

Opinion

President's Plan Boasts Maximum Benefits

To the Editor:

As Congress prepares to vote on President Clinton's economic plan, I wanted to update you on some issues of interest.

The President has put forward a balanced plan that combines the largest deficit reduction in history and the investments we need to revitalize our cities, educate our children and train our workers.

During the initial votes on the bill, the plan received the support of both liberal and conservative Democrats and African Americans in the House and Senate. We hope the plan will have the same base of support on the final vote and that the Congressional Black Caucus will be the same kind of leadership that it did on the first vote.

We project that with the President's plan, the economy will create eight million jobs over the next four years — more than four times the number created under the Bush Administration. That's good news for the African-American community, which has seen higher unemployment than the American average.

The plan has essential investments to improve our cities and rural areas. These include empowerment zones to bring business to distressed areas, low-income housing tax credits and a new jobs tax credit. The plan also places a high value on investments like Head-Start, a tax credit for working poor families and worker training.

Along with these investments, the plan has real deficit reduction



Rev. Jesse Jackson helps residents of St. Louis fill sandbags along the River Des Peres Sunday. He toured flood damage with St. Louis Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr., left, and East St. Louis, Ill., Mayor Gordon Bush, right.

— \$500 billion in all. For each ten dollars of deficit reduction, five dollars will come from spending cuts, four dollars from taxes on the wealthiest Americans and only one dollar from middle-income Americans. The average American family of four will see its taxes rise about a

The President has proposed a fair and balanced plan that makes the tough decisions we need to get our economic house in order and put people back to work.

Roger Altman
Deputy Treasury Secretary
Department of the Treasury

I am a young, black executive secretary for a major corporation in Winston-Salem. I would have been in attendance (at the Association of Black Secretary's recent meeting) if I had been aware of this gathering.

CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

dollar a week. For this modest amount, the country is already seeing lower interest rates which benefit all Americans borrowing money to buy a home or a car, go to college or finance something for their home.

Lack of Publicity

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to the article in the July 22, 1993 issue of the Chronicle, "Ruby Dee Speaks."

I do not currently subscribe to the Chronicle; however, you would think that an organization would publicize this event as well as its existence to the area cities.

Shaunta Collier-Santos

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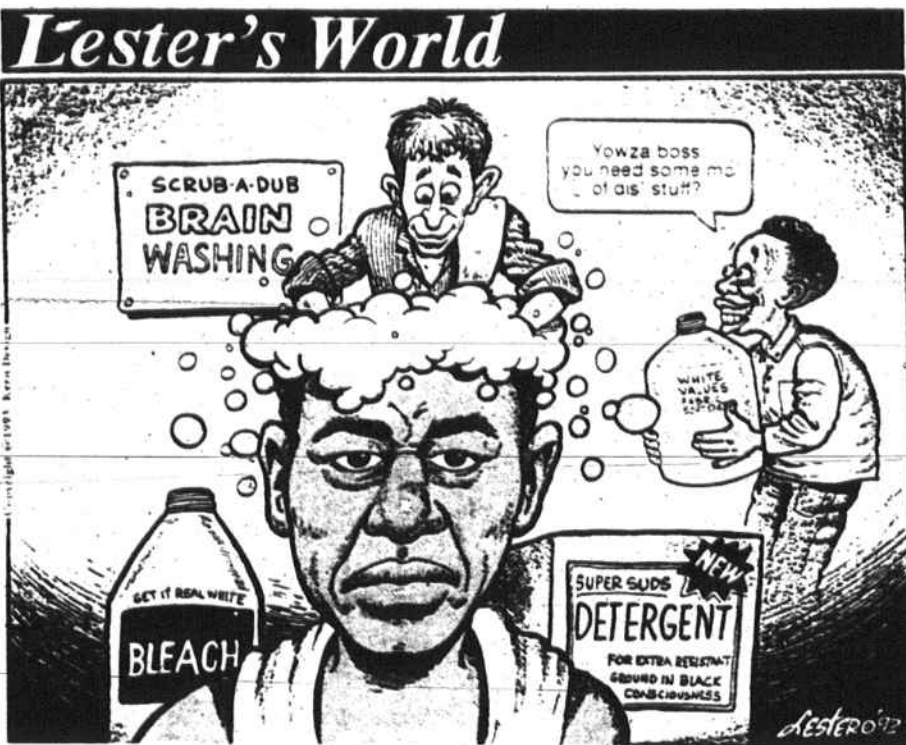
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Cultural Arrogance

John Gates, the editorial page editor of the *Winston-Salem Journal*, gave a classic example in his Sunday column of attitudes that are extremely frustrating to African Americans. He wrote of John Mendez's reference at a recent meeting to European-American's attitude of racial superiority. A more appropriate term would be cultural arrogance.

This arrogance has showcased itself for centuries, as Europeans "crusaded" to drive the "heathens" out of Jerusalem, "colonized" occupied territories all over the world, enslaved millions of Africans and rewrote history to serve their own ends — all under the guise of Christianity.

