

Editorials & Comments

Don't Pre-Judge Reagan!

Now that the dust from the Republican Party Ronald Reagan led landslide has begun to settle, speculation has naturally arisen as to what it may all mean for the nation. Furthermore, since the Reagan administration will cloak its policies in conservative ideology, most black Americans have assumed that the next four years will be void of federal laws and programs that aid and support minority needs and concerns.

However, before commenting on and speculating on what blacks might expect from a Reagan Presidency, it might be helpful to look at some aspects of the election itself. First, to conclude that President-elect Reagan is ideologically anti-black has no basis in facts. The evidence shows he appointed many blacks to key policy-making positions while serving two terms as Governor of California. It is, therefore, very likely that he will appoint some blacks to either cabinet or sub-cabinet level posts. For example, Dr. Thomas Sowell, a conservative labor economist, who is black, is believed to be under consideration for a seat on the Council of Economic Advisors or he may be asked to take over and begin phasing out the new Education Department.

Furthermore, there is a very strong possibility that former U.S. Senator Edward Brooks will be offered a key post in the Reagan administration. In addition, Sen. Strom Thurmond, the new Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has indicated that he would support a qualified black to replace Thurgood Marshall on the U.S. Supreme Court if Marshall retires.

While some might argue that such appointments are merely tokenism, they are in fact no

more or less than other presidents have offered and will probably be the same for future presidents. Nevertheless, we think such possible appointments represent progressive thinking by what we believe are conservative unprogressive people.

In a broader sense, the question is being asked what can blacks expect from a Reagan presidency? Frankly, no one knows at this time. However, some general conclusions can be drawn. First, history shows that once in the White House and facing the realities of the office of the Presidency, conservatives tend to shift to a more moderate position on most issues. Secondly, since there was considerable disappointment in Carter by many blacks who still supported the Democratic Party candidate, the Republicans now have an opportunity to win blacks to the GOP.

Thirdly, Reagan may dismantle or alter some social programs such as CETA that have served millions of blacks. If ending such programs means getting blacks into permanent, full-time jobs, so be it. The same could be said about welfare and food stamps. However, because of the negative things Reagan's Party has said about these programs, they'll have to actually find viable alternatives quickly or keep what we have.

Finally, if Reagan can make any progress in improving the performance of the nation's economy, he will have done much to relieve a great deal of the suffering blacks continue to face.

Thus, before writing-off the next four years as total disaster for blacks, let's give Reagan an opportunity to prove himself. After all, what alternative do we have?

Dr. Maxwell Was Wrong!

According to reports, Dr. Bertha Maxwell, UNCC professor, blamed her loss in seeking a seat in the N.C. House of Representatives on racism and sexism. She has been quoted as saying, "I lost because I couldn't get ANY support from the white community. They aren't ready to elect a black woman to Raleigh."

For a number of reasons Dr. Maxwell's alleged charges sound like "sour grapes" or the comments of a poor loser.

First, a CHARLOTTE POST study of voter patterns indicates that Dr. Maxwell received 26 percent of her support or 15,026 votes, from black precincts and 74 percent, or 42,676 votes, from white precincts. This amount of support from largely white voter precincts is a direct contradiction to her allegations. More to the point, Dr. Maxwell claims she "couldn't get ANY"

white support when in effect it was substantial.

Secondly, Republican State House candidate Joe Beard, who finished in the vote count behind Maxwell, lost in his second state office bid. However, he took his loss in the spirit of a good campaigner and said, "I have lost twice. I will work for others now." Why should Maxwell assume she had to win on a first try?

Thirdly, Bob Walton defeated white conservative Bill Booe for the fifth seat on the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners. Walton's victory was made possible in part by white votes from southeast Charlotte.

If Dr. Maxwell is such a poor loser that she has to accuse whites of being racists and sexists as an excuse for her loss, she has shown that voters may have been wise in not electing her to a state office.



"We Must Stop Finding Excuses For Criminality And Not Allow It To Mask Itself By Any Other Name."

Black's Destiny In Own Hands....

