

# REGISTER SO YOU CAN VOTE!

BE A PART OF  
THE NEW  
AWARENESS

"WE HAVE BEEN AWAKENED TO JUSTICE BY SOUND OF SONGS AND SERMONS, SPEECHES AND PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS. BUT THE NOISSESS SECRET VOTE, WILL THUNDER FORTH A HUNDRED TIMES MORE LOUDLY."

PRESIDENT  
LYNDON B. JOHNSON



## Time To See With New Eyes

The political maneuverings of both the outgoing Democrats and the incoming Republicans clearly suggest further erosion of the hard-won gains of minority Americans. They propose putting the fox back in the henhouse to guard the chickens — that is, putting federal programs back in the hands of the states — God forbid! They're apparently tired of the civil rights laws already and are trying to figure out ways to defuse those laws without stirring up social protest. Threatened are voting rights, affirmative action, busing to achieve desegregation, federal aid to cities, legal aid for the poor and others.

Perhaps we've wanted to believe that those who deprive us of our human rights would somehow change if we could make our case on moral grounds. Afro-Americans have been struggling for freedom and justice in this country with an "eyes and see not" approach. We've had to claw, tooth and nail, for every forward step. We have refused to see that America feels no sense of moral responsibility toward us. The only time this government allows — yes, "allows" — Afro-Americans a little advancement is when it needs warm bodies to pull it out of some mess or when world pressure is brought to bear. Check the history books, read with eyes wide open and see between the lines. Its there.

So, if we know that our government does not want us to be free, why do we keep on wasting our energies appealing to such an amoral, unjust and corrupt oppressor who is just as determined to keep us in bondage as we are to be free.

Its time for us to see with new eyes while we sing a new song.

Let us put our appeals before the world. Why keep worrying and trying to second guess what Ronald Reagan's administration — or any other for that matter — is going to do that will hurt or help "black America" when we can use that energy to put our case before the world where we are a part of the majority. Lets hold in abeyance that "civil rights" tune and work with "human rights" instead. With "civil rights", we can only appeal to this government. With "human rights", we can put our case before the world — the United Nations.

In America, we're a minority, but in the world, blacks, browns, reds and yellows are the majority.

Since "Uncle Sam" gives only lip-service to moral appeals and responds only to power, then lets use the power of the world's four-to-one majority of which we are members.

Who knows but what Afro-Americans are not here to save America from herself.

Let him who has eyes to see — see.

## Things You Should Know

**Bessie  
SMITH**  
CA. 1896-1937



Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee. There is little known of her early childhood, later she was cared for by the other great blues singer, Ma Rainey! She became a well-paid star of Negro Vaudville—Her first record sold over two million copies! After an automobile crash in Mississippi, she had to be taken all the way to Memphis, Tennessee in search of a "Jim Crow" Hospital, she died as a result of the dealy.

Continental Features

## Affirmative Action:

# Stopping Violence Against Blacks

If anything is becoming clear nowadays, it is that violence against blacks is on the rise and is susceptible to increasing now that a president supported by Birch-ites and Klansmen of all stripes has been elected. Indeed, the latest joke sweeping Washington is that the only black to be appointed by Reagan will be Shirley Temple Black.

The usually moderate Ben Hooks of the NAACP, who is a Republican, has spoken in the *New York Times* of "hysteria" and mass buying of guns in the black community. It is bitterly true that more seem to be concerned with who shot "J.R." than who shot Vernon Jordan.

Some have criticized Hooks for making intemperate remarks but it is not difficult to see why he would be moved. For the fact is unavoidable that by a number of objective measures, the thrust of his concern can be substantiated.

Los Angeles, for example, has been compared by some to "Rhodesia . . . with those pictures of housewives getting target practice at swimming pools during the civil war." In 1979, Los Angeles posted 2.8 homicides per thousand residents, to lead the nation; it also leads in the rate of rapes and assaults. Watts recalls the fatal shooting of black mother Eula Love in a minor dispute over a utility bill.

