

Forum

Business As Usual After The Election

There's a strange notion floating around that the end of the election campaign means returning to business as usual. But, I believe it marks the start of a new era in which America will have to pull its collective head out of the sand and begin to attack the stubborn problems that threaten our future.

At the top of the list of those problems is racial divisiveness. Few could take comfort from the way the subject was handled during the campaign -- the candidates all but ran away from it.

drastically reduced and our interests ignored. What kind of reassurances? For starters, the president-elect should nominate his Cabinet early on, and it should be made up of people with a track record of advocating policies that help people out of poverty.

African-Americans and other minorities should be included in the Cabinet, and not just for positions traditionally associated with their concerns, such as Secretary of Health and Human Resources, or Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The African-American community has a wealth of talented people able and willing to serve in top posts that affect national defense, international relations, the law, and business.

TO BE EQUAL

By JOHN E. JACOB

All of them said the right thing about how we need to make our diversity a strength, but you could count the number of times they went beyond that on the fingers of one hand.

In the third presidential debate, a question about minorities and women in decision-making post was answered in a similar fashion by all the candidates.

They talked at length about the women they have appointed, but very little was said about the need for greater representation of minorities and African-Americans in key government posts.

Clearly, the candidates were more concerned about the white suburban vote than they were the inner city black vote. And if you look at it only from the angle of electoral politics, that tilt makes sense.

You have to get elected before you can govern, but unless you govern well you're unlikely to get re-elected.

So the president-elect has to hit the ground running once he is inaugurated, and that means making key decisions right now. Not just personnel decisions, but also the policy choices he and we will live with for the next four years.

Many African-Americans are looking to the president-elect for reassurances that the next four years will not be a repeat of the last dozen years when our role in government was

A new Administration could send a strong signal that it really intends to honor America's diversity by appointing a Cabinet that truly reflects that diversity.

A second reassurance can come from involvement with the African-American community -- meeting with black congress persons to get their ideas about policy, initiating an open door policy of consulting with community leaders, and visiting inner city neighborhoods to demonstrate concern with conditions there.

Third, the president-elect should back the Urban League's call for a Marshall Plan for America, and explain to the action how targeting economic and human resource investments on those most in need will benefit the entire nation.

Finally, he should use the tremendous media interest in his plans as a "bully pulpit" to spotlight America's racial problems and to mobilize citizens of all races to live together in harmony.

And, that includes publically recognizing the continuing effects of racism and its poisonous influence of our lives. Those steps would go a long way toward reassuring African-Americans that the future will be better than the past, and it will help to replace racial divisiveness with hope for a better future.

Stop the Violence in the U.S.A.

The fatal shooting of seven year old Dantrell Davis as he walked to school through Chicago's Cabrini-Green housing project has stirred a renewed demand to stop the spiral of death and violence that has increasingly engulfed many of the centers of urban America.

Some of the violence is gang related. Some of the violence comes as a result of drug epidemic. Yet, some of the violence finds innocent victims being caught in the crossfire of this nation's economic exploitation and

40 years. In fact, racial segregation in housing is worst in 1992 that it was in 1952 throughout the country. In Philadelphia, Newark, Detroit, Kansas City and in many other cities the violence in public housing projects replicates the situation in Chicago. But the problem is not the existence of public housing; the problem is the absence of adequate public housing, the absence of employment, that absence of community economic empowerment for people of color communities, and the absence of show

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

By BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS JR.

social neglect. The fact that there are many contributing factors to the violent social condition of the United States is in itself no excuse for local, regional and national leaders to avoid addressing this critical issue.

The new national focus on violence in public housing projects like Cabrini-Green is necessary and long overdue.

But we believe it would be a mistake to see the tragic death of little Dantrell Davis as an isolated incident that is only pertinent to the infamous public housing projects in the city of Chicago.

Chicago's Mayor, Richard M. Daley, views the situation as needing primarily a law enforcement solution. Mayor Daley quickly ordered a massive police search and seizure operation in the 7,000 - person housing complex. The resident population in Cabrini-Green is nearly 100 percent African American.

The man arrested as the confessed sniper in the senseless shooting of Davis should be swiftly tried and sentenced for his awful criminal act.

We believe, however, that to view the urban crisis solely as an issue of law and order is grossly insufficient and irresponsible. Until the social and economic conditions that drive persons to crime and violence are changed the tragic murders of our children in the streets of America will continue to increase.

