This goes hand and hand with the issue that took place in Minnesota. Independent journalist Don Lemon and Georgia Fort were among four people arrested by Federal Agents in connection to the Anti-ICE protest at a church. This is an attack on Black journalists. What happened to freedom of press or does that not apply to Black journalists? I saw this as Trump trying to make an example of Black journalists and media outlets all together. It's a scary time to be Black and a journalist. This is why it is important to understand the importance of representation in the media. Trump will try to silence us in any way that he can, but as Black journalists we have to continue to fight for our right to tell the true story.

During Jim Crow, the press obeyed the color line. The only way a Black person was in the newspaper was if it was criminal activity. In 1959, Governor Orville Faubus and the White Citizens Council resisted the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Moses Newson covered the story for the Afro-American newspapers. Newson talked about getting to the scene where he was met by a white mob at the school. He tried to show the officers his press pass and they still wouldn't let him through. Managing editor, L. Alex Wilson was also there. He was attacked by the mob with cameras capturing the hate that was on display.

The coverage of civil rights led to changes such as removing the barrier between Black people in voting. The coverage also woke up the nation. People were now seeing what was happening in the South from their couches. Mobs were beating Freedom Riders' on the bus and bombed one as well. Freedom Riders were promised protection by the governor but were abandoned by local police and beaten by the Ku Klux Klan. Television stations and newspapers also captured police beating protesters in Selma, Alabama. The media played a major role. John Lewis stated "without the American press, the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without wings." The Kerner Commission led to changes, but not the change expected. The commission was looking for a change in a system, but had to settle with increased awareness and minor reform across the United States. Some examples of changes include the increase in Black journalists in media specifically with non-Black outlets and more detailed coverage on police brutality and racism. It helped shape more accurate coverage attempting to eliminate racial biases in newsrooms. I see myself personally making a difference in the media industry by telling

stories authentically while also highlighting the underrepresented in the media. I believe my skillset of storytelling and getting to the truth has shaped my love for Broadcast Journalism. My mark will be left in the media industry but in a way people haven't seen yet. I am combining my love for the media and entrepreneurship into one to try to change how people view news. My app will be announced very soon.

Max Robinson and Carolyn Simpson proved why I decided to get into the media industry. For more Black representation on news stations and across media as a whole. Robinson is the first African-American local anchor in the country and first African-American to anchor a national newscast. He said he didn't want to be known as the first, he wanted to just do his job. I related the most with Robinson because he is a Black man but also because of the adversity he had to endure to get to his pinnacle. He started at a television station at a Portsmouth Station in 1959 during the Jim Crow Era. He would report the news hidden behind a slide with the station's logo. One day, he decided to go on camera to report and he was fired the next day. This showed me that no matter who challenged Robinson, he's going to find another route to the top. After being fired he didn't quit, he found another way back on the screen when he returned to the tv industry in 1965 as a floor director. As a trailblazer, he showed me that nothing should be able to get in your way.

Carole Simpson was the first African-American woman to anchor a major United States newscast, and the first Black woman to moderate a presidential debate. One thing that stuck with me was what kept her motivated. She continued to hear no and it only added more fuel to her fire. She knew what she was capable of and knew her strengths. Her believing in herself helped her open doors to advance her career. Today, Black journalists deal with microaggressions less. The crown act was a law that was put into place to help African-Americans show up as their authentic selves in the workplace. The law was designed to ban discrimination based on hair texture and protective hair styles. This law will make a difference as I start my career because it creates more opportunities for Black journalists to feel comfortable in the newsroom but also eliminates pushback on Black hair. It shows that times are changing and I am a part of the change.

