

Editorials & Comments

Leadership Determines Our Future

If Sen. Edward Kennedy confirms all the speculation and decides to offer for the presidency, and thus challenge President Carter, he will probably reaffirm that his differences will not be based on the issues but rather on the quality of the national leadership.

This assumption was confirmed in a recent news interview where he emphasized the need for clear, strong and consistent leadership. Kennedy said he believed Carter is unable to restore public confidence in the government's ability to deal

with the nation's problems. Whether these allegations are true or false doesn't matter, if Kennedy can get enough people to believe him, he might take the Democratic Presidential nomination away from Carter because numerous polls indicate a decline of confidence in government.

At the local level too, leadership was a central issue in the Democratic mayoral primary between Harvey Gantt and Eddie Knox. Leadership style was an issue because the mayor's powers are largely powers of perseverance and influence.

In the private sector we are witnessing the possible collapse of the Chrysler Corporation that is facing losses in excess of \$700 million in 1979. Ironically, while the firm is

blaming all of its problems on federal regulation, it is at the same time inviting more regulation by asking the Carter administration for \$1 billion over the next two years as on taxes it would pay when it becomes profitable again.

The reality of the situation is that Chrysler is on the brink of total disaster because of poor management decision-making, that is, poor leadership in their competitive position with other auto maker both domestic and foreign.

Extremely Insecure

These observations bring to mind an article by Brett Fromson that appeared in a recent issue of The New York Times. Fromson notes that while working in Washington in President Ford's executive offices and later on the staff of Congress Joint Economic Committee, he observed the effects of service on young people who worked for powerful politicians and bureaucracies. Specifically, he noted that these young workers had gone to Washington seeking positions of influence but instead "became extremely insecure, floppy-minded, and cautious 'second-bananas' for whom it was easier to feel compassion than respect."

Fromson added, "these young politicians tended to be unstable and insecure. They discovered that others generally wanted to know them or not know them on the basis of who they worked for; not surprisingly, their self-image became slightly confused and dependent on a

political order that was beyond their power to change.

Witness this scenario of Fromson's in part paraphrased form. In a typical conversation between generally "intelligent, self-confident young people" that goes something like this: "Hi, glad to meet you. My name is Joe and I

work for Congressman Zero. I'm a legislative correspondent. (He writes letters of reply to constituents.) Where do you work?" "I work in Senator Kennedy's office. I'm one of his top aides. You say you work for Zero?"

"No, Zero, a freshman Congressman." "Oh," the Kennedy office worker says politely, "what state is he from?" "This last question," in Fromson's own words, "is a severe ego blow to the young staffer from (Zero's) office. It is intolerable to him that he should work for a nobody because he too becomes a nobody just as the fellow from Senator Kennedy's office is a somebody by virtue of his boss's surname and reputation."

The identity problem only a part of the young capital city workers. "Another," Fromson says, "is the general absence of deeply held and internally generated convictions." These well educated young Americans, who desire to be somebody among the great men and women of the 20th century, are converting to the glorification of their bosses' beliefs as their own means of self-expression. Many of these youth were conditioned to suppress their individuality in their quest to fit the idea pattern of their college professor in exchange for good grades.

Political Leadership

Thus, "because their personal success depends on how well they further the goals of their superiors, they learn to fit in, not stand out... This is not simply their problem, 'Fromson continues, "it is the nation's too." Since it is from the ranks of such people that the nation's so-called political leadership is and will come, is there any wonder that the American people have questionable confidence in our institutions of government?"

It is now time for this nation to reassess its priorities and values within the context of what is commonly called the "American tradition" as well as within the drift of tragedy that many of our value changes of the past two decades.

By drift of tragedy we mean the mounting insecurity that is overtaking the American people as old values are crumbling and new values, in part because of inadequate leadership, are not being formulated to take their place. At bottom, our sense of individualism is slipping away in part because we are embracing the presumed risk-free security of a public sector or government that we neither trust, like nor understand.

Think about it, is your country, your future and your life.

"WHITES APPEAR DETERMINED TO FORFEIT THE CITIES TO BLACKS, AND IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE PEOPLE WHO THROUGH FORCED SLAVE LABOR BUILT THIS COUNTRY FOR OTHERS, CANNOT NOW WILLINGLY UNITE TO RE-BUILD OUR COMMUNITIES FOR OURSELVES"



Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands....

as i see it

Grace Before Greatness!

by Gerald O. Johnson
Post Staff Writer

During World War I there was a little black girl with the voice of a sparrow who couldn't afford singing lessons. The young girl didn't care, though, she kept right on singing every chance she got.

