

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Fund Feuding Is Wrong

Earlier this month, long-time Democratic Party worker Pat Patton used the occasion of a party Executive Committee meeting to announce her resignation from the post of first vice-chairperson. The resignation, oddly enough, was the result of a three-month protest because party chairman Bob Davis had used \$400 to attend a national Democratic Party mini-convention in Philadelphia. Mrs. Patton's objection, claiming party officials have traditionally paid their own bills to attend such affairs.

Mr. Davis replied to the objection by noting that he was spending \$200 per month of his own money for party business, and believed the expense was proper. Furthermore, the expenditure was a part of the party's \$10,067 budget for 1982-83 that had not yet been approved partly because of the conflict caused by

the disagreement. Ironically, even after several local Democrats had offered to replace the \$400, Mrs. Patton protested that the payment was a "matter of principle" and therefore she would be willing to withdraw her resignation only if Mr. Davis himself repaid the money.

We would hope that the good Democrats who offered to replace the \$400 and Mr. Davis would both refuse to respond to Mrs. Patton's demands which appears to be a personal attack on the party chairman. No matter how many years of service a person has given to the party, no one has the right to make such a personal demand on a fellow party member.

We believe Mrs. Patton is wrong pure and simple, and that the County Democratic Party should accept her resignation.

Rise Of "New Poverty"

Last week we observed that the Reagan Administration had instituted policies that have made the rich richer and middle class and poor poorer. At the same time, President Reagan

was responding to criticism of his treatment of the disadvantaged by saying that blacks "would be appreciably better off today," if the Great Society programs of former President Lyndon B. Johnson had never occurred.

President Reagan made these remarks in a speech before the National Black Republican Council dinner. The speech came at a time when aides to the President had become increasingly worried about the rise in criticism of the Administration's record on civil rights and on programs for the poor.

Mr. Reagan did not cite any of the recent criticisms but he appeared to be trying to rebutt the recently released Urban Institute's report stating more for the rich and less for the poor.

Administration aides were also known to be worried about charges by the chairman at 33 state agencies affiliated with the U.S. Civil Rights Commission that Reagan is directly responsible for a "dangerous deterioration in the federal enforcement of civil rights."

While Reagan was charging that such criticisms are "just plain bologna," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Samuel Pierce acknowledged to the black Republicans that there has been some "misunderstanding" and "insensitivity" to blacks by the Reagan Administration.

Mr. Pierce, obviously the most prominent black in the Reagan

Administration, cited two specific examples to clarify his point:

- (1) the IRS decision to grant tax exemption status to private schools that discriminate, and
- (2) the President's initial opposition to strengthening enforcement in the Voting Rights Act.

With regard to more specific bread and butter issues, sociologists, psychologists and economists have been showing a renewed concern over the mounting upswing in poverty said to be unprecedented since the end of World War II in 1945.

The "new poverty" as some have begun to call it, is largely a result of Reagan Administration policies that have resulted in a nationwide recession that is now in its second year. "The net effect of this trend," stated Norman Hill of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, "is that by the end of Reagan's term in December 1984, poverty in America will...climb to the levels of the early 1960s...."

The fact is, in 1981, 2.2 million people were reduced to the level of being poor. This year, 1982, the trend is continuing as another four million people will have to join the ranks of the poor. One out of seven Americans is officially classified as poor. Over a third of all blacks are poor and the number is growing.

Thus, as 1982 moves toward a close, and as we pause in November for the off-year elections, we need to be mindful of these Reagan policies and how they are adding black Americans to the ranks of the new poverty. Your vote against candidates who support the Reagan policies may encourage the President to alter some of these negative policies. VOTE!!

BLACKS DESTINY IN OWN HANDS....

BLACK BUSINESS MEN AND POLITICIANS SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING, FOR IT IS ONLY THROUGH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLOUT THAT ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE UP THROUGH SOCIETY.

MICHIGAN CHRONICLE



Letters To The Editor:

Whites Now Support Black Candidates

Dear Mr. Johnson: Our hats off to Robert Clark, the first black Mississippian to win the Democratic nomination to Congress.

The last black man from that state to win such an honor was a Republican, and that was during the Reconstruction Era. He won by a decisive 57 percent, and has the support of Governor William Winter in the general election.

Progress in the field of equal representation is slow, but it seems that the only sure way for us is a legally continuous knocking at the door - a sustained effort, using everything available to us through the courts and politics. We cannot rest on any laurels.

