

Editorials & Comments

Time To Make Choices

The General Elections on November 4 will probably be historically significant not because of a mandate from the voters, and massive support of either Presidential candidate and his platform, or clear stand on the issues. Rather, the historic fact may arise from the very low voter turnout at the polls.

Survey after survey tells us that the American people are simply not impressed with the talents, proposed programs or sheer leadership ability of either of the major presidential candidates. As President, candidate Carter has taken a sharp right turn from many of his political promises of four years ago and has not demonstrated the forceful leadership the American people want and need.

Candidate Ronald Reagan, as Albert Hunt, of The Wall Street Journal, so aptly states, "...has been sending signals on the campaign trail that, at best, are contradictory and, in some instances, are down right deceptive." For example, Reagan says that the Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s are "bad legislation" and refers to "affirmative action" as "unnecessary bureaucracy." Furthermore, Reagan has told Mississippi whites he favors "states' rights" - a code phrase for returning to segregation and denial of legal rights to blacks.

The third major candidate, if we can call him that, Independent John Anderson, is saddled with the traditional American dislike for third party candidates. Furthermore, many voters believe that a vote for Anderson is in reality a vote for Reagan or Carter - depending which of these two you may favor. Last, and more significantly, candidate Anderson has not demonstrated that he has the leadership the nation needs and he has not offered a viable political platform alternative to that of Carter or Reagan.

Political Power

This summary of the tragedy of our presidential political choices is nearly enough to discourage many from even taking the time to vote. Yet, the fact is not voting is without a doubt the one thing that can supercede this tragedy especially for black Americans.

It is disheartening to note that in the 1976 presidential election only 54.4 percent of the voting-age population went to the polls. Of young Americans, ages 18-20, who fought for and got voting rights in 1971, only 38 percent voted in 1976. Among blacks, only 48.7 percent of those eligible voted in 1976.

It is a fact, too, that in the 13 Presidential elections in the United States between 1928 and 1976, there were only seven where the percentage of the

voting-age populations that actually voted exceeded 60 percent, and the highest of these was only 64 percent. Therefore, it is not simply an apparent disenchantment with the leading Presidential candidates, there is overall political apathy among American voters toward the political process. This is further evidenced by the continuing decline in voter participation in the five Presidential elections since 1960.

What is undoubtedly paradoxical about these developments and the indifference of the American voters is that it was the reapportionment decisions of the early 1960s that broke up the corruption in machine politics and gave all voting-age citizens a voice in their government. Furthermore, above all other single issue items, it was the civil rights movement of the 1960s that taught Americans of every political viewpoint that political power could be effectively organized outside the traditional "establishment" strongholds.

Your Vote Counts!

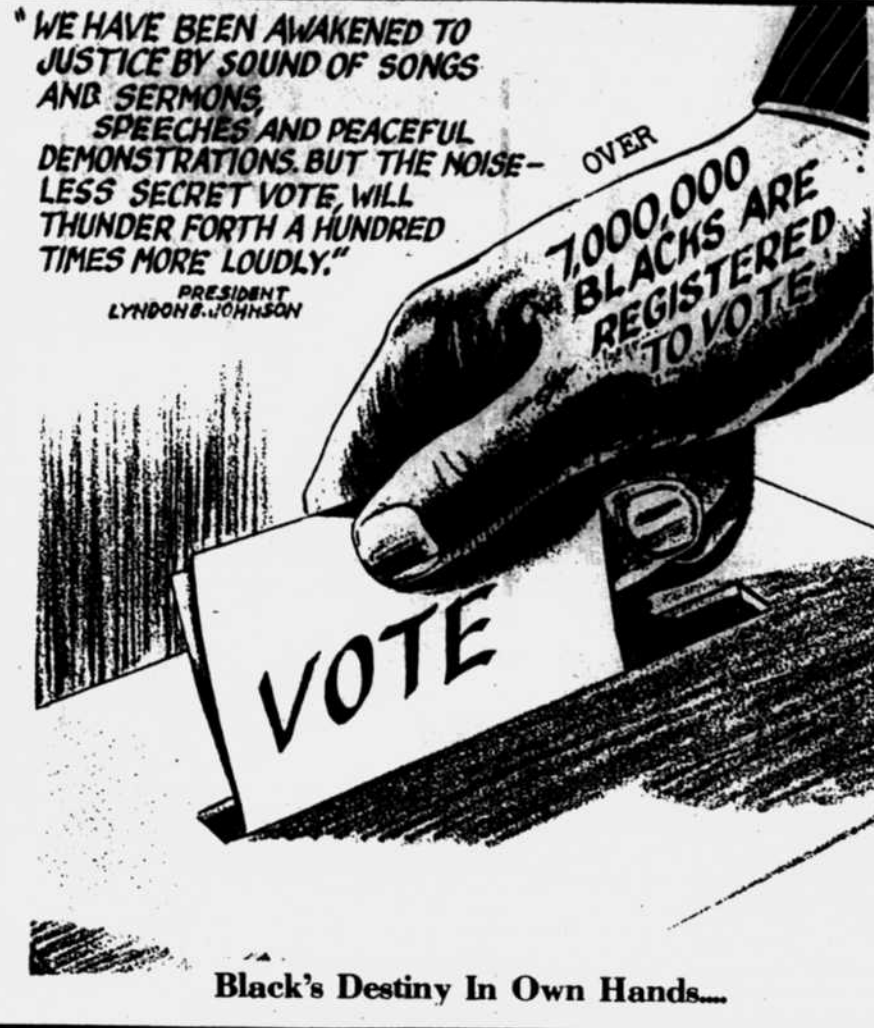
Thus, what is happening is that the American voter is failing to utilize the hard-won gains secured within just the past 20 years. "Establishment" people who favor an imperial presidency with more centralized power are pleased to see the high degree of voter apathy and use it to argue that representative democracy is neither what the American people want or need.

