

# Editorials & Comments

## All Blacks Lumped In Same Basket

Reprint from the Jackson Advocate

Those blacks, who have up to this time, felt that they no longer needed to support black causes and institutions, have come to a rude awakening. The sweep of the presidential and congressional elections by conservative and racist forces in this country has brought about changes which are hitting hardest at black elitists. Consequently, this group no longer has the "problem" of identifying with the black underclass. The conservative element now in nominal control of the governing apparatus of the country, clearly lumps ALL blacks in the same basket. There are a few who have escaped this fate by personal friendships among the new ruling class, and do have some limited access to power.

The issues remain clearcut. The black elite has foolishly squandered away a period of relative empowerment during which they had a chance to unite with working class blacks on a common agenda. Instead, they have embittered and neglected the black underclass to such a degree that efforts to re-establish black unity and solidarity around issues affecting ALL black people are being met with disdain and suspicion by many of the underclass. That underclass was not permitted to participate in the planning of, nor share in the rewards and benefits of those agendas established by middle class blacks.

Black elitists have played a dangerous game, the benefits of which have accrued to a few white politicians. Those politicians have, in turn, developed programs and policies which have kept blacks in the underclass, enslaved and dependent. Some black elitists have retarded black political development by "fronting" for these same white politicians by leading their political campaigns in black communities. They have forgotten, as some German Jews forgot, that when the rights for any black is eroded, so are their rights. It is also true that "...No man is an island, entire unto himself."

## Black Agenda

The development of a truly black agenda requires the input of, and participation for its development by all blacks, whatever their social situation. There can be no black agendas that do not relate to securing freedom for all blacks. Marcus Garvey asked, "Where are our men of 'big affairs?' more than forty years ago. Sadly, it is a question for which we still must seek an answer. Too often, that question

has not dealt with its substance, but rather the meaning on its surface.

Men of 'big affairs' ought to refer to those who can point out a path which can lead to resolution of the myriad of serious problems which we face here in America. True men of 'big affairs' have no time to concern themselves with the election and or re-election of white politicians who fail to respond to our concerns.

Some black elitists continue to object to and question the advisability of blacks engaging in the traditional methods of economic redress of grievances by those who have little political and military strength. Freedom cannot be 'free.' And, if blacks are to become free, it cannot be without pain. We must be prepared to face the pain, and the danger of facing up to situations which work to prevent us from acquiring our long-delayed freedom.

## Black Underclass

Today, despite the heralding of "progress" which is trumpeted in the white controlled media, there are twice as many blacks unemployed as there were in the sixties when the ghettos of America were lit by the fires set by their frustrated inhabitants. Today, warnings are being circulated that it is lower class whites, rather than blacks who will give America its latest round of 'long, hot summers.'

Their immediate target will be blacks, not just members of the black underclass, any black available at the time will do. The leadership of the country is currently encouraging the development of this trend in the white community as a way of distracting attention from its failing policies and programs.

A dark and ominous future looms for blacks in this country unless a force emerges which can forge a new black agenda. It will be necessary to heal the rupture which currently divides the black community. No longer can the black middle class

retreat to "suburbia" and hope to survive. If for no other reason, they would be hopelessly outnumbered, isolated and fair game for any racist who sees the destruction of blacks as an answer for everything that is wrong in their lives.

If blacks can unite around a common agenda, beneficial to all 'classes of blacks,' we will develop a formidable new force which can educate, organize, and direct the divergent energies of the black community toward a single focus: Freedom.



## Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands



Tony Brown's Comments

## Black Wild West Not White Wild West

The son of a friend of mine came home one day crying. He said that his white friends would not let him play the role of the cowboy because there were no black cowboys and there never had been.

For anyone who understands children, it is obvious that this kind of denial can have a debilitating effect on a child's self-image. It also underscores the need for a re-examination of the history of the old West—one which omitted a lot of true heroes.

The West was the nation's last frontier and, for many, represents what could be called America's adolescence. There is a growing interest in recapturing this earlier period in the country's turbulent history and can be seen in today's fashion, record and movie industries.

In fact, America seems to be undergoing a western cultural renaissance.

