

Editorials & Comments

Time For Judging Mr. Reagan

A week after Ronald Reagan's landslide presidential victory on November, 13 we said in this column that it was too early to start judging Reagan. We said that first, Reagan had appointed an acceptable number of blacks and other minorities while he was serving as Governor of California. Secondly, we said it was useless for blacks to speculate on what Reagan might do or not do for minorities. Thirdly, we noted that 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.

Sadly, we must admit that President Reagan has not fit the stereotype of shifting to a more moderate position. More significantly, President Reagan's success in getting his massive tax and budget cuts approved, his substantial weakening of many deserving social programs, his commitment to big bucks defense spending, and now the neutron bomb has, according to knowledgeable pollsters and politicians, given Reagan a stronger personal and political consensus than any president since Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" liberalism solidified the Democratic Party in the mid-1930s.

However, in spite of Reagan's presumed large popularity with the voters, there is emerging some concerns, if not outright discontent with some of his inflexible policy positions. For example, many of the President's own top advisors - Budget Director David Stockman and Treasury Secretary Donald Regan to name a few - want defense spending plans cut to allow for keeping a pledge to balance the budget within three years.

Furthermore, a bipartisan group of 16 Congressional conservatives and liberals from both parties has begun to express concerns that when the full impact of the social program cuts is felt many people will begin to ask why can't defense spending be cut too? There are those who fear too much social program cuts may return us to the tension, frustrations and riots of the 1960s.

Neutron Bomb

Still others are upset that Reagan's commitment to the neutron bomb will only add to the arms race and move the world closer to nuclear destruction. Another high ranking Reagan aid, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, has expressed opposition to the radiation enhancing neutron bomb.

The outcry and dissatisfaction over these Reagan administration policy decisions are not limited to the shores of the United States. Our so-called

European allies tear, as do a growing number of Americans, that defense spending cannot be adequately off-set by reduced domestic programs. Furthermore, with the assumption that Americans will spend their tax cut benefit in their struggle against inflation rather than save it, there will be inadequate revenues to fully fund the defense budget.

Thus, federal deficits financed by borrowing will add to worldwide pressures on upward interest rates. This will accelerate the ongoing decline in investment and employment as is already occurring in Germany, England and here in America. It has been a factor in the recent British urban riots and necessary defense spending cuts by the Western European allies.

Domestic Issues

Now that President Reagan has stated his position on taxes, the budget, domestic issues and defense spending and therefore committed himself on a major part of an as yet not fully defined foreign policy, it is time for the American people to pull their heads out of the sand and begin judging Reagan on the merits of his performance.

The day of being influenced by the charm, personality, Hollywood image, dynamic speaking and political rhetoric of Mr. Reagan is long past. The elderly and the poor have begun to feel the sting of the Reagan policies, thus, with fewer public resources to meet their needs they have begun to ask - Has America misjudged Mr. Reagan? Many others, both inside the administration and Mr. Average American are beginning to ask if Ronald Reagan is the new Jim Jones?

The issues of interest rates, jobs, human social needs, nuclear danger and a livable environment are basic to civilized society as we know it and expect. It is therefore time for the American voter to take stock, assess the issues and direction of the Reagan administration and begin thinking about the elections of 1982 and 1984.

We make these observations out of a growing concern over an administration that is hell-bent on curbing inflation, balancing the budget and preserving the peace by preparing for war even if the latter destroys us in the process.

Let us not forget that we have had other Presidents who rode on a crest of high popular support. Too often, as has happened while the voters have been glorifying and looking at a President, events and conditions affecting their daily lives have declined by the actions and policies of the man they are admiring. In our judging these latter conditions are beginning to rear their ugly heads.

NEEDED NOW....UNITED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

WE MUST PREVENT OUR OWN CHILDREN FROM TURNING INTO JUNKIES WHO PREY ON THEIR OWN PEOPLE. WE CAN... PREVENT THAT.



First Stop On African Tour

Reports From Zimbabwe

By Gus Savage
Member of Congress

It's Wednesday evening, August 5th; and I am reporting from Salisbury, Zimbabwe, in the southern part of Africa. Since it is the winter season here, the temperature is only about 60 degrees.

I'm staying in an up-to-date, 18-story hotel, the Monomatapa, named after the feared black 15th century paramount chief of this area.

Tomorrow morning I am going to meet with Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, and Friday afternoon I will leave for Johannesburg, South Africa.

I was picked up at my house in Washington, D.C., by a U.S. Air Force man, yesterday, at 6:30 p.m. He drove me to Andrews Air Force Base where we took off in an Air Force version of the Boeing 707.

