

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Power Of The Black Vote

H. M. (Mickey) Michaux fell short in his bid to become the first black congressman from North Carolina in 80 years when he lost in a run-off election in late July by 8,398 votes to I.T. Valentine. Ironically, Michaux bested Valentine with 44.5 percent to 33 percent in the first primary in June but did not get the needed majority vote to win.

Fifty-five percent of the total democratic registration in the 10-county districts went to the polls for the run-off. This is considered good in any election considering the political apathy of American citizens. However, considering too the recent political fights blacks and liberals had to engage in, even against President Reagan, to preserve the strong Voting Rights Act in July, you would think that 75 to 90 percent of the black registered voters would have cast ballots to help Michaux make political history.

However, we admonish you to be not dismayed because closer analysis reveals that the power of the black vote has become a reality that many astute politicians and political analysts have become painfully aware of. Ironic examples of this growing influence of the black vote are in abundance. Southern senators who are aware of the time not too many years past when it was a "no-no" to support any kind of civil rights legislation. Yet, it was Louisiana Senator Richard Long who co-sponsored the Voting Rights Act extension legislation. Other old-line anti-black politicians who supported the bill were Senator Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), and John Stennis (D-Miss.). Sen. Long reportedly has said it would be political suicide to vote against civil rights legislation now.

Morally Wrong

The rewards, too, are evident for old-line Southern politicians who have recanted their anti-black votes and rhetoric of the past. Case in point, George C. Wallace, who while Alabama governor, used the defiant rhetoric of "segregation now, segregation forever," is now seeking the governorship again. His rhetoric today is that enforced racial segregation is morally wrong. For whatever reason, Martin Luther King's, "If you just keep on loving a man ultimately you will get down to the God in him..." the power of the black vote, or the policies of the Reagan administration, George C. Wallace embraced black voters who gave him the margin of victory in a primary race and upon whom he will count heavily to beat Emory Folmar, a straight line Reagan Republican in the November elections.

Other evidence of the power of the black vote was seen recently

in the Virginia gubernatorial race in which President Reagan actively campaigned for the Republican candidate. In spite of outspending the Democrats by a 6-to-1 ratio, an estimated 65 percent of the black registered voters cast 90 percent of their votes against the conservative Republican candidate who fully supports Reagan policies that undermine the welfare, economic and political opportunities of black Americans.

The impact of the Virginia election returns, especially with the prestige of the President involved, led GOP national chairman Richard Richards to make the surprising statement that "Any Republican who runs in an area with a substantial black vote is in jeopardy of being defeated by that black vote." This is a clear admission that the Reagan policies and programs are and will impede black progress.

Poor Commitment

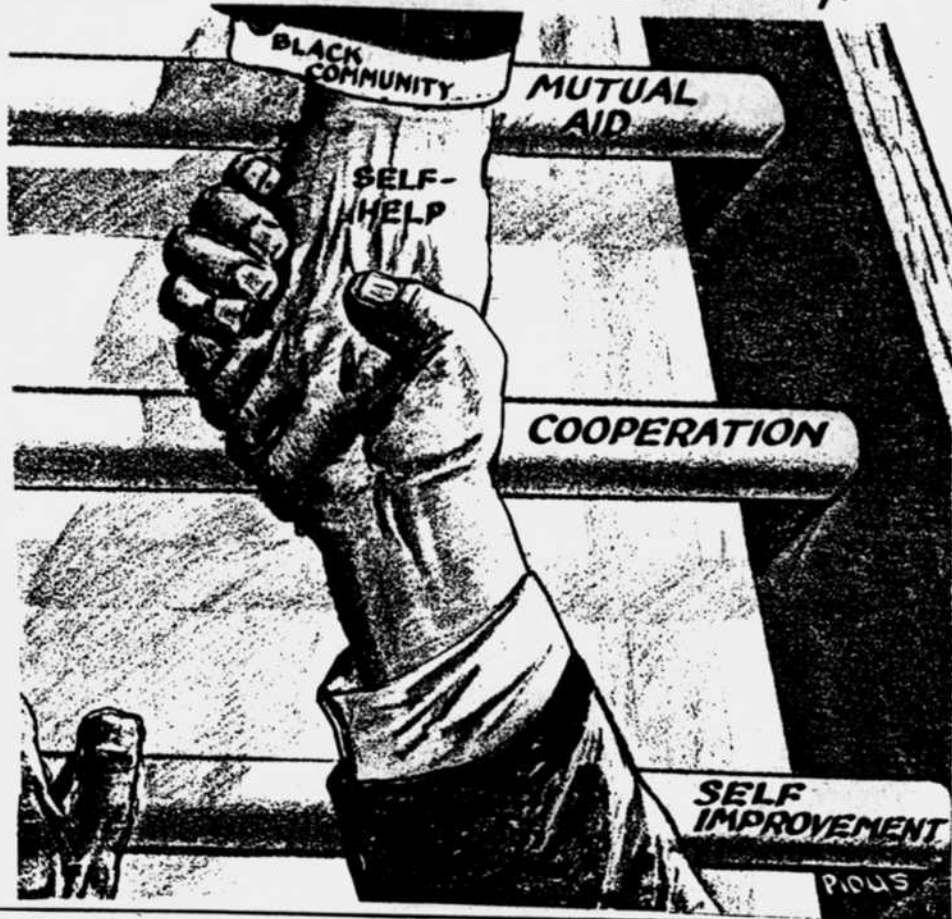
As a result of the clear evidence of the actual, and more significantly the potential, power of the black vote, many political analysts have concluded that the big question marks in the coming November 2 general elections revolve around not how blacks will vote but how many blacks will vote.

