

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

'82 Election In Perspective

The 1982 elections are over and for many memories of the defeated candidates and lost causes or issues will fade into oblivion. For many others and their supporters and for the national Republican and Democratic parties the '82 elections were a tune-up for the Presidential election year of 1984.

Undoubtedly, while wishful thinking has President Reagan claiming the election results were a new mandate to "stay the course", the fact is the election returns represent a rejection of his economic policies and the possible loss of some good Republican legislators who were losers too.

While the Democrats may rejoice over taking commanding control over the House of Representatives and increasing their numbers in governorships, their good news may be bad news for the nation. That is to say while both parties have expressed a willingness to work through bipartisan support in an attempt to solve many of the nation's problems.

However, there already is evidence that the rhetoric of cooperation is window dressing and nothing more. For example, as the nation's unemployment has pushed upward past 10.4 percent Republicans and Democrats are proposing separate legislative public works and job training bills aimed at getting at least 200,000 Americans off the jobless roles. While the Republican and Democratic lawmakers are already arguing over which bill to support, President Reagan plans to veto any public works type employment bill. Probably of greater significance is the fact that with a Republican controlled Senate and a Democratic controlled House the President will probably have considerably less success getting his policies and proposed programs approved by Congress.

Economic Issues

The dominant role of economic issues in the election, especially the high jobless rate, and the current congressional party-line disagreements over what forms a jobs bill or legislation should take, and continuing concerns about inflation and high interest, brings to mind a much larger issue faced by the Reagan Administration or the administration that may occupy the White House beginning in 1984.

What we are referring to is a need to find a new economic "ism." Over the years we have made the point in this column that America needs a new economic order. We have noted that the Keynesian economic theories that Franklin D. Roosevelt used to help pull America out of the Depression of the 1930s won't work in the 1980s. We have noted

too that the so-called free enterprise free market system which most Americans, including Ronald Reagan, like to talk about glowingly in time of economic prosperity is a myth of the greatest magnitude and is not working for the growth and economic advancement of this nation.

The fact is the capitalist free enterprise system that we like to think has made America grow to great heights over these past 200 years, cannot sustain nor move America to new glory and world leadership even through the year 2000, much less over the next 200 years.

Thus, the greater challenge to Mr. Reagan or his successor in 1984 will be to develop a new economic order for America. This then is the new challenge to either or both major political parties.

Single Shot Voting

At the state level we witnessed the defeat of six Republican candidates who apparently were caught in the anti-Reagan economic policy vote. Probably of greater significance, these losers were victims of their association and support by Jesse Helms' N.C. Congressional Club - the negative campaign controversial organization that North Carolinians have tired of. This, too, may set the stage for Jim Hunt's possible challenge to Senator Jesse Helms in 1984.

At the local level the big issue transcending partisan party issues was the voters' rejection of a modified form of county district representation by a 53 to 47 percent margin. The district at-large election system for County Commissioners was controversial because it differed from the City's district plan in that candidates selected by districts would have been voted upon by the at-large voters system. Significantly, the small margin of defeat reflect continuing support for district representation but not in the format offered as authored by County Commissioner Tom Ray.

Finally, one local news story following the election tried to resurrect the allegation of "single-shot" voting and pin the label on black voters. The allegation arose from the fact that black State House candidate Jim Richardson had defeated incumbent Gus Economos by a mere 216 votes when in fact a recount showed the incumbent won by 84 votes. In fact, Economos won in part because he received 3,202 votes from 12 predominately black precincts. Furthermore, we have to wonder why no study was reported on about possible single shot voting by people of Greek origin, Mr. Economos' background.

"IF THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PROTECT US AND THE POLICE CANNOT, IT FOLLOWS THAT BLACK CITIZENS MUST PROTECT THEMSELVES."

"WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL DISCRIMINATION ENDS BEFORE WE RID OUR COMMUNITIES OF CRIME. WE CAN NO LONGER EXCUSE CRIME BECAUSE OF SOCIETY'S INEQUITIES. WE STAND MENACED BY OUR OWN KITH AND KIN. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT WE WHO HAVE PREVAILED IN SPITE OF THE BARBARISM OF WHITE PEOPLE SHOULD, IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE CENTURY, STAND AS MUTE SPECTATORS TO OUR DOOM."

ORDE COOMBS
N.Y. MAGAZINE

BLACK'S DESTINY IN OWN HANDS.....



Letters To
The Editor:



Power Black Ministers Have?

I feel now is the right time to write about the black churches. When I was asked to help with the Gethsemane Baptist Church matter I knew the matter would take much time; but what I didn't know was how much power the black minister and pastors have over black people, and how black ministers stick together, right or wrong.

