

# EDITORIALS

## Politics Of White Flight

A reported relatively small poll taken in a single state, Michigan, where racial polarization is said to be pronounced, has surfaced from the closet a skeleton that Democratic Party officials would have preferred to not talk about publicly.

The skeleton, in the form of a pollster's conclusion, says that many recent defectors from the Democratic Party, nearly all of them white people, are leaving because they think that federal domestic programs -- largely supported by Democrats -- are designed to favor benefiting blacks as opposed to whites.

The pollster claims that "Democratic defectors have very deeply felt racial sentiment that are formative as to their views of government and the Democratic Party." Stanley Greenberg, the pollster, reports too that many of the defectors surveyed are believed to be blue collar workers who have left the Democratic Party only out of a feeling that government is not doing enough for them, not for reasons of philosophical convictions.

The entire issue -- white flight from the national Democratic Party -- is believed to be creating a dilemma for Democrats. The dilemma is even more pronounced when the fact is noted that blacks have been the Democratic Party's most loyal constituency, and have expectantly sought to be duly rewarded.

Ironically, but not surprisingly, the poll reportedly indicates it is not so much an anti-black feeling as it is that blacks just happen to be the group blocking blue collar white Americans from getting small business loans, job promotions blocked by affirmative action programs and other government assistance.

Finally, some state Democratic Party chairmen have indicated that similar results would be evident in their states with the same survey.

### Mixed Signals?

Based on the reported aspects of the poll's findings, mixed signals as to the full meaning of the survey occur when some factors are considered that may have influenced the attitudes and responses of those surveyed. For example, Michigan, a major automobile producing state that has felt the impact of competition from foreign auto makers, has had serious unemployment problems over the last decade. Coupled with this is that self-pride has led many such jobless auto workers to decline federal assistance when it has been available.

White people generally are more inclined to decline government assistance for reasons of pride and the psychological need to believe that makes them somehow better than black people. Blacks are no less a people of pride and dignity; however, because of years, hopefully all in the past, of institutionalized racism and limited educational opportunity, they have had to develop coping and survival skills in order to achieve any level of a quality of life. These

efforts have of necessity included utilizing and taking advantage of federal government assistance programs.

Detroit, Michigan, one of the major cities in the nation where affirmative action among policemen and firemen aimed at greater advancement for minorities and women is quite controversial, undoubtedly was in the minds too of those surveyed.

On the other hand, the Republic Party has begun its long awaited effort to recruit cross-over Democrats to their party. Ironically, one of the first Democrats they were successful in recruiting was William Lucas, Detroit area county executive. Lucas, a black man and a former New York City policeman and FBI agent, said the Democratic leadership is out of touch with the people.

Lucas, 57, is the manager of Wayne County - the nation's fourth largest county - said, amid rumors that he'll run for governor next year against Gov. Jane Blawie, "Simply changing parties does not automatically make me a candidate for governor."

### Racial Feelings

After serving four terms as sheriff, Lucas gained 77 percent of the general election vote after winning twice as many votes as his closest Democratic rival in the county executive primary. If Mr. Lucas' success has any significance it sounds as if Michigan is not necessarily a state with overt racial feelings of hostility towards blacks. This too then might indicate that the defection of white Democrats is not a racial issue as such.

Finally, Americans, and particularly the news media have a habit of assuming that every conflict between whites and non-whites is necessarily a racial conflict and, therefore, have tended to interpret the survey's results as being within a racial hostility situation.

Interestingly, too, since the nation's corporations have had to pay substantially less taxes during the Reagan Administration and received many other benefits, we have to wonder who has benefited most from the federal government.

The Democratic Party certainly needs to rethink its philosophy and general party policies. During the Reagan sweep it appeared that Democrats lacked a sense of direction, were totally ineffective in dealing with the blunt tactics of the likes of Jesse Helms and in general had little to excite the voters.

It is therefore our conclusion that defections from the Democratic Party is an issue of economics, not racism. However, with the growing loss of many family farms, bank failures and an import-export policy that is costing too many American jobs, there will probably be a swing back to the Democratic Party in the 1985 off-year elections.

### From Capitol Hill

## The Ball Is In President Ronald Reagan's Court

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

Marianne Mele Hall, President Reagan's appointed chairman of the Copyright Royalty Tribunal, said in the Senate Judiciary committee questionnaire and in papers filed in the District of Columbia Superior Court in 1982, that she co-authored the book, "Foundations of Sand." The book says, "American blacks insist on preserving their jungle freedoms, their women, their avoidance of personal responsibility, and their abhorrence of the work ethic. Blacks have inherited a different set of aptitudes, values, mores, goals and lifestyles over a period of 10,000 years. When you displace the jungle-freedom-types into the Scotland-type environment which is America."

The book also says that social scientists "put blacks on welfare so they can continue their jungle freedoms of leisure time and subsidized procreation." These are racist statements of the worst kind, being said in the eighties, when one had hoped that this type of overt racism had disappeared.