Recognizing the voting rate for blacks tends to be about 10 percentage points lower than that of whites, the despair blacks felt after their political clout failed to help Jimmy Carter get re-elected in 1980, and the possible renewed political apathy these factors may cause in black voters, has led to considerable interest in how big the black voter turnout nationwide will be on November 2nd.

An awareness that blacks make up 20 percent or more of the population in 86 of the 435 U.S. House districts and aware that probably 90 percent of those blacks who vote will oppose Republican candidates has caused some Republican leaders to predict that they may lose as many as 12 seats in the House of Representatives and possibly a few in the Senate.

Aware too of the poor commitment the Reagan administration policies offer to the needs and values of black Americans has led Republican strategists to conclude that a continuation of the historically low black voter turnout at the polls on November 2 would benefit Republicans. In another insult to the mentality of black Americans who should exercise their civic responsibility and vote, one leading Republican has said, "What we would like is just no greater turnout of black voters than in past years."

To Build A Better Black Community.



Letters To The Editor:

Jazz LaDuke Is Multi-Talented

Dear Editor:

How do you do? It certainly gives me a great deal of pleasure to correspond with you at this time. I am a great believer in The Charlotte Post and the fine works that your publication produces.

Like always, newspapers are in search of good news worthy stories and events. As far as The Charlotte Post, being the only black newspaper that exists within this area. It gives me an honor to inform you about a young man whom I feel would make for a most interesting story.

I'm referring to perhaps the most multi-talented young man within the entire Mecklenburg area. His name is Jazz LaDuke. Jazz-LaDuke is a professional entertainer-performer. His impressive talents include acting, dancing, modeling, singing, gymnastics, counseling, etc. Jazz is also a professional therapist-counselor or as well as a wilderness expert.

Jazz has appeared in EBONY magazine as a 1981 Bachelor of the Year (under the name Joseph W. Smith, of Gaffney, S.C.). He has also appeared in JIVE magazine, Focus Showcase, Entertainment Profile, Styles and Fashions. Of course, this does not include the numerous appearances on local and regional television talk shows as guest and performer.

What makes Jazz LaDuke such an important person are many qualities. With such a busy schedule Jazz still finds the time to devote extreme work into Boys Town of North Carolina. At Boys Town he works as a resident counselor six to seven days a week and

on his time off he tours as a performer and makes many appearances in out of state as a night club entertainer. May I also state that Jazz has also performed on off-Broadway and has been noted and cited by critics as the "Ben Vereen of the South."

Jazz LaDuke is a most interesting and fascinating person and there's more to his story than I'm expressing at this point. Please give him the attention and

I'm convinced your readers would be delighted to know that he now lives in the Mecklenburg area. His double life style is definitely worth reading. If interested, you may contact him by writing: Jazz LaDuke, Boys Town of North Carolina, P. O. Box 240729, Charlotte, N.C. 28224, or by calling 542-3310.