I believe the white political leaders in states such as Mississippi are less afraid, and more confident of the black politicians who are striving to be heard, and who are offering their services to the population in general.

These black men or women are usually very qualified for the positions they seek. Consequently, they are getting more white support, and the nation can detect more togetherness between the two races in the Southern areas. That is the way to get the best things done for - all concerned.

It pleases me, as I am sure it does most other black people, to see these advances politically in the most backward areas. It says something to us, and something for the Southern white man.

Evidently, they are slowly changing their thoughts and attitudes toward black people, and are accepting them to help lead the population as a whole. Of

course, the blacks who make it to higher offices are well aware of their responsibility to all citizens, not just the black element, and they lean compassionately toward the poor people's problems.

It behooves us, as black supporters, to do our bit by

Ugly Month To Be Celebrated

Dear Mr. Johnson:

From September 30 - October 31, Charlotte and Rock Hill, S.C. will be the scene of some rather strange happenings. The reason? The month of October has been declared as Ugly Month in these two cities, and they will be the scene of the 1982 Ugly Bartender Contest for Multiple Sclerosis.

The Ugly Bartender Contest, a fundraiser held in many cities across the United States, is in its second year in the Charlotte area. The Ugly Bartender Contest is a beauty pageant in reverse. Bar patrons vote, at 25 cents a vote, their bartender the "ugliest." The bartender who gains the most votes, i.e., becomes the Ugliest, wins a trip for two to Paradise Island, Bahamas. Of course, there are awards for runner-ups up and for all participants who achieve a predetermined level of ugliness.

To give this Ugly Bartender Contest the attention it deserves, WBCY Radio, along with Bealer Wholesale, Inc. and B&B Distributors, Inc., will kick off the event with a two-city-wide Ugly Pageant to be held on September 30, at the NCNB Plaza in Charlotte. With city officials making Ugly Declarations and the citizenry "doing something beautiful by

getting out to the polls at election time to vote. If we do that diligently, we will gain much more respect from the politicians in general, and enhance our representation in the various levels of government.

I expect to see everyone at the polls.

Samuel E. Graham

Building Of Great Pyramid Of Gizeh

Dear Editor:

On September 26, 1982 the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, will hold a public meeting to commemorate the building of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh. According to Rosicrucian traditions the Great Pyramid of Gizeh was begun at the autumn equinox. It is said that it was erected as a temple of learning and that its construction demonstrates a knowledge of all the known subjects of the period.

The ceremony will be enacted at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 26, 1982 at the building on the corner of Nesbitt Drive and Holabird Lane.

Walter Boucher
Master, Charlotte Pronaos

WALK YOUR TALK



Rev. Perkins

Essential For Change

I remember when I was an 11-year-old boy working a full day in a field for a white man. At the end of the day, I was tired but I was pleased because I knew I had earned enough money to buy a new suit of clothes. But when I put out my hand to be paid, the man gave me only fifteen cents.

That's when I really began to understand power and the misuse of it. Not in a more intellectual way, but in a way by which I knew I was being oppressed. I felt bad. But as a black boy in Mississippi, there was no way I could respond to that. I realized that I was overpowered. That incident sent me off on a course which has followed me in my life to this day.

The course was an effort to gain power. And more and more I understood what the course required in order to gain power. I had to gain control of myself, my own energy to gain power.

I always gave excuses for the reasons I wanted to gain power. I lived in California and I told myself I wanted to be able to have the nicer things of life. I wanted a home, cars, clothes and all those things in order to enjoy what you would call the 'good life.' But I realized that I needed power to do that. As I moved along in life, I gained those things. Suddenly, I was converted to Jesus Christ and my new deep sense of responsibility to God changed my perspective on the 'good life.'

I left California in 1960, returning to Mississippi where I would work for the next 20 years. I began working among the poor trying to empower the people. But as I think about it, it was as my own struggle for power. Although I had received Christ as Lord of my life, I still think I was struggling for power.

Finally I have realized that as a Christian, I do have power. Now the big problem confronting me is how I use it. How is power used without it corrupting the one who has it?

The way that power is used will determine whether people will live or die. It will determine whether they live in poverty or comfort, in servitude or freedom.

The question I want to deal with in the next few weeks is how does the Christian use power in a way which develops the community, the country and the world. We know of many negative examples, but I will look at some positive models.

Individualism in our society, as I look at it today, is the greatest threat to an understanding of the church and the meaning of being a Christian. Yet, the unique contribution of America in the history of humankind has been the perfection of individualism.