A new twist in the stepped-up violence against blacks is the increase in attacks against black youth. Many are familiar with the murders of youth in Atlanta. But less publicized is the rise of the Klan Youth Corps, which as CBS-TV has reported, operates camps in Alabama for little racists. And recently it was reported that instruction was being given to Boy Scouts and Civil Air Patrol cadets on the art of "how to strangle people and fire guns." Their teacher avers, "I am proud to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Thus, it is not altogether surprising that in

San Anselmo, California's predominantly white Drake High School, nine members of the football team were suspended recently for shouting pro-KKK slogans at a game; or how in Durham, North Carolina's Northern High School a football game was disrupted with a cross-burning or how black elementary students at Brown Alternative School in Jackson, Mississippi were sprayed with tear gas by white classmates said to be members of the "Junior KKK."

Exacerbating the situation is the lax punishment dished out to those young criminals who are caught. Two seventeen year old white youths burned a cross on the lawn of a black postal worker in Long Island, New York. The punishment handed out by the court included making three public appearances to condemn racial vandalism. Though convicted in December 1979, as of October 1980, they had not complied and apparently will not be brought to book.

But unsettling as the situation involving violence and black youth, also worth watching is the linking of the KKK, the police and military. In Harrisburg, Pa., there have been substantial allegations concerning members of the police force "wearing white supremacy medallions with their uniforms" and participating in the local Klavern. The Boy Scouts being trained in Houston by the KKK were members of Post 2125, sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve at Ellington Air Force Base.

A new wrinkle in the wave of violence against blacks is the issue of police retaliation. For instance, in New Orleans on November 8, a policeman working alone was found shot through the neck and bleeding to death in a ditch in the predominantly black Algiers section. In rapid succession four blacks were killed by police, one in his bedroom. Fortunately, federal, state, and local agencies, plus civil rights groups are in-

vestigating. Other examples have been cited throughout the country.

Once again, after the clarion call is sounded the question becomes, "what is to be done?" The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), a sponsor of the Affirmative Action Coordinating Center (AACC), has come up with one novel approach that black and progressive lawyers might want to emulate.

CCR has filed private lawsuits against the KKK claiming that Klansmen have conspired to deprive blacks of their civil rights in violation of the so-called Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871. The suits demand money damages and seek to win injunctions against further Klan violence and intimidation. The entire organization can be found in contempt: if it could be shown that violence occurred within the court's jurisdiction.

On November 3, the Southern Poverty Law Center in Alabama filed a class action in federal court in Birmingham, Alabama. The suit, *The People's Association of Decatur v. The Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, 80-C-14498*, asks for injunctive relief and one million dollars in damages for each of an undetermined number of plaintiffs.

In Chattanooga, CCR has been working on *Crumsey v. The Justice Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, 1-80-287*.

Both Birmingham and Chattanooga have been the scene of KKK violence, with black women being slaughtered in the streets in the latter town.

The suits must be backed with vigorous mass actions if they are to succeed. Marching must continue in Wrightsville, Georgia, Decatur, Alabama, and all the rest. Letters to the Editor of the local newspapers must continue. Above all, the trend of black political independence, e.g., the recent formation of the new black party in Philadelphia must be continued.

## To Be Equal

# Open Season On Civil Rights

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr

The lame-duck Congress passed an amendment to an appropriations bill banning Justice Department participation in busing suits, signaling an open hunting season on civil rights laws.

Not that this particular amendment is so novel; other restrictions have made it through the Congress in the past. But this one would effectively take the executive branch out of the business of remedying unconstitutional school segregation.

It would even bar the Justice Department from enforcing court busing orders, something the courts will probably find unconstitutional. Congress' attempt to handcuff busing is a direct interference with the executive branch's sworn duty to enforce the laws of the land.

Ironically, it came at a time that yet another study was published documenting busing's beneficial effects. Researchers at Catholic University's Center for National Policy Review found that busing programs in metropolitan areas encouraged housing desegregation.

They noticed a decline in residential segregation patterns in cities with area-wide desegregation, and concluded that further integration of housing would ultimately mean busing could be discontinued since the schools would be integrated without it.

The researchers found that when only the center city was subjected to busing orders,

"white flight" to the suburbs was encouraged. But when the entire metro area was subjected to desegregation, reluctant whites could not flee and the pattern was reversed.