But, as in many areas of American history and folklore, the presence of black Americans is excluded. As a result, most Americans know only of white West. However, one third of all cowboys after the Civil War were black. One of the West's roughest men was Nat Love, a former slave in the Dakota territory, who won the title "Deadwood Dick" at a rodeo in 1876 because of his superior marksmanship and riding ability. He was captured by an Indian tribe, escaped and rode 100 miles on an unsaddled horse. He made famous the barroom cliché, "One for me, one for my horse." And at one time, he even attempted to steal a U.S. Army cannon. James Beckworth was

one of the nation's most outstanding frontiersmen. This famous Indian fighter and trapper became the chief of the Crow Indians and discovered the lowest point across the northern Sierra-Nevada Mountains, the Beckworth Pass as it came to be known, which led settlers during the gold rush. Beckworth is also remembered as a co-founder of the city of Denver. It is a little known fact that Beckworth was a black man.

Black outlaws also roamed the plains of the western frontier. The Rufus Buck gang's criminal record in only three days was longer than that of the notorious Starr and Dalton gangs.

Women too played a major role in shaping the West. When Aunt Clara Brown settled in Central City, Colorado in the 1860's, she opened a laundry, organized the first Sunday school and nursed the sick. She was instrumental in bringing wagon loads of blacks to the western frontier following the Civil War.

Biddy Mason, as a slave, had to walk from Mississippi to California to safeguard her master's cattle. A hard worker and clever investor, she gained her freedom and acquired huge amounts of land which she donated for the building of schools, churches and nursing homes.

Six feet tall and rugged was another heroine of the West: Mary Fields. She was well versed in the art of shooting. When in her 60's, she gained a reputation for delivering the mail under any adverse conditions and later took a job driving a stagecoach.

In spite of the many achievements of these great black pioneers, they remained the victims of a racially segregated America. The Jim Crow laws, for example, followed them into the new land. Laws were passed to halt black migration to the West.

These enforced legal restrictions, however, did not stop blacks from journeying westward in the thousands. There were several western towns founded by blacks. For example, a black named George Washington founded the town of Centralia in the state of Washington in 1872. In fact, a black, George Bush, is claimed to be the real founder of Washington State.

To meet the demand of troops needed to keep peace in the West, four black units were dispatched to the new frontier: the 24th and 25th Infantry and the 9th and 10th Cavalry. These men were vital in maintaining law and order in the Wild West.

Along with controlling Indian uprisings and protecting settlers, black soldiers guarded the mail.

As America celebrates its western heritage, it must recognize that the West is a product of the nation's multi-racial heritage. Not all American heroes were white, so the black cowboy should not be forgotten in American history.

Tony Brown's Journal, the television series, can be seen on public television Sunday, on Channel 30 at 2:30 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 42, Saturday at 8 p.m. Please consult listings.

By Rev. John Perkins

## Walk Your Talk



Rev. Perkins

## What Is The Gospel?

Many times I meet people on their way back home from church or I may see them on Monday and they tell me that they have been to church. I'll say, "What did the preacher preach about?" They will reply, "He preached the gospel." And then I'll ask, "What is the gospel?"

Now if they are theological, they will say the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But if they are not, they will say that the gospel is telling us how we should live. But what is the Biblical definition of the gospel?

What is the gospel? The gospel is the proclaiming and the making visible of God's love. It's making God's love visible in a way so that humankind can know that God loves them.

The first manifestation of God's love for man is the fact that God created man. He created the earth and all things in it and He created the earth for man. The earth was made for man and not man for the earth. The gospel is the continuous revelation of God's love and concern shown through His provision for man.

The apostle Paul writes in the Book of Romans, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith as it is written, the just shall live by faith."

Now why would the apostle say that he was not ashamed of the gospel? Well, the gospel was making God visible, and Jesus Christ was the manifestation of God. He came in human form to reveal the heart of God to man. And so He lived on earth doing good deeds being concerned for the poor and the sick and the agonizing in society.

John wrote as he considered the miracles of Jesus, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written." Jesus' love was so immense that it could not be measured even in words.

Once a lawyer challenged Jesus saying, "What is the great commandment?" Jesus replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind..." And the second is like it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self."

The gospel is the revelation of Jesus Christ to man which is revealing God's heart of love to humanity. So then, to love God is to love humanity.

God's heartbeat is His love for humanity. But as I listen to people and as I see how the church is organized, it seems that our churches are organized to do religion and to offer comfort instead of displaying the love of Jesus Christ to an aching world.

The second manifestation of God's love is Jesus' death on the cross for us. Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." What Jesus said has powerful implications toward a ministry to the poor and the powerless. He proved His love through His life and in His sacrificial death, the crowning glory of God's love to us.