Presidential appointments are usually investigated by the FBI -- all aspects of their lives are investigated. Questions are: Did Marianne tell them that she co-authored "Foundations of Sands?" If so, did the FBI examine the contents of the book? If so, did they feel that the statements of racism qualified her for the \$70,000 position that she now holds? What information did the FBI and the White House personnel give the Senate Judiciary Committee for Senate confirmation purposes? Is the Judiciary Committee negligent in not examining the book? Doesn't this require the Senate Judiciary to take a good investigatory look at Mr.



Alfreda

Reagan's appointments before confirming them?

Marianne Mele Hall now says that she only edited the book. Yet, her name is one of the three names that are on the book's cover.

The Congressional Black Caucus immediately called a press conference to denounce Ms. Hall's actions and called for her immediate removal from office. CBC Chairman Mikey Leland stated, "...the mere admission of association with a publication including statements repugnant as those in 'Foundations of Sand' is a significant indictment of the judgment of a public official and we believe constitutes grounds for Ms. Hall's immediate removal."

The Caucus introduced the Sense of the House Resolution condemning the continued insensitivity of the Reagan Administration in its relationships with minorities of various groups. Leland spoke of appointments to the Education Department who expressed a complete sensitivity to the handicapped, which, blamed these people for their unfortunate conditions, disregard for

A HERITAGE TO BE PROUD OF

**"WE MUST GIVE OUR CHILDREN A SENSE OF PRIDE IN BEING BLACK. THE GLORY OF OUR PAST AND THE DIGNITY OF OUR PRESENT MUST LEAD THE WAY TO THE POWER OF OUR FUTURE!"**

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL

### Controversy Surrounds Contraceptions

This week marks the 25th birthday of the birth control pill. However, controversy and questions still surround this form of contraception.

The pill is the third most widely used form of contraception in the United States, but much concern of its safety prompts some women to risk conception by resorting to some less effective means of birth control.

Approximately 8.5 million to 10 million American women use the pill. The pill has given women the ability to control their reproductive lives and is believed primary in the quest for real equality. The use of the pill allows women to choose when a child will be conceived and when it will not; thus no longer being slaves to their reproductive organs.

Controversy has become the primary adjective for the pill: problem being that reports are still conflicting.

In the late 1970s studies commented that the pill protects women against infertility caused by sexually transmitted infections. On the flip side doctors recently stated that women who take the pill had two to three times the risk of becoming



Sabrina

infertile in comparison to no pill users.

Cancer is another source of concern. Studies in the 1970s linked several types of cancer to the pill. The 1980s reversed the studies. Today's belief suggest the pill protects against endometrial (lining of the uterus) and ovarian cancer and does not attribute to breast cancer.

What about heart disease? Doctors now see a risk of heart disease linked to women over 35 who smoke and take the pill. Whereas studies in the 1970s linked heart disease as a risk to all women who take the pill.

Another interesting fact is

that per 100,000 women taking the pill for one year, there will be approximately five pill-related deaths, compared to the 10 deaths related to childbirth per 100,000.

Women also underestimate the effectiveness of the pill. Nearly half of the women studied incorrectly guessed that from five to 20 pregnancies occur for every 100 pill users. The actual rate is one percent to four percent per 100 women, making the pill the most effective contraceptive with a 90 percent efficiency rate. The next effective methods are the IUD and diaphragm. Sterilization is another effective method and, of course, the only 100 percent effective method is abstinence.

Thanks to the pill more women are in the workforce, and more are climbing the corporate ladder. This concept has become an important factor in the lives of the female baby boomer generation; it has allowed them the choice of when to conceive and when not. The philosophy of yuppies is spreading -- build a profitable and successful life, then consider having children.

Also thanks to the pill, married women are having fewer "unwanted" babies in contrast to their parents who conceived sooner than planned. Due to this fact the proportion of unwanted babies fell from 14 percent of births to married women in 1973 to 10 percent in 1982. The conclusion being that the percentage of "wanted" babies increased from 86 percent to 90 percent. Thus, because of the pill, fewer families are feeling the economic and emotional stress of unplanned births.

What about the teen pregnancy rate? Is it possible that if contraceptive services (especially advocates of the pill) made contraceptives more available to teens without parental notice -- would the rate decline? Can the pill be a viable answer by making it an ingredient in orange juice?

Happy 25th birthday, pill! You are a quarter of a century old and have conquered over half of the female population in the United States. That goes to show that a woman can do anything "she" sets her mind to do! Let the bells ring that women do not have to be mothers if they do not want to be. Finally, women have been freed from the master reproductive organs.

The Charlotte Post

North Carolina's Fastest Growing Weekly

704-376-0496

"The People's Newspaper"

106 Years Of Continuous Service

Bill Johnson Editor, Pub. Bernard Reeves Gen. Mgr. Fran Bradley Adv. Mgr. Dannette Gaither Of. Mgr.

Published Every Thursday By The Charlotte Post Publishing Company, Inc. Main Office: 1531 S. Camden Road Charlotte, N.C. 28203

Second Class Postage Paid at Charlotte

Member, National Newspaper Publishers' Association North Carolina Black Publishers Association

National Advertising Representative: Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

One Year Subscription Rate One Year - \$17.76 Payable In Advance