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"He had the courage to dream, the compassion to love, the spirit to persevere."

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

Impact of Black Vote Felt In Off-Year November Elections Throughout The Nation

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The impact of the black vote in the November off-year elections was clearly seen in key races throughout the nation, according to a survey by the Joint Center for Political Studies.

Black candidates suffered some major losses with the defeats of Senator Edward Brooke in Massachusetts and of Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally and Attorney General candidate Yvonne Burke in California, but scored gains in statewide races in Wisconsin, Illinois, and North Carolina.

Wisconsin voters elected their first black statewide official, a woman, Vel Phillips, who will become Secretary of State. Roland Burris was elected state comptroller in Illinois. Richard C. Erwin was elected to the North Carolina Court of Appeals by a margin of 200,000 votes, thus becoming the first black North Carolinian to hold a statewide position since Reconstruction.

Other statewide officeholders were re-elected: Richard Austin as Secretary of State in Michigan; Henry Parker as Treasurer in Connecticut and Wilson Riles as Superintendent of Public Instruction in California.

The Joint Center survey showed that the black vote, though for the most part remaining Democratic, did go to Republican candidates in significant numbers in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Michigan. In 10 wards, that were 80 percent black or more, in Philadelphia, blacks gave 52 percent of their vote to winning Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Thornburgh. In 4 wards in Chicago, incumbent Republican Senator Charles Percy and Governor James Thompson received 33 per cent and 24 per cent of the black vote, respectively. Sample black precincts in Detroit showed that blacks gave 29 per cent of their vote to incumbent Republican Governor William Milliken, who was re-elected.

Blacks also provided significant support to Republican congressional candidates Paul Trible in Virginia and Ed Bethune in Arkansas. Trible drew 29 percent of the vote in sample black precincts; Bethune 44 per cent. Black Republican candidates running for congressional seats, however, did not fare well. Although 14 ran for office, 13 lost by lopsided margins and one won in the Virgin Islands.

All 12 members of the Congressional Black Caucus who sought re-election won their races. In addition William H. Gray (D Pa.) was elected in Philadelphia to replace Robert N.C. Nix; Julian Dixon (D Calif.) was elected to replace Yvonne Braithwaite Burke; Mike Leland (D Texas) was elected to replace Barbara Jordan; and Bennett Stewart (D Ill.) was elected to replace the late Ralph Metcalfe. Dr. Melvin Evans was elected to the non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives from the Virgin Islands. Evans is a Republican who formerly served as Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Although most incumbent black legislators across the country won re-election, the total number was reduced

from 294 to 284. The change came as a result of incumbents being defeated, retiring, or running for other office. A total of 13 states lost black state legislators. However, legislatures in Alabama, California, Florida, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Tennessee added black members.

Although precise overall black turnout could not be measured, overall voter turnout in congressional districts with black majorities ranged between 49 and 49 per cent. Nationwide, in all 435 Congressional districts, turnout among all voters was estimated at 34 per cent.

In hotly contested races, black turnout was very high. In Philadelphia, a proposed change in the city charter to allow Mayor Frank Rizzo to seek re-election next year was defeated. The proposed change was opposed by black leaders. In the predominantly black Pennsylvania Second District in Philadelphia, turnout of the voting age population was 49 per cent, 17 points higher than in 1974 and virtually equal to the turnout in the 1976 presidential race.

In Mississippi's 4th Congressional district, independent black candidates, Evan Doss and Charles Evers, were on the ballot for the local congressional seat and the U.S. Senate, respectively. The result was high turnout in congressional district which is 43 per cent black. Forty-two per cent of the voting population turned out which was an increase of almost 10 percentage points over 1974.

The black vote was especially critical to the candidacies of blacks running for statewide office. In Wisconsin, black Democratic candidate Vel Phillips defeated her Republican opponent by only 47,000 votes out of more than a million cast. In 27 selected black precincts in Milwaukee, blacks gave Ms. Phillips 11,000 votes, or 96 per cent of their total vote.

In a close race for comptroller in Illinois, black Democratic candidate Roland Burris won over his Republican opponent by 150,000 out of more than 2,800,000 votes cast.

Municipal and county elections were not monitored by the Joint Center because most were not held in the same year as state races. However, in one important county Michael Lomas, of Atlanta Georgia, was elected Fulton County Commissioner, the first black ever to win a countywide election in populous Fulton.

Eddie N. Williams, President of the Joint Center, in commenting on the election results, noted that if there is one conclusion to be drawn it is that black voter participation must be increased in order to protect the political interests of the black community. "The election results, the bleak outlook for social welfare programs in the upcoming 96th Congress, the national trend toward conservatism, provide additional justification for black political and civil rights leaders to develop a national voter crusade. Look forward to the 1980 elections, this crusade should establish a goal to increase black registration by 20 per cent in each of the next two years."

