

Editorials & Comments

Individualism And Collectivism

Three weeks after the Ronald Reagan-led Republican conservative election sweep of the White House and the U.S. Senate, 1,000 blacks from 25 states met in Philadelphia for the purpose of founding a national political party and to set an agenda for the party's formation and structure.

A statement of principles released at the 3-day convention stated that the party would be "progressive," would serve the interest of the working class and the poor; and would actively oppose racism, sexism, capitalism and imperialism.

Manning Marable, a Cornell University professor and a member of the party organizing team reportedly said the new party "is not replicating the errors and contradictions of the Democratic and Republican parties... We do not plan to take any money from corporate or fat cats, black or white."

Professor Marable's comment reminds us of utterances made by the Rev. Leon White of Raleigh just two months before the election while attempting to organize something called the N.C. Black Political Forum. He, too, spoke of ending alleged get-out-the-vote money accepted by black politicians from fat cats. White's group had absolutely no impact upon the statewide elections.

We believe the newly formed black political party has already dug its own grave and will fail just as Rev. White's forum has failed. Our view is based on the incorrect assumptions these political groups have made about the political and economic philosophies of the very people they expect to support the new party.

We are referring to the assumption that some or even most blacks, are necessarily opposed to capitalism, especially when the new party offers no alternative economic system. Furthermore, to assume also

that most blacks are against American corporations, when most of them earn their living from corporations, is totally unrealistic. In addition, and as distasteful as it may sound, many blacks could care less about the problems involved with worldwide imperialism considering their own struggles in domestic political and economic survival.

Finally, in spite of this struggle, race or skin color is not a sufficient bond to hold blacks together on such varied issues as politics, economics and social welfare because the "system" with all of its good and bad qualities, enables some blacks to be as successful or more so than many whites. Therefore, while it might seem ideal to some if blacks as a collective mass held similar political views, the fact is our sense of individualism rooted in our respective experiences makes such collectivism totally unrealistic.

In conclusion, black Americans are daily reacting to situations affecting their well being either from the perspective of themselves as individuals or from the perspective of themselves as a part of that collective mass called black Americans. For example, in seeking a career goal, retaining one's health, communicating with God and selecting a mate we are acting as individuals in spite of the fact that social norms involving race may be a secondary consideration in a career goal or the selection of a mate. On the other hand, blacks react as a collective mass when raw racism in whatever form is evident.

In our opinion a separate political party built primarily upon the skin color of its members cannot and will not succeed in America - a nation where compromise is key to the art of political success and luck, risk-taking and good management are the keys to economic success.

Districting Is The Democratic Way!

Bill Booe, for ten years a disruptive force on the School Board and then the County Commissioner until his narrow defeat on Nov. 4, is continuing his method of creating controversy in government by attacking district representation.

During these ten years Booe has repeatedly accused the School Board and County Commissioners of irresponsible acts without justifiable cause. Continuing this method of madness the controversial Booe is leading a petition-gathering effort against district representation. He claims this more democratic form of government has led to unmanageable and fiscally irresponsible acts by City Council. As in his attacks on the School Board and County Commissioners, there simply is no evidence

to support his charge.

In the relatively short three years that the City has had districting - four at-large and seven district Councilmembers - we have had good government with considerably more opportunity for the average citizen to have his views heard.

Significantly, the arguments set forth against districting in 1977 - sectionalism, unmanageable size and unresponsiveness to community needs - have proven to be unfounded. However, the supporters of the district system should not be apathetic to this latest attack upon democratic government. Citizens should be prepared to speak out defending their more direct voice in government. Remember, the greatest enemy of freedom is apathy.

"Blacks' Reticence To Seize The Initiative To Organize Their Communities" Said Douglas G. Glasgow, Dean Of Howard University School Of Social Work. Is A Major Factor And An Important Factor Contributing To Our Communities' Undeveloped Status"

- POLITICAN
- BUSINESS MAN
- DOCTORS
- LAWYERS
- ARTISTS
- TEACHERS
- MINISTERS
- WORKERS
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
- SOCIAL WORKERS
- FRATERNAL GROUPS
- FINANCE
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- INSTITUTION ADMINISTRATION
- ENGINEERING
- PLANNING
- ARCHITECTURE
- BLACK PRESS



Blacks Should Assume Neither Too Little Nor Too Much

WASHINGTON - Black Americans should assume neither too little nor too much from the nation's new administration, a Black United Methodist leader has asserted here.

The Rev. Gilbert H. Caldwell, associate executive of the denomination's Commission on Religion and Race, wrote in a recent opposite-editorial page piece in the WASHINGTON POST that "what a majority of Black American feared would happen has happened. An avowed conservative Republican will occupy the White House for the next four years."

