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 adminstration 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 indieated that he would support a qualified black to replace Thurgood Marshall on the U.S. Supreme Court if Marshall

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

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

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 looser.

First, a CHARLOTTE POST study of voter patterns indicates that Dr. Maxwell received 26 percent of her support or 15,026 votes, from black pre-cincts 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

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.

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.

If Dr. Maxwell is such a poor

Reagan Could Be

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

Blessing In Disguise? 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

"We Must Stop Finding Excuses For Criminality And Not Allow

It To Mask Itself By Any Other Name."

Black's Destiny In Own Hands....

People's Platform

Equal Rights Amendment Discussed

fect on individuals and

families. When we consider

the effects of North Caro-

lina 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

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

The experience of 16

states which now have

Equal Rights Amendments

as part of their state con-

stitutions-Illinois, Penn-

sylvania, Washington, Vir-

ginia, and a dozen more

has not produced any of the

dire effects predicted by

the opponents of the ERA.

In fact those states which

of all citizens of this

nation.

is dissolved.

upon the law and its ef- have produced a large

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

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 de-

feat ratification of the

amendment in North Caro-

lina and in other states.

The visions simply do not

We must affirm the be-lief of all North Carolin-

ians in equal justice under

the law. The nation's eyes

are upon us. Ratification of

the Equal Rights Amend-

ment by the North Caro-

lina legislature will be a

major contribution of this

state to the rest of the

Ann W. Chipley, president

N.C. State Division

American Assoc. of

University Women

Rocky Mount, NC 27801

Doomed Man's Plea

My name is Johnny Har-

ris and I am currently

incarcerated on death row.

to express my sincerest

gratitude for all the sup-

port 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

At this time, I would like

country.

Dear Editor:

hold with the facts.

government does not

Letters To The Editor

In its 1980 session, the

General Assembly of North

Carolina will consider

again the ratification of the

Equal Rights Amendment.

We North Carolina mem-

bers of the American Asso-

ciation of University Wo-

men 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

The Equal Rights

Amendment will guarantee

to all citizens of this coun-

try that most basic of all

American rights, equal jus-

tice 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

AAUW calls upon the

legislature and the people

of North Carolina to focus

The election of Ronald

Reagan as president may

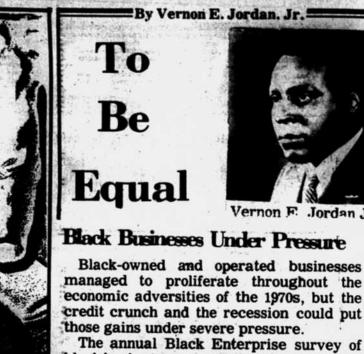
be exactly what we deserve

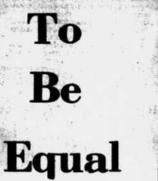
plays no part.

of that amendment.

designed to give us freedom, justice and equality. If the election of Mr. Reagan brings us back to-gether and keeps us together as we need to be in time like these, it could well be a blessing in dis-

guise. Rev. Robert E. Glover Sr.





 ${f Be}$

By 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.

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, perserverance, 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

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.

From Capitol Hill

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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, chairman-ships 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. 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 Committe 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 commitee 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 care-ful 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 claimed Reagan as their unfortunate and calling candidate, so there is no way he can be for us."

Walter Brown a black truck driver said, "President Carter brought all of this on himself. After the minorities put him in office, he turned his back on them by not getting them jobs, housing, lower medical care and means for educating their children.

A prominent black lawyer, stated that President Carter's economic proposals were so close to the conservative Republicans that he failed to provide the people a real choice. He said that after blacks put Carter into office he only rewarded them with a few appointments or the upper echelon blacks, while ignoring the large number of blacks who voted for him.

One old black lady, who lives on a small social security check, resorted to her strong religious views by saying, "the right-wing Christian organizations that are putting people out of office because they show some consideration for the

their actions Christian, are going to be crushed like Sodom and Gomorrah."

A taxi driver said, "Reagan has been campaigning for six years, Carter for two years and members of congress campaigning for at least two years. That requires money and only big business can provide the finance, so this is not a democracy, but a big busi-ness dictatorship. The little man's welfare is not considered. He is used as a

Job Training

Are you between the ages of 16-21 and looking for a job or skill training? If you live outside the Charlotte city limits but in Mecklenburg County, call the Youth **Employment Training Pro**gram at 372-3434 for the inside scoop. It could be the start of something great.