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who propose to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the oceans majestic waves without the awful roar of its waters."

— Frederick Douglass

"Pepper's Law" to Sharpen Definitions of How Well Americans Do Their Jobs

BY DAVID WILLIAMSON

"Pepper's Law," the legislation that becomes effective Jan. 1 extending the mandatory retirement age from 65 to 70 for most workers, may not have much impact on the economy.

But it will cause private employers to take a hard look at how they evaluate job performance.

That's the opinion of Dr. George L. Maddox, a sociologist who is director of Duke University's Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development.

In an interview, Maddox said that despite the new law, which was sponsored chiefly by 77-year-old Rep. Claude Pepper, D-Fla., the dramatic trend toward early retirement will continue into the foreseeable future.

Only about 200,000 individuals might remain in the civilian work force beyond age 65, according to Labor Department estimates.

"In general, people are opting out of work earlier and earlier for two primary reasons," Maddox said. "First of all, there are a lot of people who do repetitious, unglamorous and hard jobs.

"That anyone would want to be a stevedore at age 70 is basically improbable," he said. "Also, it's rather difficult to imagine a 60-year old woman who works in a pressing plant in the summertime in the South being excited by the opportunity to stay on until age 70 if she wants to."

Secondly, the sociologist said, there are a large number of people who have participated in pension plans that give them enough financial security to stop working by age 65.

"The impact of increasing inflation may reduce the attractiveness of early retirement and is one uncertainty," Maddox said. "Many of those who think they have a reasonable retirement income may have to reevaluate their plans if high inflation continues."

The major effect of the new law, he maintains, will come from those few persons who want to remain in the work force at an advanced age, especially if Congressman Pepper succeeds in having mandatory retirement eliminated at any age.

"In most occupations by the

present time, we don't have clear definitions of how to measure performance, and that's something that's going to be demanded increasingly in the future."

Previously, if a company wanted to retire an employee at 65, it could do so without question. Now, he said, that company will be forced to justify its actions with criteria that will stand up in court.

"Once litigation compels us to set minimum standards of performance, those rules will be applicable to all workers," Maddox said. "In the future, we may see a much more clearly defined set of procedures for termination that can be applied to workers who aren't performing no matter how old they are."

Because creating legally defensible standards of performance will be difficult and costly, Maddox said he believes employers will first try to avoid the problem as long as they can and, if necessary, absorb the expense of keeping on those older workers who also are unproductive.

"Then I think they will try offering older employees economic incentives to retire."

Eventually, however, explicit legally defensible criteria will have to be developed, he says, since the courts no longer seem willing to accept advanced age alone as a reason for mandatory retirement.

"The arbitrary use of age to determine retirement is 'ageism' and is comparable to the discriminatory behavior we now recognize as racism and sexism," he said. "Probably the most significant achievement of Congressman Pepper's law is that it will force us to be more consistently rational and fair about retirement."

The Duke professor said persons who hold physically and psychologically demanding jobs like airline pilots will be least affected by the legislation because vision, reaction time, hearing and other senses can be shown to decline with advancing years.

Less clear is what will happen to certain business executives and college faculty members, for example, after July 1, 1982 when the law includes them for the first time, he said.

Letter to the Editor

To The Editor:

Recently we completed a course in Community Psychology at North Carolina Central University where we looked closely at aspects of Community Health and some issues involved with it. The purpose of this letter is to make readers aware of several of the issues that should be of concern to citizens of North Carolina especially those in the Raleigh - Durham area where the research was done.

Are Community Mental Health Centers intended to serve persons who are not able to afford private mental health services? If so, the location of the centers and agencies should be accessible to the people for whom they were intended. Placing these centers or agencies in a middle or upper class community tends to alienate the population for which they were designed. Thus rendering the services useless.

People should be made aware of the existing services through the news media and clear listings in local telephone directories. To aid a large percentage of the population who are functionally illiterate announcements should be made on radio and television.

Additionally, we feel that the services are not readily available to the majority of the community who would utilize them. For example, most of the poor depend on public transportation but some of the agencies are not on bus routes. We, as taxpayers, have a right to know what services are available because our tax dollars pay for these services either directly or indirectly through grants.

In the Raleigh - Durham area fostering mental health care through understanding and communication or hindering it through discomfort and apprehension? Are these programs ever evaluated? If so, does the public not have the right to know of their success and failure rates? If not, why not?

We are addressing these issues because we are concerned about mental health services and communication or hindering it through discomfort and apprehension? Are these programs ever evaluated? If so, does the public not have the right to know of their success and failure rates? If not, why not?

