

A View From Capitol Hill: Redistricting Tricks No Treat For Black Members of Congress

By Gus Savage
Member of Congress

When I dealt with the subject of reapportionment on the national level in this column back in June, I was well aware of the fact that my State of Illinois would lose two congressional seats. However, while it was speculated by some that my Second Congressional District might be placed in jeopardy, it was not evident then that a move would actually be made to eliminate my district — one of three held by blacks in Chicago.

As of this writing the scenario ran like this: former Illinois Governor Richard Ogilvie, a Reaganite Republican, and former Illinois Secretary of State Michael Howlett, an old machine Democrat, joined in a so-called bipartisan effort to deal me out of Congress.

I am not surprised that they would like to eliminate my district, because Reagan Republicans, plus some machine Democrats and white liberals combined could not beat me in a fair election last year — and, since then, I have kept my word with the voters; and I have worked seven days a week to become the number one freshman in Congress.

I am not surprised because I am one of Reagan's most outspoken opponents, and for all of my adult life I have been in the front lines battling for fair political representation for minorities.

We are losing two of our present 24 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives because of our

state's population loss based on last year's census. We will lose one seat in Chicago, and one from outside Chicago. Since the state legislature failed to agree on a new map, the matter is being heard by a three-judge panel in the U.S. District Court in Chicago.

Any redistricting proposal, such as the Ogilvie-Howlett one and some other plans, which violate the three principles I outlined back in June, is clearly unfair.

First, there is no fair reason to reduce Chicago's black congressional districts from three to two, since the city's black population has increased in the past years; second, for this same reason, there is no fair reason to extend any one of the city's three black districts into the suburbs; and, three, there is no need to shape districts in such a manner as to put

the residences of any two black congressmen into the same district.

The far Southside Chicago District is the most populated district in Chicago and has more black voters than any of the other 434 congressional districts in this nation. So, how can one justify proposing to change the boundaries of the district which requires changing least?

But, "Every goodby ain't gone", and every proposal does not pass. I have been entered as a petitioner in the federal court case. We are fighting to keep three black districts but also to keep Reagan from gaining majority control of the U.S. House of Representatives by reducing the number of Democratic members from Illinois in the 1982 elections.

We are fighting, and we shall win, because right

is on our side. I will be in Congress long after Reagan is returned to playing grade-B sheriff roles in Hollywood.

The worst form of redistricting that smacks of racism is that which pits two blacks against each other. In Chicago we are fighting to have a fair map to avoid being in a contest with my longtime friend, Rep. Harold Washington of the First Congressional District. I believe we will not have to oppose one another, despite the wishes of some evil forces to keep blacks divided by promoting fights between us.

Just as black unity is needed in Chicago in the redistricting fight, we need black unity nationally in politics now more than ever to turn Reagan around.

As I said in June, if the potential for black political power was not diluted through gerrymandering and other tricks, there is no question that we would have more black members in Congress from across the nation, based on population.

I reiterate that reapportionment is a matter of grave concern for all blacks if we are to hold on to the gains we have made in congressional seats. Moreover, if we are to make further gains, we must guard against efforts to pit one black against another — whether such efforts come from within or from outside.

Coping

Black Men and White Women: The Paradox

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

It is often the case that a significant number of black men who characterize themselves, or are characterized by others, as "militants" regularly date their supposed "enemy," white women. Here is the paradox: Black men who verbally indicate their dislike of the white person also indicate their attraction to the white woman.

Loving the person whom you otherwise hate is difficult to conceptualize in a logical manner. Yet, it happens often. A common street expression goes like this, "I hate the white man but I love the white woman." This attitude is the result of insecurity which is an outgrowth of racism. Everyone want to be accepted by else.

The antipathy expressed by the rejected party, to the rejector is, in fact, an over-reaction to the feeling of rejection. In a sense, this attitude is a way of

the black person saying to the white person, "I know that you do not like me, so I will let you know that I do not like you either. However, if you will accept me, I will modify my behavior toward you and display kindness toward you because, in reality,

I feel inferior to you and insecure in your company. "But, if you will just give me a small indication that you find me to be acceptable, that you regard me as a person (even though an inferior person), that you do not find me completely despicable, I will shower you with love and affection. I will give you more love than you can ever give me. So, please show me that you like me more than I like myself."