Therefore, our political freedoms may be endangered because of our own failure to exercise our "sacred right and our solemn duty" to vote. To not exercise this duty is to relinquish to a few the power to not only choose our President, but to also choose Senators and lesser public officeholders who will make decisions that affect our lives.

For those of us who had the good sense to register, and therefore the privilege to vote on November 4, we urge you to study the candidates' viewpoints on the issues. Such an assessment should not be limited to the Presidential race because election for congress, state, county and even city offices may have a more direct affect upon your welfare.

Finally, if nothing else jolts you to go to the polls to vote, remember this - the next President of the United States will probably appoint more judges to the Supreme Court than any of his predecessors. Those so appointed will make decisions in the next 20 years that will affect the welfare of blacks and other Americans, particularly minorities, through the year 2050. Vote for this reason if for no other.

Will we see you at the polls on November 4?



Black's Destiny In Own Hands...

The Gospel Truth

Goods And Garbage

By Rev. Jim Holley, Ph.D.

Manufacturers and sellers of quality merchandise put their labels on the product they offer. Certain brand-names, labels and signatures have become known for good quality, dependability and service. The purchasers and users of these products place their confidence in the supplier's name. We look for the label to determine the product's worth.

On the other hand, I have never seen autographed garbage, have you? When garbage is put out it is unlabeled, unsigned and unwanted. Those who produce it take no pride in their product. Those who collect it make no boast of where they picked it up.

The same principle applies to information. He who has something worthwhile to say wants the credit for publication. He wants to be quoted (correctly) and will defend his statement. His work is his product and he stands behind it. His name or identity is associated with it and he accepts the responsibility for it.

The gossip-monger, the tale-bearer never wants to be identified. "Don't tell anybody that I said," "don't quote me," "I can't tell you where I got it" are the

Change Your Lifestyle Habits And Live Longer

COLUMBIA -- South Carolinians could enjoy longer lives if they changed some of their lifestyle habits, says Ms. Penny Merritt, coordinator of the Health Awareness and Promotion Initiative (HAPI) at the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

"A recent study showed that men can add 11 years to their lives and women can increase their span by seven years if they followed six of seven health habits," Ms. Merritt says.

The habits are: drink alcohol very moderately or not at all; exercise regularly; get seven to eight hours of sleep; stop smoking; eat breakfast everyday; eat regularly and don't snack; and keep a normal weight in relation to height.

This routine will help reduce deaths associated with chronic diseases, seventy-five percent of which are caused by heart attack, cancer, stroke, and so forth, she adds.

After the first of the year,

indicators of verbal garbage. Its sources are "people are saying," "I overheard," and "they say." Whenever the source is not clearly identified, the product is questionable to say the least.

Garbage is deposited in containers designed for its disposal. These containers are generally kept as inconspicuous as possible and we make little boast about them. There are "garbage can people" who specialize in getting all the "latest dope," the "low-down," the choicest "dirt." They are known to be receptive to this sort of thing and, like other garbage cans, they give off an offensive odor arising from their contents.

Place for the trade of worthwhile goods are noted for their cleanliness, brightness and charm. All that they have is clearly marked, labeled and open to inspection. It is the mark of excellence that inspires confidence and goodwill. The same is true to people of a right spirit; they deal in goods, not garbage.

Wise is the person who can discern between the two and deal in goods and avoid the garbage. Regardless, don't let anyone make a garbage can out of you. and that's the gospel truth!

the HAPI project expects to have a computerized clearinghouse to give people ready access to printed and audio-visual materials about chronic illness, especially cardiovascular diseases which account for 35 percent of the annual deaths in the state. Citizens will be able to call one number for the information.

HAPI was initiated as a federal project in October, 1979, to help people learn more about the affects of lifestyles on their health.

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

To Be Equal

Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

Recession Hits Blacks Hardest

It looks like we are in for a replay of the 1973-75 recession, the worst in our post-war history. That one was also set in motion by federal policies designed to halt inflation.

Despite the pain it caused, after the nation dug itself out from under it was left with a higher base rate of inflation and a higher base level of unemployment than before the recession.

There's little reason to expect anything different this time around. Policymakers did not learn the dire lessons of the 1973-75 slump, and the result was to again engineer a recession as a way to fight inflation.

