



EDITORIALS

Politics Of Polarization

Events leading to next Tuesday's general election have some unique features that are unfortunately polarizing the nation, and

especially the South, along racial and economic lines. Undoubtedly, the Rev. Jesse Jackson's apparent success in getting an increasing number of blacks to register and hopefully vote, and mounting evidence that President Reagan may receive as little as two percent of the black vote, has caused alarm among some whites.

In somewhat typical paranoia fashion among some whites, this has led in part to a conservative white backlash. Spearheaded by the Rev. Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority, the so-called white Christian con-

servatives have mounted a massive "get out the vote" campaign aimed at offsetting Jackson's efforts and contributing to the racial polarization between the races. In

this regard, the Moral Majority claims credit for having been responsible for the registration of some three million potential new conservative voters of which a reported 200,000 are in North Carolina.

It should not be assumed that the polarization is necessarily a new form of racism in America. It is in fact rooted in economic issues, some of which might be

said to be rooted in the racism that underlies the continuing unemployment rate among black males that continues to be

twice that of white males. Other economic factors in the polarization are that business people - large and small firms - and

most working people perceive themselves as living in an era of prosperity. This has been confirmed too by a Roper Poll that

shows: (1) over 50 percent of the population is said to be "pleased" with how their personal lives are going; and (2) 52 percent of those surveyed felt very positive about

the "way things are going for the country in general." Significantly, this is the first year that a majority of those polled answered

this question positively. A recent article in TIME magazine appears to confirm the Roper Poll findings. However, the majority of blacks and some other minority groups

feel that the nation's trickle-down prosperity of the present has left them in a continuing state of economic depression. This is evidenced in part by the fact that the number of people living below the poverty level has increased by 12 million since 1978.

Nancy Amidei, a former director of the National Food Research and Action Center, told a West Virginia audience last week that there are 47.1 million people below the poverty level who are not being reached by the economic recovery the nation is now experiencing. "Poverty is up for the fifth

straight year (and)...it's getting worse." As expected, children, senior citizens, minorities and female-headed households are suffering the most.

Another factor involved in the polarization has been the attempt by conservatives to lump a number of issues under the liberal banner; issues that all blacks or other minorities do not necessarily agree on.

These issues include support for abortion, nuclear weapons freeze, prayer in the public schools and civil rights for homo-

sexuals. Many blacks resent the lumping of their views, for example, on civil rights with that of civil rights for homosexuals. These issues in part transcend the questions of

race and political Party affiliation and focus more on the philosophical differences between what are called conservatives and liberals. By whatever definitions, these terms best represent the differences in the two political parties and presidential candidates.

Finally, whatever your views or political philosophy, VOTE on Tuesday, November 6.

Letter Was Timely

In an excellent letter to the editor of The Charlotte News (10-30-81) Kelly M. Alexander Jr. commended the late Phil Berry for his contributions and then said eloquently, "I urge the powers that be to look

beyond the criteria of 'let's get an old political pro,' and search the district to find the best possible candidate.... The district needs someone who has at least a working knowledge of state government, some

experience with local government...and most important, someone who has a sense of Charlotte that goes beyond the district boundary." Reflecting on what he felt was a

"sense of sorrow" as he witnessed the initial efforts to find a replacement for his late uncle, Sen. Fred D. Alexander, Kelly fully understands the damage that can be done if the wrong person is selected.

We commend Mr. Alexander for his timely and thought-provoking letter.

Your Privilege To Vote

We have said it repeatedly time and time again that it is your privilege and right, your obligation, and your need - whether you know it or agree with it to vote, vote and vote on Tuesday, November 6. Undoubtedly,

this will be the most significant election for the rest of this century because its outcome will surely effect the direction of civil rights and affirmative action for the next 75 years.

VOTE and take a friend or neighbor with you so that he or she, too, can VOTE.

It's your America, too, have a voice in it, VOTE, VOTE and VOTE.

From Capitol Hill

President Ronald Reagan Adds To Poverty Rolls

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Federal government workers make charitable contributions through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) program through payroll deductions. While 525 nationwide campaigns are being kicked off this year, the Reagan Administration has made some changes in the program.

The original practice has always been that Federal employees were issued brochures listing the different charities with a 30 word description of each. These were listed by numbers, and employees were given donor cards on which they would simply write the number of the charity to which they wanted to contribute.

In keeping with President Reagan's civil rights reversals, he sought to change CFC by issuing Executive Order 12404, which revised its standards for operation of the government's charitable solicitation program. The primary change was to limit participation in the CFC to organizations furnishing direct health and welfare services. Refusing to acknowledge that legal defense funds provided such services, these were, specifically, excluded and other national voluntary organizations which engage in advocacy on public issues, from the campaign.

Several civil rights organizations joined in a suit to overturn the Executive Order. The case was brought against Donald Devine, Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). They charged that because the CFC is a limited public forum, the Executive Order's exclusionary scheme unconstitutionally infringed upon plaintiffs' First Amendment rights,



Alfreda L. Madison

as well as upon equal protection guarantees. Judge Green decided that no regulation could remove the allegedly unconstitutional exclusion and remain consistent with the Executive Order. She said that solicitation of charitable contributions involves interests protected by the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech - was held to apply to the CFC designated funds. Judge Green found that the government could not exclude organizations from CFC because of content of the First Amendment protected activities. She ruled that exclusion of public interest litigation groups because they are considered too controversial is an impermissible basis for a restriction upon speech.

