

Editorials & Comments

Black Political Bargaining Power

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

Jim Black, a 29-year-old black mayoral candidate who was rejected last week by some black political leaders, ignored by others and hardly even recognized by the white political leadership, has nevertheless become the symbol of the black voter's bargaining power in the November 8 general election.

Propelled into the Democratic mayoral primary with little money, no previous political experience and little encouragement from established political personalities, Black - encouraged by a small but enthusiastic group of young supporters - took up the banner of many who feel left out of the political mainstream. In that regard, Black said during the campaign, "There are a lot of people - young people, black people, and other people - who don't like politics because of the way things have been run for so long..." Black's remarks were made in direct reference to Jim Whittington's 18-years on the city council and was apparently in agreement with the thinking of at least 4,389 other Charlotteans.

Rejection Of Influence

More significantly, Black's 4,389 votes and his sweep of the reportedly 18 predominately black precincts, represents a rejection of the alleged influence of the Black Political Caucus and demonstrates that no group or political party should take the black voters for granted.

For example, attorney Myles Haynes, former county Democratic Party Chairman and Chairman of Jim Whittington's campaign, reportedly said after the mayoral nomination was decided that he was sure black votes would go to Whittington in November.

It is time for white politicians to stop being so sure of what blacks are going to do with their votes. It is no coincidence, for example, that Jim Black had among his primary concerns the "rising rate of unemployment, especially among minorities and youths," at a time when black youth joblessness nationwide is 40 percent and a President that blacks helped elect to relieve that problem is telling black America to "be patient."

Jim Black's support at the polls, we believe, was largely the black community's way of saying it has had patience long enough with Whittington and the other white and black political forces. They want to see some concrete evidence of concern for the needs of the black community. They are saying, "don't take our vote for granted, we will bargain for power and support or take our votes elsewhere." They are saying too it is not enough for politicians to tell the Black Political Caucus behind closed doors what they will try to do for the communi-

ty, rather, they must say these things publicly for all to hear.

Furthermore, the fact that the Black Women's Caucus and one of the black ministers' organizations did not endorse anyone for the mayoral nomination is another indication that no one can assume they will get the black vote come November 8.

We said in this column two weeks ago that "we believe the time has come for Charlotte's black community to pause and take a serious look at itself...particularly, at this time, in the area of leadership." That time is here, now, before the November general election. The events of last weekend are conclusive evidence that better leadership is vitally needed.

Black Concerns

We believe it is time for blacks and their leaders to come together to develop a policy position on their needs and concerns for the immediate and distant future. We need to be sure that black concerns about housing patterns, zoning, roads, medical facilities, police protection, welfare services, employment and job up-grading, public transportation and recreational facilities are given equal consideration to others.

Such a policy position should be presented to all candidates for public comment and reaction without a set of programmed pre-arranged questions for the candidates to respond to. This will give the black community a position of political bargaining power and will clear the air on some of the vague commitments that politicians so often offer to voters.

We believe that such an approach is quite practical, if black political, social and business leaders can and will set aside their personal and professional ambitions in the best interest of the black community - and in the long run the Charlotte community.

Thus, out of the ashes of Jim Black's defeat - whether or not he was our personal choice - exist the seeds of a greater victory for black Charlotteans. Let us act now for tomorrow may be too late.

Something On Your Mind?

"Something on your mind" is the name of a column devoted to you - the young at heart readers of this newspaper - as long as it relates in some way to young people, regardless of age.

Or any other subject you want to write about.

Remember it's your column. Your article should be at least 250 words, type-written and double spaced preferred. Include your name, age, school, and a clear photo, and send it to the Editor, Charlotte Post Newspaper, Post Office Box 97, Charlotte, N.C. 28230.



IT IS UP TO US, BLACKS WHO CARE ABOUT THE BLACK FUTURE, TO IMPOSE ORDER WHERE NONE EXIST TO DAY. AND WE HAVE TO DO IT, FOR OUR LIVES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WORTHLESS THAN WHITE ONES IN THE EYES OF OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR COUNTRY DOES NOT REALLY CARE ABOUT THE CHAOS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AS LONG AS THAT ANARCHY DOES NOT SPILL OVER THE LINES OF DEMARCATION. WE HAVE TO DO IT BECAUSE WE CANNOT ASK OUR OLD PEOPLE TO SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES PASSING THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF MUGGERS.

The Level Of Fear Is Shocking

Placing BAKKE In Perspective

By Bayard Rustin

Anyone who has lived in the ghetto knows the absurdity of the old saying, "Things just can't get any worse." Nothing demonstrates more clearly the fact that things in fact can get very much worse than the recently published unemployment figures. For the black community, the jobless rate of 14.5 percent is really no different than during the gloomiest months of the Ford and Nixon administrations. And to make matters worse, the Carter administration, although in many respects far superior to its predecessors, simply does not seem to recognize the awesome problems of black unemployment and underemployment.