The people of her little small church got such joy from her singing that they raised \$126 in pennies, nickels, and dimes and called it the future fund for the young girl.

Well, the young girl started taking lessons and by the time she had reached 18 years of age her high school teachers arranged an audition with a world famous singing instructor. The little church in Philadelphia again came to the young lady's aid. They raised money to pay for the lessons the world famous instructor promised to give her.

The future looked bright for the young girl and success was assured. Her voice was as beautiful as ever and she was being trained by one of the world's best.

Her initial debut was a failure. The young lady failed miserably. But because of her great talents, a group who believed in her talents sponsored a concert for her in New York City's Town Hall.



Gerald O. Johnson

Due to inexperience and immaturity the young lady failed again. The critics gave her very poor reviews and she fell apart.

The young lady felt she had let so many people down and that she had failed those who believed in her. For more than a year the young lady wallowed in self pity. She stopped singing, she refused to see her teachers, but most of all she stopped believing in herself.

Then one day the girl's mother came to her and said "Marian, grace must come before greatness. Why don't you think about this failure a little and pray about it a lot?"

Well, the rest is history. Today, Marian Anderson, who has helped many young singers make it says,

"Whatever is in my voice, faith has put it there. Faith and my mother's words: grace must come before greatness."

Today, so many people are frightened by the thought of failure. It is this fear that makes many talented people work 8 to 4 jobs and hate it instead of attempting to do something with their lives. Few people appreciate the fact that much more is learned from a failure than by a success.

Remember, show me a man that has never failed and I'll show you a man that has never tried.

FACTS TO PONDER

It has been figured out — We have 35 million laws trying to enforce ten commandments.

Earl Wilson

Seminar On Mexico

A two-day seminar on Mexico will be held at Johnson C. Smith University Campus on October 10th & 11th.

The seminar, sponsored by the Foreign Language Department, will include films and slides. A question and answer discussion period on the history and present day life in Mexico will follow the slide presentation.

The seminars will begin both nights at 8 p.m. and last until 9:30 p.m. There is no charge to the public.

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

TO BE EQUAL



Housing Apartheid Still Wrong

Congress is moving too slowly on the amendments to the 1968 Fair Housing Act. After eleven years discrimination in housing is still strong, and one reason has been the absence of enforcement powers, something the amendments would correct.

Housing segregation is so widespread that "apartheid" is not too strong a term to describe it.

Not enough has been done to make this issue one of national concern. The amendments have been languishing in Congress for many months.

One reason is the absolutely ridiculous feeling that laws can't solve problems. That view only surfaces when it comes to civil rights. In every other area, people rightfully expect Congress to act to deal with a problem.

The civil rights law have worked, they have opened up new rights for minorities. Even the 1968 Fair Housing law has had an important effect in loosening the patterns of segregation, even with minimal enforcement.

Another argument is that fair housing enforcement would only help relatively few blacks — those with the jobs and incomes that would enable them to move to the suburbs.

That view is wrong on two grounds. First, even if it were true that relatively few would benefit the amendments are still important. No one suggests that laws benefiting relatively few affluent whites should not be passed — in fact most laws qualify for that description. Why then must affluent blacks be singled out as targets for discrimination?

But the facts are wrong as well. Housing discrimination isn't limited to the affluent few — it affects all black people. There may be more discrimination against blacks trying to rent an apartment in a working class city neighborhood than against blacks trying to buy a \$100,000 home in the suburbs.

Finally, the amendments are opposed by some on the grounds that housing discrimination is no longer a serious problem. Such persons point to the growing numbers of blacks moving to the suburbs as proof that discriminatory barriers are coming down.

This is the argument that has the least basis in fact. Several studies made in the past few months show how false it is.

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development sponsored one study that found blacks trying to rent through rental agents face an 85 percent chance of being discriminated against. Those trying to buy had a 48 percent chance of facing discrimination.

That was a nationwide study that sent black and white "checkers" to real estate agents' offices. The checkers were similar in all respects except race, so income had nothing to do with the discriminatory practices. That blasts another old saw — that blacks often can't get housing because they can't afford it.

A similar conclusion is drawn by a study by the Regional Plan Association of the New York metropolitan area. It found that blacks, who make up 12.4 percent of the region's population, are confined to only 1.3 percent of the region's land area.

The study identified numerous all-white towns and neighborhoods in which the average family income was similar to that of the region's black households. Two-thirds of the region's whites live in heavily white areas and a similar percentage of blacks live in heavily black areas.