While Judge Green's decision is of great importance to civil rights organizations that defend the rights of the poor and minorities, the real beneficiaries are the thousands of federal employees who will be able to contribute to the charities of their choice, regardless of what the Administration thinks of the organizations. Donald Devine issued regulations

in which he made very clear that he will continue his fight to ban legal defense and advocacy groups from the campaign, in order to restrict it to "traditional health and welfare charities." Devine further states that "OPM is not pleased that judicial rulings compel the application of its resources to the support of categories of philanthropy that do not merit extraordinary governmental support."

The Reagan Administration has attempted to abolish the Legal Services Corporation, which renders services to the poor and it is seeking to stop federal funding of legal groups through the government charitable solicitation program to support such services.

These regulations issued by Devine are measures to circumvent the District Court's decision and instead is to carry out the Administration's constant fight to deny the poor and minorities means for seeking their constitutional rights.

The Administration's petition for rehearing en banc were denied. However, the Reagan forces have filed a petition with the Supreme Court to uphold the President's Executive Order. The petition has been answered by civil rights groups. Until now, there has been no indication whether or not the Court will hear the case.

The Assistant Director of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, said elimination of the charities' descriptions and the late timing of the changes would cut lesser-known charities' benefits. "The way this campaign has been run over the past three years contradicts everything President Reagan has said advocating support

for private charity as an alternative to government."

OPM is issuing an '85 brochure to federal employees with a list of the organizations that received CFC funds in their areas last year. They are also given donors' cards, and are asked to write in the names and addresses of the charities to which they wish to contribute. No description of the charities is given. The 30 word description that was given in the past has been eliminated.

Even if the workers knew the full name and address of the charities, they would not have enough space in which to write them. The original listing of only brochure numbers of the charities has been abolished.

These new regulations put a great cost burden on many smaller organizations to advertise their activities. President of the National Black United Fund of New York said, "We don't know which of the local campaigns will print our organization's name or description."

This is just a continuation of The Reagan Administration's ignoring the rights of the poor and his addition of the poverty roll.

NAACP

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Died for Your Right to Vote," is a reminder that many people were killed in the struggle to end disenfranchisement of blacks through out the South.

These and other tools are being used by the NAACP to raise the political consciousness of voters, Madison said. The NAACP Washington bureau's recently published comparative analysis of the platforms of the Democratic and Republican Parties against the association's civil rights positions has also been widely distributed.



Gambling-An American Addiction

By Sabrina Johnson
Post Columnist

It is a destructive, invisible illness, one that affects many Americans from childhood-compulsive gambling. Many begin gambling as children, others develop the habit later in adult life. No matter when it begins one trait persists among gamblers - their lives can be considered success stories on the surface. It - gambling - is the addiction of the 80s.

Gambling is progressive, psychological disease, much like alcoholism, with only one cure - abstinence. A compulsive gambler looks normal - unlike compulsive drinkers - is usually friendly and a clever liar. The disease is hidden from public view. However, today's American society appears to be taking toward gambling. In many instances the U.S. Government seems to be encouraging gambling.

Forty-six states now have some form of legal gaming. It ranges from bingo to lotteries to parimutuel betting. Last year Americans lost \$44 billion in legal games - with 18 state lotteries selling more than \$5 billion worth of tickets.

Since gambling is becoming so common and accept-



Sabrina Johnson

able, more people are trying it, especially young people. One note: In the state of Pennsylvania 11 gamblers existed 25 years ago; today over 500 exist in the eastern portion of the state alone!

A recent survey in New York City found that 32 percent of the high school students surveyed gambled at least once a week. Basically speaking, that's one in thirty-two teens between the ages of 16 to 18 who gamble.

Gambling patients, generally speaking, are intelligent folks with high energy levels. They have incredible outward independence, which masks feelings of dependence and low self-esteem. The "poor little rich girl syndrome" - outwardly having it all but inwardly missing the boat. Compul-

sive gamblers also reach all time lows in their lives, where no path seems to lead to success - only despair and destruction. Suicide is their answer. Many attempt and most succeed.

The pressure of gambling is so strong and intense that it causes so much unhappiness for the gambler and loved ones that they feel they cannot continue on and conquer the problem. Lack of sympathy is part of the destruction route. Most people feel sorry for drunks and drug addicts due to the element of fear. People are afraid of drunks and drug addicts but not of compulsive gamblers. He is viewed as a person who doesn't need "our" help.

Many experts believe gamblers can be singled out in a crowd as gamblers are the ones who look anxious and profoundly unhappy. The destruction course has settled in. First comes the lying and using up available funds; secondly borrowing from co-workers sets in until they catch on. Thirdly comes the finance company, then a second and third finance company. Finally loan sharks are sought. After all of this family bail out starts. The compulsive gambler confesses, begs, cries and pleads for financial help - the family comes up with the money to bail him out. This money may or may not be used to pay debts - it may be used to gamble more. A cycle that leads to human destruction.

Compulsive gamblers can be helped through organizations such as Gamblers Anonymous - but the gambler must first do one thing - admit to his illness.

Parents Can Help

When a child is an underachiever getting poor grades in school what he or she has the intelligence to get high ones, what can the parents do to help?

Here are some of the general guidelines suggested by psychologists and educators: (1) Use rewards rather than bribes; don't promise anything, but if a child's grades improve, celebrate by taking him or her out; (2) Encourage the child to become involved in activities to boost self-esteem - music, art, sports, computers, whatever; (3) Do everything you can to keep the child from the traumatic experience of being left back. Leah Blumberg Lapidus, clinical psychologist at Columbia University Teachers College, suggests parents press the school to allow the child to retake an exam or retake a course.

Summer school and outside tutoring are other possible solutions; (4) Don't become too involved with underachiever's homework; it's counterproductive. The child has to rise to the challenge of doing his or her own homework if a feeling of responsibility is to be fostered; and (5) Don't expect too much too soon.

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