



Morrow and Jackson (of the Negro Postal Employees Organization) chat with candidate Eisenhower at his

home during lull in the presidential campaign.

elevated form of enslavement.

After the war, Morrow went to law school and later became the first Black writer for CBS television. Morrow performed superbly in this capacity especially when one considers that he worked during television's embryonic stages. Due to the newness and lucrativeness of the field, he met with stiff competition. He says that this period in his life helped to sharpen his tools for survival.

The principles of survival that Fred Morrow practiced at CBS still apply to today's situation for many Blacks in a white corporate structure. Many of the same erroneous attitudes on the part of both Blacks and whites still hold true.

Morrow states, "After corporate bosses feel they have satisfied the spirit of cooperative human relations by putting Blacks at desks in the same room with whites, leaving them there to splutter and flounder until attrition solves their plight. I learned...that no one was ever going to hand Blacks opportunity on a platter. They had to be better qualified for the job and brighter than anyone else. Unfair? Yes, but the rules of the game are not promulgated by the minorities."

How true. We are fully aware that many Blacks who work within corpo-

rate America still have "tokenism" jobs devoid of any tangible responsibility or power. Consequently, we still must strive to excel so that we can feasibly demand positions more befitting our abilities.

Fred Morrow became involved in national politics when he was offered a job with Dwight D. Eisenhower's first presidential campaign. He was the only Black to work in such a capacity. He tells a fascinating story of his experiences during this time that cover the gamut of loyal friendship to blatant injustice both from those least expected to act as they did.

Morrow allows the reader to glean heretofore little known facts about the personalities of powerful men who have made a tremendous impact on America's history. For example, the Eisenhower administration is remembered for its slow movement to rectify the problems of America's Blacks. However, Morrow explains that Eisenhower did not dislike Blacks but had little exposure to them—hence he was somewhat indifferent. The primary obstacle to Black progress was not Eisenhower as much as it was his host of southern political colleagues and advisors.

Morrow vividly recalls his long relationship with Richard Nixon. He

said that during the Eisenhower years, Nixon was a bright, determined, articulate man who was well respected and well received everywhere he went. Morrow feels that when Nixon lost the 1960 presidential election to John Kennedy he developed a vindictive bitterness that eventually culminated in Watergate.

One of the most significant points revealed during Fred Morrow's White House years is the often handcuffed position of the Black political figure. Long misunderstood—often accused of selling out—the reader finds that many decisions that have adversely affected Blacks have been beyond the political control of the figures Blacks have looked to for favorable solutions. Morrow spent many painful hours of anxiety faced with the reality that he could do little while his people appealed to him to alleviate the discrimination of the 1950's. In spite of bureaucratic obstacles and a lack of concern by many of those in power, Fred Morrow nonetheless made some positive gains. Although at that time he was criticized more than praised by Blacks it is certain that history will give him fairer treatment.

A disillusioning segment of Morrow's life deals with his difficulty in finding suitable employment after his departure from the White House in 1961. Morrow found himself in a "Catch 22" situation. Either he couldn't find a job commensurate with his abilities, or the job was offered but not the money. However, he overcame these temporary setbacks and went on to become Vice-President of the Bank of America.

Throughout Fred Morrow's remarkable life he has persevered and achieved beyond anyone's expectations—except possibly his own. However, at seventy years old Fred Morrow still maintains his commitment to the betterment of Black Americans. He is pained to see that he has lived an entire life fighting for things that still have not been won. He is a little bitter when he sees that Blacks are allowing hard-fought gains to be systematically eroded. But all of these things mean to Fred Morrow that we must accelerate our efforts to overcome.

E. Frederick Morrow's life has been a testament to the qualities of resilience, dedication and strength of character—exemplifying the best that Black Americans have to offer each other and the world. The principles that he lives by develop the kind of mental stamina that Blacks are in desperate need of today. His illustrious life leaves Black Americans a legacy, a foundation on which to build a towering structure of strength for posterity. We must learn from Morrow's story and carry its best elements into our future.