Let me first of all talk about the power black ministers have. There are many of us who think the black ministers can do no wrong. One lady stated to me, "My mother always told me to go along with the pastor"; another stated, "I'll do without before I let my pastor do without." It is good that black people have such great love for their pastors. It is time that we as black ministers started to using this power we have to let our people know that they can and must think for themselves. We have the power to end many of our problems. It is good for black people to look up to their pastor or minister; but they must understand, all of us are not good. Just because we say we have been called does not always mean so. Black ministers should have power for the people and not power over the people.

The second part of my letter brings out the sad and ugly part of us. That is the union we black min-

isters have. There is an unwritten rule that states, one is to never go against a fellow black minister, be he right or wrong. Many black ministers have made up their minds to never talk to me again because of the stand I took against Rev. Dewberry. In the past I have received little or no support from black ministers and I don't care if any of them talk to me when I take a stand for what is right.

There are a few black ministers who have come to the aid of Dewberry. The thing that troubles me is all of them know of his past. On September 12, 1982 when Dewberry walked out of Gethsemane Baptist Church with the church's books and records and got in his car, one of our leading black ministers got in the car with him. I ask, did this fellow minister demand that Rev. Dewberry return the books? Now the church cannot find some of the records for 1975, 1976 and 1977. There are two others who have joined him and they themselves are not on good ground at their place of work. I feel that many of us black ministers feel that if one falls then all of us will fall. I feel that if we are wrong then we will and must fall. We should not hold up a brother who is wrong.

The facts in the Gethsemane Baptist Church case are clear. It is not a matter of Barnett vs.

Dewberry, but one of right and wrong. All the concerned members are doing is giving the power to the people to run the church. After all it is the people or members that paid for the church, not C. E. Dewberry. He just works for the members, or that is what the members want. Too many pastors have taken over the black church. No church in Charlotte belongs to any of us ministers. We just work there. Many of us have forgotten who pay us. I ask those who support Dewberry, what is it you want? Should the pastor have all power over the members? Those who pay him and in most cases better than themselves. It is a fact that power has been misused at Gethsemane Baptist Church along with many other churches in Charlotte and this must and will come to an end. Whatever there is in the community that is not good for us must go, be that a Barnett or a Dewberry.

Rev. James E. Barnett

Sincere Thanks

On behalf of the entire Darby Family we would like to gratefully thank everyone who made visits, sent cards, brought food, sent flowers, made calls or just thought of us during our time of deepest bereavement. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you very much.

Mrs. Dorothy J. Darby and the Darby Family

From Capitol Hill

Election Necessitates "Stay The Course" Abandonment

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
In 1980 the Republicans were highly jubilant over their victories. They went into action with a bang, reveling in what they eagerly called their mandate to take charge and turn the country around. Now after 22 months in office the economy has gotten worse - unemployment is higher than it's been in 40 years, bankruptcies at an all time high, businesses are failing at 500 a week, many students are unable to go to college, a great assault on civil rights, the recent mid-term election has dampened the Republicans' feathers and their wings have been clipped.

While the senate seats remained the same the House Democratic seats just about doubled the general win for an off-election year. Moderate senators, even though, some are Republicans were elected; Weicker and Chafee and a new Democrat, who defeated Republican Millicent Fenwick, Frank Lautenberg, who made it very plain that he was of the more liberal type. His victory is largely

due to the very heavy black New Jersey support.

Paul Trible's win in Virginia seemed due more to a television blitz, than Trible's congressional performances, coupled with Virginia's extreme conservatism, a state that leads all the nation's 50 states in anti-black concerns. Of the 12 Virginians on Capitol Hill, nine got a zero civil rights rating, the lowest rating of any state in the country. It is stated that Trible received only five percent of the black vote.

In November 1981 the Washington Bureau of the Sun carried an article of the Republicans' high expectation of capturing control of Congress in 1982. Ed Rollins who is the President's chief assistant for political affairs said at that time, he wanted to lower the expectations to be more realistic. He predicted the GOP would gain 10 to 15 House seats and 3 or 4 in the Senate. There were no Senate gains but a loss of 26 House seats. Rollins said, "unlike White Houses in the past, the expectations of what this President and this Administration do for candidates is high."



Alfreda L. Madison

Coelho, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman listed the historical election points; first, in the spring of 1981 the favorite topic was frost belt and sun belt reapportionment shift which would be costly to Democrats. Second, when the reapportionment idea fizzled out, the Republicans began trotting out their pollsters to announce an ideological alignment shift, finally, when more independent pollsters straightened out those numbers, the public witnessed a conversion in the Rose Garden with the promise of at least a dozen more to come. Coelho said he raised those issues, "is not just a Democratic vic-

tory; it is a story of an historical opportunity the Republicans kicked away." He stated that the Republicans launched assaults against the public's sense of fairness and their attraction for getting social security. The American people made decisions based on issues instead of national slogans, through a multi-million dollar media campaign.

