

Editorials & Comments

Primary Election-No Real Surprise!

Much hoopla has been generated over the presumed grand success of black candidates in the May 6 primary election.

In reality, the election returns reflected, for the knowledgeable observer, no real surprises. Incumbents and some newcomers with obviously effective campaign strategies won county commissioner, district judge and legislative races. No incumbents were defeated even though two school board members and a judge must repeat their efforts in a run-off.

Looking specifically at the candidates who happen to be black people, Phil Berry won an overwhelming victory and Ella Scarborough and Sarah Stevenson did well enough to qualify for a run-off. Former county commissioner Bob Walton, defeated two years ago, was the highest vote-getter in his bid for re-nomination. Joining Walton on the opposite end of the Democratic ticket in fifth place was a newcomer and soft-spoken Raleigh Bynum.

In other races, youthful but talented District Judge Michael Todd won a landslide re-nomination victory and UNCC professor and newcomer Dr. Bertha Maxwell won a Democratic nomination to the N.C. House of Representatives.

There were no real surprises because the primary had certain characteristics that most observers simply overlooked. First, the black community provided a host of good candidates. For example, Phil Berry was reelected because of his demonstrated ability to lead the School Board in an objective and fair manner. Bob Walton was a top vote-getter in the county commissioner race because of voter concerns for experience. Judge Todd won a major victory because, in spite of his youth and limited experience, he shows excellent qualities. And finally, newcomers Raleigh Bynum and Bertha Maxwell won party nominations respectively for the county commissioner and N.C. House races.

Secondly, because of the quality of these candidates they received substantial voter support from both the black and white voters. For example, Walton received 21,713 votes and Bynum received 16,701. However, since the total black voter

turn out was only about 12,000, it means that Walton and Bynum received substantial white voter support.

Thirdly, while the 12,000 black voters represented only 35 percent of the black registered voters, it was a historic vote in the sense that it matched the voter turn out percent of that of white voters. On the part of blacks, the overall voter turn out was unsurprisingly small and not reflective of adequate black political involvement.

Fourthly, and not surprisingly, the Alexander-Motley vote-getting effort failed to assure Motley a place on the ballot for the N.C. Senate. This happened because the absence of black political strategy, including the recruiting and grooming of young political hopefuls, resulted in a hastily made decision to select Motley, an honorable man, caught up in the coattail of a deceased candidate, a moderate white backlash and some opposition from the black community.

Lastly, in the School Board race Sarah Stevenson and Ella Scarborough battled incumbents and others to a run-off because of Mrs. Stevenson's well known 30 years of service in the PTA, the Quality Education Committee and similar activities and Mrs. Scarborough's articulate skills and campaign strategy.

It was no surprise either that a Nazi - Harold Covington - won 43 percent of the Republican primary votes for N.C. attorney general. The Raleigh-based leader of the American Nazi Party received 56,006 votes, or nearly 43 percent of the 130,598 votes cast. If there was any surprise it was in the assumption that Republican voters nor the white press knew anything about Covington's political leanings. It reminds us that we still have racism and their supporters in North Carolina.

It is our hope that black voters have gained some new insights into the political process as a result of the primary and that they will use these insights to enhance their political interest as well as that of making the American political system a true symbol of the freedoms we so dearly cherish. Vote, it's your right and your duty.

