

President Reagan To Address Blacks On Brown's 'Journal'



Reagan



Brown

During a special edition of "Tony Brown's Journal," airing at 7:30 p.m. on Channels 4 and 26, President Ronald Reagan delivers what is tantamount to a State of the Union address to black Americans.

What television viewers will see is a president trying, after his first year in office, to bridge the gap between his administration and the nation's black citizens.

Reagan revealed for the first time in the taped interview what blacks can

expect from his "new federalism" proposal, the centerpiece of his State of the Union message, to transfer responsibility for social programs to the states. When journalist Tony Brown asked how blacks would fare under his new chief domestic legislative initiative and if they would get caught in a power play between the federal and state governments, the president adamantly said, "No."

President Reagan charged, however, that under the Democrats, the federal gov-

ernment had previously "shut its eyes" to the abuse of "constitutional rights of the black population" at local levels. "The duty and obligation of the federal government is to guarantee the constitutional rights of every citizen in this country" even "at the point of bayonet, if necessary," Reagan said.

"If I have an intolerance at all, it is an intolerance for bigotry and prejudice," he explains.

President Reagan stressed that he has scrupulously avoided boasting about his record on racial matters because he feared that he would be perceived as "showing off," but told Brown that for the first time he was publicly making it

known that as governor of California, "I appointed more blacks to executive and policy-making positions in state government than all the previous governors of California put together."

President Reagan promised that the budget for black colleges will be increased "next year over this year" and that the urban enterprise zones and a revived economy will curb the record unemployment among blacks.

At another point in the interview, the president debunked the theory that black children cannot learn "unless they're sitting next to white kids" as "demeaning and humiliating" to blacks.

The buildup to this historic one-on-one interview was a rejection of Ronald Reagan at the polls by blacks, followed by a lingering doubt that he would heartily oppose discrimination and culminating in a fierce outcry when his administration allowed tax exemptions to private schools that segregate. The result was the most severe confrontation this president has had with another group of Americans.

But when President Reagan stepped before the cameras with Brown, a journalist whose career is synonymous with black-affairs television, he responded to the crucial questions on the minds of the nation's 30 million

Afro-American citizens. On the controversial subject of tax breaks for schools that segregate, the charge that his explanation seemed a trifle dignified, President Reagan admitted that he should have introduced legislation first.

The president reviewed his attitudes and actions towards the nation's black citizens and projected his future course of action on a variety of other domestic and civil rights issues. South Africa and apartheid, welfare, food stamps, social programs aimed at children, CETA, the Voting Rights Act, affirmative action and the role of blacks on the White House staff.



Dance Steps

ATLANTA: Charmaine Kindrick, a witness in the Wayne Williams trial does a dance step after trying to avoid T.V. cameras. The waitress told of seeing one of the 28 slain Atlanta youths, Terry Pue, get into a car with Wayne Williams.

Family Leadership Plan From Page 1

(10) Challenge and boycott negative media and support positive media
(11) Secure and defend the black community
(12) Support Mother Africa and Caribbean nations

The Black Development Fund

The Black Development Fund is not a formal organization controlled by any one individual or group. It is rather a national movement to keep more of black income and wealth in the black community. It is a concept of giving for black self-support. The only requirement is that every able black understand the need to give and then give to a black organization or institution of his/her choice on a regular basis. Under the plan, each month one of the following 12 categories will be identified and publicized at the local level:

- Jan. 1. Black civil rights organizations
- Feb. 2. Black candidates, black political and voter participation organizations
- Mar. 3. Black religious institutions

- Apr. 4. Black senior citizens organizations
- May 5. Black Africa and Caribbean relief
- June 6. Historically black colleges
- July 7. Black legal defense funds
- Aug. 8. Black hospitals and health care organizations
- Sept. 9. Congressional Black Caucus (Political Action Committee)
- Oct. 10. Black arts and cultural organizations
- Nov. 11. Black family support organizations
- Dec. 12. Black youth and child care organizations

A Mission for Everyone

In addition to the 12 rules and the Black Development Fund, the plan contains a mission for blacks in every walk of life. Fauntroy said, "There is now a plan of action in which all black people can play a meaningful part. Whether one is a black in business, labor, civic, fraternal or professional activity; whether one is involved in civil rights, community action, religion, politics, education, youth and elderly services, or in prison, there is now a plan by which blacks may coordinate in our struggle for

the common good."

The Action Alert Network

Finally, the plan urges blacks in all walks of life to join the Action Alert Communications Network in order that blacks may be able to communicate directly with one another when there is a need for concerted action. The network is being established in about 110 Congressional districts where blacks are 15 percent or more of the population. National organizations are urged to designate a coordinator for their members in each congressional district and to break down their membership lists by congressional district. Participating organizations are also invited to make their lists available to the Congressional Black Caucus, which will coordinate the network.

Included with the plan is an enlistment card for Action Alert Volunteers inviting individual black citizens to join the network. **Black Churches Involved** The National Congress of Black Churches, a voluntary association of representatives of seven historically black

demoninations (African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Church of God in Christ, National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., and the Progressive National Baptist Convention) played a significant role in the development of the plan.

THE OLD BODIE PLANTATION IS SENDING MORE AND MORE PEOPLE INTO DIFFERENT FIELDS.

In 1864, the Bodie Plantation was sending blacks into the cotton fields. Today, as the site of a United Negro College Fund member school, it's sending blacks into different fields—like business, medicine, the arts. By giving to UNCF, you help 41 private, predominantly black colleges and universities. And thousands of students who will be able to provide essential services when you need them.

Send your check to the United Negro College Fund, Box K, 500 E. 62nd St., N.Y., N.Y. 10021. Help send more people into different fields.

GIVE TO THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND. A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE.

Drug Problem From Page 1

19 years ago. He compared the drug problem to "grabbing a handful of quicksilver: You think you have something and when you look closely, it's nothing."

"It is not as evident as it was before. It's just not as prevalent," Gibson said. "I don't kid myself. It comes and goes. Right now I would say that we're at a lower point than a year ago. Alcohol and beer seem to be the kick now."

Junior high principals interviewed say the problem grows as the students grow.

Ron Ceveness, who has served as a principal at the elementary, junior high and high school levels, said that the problem is virtually non-existent at Jefferson Junior High.

"In my school, I have not seen a problem," he said. "I have not had any referrals or anything. But the drug problem tends to compound as the child gets older, which would mean in the high school levels."

"Another factor that helps our school is its small size. We are able to have close supervision for all the

students here. Supervision is the key to curtailing the problem. In the high schools there are so many students it is impossible to keep tabs on everyone all the time."

"I'm always scared to death to assess something like this," said Bruce Tarkington, principal of Mineral Springs Junior High. "I feel like we have a minor problem, but you can never really be sure. We try to keep our children responsible through education. The hardest part is getting at it once you suspect a problem."

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