Letters To The Editor

People's Platform

Equal Rights Amendment Discussed

In its 1980 session, the General Assembly of the North Carolina will consider again the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. We North Carolina members of the American Association of University Women believe it to be the most important issue which will come before the legislature of our great state, and we reaffirm, more strongly than ever, our support for ratification of that amendment.

The Equal Rights Amendment will guarantee to all citizens of this country that most basic of all American rights, equal justice under the law. It will not affect private rights, personal relationships, nor individuals' and families' rights to choose whatever lifestyles are right and comfortable and fulfilling for them, for those are decisions in which the law plays no part.

AAUW calls upon the legislature and the people of North Carolina to focus upon the law and its effect on individuals and families. When we consider the effects of North Carolina and federal laws upon the family, we can come to no other conclusion than that the Equal Rights Amendment is a necessity for the equitable treatment of all citizens of this nation.

In North Carolina, for example, as in some other states, the homemaker's nonfinancial contribution to the family at home or in a family business is not recognized by state law. Further, N.C. law does not recognize the principle of equitable distribution of property when a marriage is dissolved.

The experience of 16 states which now have Equal Rights Amendments as part of their state constitutions—Illinois, Pennsylvania, Washington, Virginia, and a dozen more—has not produced any of the dire effects predicted by the opponents of the ERA. In fact those states which have produced a large

number of court decisions affirming what supporters have said all along, that the ERA has nothing to do with abortion, homosexuality, nor who chooses to work outside the home and who chooses to care for and nurture the home and children. In those states, where ERA has been a reality for as many as 8 years, a growing body of law defining government action makes it clear that the ERA will not affect private conduct that the government does not normally regulate. Citizens of those states where the ERA is a fact are often amused by the horrible visions conjured up by those who attempt to defeat ratification of the amendment in North Carolina and in other states.

We must affirm the belief of all North Carolinians in equal justice under the law. The nation's eyes are upon us. Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the North Carolina legislature will be a major contribution of this state to the rest of the country.

Ann W. Chipley, president N.C. State Division American Assoc. of University Women Rocky Mount, NC 27801

Reagan Could Be

Blessing In Disguise?

To The Editor: The election of Ronald Reagan as president may be exactly what we deserve and need to unite us in a collective effort to fight against the forces that keep us divided and desire to return us to slavery.

One thing we failed to give Frank L. Rizzo credit for was uniting us in an unprecedented manner against the Charter change amendment that would have given him the option of a third term in office.

It seems that only a

person of Mr. Rizzo's ilk, and I place Mr. Reagan in that same class, is negative enough to make us mad enough to do more than complain about unresponsive politicians who want to turn the clock back on social programs and laws designed to give us freedom, justice and equality.

If the election of Mr. Reagan brings us back together and keeps us together as we need to be in time like these, it could well be a blessing in disguise.

Rev. Robert E. Glover Sr.

Ann W. Chipley, president N.C. State Division American Assoc. of University Women Rocky Mount, NC 27801

Doomed Man's Plea

Dear Editor: My name is Johnny Harris and I am currently incarcerated on death row.

At this time, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for all the support I have received from people all over the country as well as from people in many countries all over the world. I submit to you my plea for your continued support.

Johnny Harris Holman Prison, Alabama

From Capitol Hill

Present Election Results Outlook Dim For Minorities

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post The 1980 voter turnout was the lowest in 32 years. Only 52 percent of the American registered voters went to the polls and with no candidate winning a majority but only a plurality shows that the politicians really don't represent the American citizens. Ronald Reagan won only 27 percent of the voting population.

Even though the House still has a Democratic majority, the Republicans picked up 33 seats. The Senate has a Republican majority. This means that beside Senate leadership changing hands, chairmanships of all major committees will change.