However, said Mr. Caldwell, Blacks "should not be embarrassed because a large majority of Blacks supported President Carter," nor should they assume that the President-Elect "feels no obligation to offer solutions for the continuing plight of Black America."

Holding that "the needs of Black Americans are real, no matter which party is in power," he wrote: "We in the Black community must work harder at demanding performance as well as presence from the nation's leadership." He recalled that some were impressed that "proximity to the president... represented the exercise of power," but "we were not the ones exercising it."

Mr. Caldwell, who has been a pastor, seminary professor and chaplain, added: "Despite the signs and symbols of our progress, Blacks have not been able to utilize the fruits of that progress as other ethnic and racial groups have...to reshape the economic and political

system in ways that would benefit those at and below the poverty level."

Instead, he continued, while "America is described as a place of unrestricted opportunity for all, (this) renders Black Americans invisible," with their "peculiar plight occasionally acknowledged in an effort to preserve the integrity of our virtue."

Pointing out that the President-Elect "has ad-

mitted his late discovery of the problems of racial inequality and injustice," Mr. Caldwell asserted that the challenge of the '80s for Mr. Reagan and the entire nation is "to discover new ways to implement remedial and enabling programs that, while admitting the failures of our nation, at the same time allow us to be justifiably proud of the potential that exists."

Black Clergy Meet, Plan Strategy For 80's

Approximately 30 Black ministers from 18 states and the District of Columbia met in the nation's capitol last week "to cogitate, meditate, and plan ways to facilitate the roles of the Black church in the crises facing Black people in this country." The Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, president of SCLC, and the Rev. Kelly M. Smith, head of the National Conference of Black Churchmen, were key conveners of the planning session, along with the Rev. Benjamin Hooks of the NAACP and the Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, a delegate to Congress from the District of Columbia.

Bishop Nathaniel Linsey of Washington, D.C. summed up the feelings of the clergy when he said, "Our charge is to rally our people to a new level of organized love to meet the forces of hate and repression in the 80's."

Dr. Lowery said the ministers would meet again in Washington in early December after conferring with other national Black church leaders.

The ministers heard analyses of critical areas of

government by Rev. William Gray, U.S. Congressman from Pennsylvania, and Fauntroy led a discussion on establishing a Black Church Network.

The group will develop an agenda in consultation with a Black Leadership Forum and seek to meet later with President-Elect Ronald Reagan. The clergy resolved to offer the Reagan Administration support and cooperation in any effort to resolve the unemployment crisis in the Black community and vowed that any efforts to wipe out affirmative action and roll back hard-earned rights of Black and poor people will meet with vigorous opposition.

The ministers committed themselves to a "Moral Initiative" that will press for human rights.

Fresh Apples

Two slices of fresh apple put together with a layer of cream cheese or slices of Cheddar cheese makes a hearty and substantial snack.

Affirmative Action

Has Lynching Returned?

By Gerald C. Horne, Esq.

It was not so long that lynching—brutal, open murder—was as common in the Black community as black-eyed peas. Some might recall the stringing up of Charles Mack Parker in Missouri in the late 1950s or Emmett Till in Mississippi in the mid-50s. These two person and scores of others were killed on the slightest of pretexts. In Till's case, the ostensible reason was whistling at a white woman.

The more things change, the more they remain the same. So goes the old Gallic expression, so fitting for the Black Condition. Blacks are no longer told they're not being hired because of their color or nationality, but because they're "unqualified."

And Blacks are no longer found swaying from the nearest tree, eyes bulging and neck snapped as blood thirsty racists salivate.

As the recent events in Buffalo demonstrate, Blacks are killed under the cover of darkness by cowering gunmen. In the past few weeks six Black men have been found slain in this aging, upstate New York industrial town. Four were felled by shots fired from the same .22 caliber gun. Two weeks ago two Black cab drivers were found with their hearts cut out.

In Atlanta eight Black children have been found murdered and six others have "disappeared" in the past 15 months. Just recently a mysterious explosion hit a Black day care nursery in Atlanta. The result? Four children and one adult dead.

In Boston, New Orleans and numerous other towns there have been variations on this grizzly theme. In Boston, 14-year old Black youth, Levi Hart, suffered a fractured skull, then was shot dead by a police officer. Though a four-day inquest concluded there was "ample cause" to believe Hart died as a result of the policeman's "unlawful" conduct, a federal grand jury decided not to indict. In New Orleans Lawrence Louis Jr. was shot dead by police officers after being beaten steadily for five minutes; this brutal incident touched off several days of protest and rioting in the Desire Housing Project where the shooting took place.