On board were six other members of Congress, including two other Blacks: Shirley Chisholm of New York, and George Crockett of Detroit. Also, accompanying us were 10 staff members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, four Army escort officers, a medical officer, plus an Air Force crew.

The first leg of our journey, crossing the Atlantic Ocean, took almost eight hours. We landed in Dakar, Senegal, the western most tip of Africa, to refuel.

Incidentally, about four miles off the coast of Dakar is the Island of Goree, the concentration point for the African slave trade of the 17th and 18th centuries.

It took another eight hours to fly the 4,350 miles southeast to Zimbabwe.

I read during most of these 16 hours, to improve my understanding of what I am about to experience, in a three-week official fact-finding mission to seven nations in the west, south



Gus Savage

and east parts of the Motherland.

I am taking this trip instead of a vacation because I need to learn, first hand, more about what America is doing in Africa, as contrasted with what it should be doing here. After all, the Reagan administration seems to be favoring the fascist South African regime, while opposing the black liberation struggle in Angola and Namibia.

No matter how much tougher our government is about to make it for us in America, we must not overlook the even greater pain it may be preparing to inflict upon our African brothers and sisters.

Now, let me become more specific about the country where I am: Zimbabwe, an area which boasted a thriving economy as long ago as the 9th century.

Until Blacks won a fair election in April 1980, ending 92 years of white-settler rule, Zimbabwe was known as Rhodesia, so named in 1888 for the racist British adventurer Cecil Rhodes. Last year's election, of course, was imposed on the white tyrants by decades of violent, black revolutionary struggle in which Mugabe played a leading role.

Of Zimbabwe's hefty \$3.4 billion gross national product in 1979, reportedly 25

percent was manufacturing, twice as much as agricultural. Only eight percent was mining, mainly gold, though mining accounted for more than 60 percent of Zimbabwe's export earnings. And Zimbabwe has two-thirds of the world's known reserves of metallurgical grade chromite.

Its infrastructure is modern, with excellent internal transportation and electrical power networks. Its beautiful capital, Salisbury, a commercial center of some 650,000 residents, reminds me of Miami, Florida.

Only about 240,000, or three percent, of Zimbabwe's 7.2 million population is white. That is 28 Blacks to every one white.

Yet, that tiny minority still greatly influences this nation's government, owns the best half of all the land, and controls the country's highly developed and diversified economic power and rich natural resources.

However, if its newly established black democratic political control is sustained, as seems likely, this maldistribution of economic power surely will be corrected. This appears certain even if Mugabe's professed gradualism and non-alignment do not prove to be the wisest course for Zimbabwean Blacks, the majority of whom have not finished elementary school.

Indeed, as a Marxist, Mugabe's own commitment to Pan-African socialism should further insure the necessary corrections, especially when one adds to this the fact that he was held in detention by the former Rhodesian rulers for 10 of his 56 years.

I will be reporting next week from Cape Town, South Africa.

Affirmative Action

Time To Play Hardball!

The lingering strike in major league baseball and the opening of the new football season dramatize for all to see the paltry percentage of Blacks in front office jobs. Many are familiar with the sight of Reggie Jackson knocking the ball out of the park but how many know that Yankee Stadium is a veritable white oasis of employment in the midst of the teeming Black and Latino South Bronx, which has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country? Many are familiar with the whirling dervish dunks of Dr. J. but how many Blacks hold high management positions in the Philadelphia 76ers organization?

Racism in professional sports has had a long and raveled history. Until Jackie Robinson broke the barrier of Jim Crow in baseball in 1947, the sport was as lily-white as the ball. Talented super-stars like Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson and Jay "Cool Papa" Bell were relegated to eking out a living in the poverty-stricken "Negro leagues." It should never be forgotten that what ended the racial bar in baseball was not the benevolence or new-found vision of the greedy team owners but the determined protest of Black fans led by Paul Robeson and the changing international situation in which the U.S. found it difficult to compete for "hearts and minds" in the Third World when people of color here were so heavily discriminated against.

Today, Black athletes account for more than 70 percent of the players in the National Basketball Association, 55 percent of the players in the National Football League and some of the highest salaries in major league baseball. Even in the National Hockey League there are two Black players active. Professional tennis has seen the flowering of a number of Black female players, e.g., Leslie Allen.

Yet, the charge by Ed Garvey, executive director of the National Football League Players Association, that the NFL itself is "a monument to racism," could just as easily be applied to professional sports generally.