But just as it is important that we do not deceive ourselves about the extent of our problems, it is also imperative to recognize that there are ways out of our dilemma. A Philip Randolph has often said that you must struggle and fight to win anything worth winning. He has also said that in politics nothing is achieved without allies. Since jobs and economic progress are things that must be won in the political arena, one of our main tasks will be to find dependable and committed allies.

Here there is some extremely encouraging news. Although labor and the black community have often fought together for various political goals, I believe that the opportunity is ripe for an even closer and fulfilling alliance in the pursuit of economic change.

At least this is how I read George Meany's recent statement that "the greatest crime being committed today is be-

ing committed against the black community, against the black teenagers, and against the white teenagers," and his affirmation of solidarity with those blacks, such as Vernon Jordan, who have spoken out about Carter's failure to act on his campaign pledge to make jobs the number one goal of his administration.

There is, of course, an element of self-interest in labor's actions. The unions, too, are seeking to forge a broad coalition of social forces, blacks prominent among them, to support issues like minimum wage increases and the reform of labor relations laws. But coalitions are most successful when the partners are moved both by pragmatic need and moral commitment. Both qualities, I think, are clearly evident in the alliance between labor and blacks.

The subject of political coalition leads me to a different, but nonetheless related matter. I am referring to the lawsuit brought by Allen Bakke against the University of California at Davis medical school because of the university's having set aside a specified number of places for minority group applicants.

The Bakke case raises a whole series of issues related to the question of how society is to deal with the problems of present and past discrimination, inferior education opportunities, and "reverse" discrimination. I am not prepared here to deal with the merits of the Bakke case; what I wish to address is the perception of this case in the black community.

There is no question that Bakke raises intense passions among blacks who are concerned about affirmative action programs, and whites who

are opposed to quota systems. What disturbs me, however, is the attitude of many blacks, most particularly some political and civil rights figures, who are predicting that nothing less than the future of the black person in America depends on the Supreme Court's ruling in this case.

Already some are asserting that if Bakke, the white student who complained of reverse discrimination, is upheld, the status of blacks will be set back to the period before the Brown decision struck down school segregation in 1954. Others are complaining that black gains in college admissions and hiring will be permanently reversed.

I believe that such fears are greatly exaggerated. The issue in the Bakke case, as I see it, is not affirmative action, but quotas; most affirmative action programs do not rely on rigid numerical quotas, a fact which has not prevented them from helping place thousands of blacks in jobs and in college programs.

The merits of quota systems aside, I believe that the defeatism now being expressed over the Bakke outcome is unfortunate for an important strategic reason. Expressions of unwarranted alarm, first of all, will unnecessarily discourage and embitter many people who are already upset by the failure of the Carter administration to take firm action in the jobs area. Second, by overestimating the significance of Bakke, we will only be setting up a situation which will encourage people to lash back at those, such as Jewish groups and some labor unions, who oppose the civil rights position on this issue, but who may be solid allies in the struggle for economic change.



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

TO BE EQUAL

Displacing The Poor

In the absence of a national urban policy designed to revive the cities for the people who live in them, an improvised policy by local governments and private interests has stepped into the vacuum.

In many cities, local officials have decided to try to attract middle income families back from the suburbs through policies making urban centers more attractive to them.

At the same time, private real estate interests are working toward the same end. With large sections of downtown cities blighted by abandoned housing and land prices driven lower by social decay, speculators are attracted.

They can buy land and houses cheap, build or rehabilitate, and then sell at high prices to affluent people disillusioned with long commutes and suburban living. The process works out well for cities, who can now reap tax revenues from the land and from the new middle class residents, and for the speculators who reap high profits.

But the process doesn't work for the poor people who live in those neighborhoods, in fact they are being driven from their homes at an alarming rate. Renters are evicted to enable developers to remodel their houses, while moderate income homeowners are forced to sell because property taxes in the target area rise as values increase.

Even where developers agree to offer new housing units to present residents, they are usually too poor to afford the inflated rents. So their only option is to move to already over crowded housing in center-city slums not yet prey to "development" or to move to trailer camps on the outskirts of town.

There are indications that people are doubling up by moving to relatives' homes in the absence of housing they could afford. But that only increases problems of overcrowding, and threatens to make urban health and crime problems much worse.

Some people view the influx of middle class people into such areas as a step toward integration, but that's true only if integration is defined as the transition between a neighborhood's becoming all-black and it's becoming all or almost-all white.

Economic and racial integration is an important goal, but this conversion of city neighborhoods into middle class enclaves will not result in anything other than forced removal of poor people.