The Administration tried to save face by saying the Republicans won. It is impossible to win by losing.

House Speaker O'Neill said the President called for a lame duck Congress meeting, but the only thing that will be considered at that time will be appropriations. The President is emphasizing "stay the course." Democrats and some Republicans are saying the President will have to make changes.

Blacks had the highest percentage of voter increase of any group in the nation. Representative Tony Coelho said both parties realize the power of the Black vote and he feels Congress will give more consideration to issues that directly affect them. The Black vote provided

small business NEWS & VIEWS

Variable Loan Rates

Congressman Benjamin Rosenthal (D-NY) recommended recently that the Small Business Administration reduce the interest rate spread that banks are permitted to charge on SBA loans. His committee also recommended that the BA stop using the prime rate as a floor for loans and to develop a new system for setting SBA loan rates.

Many small business borrowers have been forced into bankruptcy this year because their variable rate bank loan payments have increased dramatically. The SBA's variable rate bank loans are guaranteed at 90 percent for repayment by the government and are set according to the current prime rate. Local banks can charge borrowers the prime rate plus 2.25 percent for loans under seven years, and 2.75 percent over prime for loans over seven years.

The variable rate loans are adjusted each month to reflect changes in market interest rates.

The fluctuation in this rate during the past two years from a high of 23 percent to today's 9 1/2 percent has caused severe cash problems for many firms.

The SBA guaranteed loan program is very attractive to local banks, but even so, many banks do not want to handle any government guaranteed loan applications because of the paper work involved in preparing the loan application. Bankers can make substantial profits by selling the guaranteed portion of the loans to other lenders, such as pension funds and insurance companies. These lenders are referred to as the secondary lending market.

A recent report from the House Government Operation Committee's panel on commerce and monetary affairs pointed out that banks can make as much as a 40 percent profit on an SBA loan. This high degree of profitability makes the loan very attractive to banks and other lenders. Buyers of these loans like the relatively high yield, federal guarantee against default, and the variable interest return.

Here is an example of how a bank can make 40 percent on these SBA loans. The SBA can guarantee 90 percent of a loan not exceeding \$500,000. In this example a bank makes a small business loan of \$550,000 with the SBA insuring 90 percent of the loan. The loan is for ten years at 17 percent interest. A pension fund manager is willing to take an annual return of 14.5 percent on the \$500,000 guaranteed portion of the loan. The local bank will collect the monthly payments, pay the pension fund its share, and keep 2.5 percent as its service fee.

So the bank has 2.5 percent on \$500,000 and the full 17 percent on the \$55,000 portion of the loan it keeps for itself. The small business borrower pays \$9,645 each month. The bank will collect \$11,943 in service fees on the \$500,000 and \$8,999 in interest on the \$55,000 portion for a total return of \$20,942. This is a 40 percent return on the bank's portion of the \$55,000 loan. The \$55,000 is the only portion of the loan that is not SBA insured.

For additional information contact the Center for Improving Mountain Living, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C. 28723, 704-227-7492.

outcomes in many races. Governor Cuomo's victory in New York was largely attributed to a concentration of Black votes. Governor Clements of Texas who spent \$12 million, tried to drive a wedge between the Hispanics and Blacks but these two groups were too enlightened to fall into his trap. So Clements, with even strong help from Reagan, lost to a Democrat.

The great increase in Black voting, caused the predicted overwhelming win for Jim Thompson, where, at this writing the vote is so close that the winner has not been decided. In Virginia the Black vote defeated Robert Daniel, who has a zero rating on civil rights. It is reported that the Black vote against him was 20 to one. Virginia picked up three Democratic seats. In North Carolina, Jesse Helms went down to four seat defeat.

All Congressional Black Caucus incumbents maintained their seats, and the seat vacated by Shirley Chisholm was taken by Major Owens. The additional Caucus members are: Edolphus Townes of New York's Eleventh Dis-

trict; Kate Hall, Indiana's First District and Allen What of Missouri's Fifth District. Congressman Fauntroy, Black Caucus Chairman, is greatly encouraged by the Caucus' increase from 18 to 21. He stated that the Caucus budgets, while being ignored, Senator Bob Dole, included many Caucus budget items in the tax bill. The Jobs Training bill that the Administration takes credit for was Representative Augustus Hawkins' bill. Fauntroy feels that the Caucus 1984 alternative budget will receive more attention because of the necessity for a constructive economic policy.

GRACE AME ZION
Grace AME Zion Church will celebrate Homecoming on Sunday, November 21 at the 11 a.m. worship service. Rev. Smith Turner III, Presiding Elder of the Charlotte District, will deliver the Homecoming sermon.



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