Charity Begins At Home

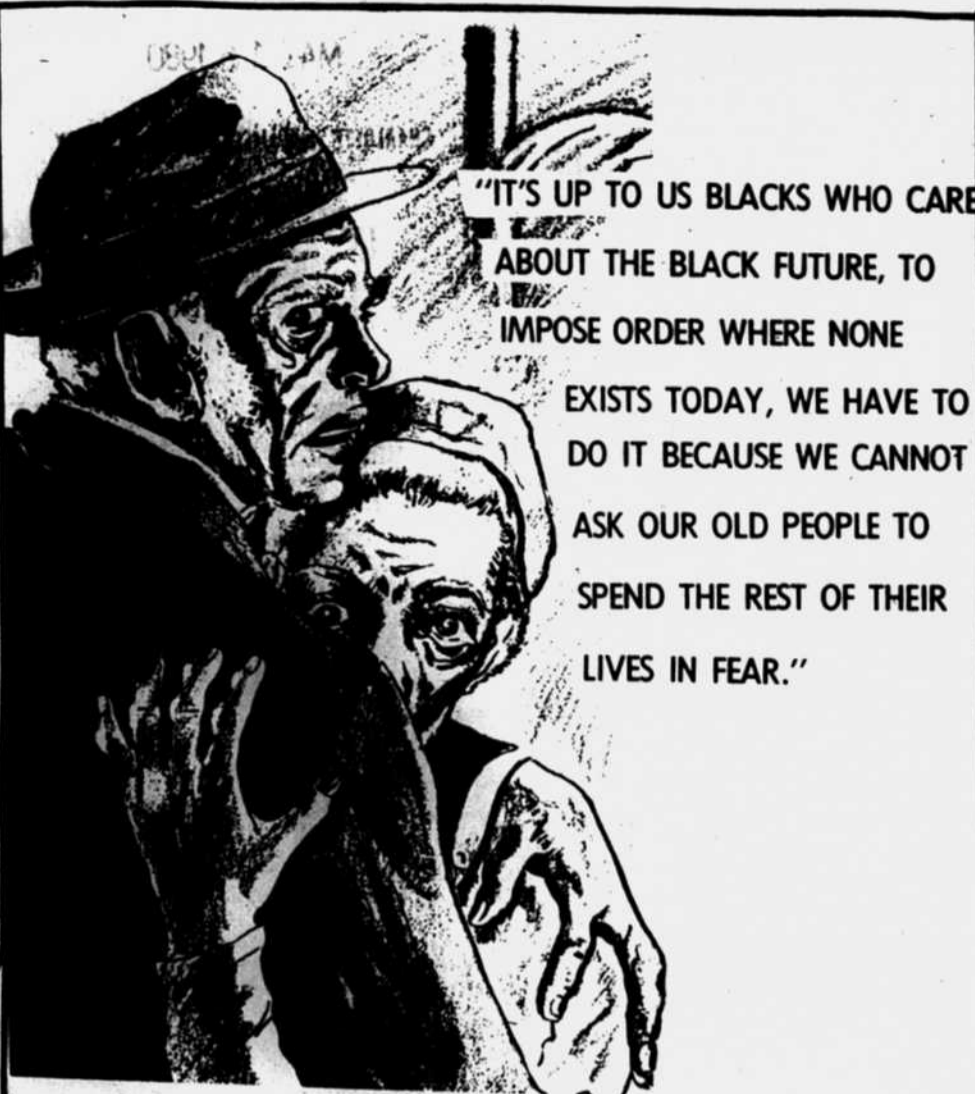
Fidel Castro's decision to allow thousands of discontent Cubans to leave his so-called workers paradise is another example of the stupidity so often evident in American foreign policy.

We have opened a floodgate to nearly 35,000 of these Cuban nationals, many of them ill, unskilled, possibly spies, ex-convicts and the like. Many, too, simply wanted to get out from under Castro's rule.

To complicate matters the

Cuban refugees need not only jobs but housing, language skills and probably a host of other social needs to adjust to a new culture. Again, considering our

own national problems, it appears unreasonable to assume that the American people can assume this new socio-economic burden at this time. In fact, the time for an American open door policy for all the world's discontent has long past.



"IT'S UP TO US BLACKS WHO CARE ABOUT THE BLACK FUTURE, TO IMPOSE ORDER WHERE NONE EXISTS TODAY, WE HAVE TO DO IT BECAUSE WE CANNOT ASK OUR OLD PEOPLE TO SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES IN FEAR."

Afraid To Walk In Black Neighborhoods?

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

TO BE EQUAL



LEAA In Danger

The federal government's only crime-fighting agency working to reform the criminal justice system and its most effective civil rights compliance effort is scheduled for death by budget-cutters and the Congress.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) has overcome its shaky start as a supplier of heavy weapons to local police forces to become an effective catalyst for badly needed change - and that may be the reason why it is so vulnerable to efforts to end its existence in the name of fiscal austerity.