The result is a generation of Christians trying to find "God's will for my life" rather than God's will period. They are the people who come to me on a campus to seek God's will, having already decided what careers they will pursue, who they will marry, where they will live, how much they will earn, how many children they will have, and what kind of car they will drive. It is not God's will they are asking for, but rather, "How do I fit God into my life?"

Responses to this column may be made to Walk Your Talk, 1655 St. Charles St., Jackson, MS 39209.

From Capitol Hill

Black Vote Is Crucial In Upcoming Fall Elections

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post Passage of the first Voting Rights Act in 1965 enabled blacks in many areas of the country to vote for the first time. While 42 percent of eligible blacks voted in 1966 there was a decline during the Nixon years to only 34 percent in 1974. In 1978 black voting began an upswing. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that black voters were the only demographic group that showed an increased voter participation in 1980.

Conservative political action committees greatly influenced the 1980 election outcome. Because of the 1980 results, black representatives from the fields of entertainment, business, members of Congress and local citizens have organized political action committees. The goal of all of these organizations is to get blacks and progressive candidates elected. While there is an effort to get blacks elected in all areas of the country, the primary focus is on the South, where 53 percent of all black Americans still live. In that area, there are at

least 30 congressional districts, each having a black population of 30 percent or above. Yet, George Leland from Texas is the only congressman from the South.

These Black Political Action groups began early in 1981 to assist local leaders and organizations in conducting workshops on campaign strategy and registration of all eligible black voters.

After the congressional resignation of conservative John Henson of Mississippi, through the mobilization of a strong black coalition, progressive Wayne Dowdy was elected to take Henson's seat.

The National Coalition of Black Voter Participation which was organized in 1976, is the umbrella group for the various black political organizations. A branch of the Coalition is Operation Big Vote under the aegis of the Joint Center for Political Studies which has targeted districts having 20 percent or above black population for voter participation.

Reports from the various congressional districts show an increase in black



Alfreda L. Madison

registration, even though some areas in the South are still ignoring the Voting Rights mandates, concerning places of registration. Federal examiners have been sent to two counties in Georgia and they have been requested in several places in Virginia. In the recent Alabama election 461 Federal Observers were sent to that state and 23 Observers have been sent to Louisiana in 1982.

Eddie Williams, President of Joint Center of Political Studies, said, "Circumstances have conspired to give the black vote enormous political power in the November elections." The present 18

black congressmen have all won the Democratic nomination in their respective districts and the chances of their re-election are extremely hopeful.

Prospects seem evident that there will be a few additional black congress persons in the 98th Congress. The outlook for Robert Clark, a black Mississippian, who won 53 percent of the votes in the primary, including both black and white citizens in the Second Congressional district is very encouraging. The district was redrawn to include the Mississippi Delta region. While blacks comprise over 50 percent of the population, only 35 percent are registered voters. If Clark should win he'll be the first black Mississippi congressman since Reconstruction.

State Senator Julian Bond is challenging present incumbent Wyche Fowler for Georgia's fifth district Democratic nomination for the congressional seat. Bond says if he does not get the Democratic nomination he'll run as an independent.

Shirley Chisholm's seat is sure to be taken by a

black candidate and Brooklyn's eleventh district left vacant by the recent resignation of Representative Frederick Richmond stands a good chance of having Edolphus Towns, filling that position. If Towns does win Brooklyn will have two black members of Congress.

Alan Wheat is running very strongly in Missouri's fifth district for the congressional seat that has always been held by whites and Orville Pitts of Milwaukee's fifth district is also a favorite to win the traditionally white congressional seat.

The Republican Party is giving heavy financial support to two black congressional nominees: former Dallas City Council member Lucy Patterson of the 24th district and Rev. Perry Smith who is running in Maryland's fifth district. There are fourteen House districts that have a majority black population. Other than the Mississippi Delta, all the others are in the large inner-cities. These cities are: Chicago, Detroit, New York, Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Memphis, Newark, Phila-

delphia and St. Louis.

All candidates targeted by the Coalition are not black. Black voters may prove to be very significant in the re-election of some freshman congressional Republicans, included in that group are: Albert Smith of Alabama, Eugene Johnson of North Carolina, Thomas Hartnett and John Napier of South Carolina and Thomas Biley of Virginia.

Eddie Williams says, "The South is emerging as a crucial battleground for blacks in this fall's congressional race."

All eligible blacks should avail themselves of the opportunity to vote, because their vote will make a difference in the progress of the United States.

Keep your out of town friends informed on what's happening in Charlotte by sending them a copy of The Charlotte Post each week.



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