You see, the gospel is more than its theological implications.

## From Capitol Hill

# Congressional Black Caucus Has The Viable Budget!

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

At a recent National Press Club luncheon, the Congressional Black Caucus Chairman, Representative Fauntroy gave details on the Caucus' FY 1983 Alternative Federal Budget. He stated that theirs is the only viable budget. It is not a black budget but it is a peoples' budget.

Fauntroy said the Reagan budget instead of having a deficit of \$90 billion in FY 1983, it will have \$183 billion deficit as stated by the Congressional Budget Office. The Caucus budget will have an actual deficit of \$91 billion, and it is projected that for 1985 the Caucus budget will be only one-fifth of the projected Reagan budget.

Realizing that social programs must remain a federal priority the Caucus budget, instead of cutting funds as the Reagan budget proposes, it restores the funds. The Alternative Budget restored \$3.3 billion to Title I; \$1.6 billion to grants and loans for disadvantaged college students; an increase of 16,000 more Section 8 housing units; \$4 billion urban infrastruc-



ture proposals which will create around 80,000 jobs; \$1.02 billion in social services and \$4.2 billion for mass transit. The centerpiece of the budget is an \$8 billion fund for the creation of federal jobs; vocational education and training package.

The Caucus budget will restore revenue loss by the Reagan tax give-away to the rich. It will propose a tax that really benefits the middle class, which earns \$50,000 or less. This budget will increase standard income tax deduction for single people with \$2,300 to \$2,700 and for married couples from \$3,400 to \$4,200. In this budget the cost-of-living increase in social security is maintained, 52 weeks unemploy-

ment compensation, \$3.2 billion more than the Reagan budget for assistance to the poor, \$5 billion more for food stamps and a total of \$11.5 billion more than the Reagan budget for health care. Fauntroy explained that the support funds increase are necessary in these times when unemployment is rapidly increasing and health costs are continuing to skyrocket.

While the Alternative Budget recognizes the need for a strong defense, it provides for continued funding of conventional weapons, increase pay for military personnel and operational and maintenance. To reduce the deficit the Caucus recommends, that instead of the astronomical Reagan defense increase; that defense spending be held at the FY 1982 level.

This alternative budget, realizes that new legislation is required to support the Caucus' strong conviction that the nation's record unemployment mandates a comprehensive federal response, which H.R. 5320 introduced by Representative Augustus Hawkins develops an ef-

fective jobs program. This budget states specific programs that will put the country back to work and increase productivity.

Mr. Fauntroy strongly emphasized that predictions made by Mr. Reagan and swallowed wholly by Congress; that unemployment would be greatly reduced instead, there has been an on-going rapid increase in joblessness, tax incentives for the rich would increase investments, which will give rise to employment and productivity, have been instead a failure, and instead of a tax decrease for the low income people, those making \$15,000 or less actually received an increase. The Reagan budget has only caused inflation to decrease, because many people have not had money to spend, and millions are afraid to spend because of the downward plunge of the economy.

Mr. Fauntroy stated that the Reagan budget declared war on the elderly, poor, lower and middle income citizens. It killed Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) in action, left welfare

seriously wounded, health care dangerously ill and cuts in student loans and grants caused thousands of students casualties. The Reagan budget has shot down the aims and aspirations of many young people. The family assistant programs are missing in action.

The Congressional Black Caucus Alternative Budget has specific ammunition that is capable of winning the recovery war that has been waged by the Reagan Budget. It only needs both the Administration's and congress careful analysis, coupled with a strong will to improve the economic conditions in a fair, sane and just manner for all Americans.

This Alternative Budget will be sent to the Executive Office of Management and Budget with a covering letter reminding the President that they accepted his challenge, that anyone with a better budget should produce it.

Mr. Fauntroy said that while there is much talk about a budget compromise, there are grave doubts that such will be accomplished, because the President has taken a strong

stand in support of Kemp-Roth 5-10-10 tax bill and he is only consenting to a very small reduction in his defense proposal.

Since going back home and facing their constituents, during the Easter recess, many Republicans and bold weevil Democrats have returned somewhat wobbly on the President's budget. So one Caucus member said that Senate might come forth with some type of a budget that the House won't buy, so he predicts that no budget will come out of Congress before the summer recess, there will be continued resolutions.

The Caucus Chairman feels strongly that the Alternative Budget will get more consideration this year than the FY 1982 budget received last year.

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