

# Marable

From Page A5

standing ovation while speaking before the National Urban League convention in San Francisco. His pragmatic message to blacks was to break from their 50-year allegiance with the Democrats:

"You have one party that the black community has given 85 to 90 percent of their votes to," Kean said, "and how much black leadership do you see in that party? I can tell you what's going on in my state. I don't see any black county chairmen, I don't see black state chairmen for that 90 percent. I don't see as many black legislators or mayors outside the black community. I don't see any gains."

Although Kean's analysis begs many questions and obscures the distinction between the respective social-class bases and programmatic orientations of the two major parties, his general point is indeed correct.

Blacks as a social group have not received political benefits from the Democratic leadership commensurate with their high levels of electoral support since

1940. Ambitious black politicians now recognize that they can go only so far in the Democratic party's hierarchy and no farther.

This political reality was behind Michigan politician William Lucas's well-publicized decision to switch from the Democratic to the Republican Party in May 1985.

Lucas's background -- a former New York City police officer, FBI agent and sheriff -- appeals to the law-and-order constituency. His fiscal conservatism and anti-abortion stance received praises from right-wing populists and mainstream Republicans even when he was serving as Wayne County (Detroit) executive.

But as a black politician, Lucas was astute enough never to isolate himself from Detroit's black middle class. In winning the state's GOP gubernatorial primary, Lucas convinced thousands of black Democrats to cross over to vote for him. If he defeats conservative Democratic incumbent Gov. James J. Blanchard, Lucas will become the

North's first black governor -- and a strong candidate as the Republicans' vice presidential nomination in 1988.

The solution to the black community's problems cannot be resolved by leaping from the political frying pan into the fire. Despite the existence of a very few, isolated exceptions, the ranks of the Republican Party contain no friends of affirmative action, expanded jobs and health-care programs.

Politicians like Lucas are seeking to advance their own narrow personal interests at the expense

of the larger material interests of the national black community. The real challenge is our inability to devise an alternative political strategy, which can move us beyond the impasse of the Reaganized, two-party system. As Rep. Ronald V. Dellums has observed: "Maybe we've arrived at a point where this system does not serve us well. I don't see anything sacrosanct about the two-party system."

Dr. Manning Marable is a professor of political science and sociology at Purdue University.

# Bradley

From Page A12

Maj. Gen. Beverly, the national commander, and Maj. Gen. Joseph, commander of the Southern Division, recommended that she become one of the first female generals of North Carolina.

Mrs. Bradley is married to James Bradley and is the mother of two children, Antoinette Brit-

ton and Robert Moore.

Other members of the Twin City Antlers attending the encampment were Mary Cuthrell, Lillie Walters, Ann Jones, Catherine Kirkland, Jake Johnson and James Nelson.

Promotions were given to Louise Armstrong and Sophia Dixon.

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