The only problem with that approach, besides the obvious objection that it doesn't work, is that it throws almost all of the burdens on the backs of poor people and working people. They're supposed to pay with their jobs for the rest of us to have a shot at lower inflation.

The escalating figures on unemployment bear this out. Those figures contain a hidden time bomb in that blacks and other minorities are hit hardest. This recession could deal a heavy blow to emerging middle-income black families.

Many in the so-called black middle class enjoy middle income status only because of multiple earners in the family. If a youngster living at home loses his job or the mother is laid off, there goes the middle income designation. That family drops down a big notch or two on the income scale.

Most such families rely for the bulk of their income on a male head-of-household. So heavy layoffs in basic industries where blacks have landed decently-paid factory jobs mean that some black middle income families drop into poverty or near-poverty with every plant closing.

The experience of the last recession is instructive. Then, the relatively small number of black middle class families declined.

Another result of that recession was a permanent private sector job loss for black men. A National Urban League research study summarizes that dismal story.

Between 1974 and 1977 - or from the recession's trough to well into the recovery period - the economy created over five million new jobs. Over three and a half million were in the private sector.

In that time too, the black working age population increased by fifteen percent. But blacks didn't get fifteen percent of the new jobs. Instead, they got only eight percent.

And in the private sector, their share of the new jobs was even lower. Most disastrous, and most worrying as we endure a new recession, black men suffered a net job loss of eleven percent in private sector employment.

In other words, for every ten black men holding private sector jobs at the beginning of the last recession, only nine were employed in the private sector after the end of the recession - and at a time when the economy was supposedly on the upswing.

Black unemployment rates, just under double the white rates at the start of the recession, jumped to almost two and a half times the white rate and stayed there.

And that's only part of the story. Official unemployment figures are based on very narrow definitions of who is employed.

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From Capitol Hill

Blacks Can Expect More Positions In Foreign Service

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The number of blacks in foreign service has been relatively small and even then most of them have been sent to African countries.

Out of the 9,161 Foreign Service employees only 430 or 4.7 percent of them are black. There are 2,292 women or 25 percent. Of the 3,314 officers in Foreign Service only 105 are black or 3.1 percent, 334 women or 10 percent.

Representative Bill Gray of Philadelphia, who is a member of the House Subcommittee on African Affairs and the Subcommittee on International Operations, which oversees the foreign affairs of the State Department, has added a series of amendments to the Foreign Service Personnel Reform Act. These amendments require an increase of minorities and women in the Foreign Service.

Gray's first amendment requires the Secretary of State to establish a minority recruitment program for the United States



Alfreda L. Madison Foreign Service. The Secretary will have to submit an annual report to Congress on progress he has made in meeting the requirements. This law will make it known to women and minorities that their unfair and unequal treatment is being corrected. Regardless of who the Secretary of State may be, he will have no alternative but to carry out the amendments' requirements. Mr. Gray said, the amendment "leaves no doubt that the Congress holds the Secretary of State responsible

for implementing an equal opportunity program.

Bill Gray's second amendment requires the State Department to refrain from assigning Foreign Service members to geographic regions, exclusively, on the basis of their race, ethnic background or religion. This eliminates the long historical practice of assigning minority personnel to areas which relate to their ethnic origin. The present policy has been one of assigning blacks to black-ruled African countries, those with Spanish surnames to Spanish-speaking countries and American orientals to the Far East. The Foreign Service's stated policy of worldwide availability has been violated by its ethnic assignments.

Mr. Gray's third amendment requires the Secretary of State to assure that a substantial number of minorities and women be placed on the series of Selection Boards, since these boards play a crucial role in the lives and careers

of all members of the Foreign Affairs community. Even though the boards have reflected and increased the number of minorities and women in the past decade, the Gray amendment will require the boards to maintain this progress and credibility.

The congressman says, these three amendments are necessary not only to assure equal opportunity in

NCNB's Bank Collection Of Art Will Open Sunday

A new traveling exhibition from the North Carolina National Bank collection of art will open Sunday, November 2, for its premier showing at Johnson C. Smith University.

This sampling of the bank's permanent collection will be available for viewing through November 20 at the James B. Duke Library. Hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9-5 on Fridays and noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays with no admission charge.

The Alpha Epsilon Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity is sponsoring the

Foreign Service, but to strengthen the United States' credibility with the growing number of Black-ruled countries. Full utilization of Black diplomats on a worldwide basis will have a positive effect on the United States' credibility and relations with these countries.

These amendments should place minorities in

important Foreign Service positions in the European nations.

This Foreign Service Personnel Reform Act is the first reform of Foreign Service policies since 1946. The Act has been passed, including the Gray amendments by both Houses of Congress, and is now on the President's desk. He is expected to sign it into law within the next few days.

than 2,200 paintings, graphics, watercolors, photographs, crafts and other art work. Emphasis is on work by North Carolina and southeastern artists from the United States and abroad are also represented. Works by 17 artists with North Carolina backgrounds are included.

NCNB began its series of traveling exhibitions in the mid-1960s.