LEAA came into being in the wake of the riots of the late 1960s. Its early period was marked by sadly misjudged efforts to increase local police firepower. But gradually it focused more on changing the criminal justice system to make it more efficient and more equitable.

It supplied funds for innovative improvements on the local level, came up with procedures that made police action more efficient, and helped break barriers to female and minority employment in the criminal justice system.

The lever to accomplish this was the \$7 billion it dispersed to local criminal justice agencies. The lure of federal dollars at a time of shrinking local financial capabilities opened many cities to new ideas and methods that improved police forces, courts, and detention systems.

In the process, LEAA became a force for more equitable treatment of women and minorities.

This last was a more recent development and is due to the Jordan Amendment of 1977, named for its sponsor, then-Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

The Jordan Amendment helped transform a federal agency viewed with suspicion by most minorities into one whose planned demise is being fought by blacks, Hispanics and females.

Any criminal justice agency that receives more than \$25,000 from LEAA and has 50 or more employees serving a constituency that is more than four percent minority, must have an equal employment opportunity plan.

That plan must have goals and timetables for hiring minorities and women - two groups long excluded from jobs in the police, courts, probation and prison facilities.

By law, LEAA must cut off funding from agencies found not in compliance. And the law also provides that such non-complying agencies can be forced to pay back every penny they ever got from LEAA.

By making the penalty for non-compliance so stiff, the Jordan Amendment virtually assured LEAA of becoming an effective affirmative action force affecting the entire criminal justice system.

Since 1977, there's been a rush on the part of local agencies to comply by implementing affirmative action plans. Some agencies have lost their funding, providing incentives for others to hire minorities and women.

The law also provides that there can be no disparity of services to constituents of LEAA-funding local agencies. That means minority communities have the right to equal police protection and equal quality of service from criminal justice professionals.

As I See It

Need A Physical Examination?

Gerald O. Johnson
Columnist



Gerald O. Johnson

The most humiliating thing that can happen to a man is having a physical examination. The things a doctor can put you through for the sake of health are unbelievable.

When you come into the doctor's office, everyone is all smiles. "Good morning, sir, can we help you?" "I am here to see the doctor for a physical." Boy, when you say physical, the receptionist's eyes light up. "A physical? - hee, hee, hee. What's your name?" "Gerald Johnson."

"Well, Mr. Johnson, go in the waiting room and someone will be with you in a minute."

You go into the waiting room - there is a room full of people. Most of them look like they're too late for the doctor. Now, I am the last person to come in, but before I can get seated good, someone comes in and says, "Mr. Johnson, follow me, please." The only way I got to be first was because I wanted a physical. Whenever they see that on the chart, man, everything else is dropped. "Hey, Mary, we got a physical here; forget the heart patient."

Then they take you to a little room and ask you to roll up your sleeve. They take this little gizmo and wrap it around your arm to get your blood pressure. Well, the little gizmo kept falling off my arm. Finally, we managed to get my pressure taken.

"Leave your sleeve up, we want a little blood." "Whose Blood?" "Your blood." I hope you catch sickle cell, I thought to

low." "You've got to be kidding."

"I'm going to test your prostrate."

"What's a prostrate?"

"Will you get on the bed?"

"Doc, what's the rubber gloves and grease for?"

"Hee, hee, hee." "Hee, hee, Hell!"

"Doc, why are putting that grease on my bottom?"

"Hee, hee, hee." "Ahhhhh...h!"

I had to look back to make sure both of the doc's hands were not visible.

"Here you go, Mr. Johnson, take this Kleenex and clean the grease off of you."

"Why you?!?!+!!!" "Hee, hee, hee."

I was really humiliated. "Well, Mr. Johnson, all we need is a hemocult."

"What's a hemocult, Doc?"

"It's a bowel sample."

"Take this popsicle stick and use it to extract a sample of your next bowel movement, and mail it to me."

"You mean you want me to mail you a sample of my next bowel movement?"