Still, it is quite easy to see why this charge was leveled at the NFL. First of all, there are no Black general managers or head coaches. A recent study conducted by sociologist Jomils Braddock II of Johns Hopkins University shows that flagrant institutionalized racism continues to exist against former players who are Black, in terms of coaching jobs.

The study, covering the 20 years of 1960 through 1979 showed that 329 former NFL players had been promoted to the coaching ranks-261 assistants and 68 head coaches. Of that total of 329, only 20 were Black, all in assistant jobs.

Garvey has noted that although there has been a growth in the number of assistant coaching jobs over the last seven years, the proportion of Black assistants had not grown. The study pointed out that one of every 20 retired white NFL players can look forward to becoming an assistant coach, while the figure for Blacks was one in 100.

Professor Braddock projected that in the two decade period studied, 10 Blacks could have expected head coaching positions and 92 could have expected assistant jobs. Yet, there were no head coaching jobs and a meager 20 assistants.

What is the NFL hierarchy saying? Do they maintain that Blacks are good enough to play the game and not good enough to coach it?

From Capitol Hill

Royal Wedding Took Precedence Over Important News?

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post
Recently, Representative Parren Mitchell was asked about the Black Caucus' accomplishments, and he began to enumerate them. One reason the Caucus works are not known is because of bias white media reporting, and racism of politicians. The losers in these actions are the American people of all ethnicity. If the press had given equally wide coverage to the Black Caucus budget which was entirely different from both the Reagan and Democratic budgets which had only a high powered microscopic difference, the American people would have had an opportunity to make a real choice. Losers! American people.



Alfreda L. Madison could be accomplished without at least a PLO dialogue. These criticisms were given wide coverage by the white media. Now, it was revealed recently, that the U.S. administration has been contacting the PLO through other sources, and Hugh Sidey of TIME magazine said, that there must be talks with the PLO in order to bring about a peaceful settlement between the Israelis and Palestinians. He stated that the Palestinians must be given an independent homeland. Why didn't Hugh Sidey voice that same sentiment at the

time Blacks expressed it? These are two of the many reasons why the United States needs Blacks in key positions where they can impact on issues.

The television stations spent millions of dollars and long hours of reporting on the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. Of course, the top TV people were dispatched to England and, as Max Robinson said, "Blacks don't hold those positions." Carl Rowan said much important news that was not necessary for the thorough familiarization to the American people was ignored. This was just the marriage of royalty whose only claim to their lofty position is that the Prince was born to a long line monarchical family, who can attest to nothing that they have done to improve the conditions of humanity. They live lavishly off the immense taxation of the people of their country, enjoy pomp and glory, and wander around the world looking for more lavishness, glory and honor.

The television comment-

ators commented on just how beautiful the bride looked. All brides look beautiful. They said that one could see romance between the couple. All couples give a romantic appearance at their wedding. There were comments on the couple's many expensive gifts. Why do they need gifts? What are they going to do with them? Certainly they already had more than they can use, and they can well afford to buy anything they desire. It would certainly have seen more of a gesture of love for their country's citizens if they had done as a prominent, black, retired, big league football player and his bride, a black woman lawyer who printed on their invitations "in lieu of gifts, make contributions to charity."

Some commentators said the wedding was a much needed "shot in the arm," for England's morale because of the recent strife and mounting opposition to Prime Minister Thatcher's economic policies, which certainly bear a close resemblance to the Reagan-

omics of our own country. Inflation in England is 11.3 percent, and unemployment 11.8 percent.

Commentators said the wedding coverage made the viewers very happy. Those who are living very well, as well as our media people who covered the wedding made up the happy crowd, but what about those who have no jobs, and can scarcely eke out a sparse existence, those who suffered racism at the hands of the English government, the youthful frustrated jobless rioters and the Irish Catholics?

Does the press expect the living conditions of the poor people of England and the United States to improve by having, perhaps, a vicarious television experience? TV could have contributed more justifiably to the English people if it had given equally extensive coverage showing just how the jobless in England are existing and showing how England discriminates against Blacks and other ethnic groups. It could have served the American public better if it had more

fully informed the American public about the Administration's sending Haitian aliens to federal prison when no other aliens are not criminals been sent to prison. Instead of interviewing the Prince and Princess, a greater contribution could have been made if the press talked with Black leaders who could have truthfully let the people know of the Black Caucus' broken campaign promise not to set rights back. The public deserves to know the truth of how black control to the states, attitude towards bus opposition of affirmative actions, holdout on Voting Rights stand; all perpetuate discrimination and justice. The press is gated to tell how discrimination exists in the executive and legislative branches, if it wants to rightly inform Americans.



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