



Tony Brown's COMMENTS

Jesse Jackson's First Term

In his first term as President of Black America, Jesse Jackson is expanding his political base and developing civil rights as a tool.

He has used the distressing circumstances of Black Americans and a monochromatic civil rights pitch that he inappropriately called a "rainbow coalition" to gain the notice of White people. He now embraces causes that he terms "universal."

All causes, that is, that keep the spotlight on him. Nicaragua, South Africa, drugs in school, farmers' bankruptcies - you name it.

Don't get me wrong, some of these issues, arguably all of them, need addressing. Drugs and South Africa are high on my list of problem - priorities. And Jackson is performing a noteworthy purpose of staging events for the media to focus on them.

But when you put all of his energies together, there is no confluence of purpose on issues. It is simply energy for publicity's sake. And, again, I must put that into perspective by admitting there is a place in any society for celebrities.

However, in Chicago, the Country Preacher did take time out to become serious. He lobbied against a very fat contract going to a White firm for construction at O'Hare Airport.

According to press reports, Jackson's reason for holding back millions of dollars from this company is due to its business activities in South Africa. One columnist thought that Jackson's brother, who bid for the same work and does not own a business in South Africa, might be favored over the White folks because of Jackson's "civil rights" activities.

As a matter of fact, we may be witnessing the writing of a new

chapter in "civil rights."

But little matters like contracts at airports mean little to those excited and mesmerized by the rhetoric of Jackson's movement. Not that there is not a place for rhetoric either.

African-Americans come out of an oral tradition and we demand of our leaders a rhetorical approach to problem solving (which may be one reason we don't accomplish more) and communal posturing to some extent.

What is devastating, however, is that Jackson has elected himself President of Black America by asking Blacks to vote against Ronald Reagan and, when convenient, White in the Democratic Party. It worked, of course, because Blacks don't trust either. But Jackson's real aspirations were never spelled out and never really challenged.

Many simply felt good because they could vote for a Black to such a high office. The San Francisco Disaster, otherwise known as the Democratic National Convention, was the rude awakening to the feel-good follies of 1984 politics.

Now, less than a year later, Walter Mondale, who benefited most - next to Jackson - from Jackson's campaign, has named Jackson as a political liability to his failed candidacy and the Democratic Party.

But that criticism of a man who takes his political aspirations seriously and places his party loyalty above all others misses the point that Jackson gave all for his party.

"Tony Brown's Journal" TV series can be seen on public television Sunday, on Channel 42, at 5 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 50, Sunday, 6:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

In 100-Year War

Blacks Defeat Whites?

By Tony Brown
Special To The Post

Did you know that some Africans brought to the New World as slaves escaped and fought a 100-year guerilla war against an entire Dutch army - and won?

Another little-known aspect of history is the undying brotherhood between the original Americans of the Western hemisphere and the Africans brought to this continent by the Atlantic slave trade.

Nowhere is this historical kinship more prominent than among the Bush Afro-Americans and the Bush Indians of the Amazon region. When brought to the New World on slave ships, many Africans mutinied and fled into the Amazon jungle. These escaped slaves befriended the Indians who fought with them against the European slave traders.

For the first time on national public television, this friendship between the Djukas of Surinam and the Amerindians of the Amazon is brought to life through rare film footage gathered during an expedition led by two black scientists from Harvard University, Dr. Allen Counter and David Evans.

This exciting two-part edition of "Tony Brown's Journal," "Black And Red: The First World," will be seen on the nation's public television stations (PBS). Sponsored by Pepsi-Cola Company for 10 consecutive years, the pro-

gram airs in this area on WTVI, Channel 42, at 5 p.m., Sunday, May 5.

Dr. Counter and Evans have dedicated and risked their lives in a 10-year study that traces the history of the Djukas and the

South American Indians. It is the thrilling saga of how these two tribes, fighting side by side, defeated armies of slave traders - and until this day live free in the South American jungle.



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