

United Nations The Reagan Crowd Creates A Dilemma For Blacks Part I

By Curtis T. Perkins

Oregon. From the House, former Representative John Anderson of Illinois and current Congressman Paul McCloskey of California. Even Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and Majority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee often joined forces in those days with the late Rogers Morton, the Republican National Chairman, to work with blacks and give them responsibility, and status.

This was the past. Today the Reagan Republican Crowd is in charge plus others of peculiar views. An affable ex-actor, Ronald Reagan, the President, leads the pack of budget slashers with odd conceptions on the workings of this democracy. They approach the problem of economic revitalization by seeking unprecedented rises in defense spending and cutting back on the needs of the poor, aged and ill. The most odious target are the minorities.

NEW RACIST CODE WORDS
Blacks especially are now victims of new code words and actions. They are "balance the budget," "tax cuts across the board," "supply side economics," "bite the bullet," "tighten your belts," "the work ethic," "right to have guns," etc.

The Reagan crowd is a bright and articulate group. With the President setting the pace — courtesy, style and moderate phraseology will beguile and deceive most. But the racism is uglier than ever for such deception still denies decency and optimism — for most of the underprivileged.

REAGAN APPROACH WELL PLANNED
For decades, conservatives have tried to take over this nation. The late Robert Taft of Ohio, an erudite Republican Senator and leader, tried but lost in a bid for the Presidency to General Dwight D. Eisenhower. But strangely, it was Senator Taft who wrote and helped pass the public housing act for low income people.

Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, a well-respected Republican conservative, lost heavily to

Lyndon Johnson in his thrust for the White House. Yet it is Senator Goldwater who suggested Appeals Court Judge Sandra Day O'Connor, also of Arizona, as the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court. This nomination has brought down the wrath of the "right to life" gang and the religious fanatics who rightfully feel they own the Presidency, the court and this country.

It was Senator Thurmond and former Governor George Wallace of Alabama who formed their own conservative movements and got a goodly part of the vote when they ran. Mr. Wallace has since moderated his views.

My point with this review of matters urges blacks to know that the "far right" has schemed and planned to force their views on America for years. Mr. Reagan is their front. This man has been programmed, given all sorts of funding, comforts and opportunities to mouth their positions against fair government, abortion, aid to blacks, fair taxes and social programs for the aged, the poor and the infirmed. Their fixed and racist attitudes have spread to school integration, separation of church and state and prayer in the schools, welfare, food stamps and a litany of other rigid demands. Their ventures into foreign policy have pushed for racist regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa; no SALT talks, resurrection of Taiwan, dismantling of President Carter's human rights program, consorting with military dictatorships, arms rattling with Russia, and ambiguity in the Middle East and no real cooperation with Africa and the Third World.

Those around President Reagan have for generations refined their programs in "think tanks" and "institutes" many of which are associated with leading universities.

They have a ready untoward academic approach to most situations which they strongly feel will put them back into an era of tranquility. Silencing blacks is a part of the ploy.

Manipulation of the political institution is a studied and deliberate process. Each member of

Congress is on computer. His or her weaknesses in particular, plus the prejudice of his state or district are known to both the political and Congressional liaison offices in the White House. Lyn Nofziger, the hatchet political operative for Mr. Reagan — long a key in conservative causes — is a tough and smart figure in this area. He reviews all candidates for appointments, and raises Cain if they don't fit the mold agreed on for the job to be filled. He knows Congress and how to force members to vote the Reagan way. He can be sinister and is known to use shortcomings and skeletons to force the hesitant in line. It was Mr. Nofziger who put together the "boll weevils" — the conservative Democrats, now giving the President his slight but convincing victories in the House on budget reductions. Mr. Nofziger who has long been associated with Mr. Reagan — beginning before his becoming governor of California — is known to help keep the Republicans in both the Senate and House in support of the White almost to a man.

THE WATCHERS

The ultra-rightists have won several seats especially in the Senate. Millions were raised by Richard Viguere, head of the *Conservative Digest*, to defeat senators who had long stood up for causes beneficial to blacks. Millions of those dollars also went to Mr. Reagan's campaign directly from Mr. Viguere's computer mail list of millions of single issue citizens and without doubt the most conservative group in America today. Mr. Viguere, along with Senator Jesse Helms, attract all degrees of funds for their narrow-minded and bigoted views and causes.

The Rev. Jerry Falwell is an enigma, whose phenomenal rise to political power threatens the very fabric of the United States. Rev. Falwell's "moral majority" which is reputed to have over a million members — with chapters in most states — brought out hundreds of thousands in support of the Reagan election. They, too, raised millions of dollars to also help defeat liberal members of Congress. In addition, Rev. Falwell's organization now has a list of demands which are sometimes laughable but really frightening. Most border on anti-American and anti-black.

This cabal of Viguere, Helms and Falwell, plus the "right to life" people and the supply side economic amateurs are not only glib but concatenate and powerful. They must not be taken lightly if this nation is to have its Constitution obeyed. They are on their way to dividing this society and building friction between the haves and have nots.

To Be Continued Next Week

The Ellis Media Report Understanding Your Role In The New Media

By Dwight M. Ellis

sure, blacks and other minorities are having minimal presence and impact in this massive state of flux in media matters. Passing through the arenas of communications which include legislative (Congressional communications subcommittees), regulatory (Federal Communications Commission), radio and TV networks, broadcast groups, station management, communications lawyers, and on-air talent, minority representation is meager.