Respectfully yours, a friend who believes in Jazz LaDuke.

Mattie J. Lewis

Free Press Is A Cornerstone

Dear Sir:

A free press is a cornerstone of our democracy. In the First Amendment to the Constitution, our Founding Fathers affirmed their belief that competing ideas are fundamental to freedom. We Americans cherish our freedom of expression and our access to multiple sources of news and information.

But, as we know, there are other nations where the free flow of news is thwarted by governments fearful of letting people know the truth. In those countries, where censorship is a means of containing thought and action, newspapers are controlled by the government, and it follows that all human freedoms are limited.

The theme of this 1982 observance of National Newspaper Week, "A Free Press - Your Key to Freedom," reflects a basic tenet of American life. A free press is, indeed, our key to freedom.

During National Newspaper Week, I join with my fellow Americans in celebrating our free-press and in paying tribute to the responsible men and

women of the newspaper industry whose dedication and commitment to independent and truthful news reporting and analysis are the foundation of our continued progress as a nation.

Ronald Reagan
President, United States

Enjoys Post!

Dear Bill,

I have just renewed my subscription to The Charlotte Post and would like to tell you how much we continue to enjoy reading it. My family and I would like to take this opportunity to say "thanks" and keep up the good work of informing and advertising in the Black community. Your paper allows us to read many things and learn many truths that are not printed in the other news media in our city.

Your editorials and sports reports are both educational and should be read and digested by many citizens of our community. The entertainment pages are helpful in allowing us (my nieces and nephews) to know what is happening in our city as well as when.

Mrs. Willie A Smith

WALK YOUR TALK



Rev. Perkins

Walk By Faith Not By Sight

At this point in my life and ministry, I would say that Habakkuk reflects my mood more than any other person in the Bible. Habakkuk was a minor prophet who declared a baffling oracle before the people. He said, "How long, O Lord, will I call for help, and Thou wilt not hear? I cry out to Thee. 'Violence.'"

When Habakkuk looked out in Judah, he saw violence. The people had turned their backs to the Lord and they were to be judged for it. He was perplexed because God was raising up the Chaldeans, a wicked people, to be the chastening rod of His own people. He could not understand how God could use the wicked against the righteous.

Like Habakkuk I feel pressure from evil influences. I am becoming more conscious of the worsening condition of our community. I became acutely aware of it as I spent one evening at the hospital with a rape victim from our community. I fear for my two daughters when they are just two blocks away from home at night. And there is fear when you discover your car that was stolen has been found wrecked and abandoned.

Sometimes I feel like we are serving a lost cause. But I know that I have a definite call of God to minister to the spiritual, social and economic conditions of our people. I am committed to that, but a criminal element is fighting against our efforts. There have been three major burglaries in Thriftco, our cooperative store, on Delta Drive.

Habakkuk solved the problem of service and obedience in the face of seeming opposition. And his solution is also mine. Habakkuk believed God. Responding to Habakkuk's question, God said, "The righteous will live by faith."

The conditions I seek to alleviate are getting worse. But God has reassured me that He has told me to tackle those problems. I will still work to improve the quality of life of the people in Jackson and the rest of the state.

Our attack will remain a holistic one rather than a partial one. We will seek to reach people with the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ by helping them spiritually, socially, and economically. We will not dichotomize people into physical and spiritual parts.

The long range effects of our work are not plainly seen. And I thank God that He has called us to walk by faith and believe that He will accomplish what He told us to do. He is going to accomplish His will through us and so we have to stay faithful to Him even in the midst of trouble and difficulty.

Voice of Calvary's concern for meeting the needs of the poor through a biblical strategy of community development is not limited to Mississippi. A number of leaders from the United States, Africa and Latin America have visited and worked with Voice of Calvary. Many of these are carrying VOC's experience and vision back to community projects in their home areas. A developing agricultural project in Haiti is one of the fruits of these ties.

Responses to this column may be sent to Walk Your Talk, 1655 St. Charles St., Jackson, MS 39209.

From Capitol Hill

Blacks Learn Truth About Reaganomics At Caucus?