In Mr. Gates' reference to Rev. Mendez's remarks of accommodation of cultural difference, Mr. Gates said: "I think it may be a social, rather than a racial, matter. It's not acting white so much as it is acting sociable." Does this mean that not acting sociable is anti-European-American? Does this mean that the European-American definition of "sociable" sets the standard for sociable behavior in America? Is not Mr. Gates' statement yet another example of cultural arrogance?

John Gates should never forget the motivating force behind European exploration and colonization — pure, unadulterated GREED. He should never forget how bibles, booze and bullets were used by Europeans all over the planet to subjugate indigenous populations while they raped the land and destroyed "heathen" (non-European and non-Christian) cultures in the process. John Gates also should never forget how Christian bishops stood on the shores of West Africa blessing slave ships because their cargo was declared by Europeans to be non-human.

What God(s) gave Europeans a monopoly on culture? What God(s) told them to declare the northwestern portion of Asia a continent? What God(s) told them to usurp an Eastern-born religion as their own, declare it to be the only true religion and demand that all cultures abide by its tenants except themselves?

If this is Mr. Gates' concept of being "sociable," then African Americans — by that definition — should not aspire to social behavior.

How the Black Vote Can Put the GOP in the White House

Never has the destiny of Americanized Africans been more interwoven with the economic destiny of the United States than during the present period of excessive government debt and reckless taxation. That point was driven home by a man attending the Minority Enterprise Corporation of Southwestern Pennsylvania's "New Strategies for Business Success" conference in Pittsburgh.

This small business owner shares the fears of 20 million owners of small businesses. He just happens to be Black. After my speech, he asked me if small businesses could survive President Clinton's so-called soak-the-rich tax bills. In my opinion, I told him, many will not and many who work for them will lose their jobs.

As *Time* magazine explains, the Democratic tax proposals from both the House and the Senate "will drown small enterprises. That is because 80% of businesses in the U.S. pay taxes at the same rate as individuals rather than corporations." *Time* continued: "Prosperous small firms assessed at the individual rate will be hit with an increase from the current 31% to almost 40% in the top bracket."

"Crazy as it sounds," Jerry Jasinski, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, is quoted as saying, "many small businesses will pay a higher effective tax rate than Fortune 500 cor-

porations." I might add, that doesn't include Clinton's new stealth tax later this year for employee health benefits or the 1993 higher tax rate that will be retroactive to March 1.

Nebraska Sen. Bobby Kerry, a Democrat, admitted on NBC-TV last week, in response to a question by *The Washington Post's* David Broder, that small businesses were being exploited by the new Democratic tax bill.

Normally, Black business owners would look to the Congressional Democratic Black Caucus for help to hold the Democratic Party's punitive legislation, but it has become very evident that Caucus politics are not the politics of business or self-reliance. It is the obsessive politics of being a part of Clinton's team at any cost and backward economics.

That's obvious by Caucus emphasis on "empowerment zones" to give non-blacks tax breaks to open up more businesses in black communities. A few jobs are better than nothing, but how that will "empower" blacks escapes me.

The endangered black entrepreneurs who truly "empower" black communities with more wealth and 80% of all new jobs created in their neighborhoods don't fit the Black Caucus or the Democratic Party's socialist agenda. Or, for that matter, the Republican political agenda either.

Blacks who believe in self-

help, conservatively 20% of all blacks who vote, are similarly ignored.

Instead, the Republicans either run to a xenophobic Southern strategy or write the black vote off all together. In the end, 63% of white men and 59% of white women voted for either Bush or Ross Perot.

Then with only 39% of the white vote, how did Clinton win an election in which the electorate was 87% white?

An anti-Republican Black vote, accounting for between 18% to 50% of Clinton's total in strategic

However, Clinton's entire 12-point nationwide lead was the result of over 90% black support.

But a strategy that goes after the "black vote" without appealing to a distinct segment, a niche, of those voters is a flawed strategy. With only 20% of the black vote, Bush and the Republicans would still be running the country.

I told Sen. Robert Dole and 12 other Republican U.S. Senators at a private breakfast meeting that President Clinton has given the GOP a tremendous opportunity in clearly distinguishing Republicanism from



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

Electoral College states where the White vote was close, gave Clinton the presidency. That strategic advantage made it possible for Clinton to become President with the majority of votes in only his home state of Arkansas, less than a quarter of those eligible to vote and only 39% of the white vote.

I'll explain it another way. One opinion poll prior to the election showed candidate Clinton and Bush is a statistical tie (44% to 43% respectively) for the white vote.

Democratism. The GOP needs to take advantage of this opportunity and target certain black voters by adopting a strategy that appeals to those voters' special interest, just as the GOP or any other political party does when it targets segments of other voter groups.

If the GOP helps black entrepreneurs and black self-help organizations, it will get its 20% share of the black vote and help itself to the White House in the process.

Credo of the Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from antagonisms when it accords to every person — regardless of race or creed — full human and legal rights. Hating no person, the Black Press strives to help every person, in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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