The lesson has been clear all along that busing and other, more often used means of desegregating schools, work when local authorities and citizens groups pitch in to make it work. The long-term meaning of Congress' action is that communities resisting desegregation can expect to be rewarded, while those who comply with the law will have to struggle through on their own.

But busing is only one of the civil rights measures threatened. Pressure is building in Congress to undercut federal affirmative action enforcement. Senator Strom Thurmond, the 1948 Dixiecrat candidate for President and now slated to be the new Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has said he wants to scuttle the Voting Rights Act.

Legal aid for the poor is high on the Congressional hit list, too: Threats have been made to cut off all federal aid to cities that have rent control laws. And several Congressmen are having their staffs work up constitutional amendments that would bury busing, affirmative action, abortion, separation of church and state, and other rights and programs we too often take for granted.

Sometimes, as in busing, the attackers claim to speak for the majority. But they reveal a fundamental flaw in their argument — the essence of a democracy is protection of minority rights, not the unbridled trampling of those rights by an intolerant majority.

It would be a mistake to overreact to the threats to civil rights laws. Many of those proposals will never see the light of day, and many don't stand a chance, even in the incoming Congress.

But it would be more of a mistake to be complacent about them. There is a clear and present danger that some of the rights and programs that survived the negativism of the 1970s will come under even stronger attack in the 1980s.

It is imperative for progressive coalitions to be rebuilt and strengthened, and for strategies to be devised that will protect endangered rights. A vital part of that effort will have to be a campaign to rekindle the spark of passion in the disheartened civil rights camp.

As Senator Lowell Weicker, who fought a lonely campaign against the anti-busing amendments, said: "My disappointment lies with those who have had a traditional commitment to civil rights . . . their voices are no longer heard. Civil rights has no more political sex appeal. . . they do not fight for what they believe in."

## Fear Reagan Shift On Africa Policy

By Lawrence Muhammad

A recent attempt by Reagan forces in the government to influence foreign strategy on Africa is a bad omen if it is a model for a formalized Republican policy. Though Democrats defeated the legislative effort, it would have put the United States squarely on the side of racist South Africa, and jeopardized a delicate United Nations proposal in the works to end minority white rule in that country through democratic elections.

Led by Republican Senator Jesse Helms from North Carolina, Reagan supporters tried to override a law banning military aid to Angolans rebelling against their government.

During the campaign, President-elect Ronald Reagan said he favored military aid to Jonas Savimbi, the South Africa-backed insurgent who seeks to overthrow the present Angolan regime.

Though Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is backed by the Russians, he has opened his country to American oil interests, and perhaps more importantly, exercises an influence over black guerrillas fighting South Africa that is favorable to the UN proposal for a negotiated settlement.

The move by lawmakers supportive of Reagan, many experts on Africa fear, could torpedo the Angolan arrangement, and further incline the South Africans to balk on UN negotiations.

There is widespread fear that their legislative action may set the pattern for the Reagan Administration's policy, which could mark a sad return to the United States' approach to Africa prior to the initiatives of Jimmy Carter.

With the point man UN Ambassador An-

drew Young, who had the credibility of African blood, the Carter Administration sought to aid the forces of change on the continent and bury perceptions of the U.S. as a white country naturally allied through race with apartheid regimes, and one which was eager to rape the continent of mineral wealth and cynically viewed Africa as a staging-ground for counter-moves against Russia.

And for most of its four year term, the Carter Administration avoided the stratagems of the Cold War years, and sought instead negotiated settlements to African disputes with a policy based on majority rule through democratic elections. These initiatives resulted in the election of Robert Mugabe as Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, and the diplomatic opening in the South African conflict.

But there was always opposition from Congressional hawks, and by the end of 1979, the Carter Administration wilted under pressure and Andrew Young was forced to resign. In areas where there was little interest, conservatives pressured the Administration to show force in reaction to Russia. Military hardware was shipped to Morocco, which was in a land dispute with the leftist Algerians over the Spanish Sahara. And Somalia, in a territorial feud with Soviet-backed Ethiopia over its Ogaden region, was granted aid and the U.S. established bases there.

The damage to U.S.-Africa relations, particularly in the Moroccan case, resulted because that country's posture on the Sahara had alienated most of the progressive African states, including Nigeria, on whom America depends heavily for oil. And U.S.

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