Finally, a University of Michigan study on racial attitudes found that most whites preferred to live in mostly-white neighborhoods, while blacks tended to prefer integrated ones.

What it all boils down to is this: racism is still a factor in national housing patterns; fair housing laws are not being enforced, blacks are still being denied the housing of their choice, and a lot more education and community stabilization work is necessary.

Putting teeth in the fair housing laws is an essential first step to ending illegal and unconstitutional racial discrimination in housing.

With the field of presidential contenders in both parties getting crowded blacks have a right to know how each and every one of the prospective candidates stands on the fair housing amendments.

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From Capitol Hill

Blacks Will No Longer Exchange Votes For Cheap Recognition

Alfreda L. Madison
Special to the Post

The 1979 Congressional Black Caucus week-end affair seemed highly successful. There were around 5000 in attendance from all sections of the country and just about all walks of life. In this International Year of the Child, the Caucus theme was "Children Our Most Valuable Resource."

The Friday morning plenary session was most inspiring, with relating the 96th Congress Black Caucus' successes and failures and with setting forth its goals. In the afternoon there were workshops on various issues.

Chair Person Cardiss Collins stated that they have fought for an adequate domestic budget, equal educational opportunities, jobs, decent health care and against reinstitution of peacetime draft. She spoke of how the Black Caucus communication's network lets the constituents know its position against the budget cuts in programs that are so relative to them. Even though the Caucus lost that battle it did prevent even more severe cuts. These

black congress persons fought hard against decontrol of crude oil because it is highly inflationary to poor people. They were successful in defeating the Mottl Amendment which would have turned the clock back in school desegregation. They are working to see that black businesses will be involved in the syn-fuel program and led by Gus Hawkins, they are fighting hard for implementation of Humphrey-Hawkins and Balanced Growth Act, so that jobs and training programs will be provided for minority adults and youth training.

Shirley Chisholm said blacks are now unwilling to serve as lackeys of any political party. The Congressional Black Caucus and national black voters are coming of age and they have no intention of exchanging votes of cheap political recognition.

Mrs. Edelman spoke of the disparities in health care between blacks and whites. She stated that a black college graduate has the same chance of finding employment as a white high school drop-out and black high school graduate has the same



Alfreda L. Madison

employment chance as a white eighth grader. She urged blacks to pressure their congressmen for passage of the Child Health Care Program bill and for changes in the bill for handling homeless children.

Representative Ron Dellums, a member of the House Armed Service Committee, emphasized the human tragedy of both the administration's and Congress' military budget increase while drastically cutting the humanitarian budget. He said we are already far superior to Russian weaponry and that

blacks must contact their congressmen to give priority of prolonging life not preparations for snuffing out life. Black Americans must get involved in nuclear weaponry. He said that blacks and the poor are victims of the cry of Proposition 13 and a balanced budget.

Jesse Jackson said blacks must embrace three words: audacity, action and accountability. They must have the audacity to question and speak out on issues. They must take action and must require accountability of their elected officials. When candidates are running for office, blacks must get a contract from them in exchange for their votes. He stated that those who once had baby cribs for us must realize that we have a complete room with king-sized beds. In speaking of Ambassador Young, Rev. Jackson said Andy was at his best when he met with the PLO Representative.

At the awards dinner, Andy Young received International Peace Award. He was the keynote speaker. Mr. Young said that in his recent trade trip to several coun-

tries in Africa, being accompanied by black and white American businessmen, a \$1.5 billion trade agreement was made which would be increased in 1980 to more than \$2 billion. He spoke of the ludicrousness of the issue that two or three thousand Russians in Cuba, as being a threat to the United States.

The entire tone of the week-end affair, including the plenary, workshops and dinners was the importance of black involvement in every phase of American political life.

SALT agreement is highly important because nuclear weapons, if ever used against the United States will certainly strike our military installations where an overwhelming number of black boys are because, being unable to get jobs, they've sought refuge in the armed services, and the inner cities where blacks live will be a target. The Mid-East situation is important whether we engage in a hot or cold war. In a hot war, black boys will die in an unproportionate number and in a cold war, because of high energy prices, blacks will bear the

greatest inflation burden.

A very strong emphasis was placed on getting a strong commitment from political candidates and for constant meeting with them after election for placing pressure on them to carry out their commitments.

As I talked with many of those who attended the annual affair from various parts of the country, they expressed the idea of having gotten a clear cut direction and somewhat of a blueprint for moving towards those goals.

Garinger PTSA

The Garinger High School PTSA will meet Tuesday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

After a short business meeting, there will be an Open House, providing an opportunity for parents to meet the teachers and visit the classrooms.

