

WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

722-8624 Or 723-9863

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Winston-Salem, N.C.

Saturday August 6, 1977

Red Herrings Or Showmanship

Very soon the voters of the black community will have important decisions to make that will affect the community for the next four years. How will these decisions be influenced? By deception, evasion, red herrings, or showmanship?

Heretofore, the black voters have been subjected to a calculated silence that failed to acquaint them with the candidates and what the candidates offered. At the polls the uninformed voters are given two or three slates of candidates which left them more confused. There should be more caucusing and more leg workers who will go out into the community and knock on doors to answer questions about the particular candidates.

The last national election outcome should not influence our thinking to out the old and put in the new. Seniority is very important when committees are formed and even more important when chairmanships are made. Chairmen play an important part when the body can spend a term just getting acquainted with the procedures. Parliamentary procedures can keep one's mouth shut just as much as

inexperience in budget making and finances. In the meantime the black community can be left hanging on the short end. How many times have you attended an Aldermanic Meeting? It takes know-how and experience to cope.

On the other hand by placing new members on the Board, who are known to have made contributions in the Black Community can be an asset, providing they can give more than lip service and get what the community needs with compromise and caucusing. Blacks are still to complacent and should give more thought and attention to the electing of public servants.

We have very personable candidates running for the Board of Aldermen; incumbents as well as new faces in politics. The voters should give them every consideration and scrutiny. Four years of leadership depend upon your decisions. The Black Community can not tolerate a term of inactivity. A lot of impressive rhetoric can end up being small talk. A council is no place for pretty talk; action is the order of the day.

The New Pornography Law

A new pornography law went into effect Monday, allowing district attorneys and the state attorney general's office to file civil suits against stores selling, exhibiting, or possessing "lewd matter."

Everyone is waiting to see whether Winston-Salem's district attorney Donald Tisdale will close down the adult book stores and raid the X-rated movies.

Without getting into the 1st Amendment aspects of a pornography law, our main reaction to such a local crack-down would be: "Isn't it a little strange?" After all, Madge Roberts ran

a ring of prostitution and an illegal abortion racket for twenty years in the Twin City and was never prosecuted for it. But suddenly everyone is clamoring about copies of HUSTLER in the convenience stores and girlie movies downtown.

One might conclude from this discrepancy that it is all right to participate in pornographic things—just don't read about them...?

Anyway, we hope that before Mr. Tisdale starts busting the local porn peddlers, that he will take a very close look at Mrs. Roberts. After all, if it is illegal to look at it or read about it, she must be in a world of trouble.

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

We continue this week with item 5 of the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Agenda, which calls for your personal support. You may wish to retain the entire series.

5. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In the Caucus Legislative Agenda for 1976, a detailed statement covering many is-

suues in the international arena was set forth. We hold to that statement of principles. Our primary focus remains bringing about majority rule in that southern Africa, and to that end we support legislation (1) to repeal the Byrd Amendment permitting the importation of Rhodesian Chrome so long as the illegal regime in that country remains; 2) to deny the foreign

tax credit for taxes paid South Africa; 3) greatly increased U.S. contribution to the African Development fund.

Additionally, the Caucus supports the establishment of a permanent House Select Committee on Intelligence.

The Caucus also calls for a re-examination of the role of the U.S. in the world community, particularly as it relates to the massive spending demanded in our defense budget—spending which has direct impact on our ability as a nation to meet human

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By
Dr. Nathaniel
Wright, Jr.

BLACK EMPOWERMENT

COME TO THE CAUCUS DINNER

For all of us there ought to be periodic great occasions where we do more than "let go," where our spirits soar and we see ourselves for the greatness which the spirit of the occasion reveals.

For black Americans such an annual occasion ought to be the gala dinner in Washington, D.C. of the Congressional Black Caucus.

This year the dinner itself will be held on September 24th at the Washington Hilton Hotel. But what we generally speak of as the Congressional Black Caucus Dinner is more than a dinner, more than an evening out.

The dinner is set as part of a weekend of significant activity which is vital to the interests of all black Americans. Specifically the major part of the Caucus event will be a series of workshops on Friday and Saturday, September 23 and 24 on the theme "How Congress Operates."

The workshops will concern themselves with a wide range of black community needs, as each focuses on the basic question as to how black people throughout the country may become increasingly effective in getting their viewpoint heard... and acted upon.

The workshops will enable participants to meet the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, together with their key staff aides.

There will be opportunity to question the Caucus members, to visit their offices and to share some concerns of a personal nature which any of us may have, whether the Congressmen or Congresswomen are our official representatives or not.

These opportunities to get to know our representatives in Washington much better and to learn how issues vital or dear to us may best be forwarded would make the visit to Washington worthwhile in itself.

Along with being with our representatives, the Caucus weekend affords the privilege of meeting and of working in small groups with many other distinguished, involved and resourceful black Americans who come from all parts of the country just for this great and gala event.

The workshops are open to all who wish to register and come to Washington to share. Hence the big part of the Caucus weekend carries its price tag other than our own trip expenses to a magnificent and exciting city.

For those who have not been to Washington recently, one may be surprised to see a greatly beautiful city, with not only a sparkling new subway system but also a black population increase to 71 percent.

Washington, D.C. is the world's most largely black metropolis outside the continent of Africa. The city's black dignitaries will be on hand; and the traditional Washington, D.C. tours will enable the weekend participants to see the political sights and the cultural sights and to learn how an overwhelming black majority

comports itself with dignity, effectiveness and command.

Thus far we have said little about the dinner itself. But we shall, after a reminder that the invitation for us to come to Washington is a call for us to be together at our very best... and to be proud all the while. If you come, as we trust you will plan to do, you will find every moment a celebration.