How is it in a racially diverse large city like Chicago that a 7,000 - person public housing project has only African-American residents? Residential segregation by race and social economic condition has been challenged to any tangible degree during the last

priority concerns for the plight of urban America by the federal government during the last 12 years.

In particular the federal retreat from helping to finance public housing has both expanded the ranks of the homeless and deteriorated the physical and human conditions of the existing units of public housing.

The devastating rise in violence is symptomatic of the deeper problem of racism and this nations' reluctance to demand equal access to employment, education, health care and overall economic empowerment.

As the international community has correctly focused worldwide attention to the violence and injustice of places such as Bosnia and Herzegovina or in South Africa, the violence of the socioeconomic and racial condition of the United States also needs more international scrutiny. Yes, we are saying that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights needs to urgently review the systemic violence of Human Rights in the United States.

Again the current 1992 Presidential Campaign has all but ignored the spiral of violence and social disintegration sweeping the country. One way to begin to stop the violence is to stop ignoring its existence and stop denying the causative factors. Traditionally, the sole strategy of "law and order" only justifies and blames the victim for their victimization.

Poverty is violence. Racism is violence. Unemployment is violence.

And these types of violence are forced together in the crucibles of urban America this will produce nothing more than a greater intensity of homicide and hopelessness.

For the sake of the thousand of children like Dantrell Davis who are killed senselessly, it is imperative that we work harder to stop the violence.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

11-1: I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR MYSELF. THE PRESIDENCY IS A THANKLESS, DIRTY JOB, BUT I'M WILLING TO MAKE A WORLD-CLASS SACRIFICE IF THE PEOPLE BEG ME...

11-2: OUR ENTIRE PRIME-TIME SCHEDULE TONIGHT IS BEING PRE-EMPTED BY PART THREE OF "THE PEOPLE'S SERVANT"...

11-3: CHUNKA!

11-4: CLINTON! CHUNKA!

11-5: BUSH! -FLUSH!

11-6: FLUSH? PEROT!

11-7: Mr. Editor! Please check boxes before publishing. Thank you!

11-8: CAN'T BELIEVE I SLACK WILLIE THE RUNT WON...

11-9: WHO COULD HAVE PREDICTED THIS MIRACLE? DEBACLE?

11-10: GUESS THE ELECTION REALLY WAS ABOUT TRUST? CHANGE!

11-11: SURE AM LOOKING FORWARD TO FOUR MORE YEARS OF DOING NOTHING. DOING NOTHING.

11-12: Mr. Editor! Please check boxes before publishing. Thank you!

11-13: WONDER HOW THIS IRAN THING WILL PLAY OUT NOW THAT I'M RE-ELECTED. DEFEATED.

11-14: THIS DARN PAPER TRAIL STORY JUST STEAMS ME, MAKES ME WANT TO GO SEMI-BALLISTIC ON THIS ONE...

11-15: WHY DO PEOPLE WRITE SECRETS DOWN? CAN'T DO THAT! NOW EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW WHERE I WAS ON THE LOOP THING!

11-16: WELL, THAT'S ONE STORY I'LL BE TAKING TO THE GRAVE. OPEN COURT.

11-17: HEY, KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN. KNEW I'D BE HUMILIATED AT THE POLLS...

11-18: BEEN SUCH A SCREWY YEAR, TENSION CITY WITH THAT FREEZE CROWD OUT THERE COMIN' AT ME...

11-19: HELD OUR GROUND... BARBARA OUT THERE HUGGING THOSE AIDS BABIES, ME TAKIN' ON THAT ARKANSAS GUY!

11-20: MEANWHILE... HEY, BILL! CLINTON! WHERE YOU GOING NOW?

11-21: I'M GOING TO THE WHITE HOUSE! DISNEYLAND!

11-22: SO WHAT'S THE ELECTION TELL US? CHANGE. GOTTA HAVE CHANGE. CHANGE IS GOOD, BUT PRUDENT CHANGE.

11-23: NUTTY OUT THERE... DON'T KNOW HOW THAT TAX-AND-SPEND GUY GOT AS MANY VOTES AS HE DID...

11-24: JUST HOPE HE'S AS GRACIOUS IN DEFEAT AS I'VE BEEN IN VICTORY.

11-25: HEY, GOVERNOR! WHAT'S JOB ONE - CLEANING UP THE MESS IN WASHINGTON OR HEALING WOUNDS?

11-26: WELL, I GUESS I'D LIKE IT BOTH WAYS. BOTH WAYS.

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