The white woman is additionally drawn to the black man by the sexual mystic of the black man. Black men are perceived of as having a sexual capability "superior" to that of the white man. This perceived capability is vested in the idea that black men have the ability to arouse white women and provide sexual satisfaction that white men cannot. White women seldom select black men for their intellectual capability.

Black men, for the most part, who are attracted to white women are pleading for acceptance by the person to whom they feel a degree of inferiority.

White women, for the most part, who are attracted to black men, are striving for acceptability and ego-enhancement which they are unable to find among members of their own race. Their rejection, or "perceived" rejection is so strong that they desperately search for acceptance.

The black man, himself rejected and insecure, is ready, willing and desperately in need of the acceptance and security that a white woman can offer.

The nature of our society is such that people constantly strive to enhance their egos. When a person is accepted by a particular party for a certain length of time, that person strives to be accepted by someone who is perceived of as being "just a little bit better" and rejects as "not quite good enough" the previous individual. This episode is repeated as the effort to be accepted by a "superior" person goes on and on.

The black man who says, "I hate the white man but love the white woman," is saying, in reality "I hate being disliked by the white man but will do anything to be accepted even by a white woman." That acceptance may not be everything, but it is "something."

Editor's Note: Your suggestions are welcomed. Suggestions for future articles will be appreciated. Cassette tapes of this and other articles are available for individual use, discussion groups and classroom use. All letters and inquiries should be sent to: Dr. Charles W. Faulkner, P.O. Box 50016, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Obesity No Risk Factor For Heart Disease, Federal Researcher Reports

By Otto McClarrin
CONTRARY TO COMMON medical belief, massive obesity does not appear to be a risk factor for heart disease, a federal researcher reported recently.

Although people who weigh more than 350 pounds have other serious conditions that shorten their lives, heart attacks are not one of them, said Dr. Bruce F. Waller, a cardiologist at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

"We were surprised at the finding," Dr. Waller, stated further, "because everyone automatically assumed that these people were prime candidates for clogged arteries."

AUTOPSIES OF eight overweight persons whose average weight was 400 pounds revealed that their coronary arteries had fewer atherosclerotic plaques than people who were underweight or of normal weight who died of different causes, Dr. Waller said.

"Most people agree that obesity goes along with hypertension and diabetes, which accelerate atherosclerosis. So to find clean arteries in people who were massively obese was amazing," he said.

The average age of the obese victims was 38 and their weights at the time of their deaths ranged from 350 to 450 pounds.

SIX OF THEM died of acute respiratory failure caused by excessive layers of fat interfering with their ability to breathe. One died of an infection and only one of a heart attack, Dr. Waller stated.

Fat people often have to sleep sitting up because the enormous weight around their necks can collapse their windpipes if they lie down.

In another report, Dr. Henry Cabin, who also is a cardiologist at the Institute, said triglycerides may be more of a risk factor in heart disease than previously thought. Triglycerides, like cholesterol, are a type of fat in the blood.

Autopsy studies of people who died of heart disease revealed that those with high triglyceride levels had more atherosclerosis than those with high cholesterol levels, he said. The results are preliminary but "provocative," he added.

SEX AND STRESS: Sexual problems and stress are inseparable — since one may cause the other, a medical college chief gynecologist reported recently.

"I would be very surprised if a patient came to see me with sexual or other stress complaints if she were blissfully happy with her bed partner in all regards," said Dr. Ronald Chez, the head of the Department of

Gynecology and Obstetrics at Pennsylvania University College of Medicine in Hershey.

"I perceive sexual dysfunction, lack of libido, sexual unhappiness, and nonorgasmic

response in someone who is ordinarily orgasmic, as manifestations of stress," he said, and urged patients to be candid with their doctors about such problems and that doctors in turn try (Continued on Page 20)

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