For details of the weekend for you, or for you, your spouse and family or perhaps for you and your civic or church group, simply address: Congressional Black Caucus Dinner Committee, Congressional Annex, Washington, D.C. 20515, or perhaps you will want to call at 202-225-1691. But mark your calendar; and then write or call today.

You will find the weekend an occasion of personal and black renewal. It will afford the rare or once in a year opportunity to meet and talk seriously with some of the best and most influential minds in Black America. You will come away exceedingly proud.

The dinner itself will largely add to the tremendous weekend sense of pride in being a part of an "increasingly together" black community.

There is no occasion for black folks throughout the world that has more notable and accomplished blacks come together than the annual Congressional Black Caucus Dinner.

The profits from the dinner go directly for the cooperative work of the Congressional Black Caucus, a thoroughly underfunded group.

Large numbers of blacks can easily afford the \$125 for the dinner. But most arrange, as is reasonable, for their business employers or for a business with which they have good relations to support the important work of the Congressional Black Caucus by purchasing one, two or even a table of ten seats.

The tickets would normally be then used by the person making the request and, if two tickets are purchased, by that person's spouse or company.

It is a fair request to ask your friends or your business associates to support the major work of the Congressional Black Caucus in the interests of all Americans but especially "on behalf of black folks."

If you need assistance, simply share this editorial; perhaps the one you ask will want to send you by paying all of your travel and hotel expenses, as many friends and employers do. Or they may wish to come, along with you. Many churches will also want to send their minister and his wife.

You and they will see black folks casually strut their fine feathered stuff as no doubt they have never seen before. The Caucus weekend is a celebration, a happening you'll never forget. You owe it to yourself to be there. See you there!

Alice In Winstonland

The Red King

The whole plain was laid out in squares, like a chessboard, and here and there life-size chess men were darting about from square to square.

Suddenly Alice felt herself being pushed from behind.

"Run! Run!" cried the voice.

Alice was so frightened that she began to run as hard as she could. When she finally stopped, being out of breath, she saw that her companion was the Red King.

"Why were we running?" asked Alice.

"It's our civic duty—and the way across the board without being stopped, we get to become more powerful," panted the Red King. "Run!"

He grabbed Alice's wrist, and they began to run again. This time when they stopped to rest, Alice looked around her and noticed that the landscape was just the same.

"Why, we haven't got See Alice, Page 2



To Be Equal

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Blackout 1977

When the lights went out in New York City we came face-to-face with urban anarchy in its most terrifying form. Large sections of the City fell prey to looting, burning and lawlessness.

New Yorkers were horrified, not least among them the poor people in whose neighborhoods most of the outrages took place. Innocent people found themselves burned out of their homes and terrorized by the breakdown of order in the streets.

After the crisis passed, they were faced with essential neighborhood services gone—food stores, cleaning establishments and clothing stores burned or looted. Lives already made difficult by poverty and hardship became significantly harder.

That's a part of the New York story that has been neglected by the media focus on the acts of looting and on the arrests. All of the attention has been placed on the violence and little on the victims of that violence. The storekeepers whose businesses were lost or damaged were not the only victims—customers and employees and neighbors will suffer from the blackout looting too.

It would be a mistake to assume that this was just a repeat version of the riots of the late 1960s. Racial violence was absent this time—black and Hispanic-owned stores were not immune from looting,

and there was no overt racial conflict behind the attacks.

Many people in other cities should be smug about the New York tragedy. It's a national past-time to downgrade New York and to exaggerate its problems. But what happened in New York could easily happen in any of our cities.

For national policies of neglect have led to the creation of an urban wilderness peopled by victims of poverty, discrimination and joblessness. We have created a large underclass of people with no stake in our society, embittered people whose exclusion from the mainstream has led them to

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Letters to the Chronicle

I read your paper and my opinion of Jimmy Carter is that he has done a good job during the six months he has been in office. On the other hand, the people who don't know much about the law should be careful about what they say.

My second husband was a lawyer and he taught me that the President can't do any more than Congress will allow. The U.S. Government is working all the time. There must be a president to encourage them.

I have received letters from lots of presidents and there have been many presidents who have not done anything for the people, and I don't like the people to be ignorant about the duties of the president.

I sure don't like what I read about President

Carter. God is looking and knows what he does is the best.

I have heard a broadcast that the rate of pay in North Carolina is the worst in the United States.

Now President Carter has not been in office six months. He and President Kennedy have put more Black people in government than any other president.

Ebony magazine shows a lot of people working in other states, but not in South Carolina or North Carolina. Those people working in Washington, D.C.; are from North Carolina or South Carolina.

I know how I have been treated under the past presidents. The best thing for people who are always talking and complaining is for them to get on their knees and pray. Give me

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Things You Should Know

Sidney BECHET

BORN IN NEW ORLEANS,

MAY 14, 1897, THE LATE SIDNEY

BECHET TOOK UP CLARINET AT

THE AGE OF SIX / HE "WOWED"

FRANCE IN 1920, 1925 AND 1927 /

REJOINED NOBLE SISSLE IN 1934,

STAYED ABROAD FROM 1949 UNTIL

HIS DEATH...



CONTINENTAL FEATURES

DEATH

THE DOPE TEMPTER

DRUNKENNESS OF DOPE IS A FLATTERING DEVIL, A SWEET POISON, A PLEASANT SIN, WHICH WHOEVER HATH HATH NOT HIMSELF WHICH WHOEVER DOTHT COMMIT, DOTHT NOT COMMIT SIN, BUT HE HIMSELF IS WHOLLY SIN.

AUGUSTINE