The policy of recycling neighborhoods is not valid if it means recycling poor people out of their homes and into even more severely impacted neighborhoods. Driving the poor out of the cities to make room for the middle class that had abandoned the cities is no substitute for policies designed to enable the poor to become middle class themselves.

That requires national, not local, policies. Local officials will be partial to driving out poor people and replacing them with revenue-producing middle class residents, while private interests will pursue policies that lead to higher profits in disregard of their effect upon poor people.

as i see it

Caucus Handled Forum Carelessly

By Gerald O. Johnson

It has been reported by Jim Black that the Black Political Caucus ignored him and Jim Harris in a recent political forum held by the caucus.

Mr. Black felt he was mistreated on this occasion. I concur whole-heartedly. If Mr. Black and others were invited to express their opinions then each should've been given equal time to do just that.

It was the responsibility of the caucus to format the program to see to it that each candidate got equal time to express his opinion on issues deemed important by the Caucus.

It is my understanding that the candidates other than Jim Whittington got railroaded.

If the Caucus had intended to endorse Jim Whittington, anyway, then they should not have wasted the other candidates time by putting on a show for the public.

Politics is a serious business and if black people want an active role they must act responsibly and not derelict in their duties.

The Caucus was unprofessional in handling the forum.

Several individuals have spoken out on the manner in which the forum was carried out. I feel the Caucus owes the candidates a public apology.

Who the Caucus endorse is no concern of mine, but how they endorse them is my concern.

If they are going to be given media exposure with their endorsements, and if people feel that their endorsements are important, then I am going to see to it that their endorsements are done equitably. This time it was not.

Again, if they want the responsibility of being in the political forefront it is imperative that they act responsibly.

GAME OF THE WEEK

This past weekend my sidekick, Kenny Fulker, and I took to the road to see what was going on in the CIAA. We set out for Virginia to see the Bulls tangle with the Pirates of Hampton Institute, a game scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Afterwards we hit the road to see the Panthers of Virginia Union host the Rams of Winston Salem.

Here is what we saw. The Bulls went into the



Gerald O. Johnson

game 0-2 for the season hoping to surprise a Pirate team that had lost to the mighty Winston Salem Rams by a score of 6 to 34 but came back to crush the Shaw Bears 34-7. The hopes soon turned to nightmares as the mistake-prone Bulls literally gave the Pirates an easy 35-7 victory.

The game started with the Bulls kicking to the Pirates. After a fine defensive series by the Golden Bulls the Pirates had to punt. The Bulls unable to move also had to punt. After a series of exchanges the Bulls

ended up on their own 12 yard line with about 6 minutes gone in the first quarter.

Cutis Johnson, by mixing his plays extremely well, led the Bulls on a 88 yard drive in 12 plays that was culminated with a six yard sweep by the "Warhorse." Carlos Stroman added the point after and the Bulls looked like a real football team.

Unfortunately, later on in the 2nd quarter Hampton's quarterback Russ Seaton threw a down and out to flanker Reggie Midget and defensive back Don Bailey went for the ball and missed. Johnson made the reception and trotted in for the score unmolested. The point after was good and the score was tied.

As the half neared its end the Bulls quarterback lost the ball on the Pirate's 45 yard line. Seaton maneuvered the Pirates down to the Bull's 35. With seconds remaining in the half, Seaton again went with the down and out and again Bailey went for the ball and again he was beaten. This time, however, Willie Jones the "Monster Back" came across and stopped the recei-

ver on the Bull's four yard line. With 2 seconds left in the half, Seaton swept right for the score. The PAT was good and the Pirates went to the locker room up 14-7.

The second half began with the Pirates kicking to the Bulls. The kick off was a knuckler that eluded kick off returner Toney Koonce. Koonce stood idly by and watched the ball roll down to about the 12 yard line. In a matter of seconds the Pirates had swooped down on the pill. Shortly thereafter the pirates scored for the third time. PAT was missed, but it was irrelevant at this point.

The Bulls could not muster any effort at this point and Pirates went on to score 2 more TDs and a safety.

JAARS' Fly-In Set For Saturday

A big day is planned for the Jungle Aviation and Radio Service International Headquarters near Waxhaw, N.C. on Saturday, October first.

The JAARS annual Fly-In will begin at 9 a.m. with sky-diving, gyrocopter demonstrations, aerobatics and demonstrations of the Helio Courier, a short take-off and landing aircraft that will demonstrate bush flying techniques that JAARS uses in remote areas around the world.

A free tour of the facilities is available with a highlight of the tour being a visit to the Mexico-Cardenas Museum. Visitors to the Waxhaw facility will enjoy special music by many local gospel singing groups.

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