This clear and present inequity is not unknown to those in power. Recognizing the impact of TV news on the public, ABC News president Roone Arledge recently stated in the *Wall Street Journal* that, "the power of television is so great that lack of exposure of certain ideas or points of view is a real inequity."

ABC News is planning a new prime time show, "Viewpoint", that will "access television to groups of people who do not have access." George Strait, a black ABC News correspondent is gathering data for one of the show's planned features dealing with the history and status of black TV network correspondents.

Recently much has been printed and broadcast about the woes and perils of blacks in communications. But black audiences and consumer of media cannot allow the few troops in the trenches to fight these battles alone. Collective, responsible action is needed and possible. Listen to radio. React to what you deem negative to your community by calling the station or sending postcards and letters to the

management. Support black-owned radio and their advertisers (a black-owned station manager in Washington, D.C., is currently asking his listeners to ask businesses they patronize to question business owners if they advertise on his station, if not, why not?)

Watch TV. Let your local stations know what

you think of local and network programming. Expand your comments to the acceptance of on-air personalities. Do the same with network programs, the content and the actors in entertainment programming. Buy black newspapers. In 1979, there were only 165 black newspapers. There has been a 33.6% decline in black newspapers since 1974. Nevertheless, insist on quality reporting and presentation from black newspapers as you do majority-owned papers.

Last, but not least, when seeking media representatives to speak to your groups on substantive issues regarding communications, selection persons — black or white — who know the issue(s) at hand and can give constructive direction. We can only be as good as the information received.

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One can get a little carried away here at the UN by meeting all sorts of diplomats, heads of state and governments, distinguished correspondents, leaders and independence movements, advocates for a new "economic world order," revolutionaries, do-gooders from every where and advocates for practically everything. With trips abroad as a consultant on economic matters, one can drift away in a euphoric sense and, in writing about world conditions, assume you really are contributing to a greater civilization and influencing mankind for the better all over the world.

But you know in retrospect you border on fantasy about improving things throughout the congressmen when you are rudely awakened by the way things are going on here in your own country, the United States.

In this instance, I leave the world scene to really look at matters here at home. We blacks are catching hell. There is scant hope for the days ahead. Usually, I walk from the New York Port Authority to the United Nations. A few weeks ago on this route, I ran into four fellow blacks — well named and everything who were out job hunting. I ended up with four resumes in my brief case. I had a familiar jolt on my weekly trek to Washington where at least ten brothers and sisters and former presidential appointees shoved their "vitae" on me. During the Nixon and Ford years and as an organizer and leader in black Republican movements I could get some help for such deserving resumes. But, not now! I will turn these resumes over to Charles Fields, the eminent black headhunter.

I recall we had some stalwart Republican leaders in the Hill then. There was Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate. At my urging, he made the White House under Nixon appoint a black assistant director of the Office of Communications. We were finally able to recruit Stanley Scott who was then a successful reporter for a wire service. Before becoming Vice President and President, Jerry Ford was Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives. These men cared about having black talent around to serve their country and party.

Congressman John Rhodes of Arizona followed President Ford, who also did many good things, including supporting loan guarantees for New York City. Blacks had caring Republicans like former senators Jacob Javits of New York and Edward Brooke of Massachusetts. There were others with a few left like Senators Charles Percy of Illinois, Charles Mathias of Maryland, Lowell Weicker of Connecticut and Mark Hatfield of

The next time you switch on your radio or television, pause a moment to think that you are participating in the most powerful and pervasive medium complex in the world, telecommunications. It really doesn't matter that you don't work at a station or know the difference between UHF and FM frequency. The medium is the message and without you there would be no need for radio or television. Although the print media remain a powerful and much used source of information, most would agree that telecommunications — the transmission of information by wire and air — represents a lion's share of the daily diet of Americans, certainly black Americans. Broadcasting alone represents an \$8 billion business in the U.S. But when you include the combined industries of telephones, newspapers, computers, satellites and electronics, a \$300 billion market results.

Most Americans take media power for granted. In the case of blacks and other minorities, understanding of the worlds of telecommunications and participation in its operations is minimal. To be sure, most of us enjoy watching TV, but just as many or more complain that blacks and other minorities are not adequately represented or depicted in news or entertainment fare.

Max Robinson, during his controversial Smith College speech, allegedly said: "... until there are healthy parties of both races at the bargaining table, until black America starts to talk about its own gains, until we start talking to white America, we will not have anyone at the table." As true as his statement might be, the fact remains that too few black Americans inside and outside of the media approach the problems of media racial parity with sufficient knowledge and strategies.

When I speak of the new media, reference is made to the constant evolution of the basis of news and programming judgements and the new vistas of reaching and influencing audiences being made possible by expanding media technologies. To be

Trial Lawyers Work To Stop Annual Fire Damages

Plaintiff's trial lawyers by necessity are the single largest group of sophisticated investigators whose work is vital to a safer and less costly society.

It is therefore necessary to the public, the courts, the government and trial lawyers to recognize fully the growing impact of the tort law (a civil complaint) in the reduction of the horrendous cost (societal) from fires and explosions. Liability for fire damage is a major way of

forging fire safety in addition to arson convictions.

Each year, 12,000 persons in the United States die from fires, and 120,000 are injured in fires and explosions. Property damage losses alone approach \$4 billion. In a given year there are 70,000 indus-



Harry M. Philo

By Harry M. Philo
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trial fires, and 2,600 people die from fires where textile products — either clothing or bedding — are the combustibles ignited. The fire frequency and severity rates in the United States are far worse than most countries.

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