We are addressing these issues because we are concerned about mental health services in our community. As we view it, the existing programs should be re-evaluated, re-assessed and relocated in order to serve the purpose for which we, as taxpayers, are supporting them. Many programs exist but few of them seem to be adequately meeting community needs.

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Performance or Prison

ARMY OF BLACK AMERICAN LABOR

General Bernard W. Rogers, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, came from Kansas. General Rogers is a bit of a wizzard himself. Even looking like a Four-Star General all right enough with his steel snow hair and unblinking eyes. Every soldier saluted this Rhodes Scholar, including the black ones.

General Rogers reasons the Russians are at least ready, possibly able and almost willing to whip U.S. ground forces in a conventional war in Europe. Black officers account for 6.1% of the Army, but Black Americans account for 28% or one out of every four foot soldiers in the chief of staff's service.

High Black American unemployment of males in the 17-25 year-old range can provide cannon fodder for fighting conventional type wars. Conventional wars keep a lot of warm bodies tied up of any color until they're dead.

General Rogers reasoned in a speech to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, California that the Army's major contribution is in the conventional field. While he believes the active Army is ready, his greatest

concern is for the National Guard, Reserve and civilian employees to support a total combat effort. What the General did not say was how much higher the casualties for frontline troops, mostly black, may be if there is insufficient back up for the conventional war forces.

General Rogers believes we have good men and women in the active Army. Performance is the word that pops right out of his mouth in making a soldier. Since, according to him, 83% of the Army personnel are high school graduates getting an honorable discharge would seem a goal for the average Army guy.

But Black Americans fill more of the Army's jails than their numbers dictate to be the case. In 1972, when Black Americans made up 17% of the enlisted ranks, they constituted nearly 37% of the prisoner population on a yearly average. By 1976, Black Americans constituted more than half of the prisoner population.

The late Rev. Dr. Martin L. King's organization, SCLC, claims to have received over 500 complaints from black servicemen who have been harassed, discriminated against, illegally confined and otherwise unfairly punished.

Business in the Black



By Charles E. Belle

General Rogers has a fact finding committee investigating these types of charges.

Getting to the bottom of these allegations could greatly enhance the Army's image. However, rumors running out of Washington say Pentagon people wince at the idea of a totally black U.S. Army. Even with a de-emphasis on Black American recruitment, reenlistment by a higher percentage of Black Americans causes the color of the U.S. Army to grow blacker.

Putting powerful pressure on the high command to promote Black American soldiers for heretofore unheard of higher positions.

Black Americans have served honorable in all the wars involving this nation. Offering one's life in the service of the country commands equal respect and reward which goes with such sacrifice.

Black pride forces performance out of Black American soldiers who seek a successful career in the Army. General Rogers will have ample opportunity to provide equal employment opportunity for Black Americans as their civilian unemployment situation continues to suggest a career in the armed services.

Alcohol And Birth Defects

The more alcohol a pregnant woman drinks, the greater her risk of giving birth to an abnormal baby. Thousands of malformed and mentally defective babies are born yearly because their mothers drank too much during pregnancy.

To explain these hazards in detail, the Food and Drug Administration has reprinted a new article from FDA Consumer. For your free copy of *Alcohol and Birth Defects*, write to the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 572G, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is a condition which has been suspected for The symptoms shown by children may include slow growth before and after birth, small head, facial irregularities such as narrow eye slits and a sunken nasal bridge, defective heart and other organs, malformed arms and legs, genital abnormalities, and mental retardation. There are also behavioral problems, such as hyperactivity, extreme nervousness, and a

poor attention span. Just how much alcohol is safe to drink during pregnancy? And at what point in pregnancy is the risk to the unborn child the greatest?

Three studies funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, are currently in progress. Early findings show that babies born to women who consume between one and two ounces of absolute alcohol a day (two to four drinks) can show abnormalities of growth, congenital malformations, and behavioral changes associated with the mother's alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

The risk of the full Fetal Alcohol Syndrome appears to start at three ounces a day, but part of the syndrome might show up with only one to three ounces. Notes the Institute, "There's a possibility that symptoms short of the full syndrome could be caused by lesser doses of alcohol on a

regular basis, or by a single high dose in one day or weekend of heavy drinking during a critical time in the development of the fetus."

Fortunately, prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, unlike certain other birth defects, need not wait for medical or scientific breakthrough. The best advice, of course, is for pregnant women to avoid alcohol completely. Short of that, follow the guideline of no more than two drinks in any one day. That will help a mother avoid potential harm to her unborn child.

When you order a copy of *Alcohol and Birth Defects* (free), you'll also receive a copy of the free *Consumer Information Catalog*. It lists more than 200 selected free or low-cost publications from the federal government. The *Catalog* is published quarterly by the Consumer Information Center of the General Services Administration.



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