"That's right." "Hee, hee, hee."

Clothing Prices

How much are clothing prices going to go up this year?

According to Harriet Tutterow, clothing specialist with the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, consumers can expect prices on all apparel items to be 25 percent higher than in Spring 1978.

From Capitol Hill

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The Congressional Black Caucus and a minority of the other congressmen put up a strong fight against passage of the 1981 budget that is highly insensitive to humanity. In February the Caucus called President Carter's budget, which placed an unbearable burden on minorities, unemployed and the poor an unmitigated disaster. Even though in addition to the large number of people already unemployed, \$25,000 were added to the roll during April, and the administration has announced a continued unemployment increase. Yet, the House of Representatives greatly slashed funds for health care, nutrition, education and jobs. Representative Parren Mitchell presented his Human Needs Budget Alternative to the President's and congress' insensitive budget. He stated that the budget markers should establish national priorities of long-run problems of unemployment, inflation

Black Caucus Puts Up Strong Fight Against Budget Passage



Alfreda L. Madison

and lack-luster lagging productivity. Mitchell stated that a good look at the disgraceful House budget shows that 75 percent of it is uncontrollable. Of the remaining \$175 billion, termed discretionary outlays, \$92 billion is allocated for the military, that leaves \$83 billion which are the targets of the balanced budget. This includes education, training, employment, health, housing, elderly and handicapped. These essential human needs are the target cuts.

Mitchell's Human Needs Budget calls for an additional \$1.1 billion funding for the decaying cities. It addresses labor cost and youth training for productivity by providing additional \$200 million. Mitchell concludes that House Budget Committee reflects an insensitivity to the needs of people relative to the needs of the military. The Black Caucus and some whites, like Representative Solaz and Wolfe interrupted their committee hearing in order to go the House chambers because they stated that Mitchell's amendment was in trouble, put up a gigantic fight, but the inhumane majority voted the bill down.

The Caucus states that the budget cuts expand unemployment disproportionately among blacks. It encourages frustration and disappointment on the part of blacks and the poor concerning the power and efficacy of the political process. It will have a profound impact on all branches of education,

from cuts in day care centers through college grants.

The Black Caucus along with a coalition of over a hundred organizations are calling upon the people to mobilize, support the May 17 march and to bring pressure on all members of congress, especially those with a large black constituency to reverse themselves and work for a budget that will give priority to human needs, or let them know that they will work for their defeat now.

Since some of the papers in which my article appear are Virginia, North Carolina and Mississippi, I am listing the names of these targeted congressmen. Virginia: Whitehurst, Tribie, Robert Daniel, Dan Daniel, Robinson and fortunately, Satterfield is not running for re-election. Mississippi: Bowen, Montgomery, Whitten Henson, Tent. North Carolina: Fefner, James Martin, Houtain, Walter Jones, Whitley, Rose, Andrews and Pryer. The Caucus emphasized very strongly that no long-

er must we allow people to get elected with our votes, then work against us.

It was also stated that between Carter and Reagan, the two front runners, blacks must give careful consideration to voting for the lesser of the two evils. They gave Jimmy Carter 95 percent of their vote in 1976 as a protest against Nixon-Ford administration and this is termed by the Caucus as the worst administration since Herbert Hoover's.

Both our foreign and domestic policies are in shambles. So it appears that the consensus of the group is that, at present, neither the Democratic or Republican Parties are offering blacks anything; and that we must not let either Jimmy Carter or Ronald Reagan ride into office on our votes. It really appears that we have nothing from either to offer, over as a choice.

Mopeds Causing Patrol Concern

State Highway Patrol officials are concerned with the growing number of motorized bike or moped accidents involving operators under 16 years of age. According to a recent study by the Highway Safety Research Center in Chapel Hill, approximately 10 percent of all moped accidents in North Carolina involve operators under 16. Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Burley Mitchell said, "We are urging dealers to point out laws pertaining to the operation of mopeds with emphasis on the minimum age requirement. Parents should ensure that those under 16 do not ride mopeds on our public streets and highways."

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