These killings come against the backdrop of an occurrence little noted but terribly important. And that is the discovery of Ku Klux Klan infiltration of police departments.

Unfortunately, this nationwide pattern will probably get worse before it becomes better and the question is - why? Why can Blacks be struck down like flies with no perpetrators apprehended, let alone convicted? Why can Vernon Jordan be plugged in the back in Indiana, barely escaping death, with no assailant captured?

The question is especially appropriate to ask around election time, as the answer is so bound up with politics.

The fact is that the political game has changed since the halcyon days of the civil rights movement but like generals who are always fighting the last war, many of our organizations have not grasped this crucial point.

Those forces who helped us fight the Klan in the 1960s are now vehemently defending their right to march and organize on the patently spurious ground that this activity is protected by the First Amendment.

The growing strength of the anti-Black "New Right"—which is spearheading this offensive—is clear.

From Capitol Hill

Senator Strom Thurmond's Black Kitchen Cabinet?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Even though Senator Strom Thurmond refused to meet with Rev. Jesse Jackson, at Jesse's request, he did call to his office a group of blacks for a meeting. Members of the group were: Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Hosea Williams, State Representative of Georgia, George Haley, Washington Attorney, Arthur Fletcher, Washington businessman, Mordica Johnson, Florence, S.C. City Councilman, Charles Evers, Fayette, Miss. Mayor and Charles Cherry, Publisher of DATONA TIMES.

After the office meeting, Senator Thurmond, Representative Carroll Campbell of Greenville, S.C. and the group held a press conference. Senator Thurmond stated that he called these blacks to a meeting because they supported the Republicans and that they took a lot of abuse for doing so from members of their own race. The Senator refused to answer questions and hurried out of the press



Alfreda L. Madison

conference. Thurmond should have at least explained the abuse. We never heard a word from him about black horrible abuse in South Carolina. Is it that the Senator considers every opposing view as an abuse?

In commenting on the meeting Rev. Abernathy stated that Senator Thurmond was very congenial - that they talked about many issues. In response to a question, Abernathy said that he is always hopeful and optimistic. He said

Senator Thurmond stated that he was for extending the Voting Rights Act to all states, not just the southern states - a view with which Abernathy concurs. However, the Voting Rights Act covers all areas of the United States where the Act is violated. Queens, New York, some counties in California and areas in

many other parts of the country where there is a violation of voting rights are under the Act. It is just that there are entire states of which South Carolina, Virginia and just about all of the other southern states are guilty of voting violations. In talking with Abernathy he admitted that he did not know that was the case.

Mordica Johnson seemed to have been campaigning for Strom Thurmond, when he read off a list of South Carolinians who support the Senator. When Rev. Abernathy was reminded by the press that Johnson's statement was not relevant to the meeting, Abernathy cut him off. Hosea Williams said that

he is for the Republican platform and he is against busing. He was asked how he, a civil rights fighter, could support a platform that calls for the death penalty when the Library of Congress Study shows that the death penalty is discriminately used for blacks and that the Supreme Court had decided that the best present method of providing equal schooling for blacks is by busing. Williams replied, "I'm not for the entire platform."

Charles Evers said he was disappointed at the meeting, that he tried to pin Senator Thurmond down on some issues; that he received no encouragement at all.

Representative Campbell stated that they would talk with these blacks because they voted Republican and that any other blacks who wanted to talk with them would have to come through those who were at the meeting. He was asked that by such a method weren't they, as whites, selecting black

leaders, and that being the congressman of the people wasn't he obligated to talk to Republicans, Democrats and citizens of no party affiliation - that because he refused to talk to other blacks didn't lessen their influence, neither did it sweep under the rug the causes they advocate? One wonders if this is Strom Thurmond's Black Kitchen Cabinet.

One of the agenda points was: "Suggest Senator Thurmond be a liaison officer between Republican Senators-Republican Representatives on behalf of minorities for contact with the Hill and the administration."

Why does one entire group of citizens in the United States need a liaison person when other groups don't? Such a suggestion relegates minorities to a status of second class citizens. It indicates that minorities are incapable of presenting their own issues

- that they have to come with their hats in hands begging "Mr. White Man" for a crumb. It is certainly

hoped that those old "Uncle Tom" days are gone forever.

Minorities are highly intelligent forthright American citizens who have contributed as well as any citizens to every phase of American life. They will no longer beg but present their issues forcefully, forthrightly and demand all the rights that any citizen of the United States has. This is the method that whites will have to accept.

Cities Meeting
Members of the Charlotte City Council will attend the 1980 Congress of Cities in Atlanta, December 1-3, and Cablevision of Charlotte will provide daily satellite coverage of the meeting highlights.

Live interviews, commentary and videotaped highlights will be telecast



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