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post
The Twelfth Congressional Black Caucus Legislative weekend attracted an attendance of around five thousand people from all across the country. The weekend began with the plenary session presided over by Caucus Chairman Congressman Walter Fauntroy, who never missed any of his duties, even though his father passed during the session. Although grief-stricken, in his performance he never lost the Fauntroy zest and enthusiasm.

Theme of the weekend was "Salute to Black Businesses." Black progress is impossible without Black economic growth. Emphasis was on the Reagan Administration's assault on Black business. Recently, the Small Business Administration attempted to cut 23 of the most successful Black firms from the Section 8(a) programs. In FY '81 42 percent of the federal contract funds to Black businesses came through the 8(a) program. This Administration has tried to force Black businesses out of the program by establishing



unreasonable standards with reference to size. There were several workshops on: Foreign Policy, Small Business, Education, Civil Rights, Communication, Political Action, Health and Aged. The Foreign Policy workshop was chaired by Representative Bill Gray, who serves on the House Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs. Focus was on three points: United States policy towards Namibia, Black business and international economic development and Black refugees in America. Attendees at this workshop had an opportunity to hear and question Chester Crocker, Assistant Secre-

tary of State on African Affairs. Some came away shocked at learning, as one lady put it, "from the horse's mouth," just how the Reagan Administration is heavily tilted towards South Africa.

In the Small Business workshop, it was emphasized that SBA can make loans directly to minority businesses if funds are available or minority firms may borrow from banks with SBA guaranteeing 90 percent of the borrowed amount. The workshop audience learned that the Reagan Administration has failed to enforce law 95-507 of the Small Business Administration.

The Education workshop, chaired by Shirley Chisholm focused on the Education Consolidation Act, which is a part of the Reagan new federalism, proposed changed in Public Law 94-142 which affects the handicapped and financial aid for Black colleges.

In the Health workshop plans and strategies were discussed concerning vital health issues, particularly those which affect Blacks. It also focused on the effects health care costs and funding reductions have on

minorities in the business community in promoting quality and accessible health care and delivery.

The Communications workshop emphasized the need for the Black media to focus on information that is of vital interest to Blacks since the white media show a complete insensitivity to Black issues and contributions.

The Civil Rights workshop explained fully the Reagan Administration's efforts to turn back the clock on all civil rights gains. Housing anti-discrimination laws are not enforced, strong opposition to affirmative is being waged, tax exemption for private schools are vigorously emphasized, weakening the power of the Supreme Court is a prime focus and discrimination against the Haitian refugees.

Dr. Wood, who teaches at a college in Boston, characterized the weekend as an event where much needed knowledge was gained. He also told the reporter, how he uses the Black Family Plan in his class program. Richard Barber, a businessman from New Jersey said he

always gets information and inspiration at this event that aid him in his business ventures. He also stated that he has used the Black Family Plan in his community activities.

The Congressional Black Caucus breakfast was a very inspirational and spiritual affair. Mayor Andy Young, the breakfast speaker, likened the Reagan lack of concern about Blacks to the time when hopelessness permeated the King Civil Rights movement. He said that at the point of the movement's lowest ebb, God made a way and that He is the same today. Congressman Parren Mitchell continued the electrification, when he prayed without bowing his head, but simply talked to Him as one does a friend. Parren says that he always talks to the Lord in that manner because He is his friend. When the breakfast was over an elderly Black lady said, "Mr. Reagan should have been at the breakfast and maybe he would have gotten a spiritual awakening."

Mayor Coleman Young received the Adam Clayton Powell award for his commitment and courageous

fight for minorities. George Collins' award was presented to Lamar Holl who exemplified service to the local community. Percy Sutton received the Caucus Humanitarian award for his work in the struggle for human rights.

In accepting the William Dawson award for distinguished service, Representative Shirley Chisholm electrified the audience with her congressional

"swan song." She repeated the words of Sojourner Truth when a white racist said to her, "I don't care no more about what you say than a flea bite," she replied calmly, "maybe so, but the Lord willing, I'll keep you scratching." Shirley said, she has tried to keep the authorities scratching. She made it known that she is leaving Congress but not the struggles for justice, equality and right, for the people.



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