Senator Strom Thurmond, who has constantly objected to not allowing the "blue slip" as the sole method of confirmation of a federal judge will replace Senator Kennedy as chairman of the Judiciary committee. This is just about the most important committee on Capitol Hill. It has control over the



Alfreda L. Madison selection of all federal judges, the courts system, justice Department, FBI, copy rights and patents, regulatory system and anti-trust laws. Russell Long, who has been Chairman of the Finance Committee for many years will be replaced by Bob Doles, Church of Foreign Relations by Percy, Arms Services new chairman will be John Towers, who will replace Stennis. Senator Warren Magnuson, Chairman of Appropriations will

be replaced by Mark Hatfield. Jesse Helms, about whom it is rumored that he wants to be Chairman of Foreign Relations will most likely become Chairman of Agriculture, the seat left vacant by Talmadge and Senator Orren Hatch, a conservative, will be Chairman of the committee that is over the Civil Rights Commission.

In assessing the recent election with its highly conservative Congress, Arthur Fleming, Executive Director of Civil Rights Commission, expressed the hope that both Reagan and the Senate will give careful consideration to civil rights issues. He stated that President Carter has had a better record than any of his predecessors in appointment of women and minorities to federal judgeships and other federal positions. Since President Carter set up a civil rights commission in the Office of Management and Budget for the purpose of enforcing fairness in jobs in federal agencies and departments, Mr. Fleming expressed the

hope that Ronald Reagan will continue that office.

The civil rights director stated that he hopes the lame duck congress will defeat four anti-civil rights amendments that have passed the Housing Act, Youth Act and Criminal Act before it adjourns.

This landslide election has evoked various reactions from ordinary people. I questioned an executive and a receptionist of a big company and they both said they really felt sick over the thoughts of what this new conservative turn will do to the country.

One bus driver said, "Carter was far from being what I wanted, but Reagan and the conservative Republicans have always shown that they have no concern for minorities and the poor at all."

Two black domestic workers said, "minimum wages will be reduced, prices will get higher, blacks will get fewer jobs, while whites will get more." One said, "The Moral Majority and Ku Klux Klan both have

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

To Be Equal



Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Black Businesses Under Pressure

Black-owned and operated businesses managed to proliferate throughout the economic adversities of the 1970s, but the credit crunch and the recession could put those gains under severe pressure.

The annual Black Enterprise survey of black businesses reports that the number of black businesses with paid-employees grew by almost fifty percent during most of the seventies.

Gross receipts of all black businesses grew by 47.5 percent since 1972, but that impressive gain masks a real decline, since inflation ran even higher.

The magazine reports that the greatest growth took place in companies with nine workers or less, indicating the importance of small growing companies in job creation.

All in all, given the continuing discrimination, the poor business climate, and the newness of many black businesses, their continued survival and growth reflects hard work, perseverance, and continued belief in the American dream of successful entrepreneurship.

That belief will be sorely tested in 1980. Small business is especially vulnerable to the kind of credit crunch we're experiencing, and recession hits hardest at small businesses that don't have the capital, established markets, and long-term customer relationships to weather the storm.

The sharp downturn in the auto industry has the potential to drastically alter the black business picture. The Black Enterprise Top 100 Firms include 32 automobile dealerships. Auto dealers and service stations account for the largest chunk of gross receipts among black business.

With massive layoffs in the industry and a bleak outlook for auto sales this year, this vital sector of the black economy will be under tremendous pressure.

The personal care and cosmetics industry has long been a mainstay of black business, but despite the product and marketing excellence of many such firms they have become vulnerable to the inroads established giants in the field have been making among black consumers.

At the same time, those companies have experienced frustration in breaking into the general cosmetic market as many downtown stores place all their products, even those for white consumers, in the "ethnic sections."

Restructured federal minority business programs may be more effective than in the past, but no one knows if they can supply the safety net that keeps those businesses alive in a deep recession.

It is an important national objective to nurture the tenuous foothold blacks have achieved in the business sector. The recession should not be permitted to send black businesses back to square one by wiping out the limited gains they've made in recent years.

A government that rushes to the rescue of giant corporations that find themselves in trouble can't deny positive steps that keep alive a struggling and important part of its urban business sector.

Government and corporate strategies to preserve struggling minority firms during the downturn are essential.

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