

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Issues Make Candidates

The emerging political activism of Black Americans, and their increasing frustration over setbacks in affirmative action, disproportionately high levels of unemployment - in a word, racism - has caused many presumed national Black leaders to consider the question: Should a Black person seek a presidential nomination in 1984?

We have intentionally left out any reference to either of the major political parties in this crucial question because many Black citizens feel that the Republican Party has abandoned any interest in the concerns of Black citizens and the Democratic Party has presumably taken the Black vote for granted. Nevertheless, it is generally assumed such a candidate would seek a Democratic Party nomination for the presidency. This is evidenced by the fact that about 20 Black political and civil rights leaders met in Chicago last week and approved the idea of a Black candidate for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination. However, the small group postponed any endorsement until at least the fall of 1983.

In addition, Rev. Jesse Jackson has let it be known that he not only wants to be the candidate but may announce his own candidacy regardless of what the alleged Black leadership may do.

We find all this talk about a Black presidential candidate premature, misleading, bordering on racism, lacking in a sense of an order of priorities, and is based more on emotion than sound reasoning.

First, focusing on the idea of a candidate who is Black is misleading by directing voters' thinking (both Black and white), on racial or personal issues and awakens the latent racist attitudes of some voters. While some Black leaders have been encouraged by Harold Washington's impressive victory in the Chicago mayoral election recently, they should not forget the sheer heavy and ugly racist tone that election had, and it did not come from Washington promoting himself as a Black candidate.

Black Americans

Secondly, before talking about a presidential candidate of any color or sex, the question must be asked, what is his or her campaign platform going to be or what platform, programs or policies will the candidate en-

dorse. Significantly, except for some general comments about Black concerns with high levels of unemployment, defense versus domestic spending, affirmative action and education, no statement of policy or political platform has been announced by any of the presumed Black candidates or Black leaders. A political platform with clearly defined issues should be the first priority with support going to the candidate, Black or white, who will support and it is believed can best transform the platform into policies to move America forward.

Black Candidate

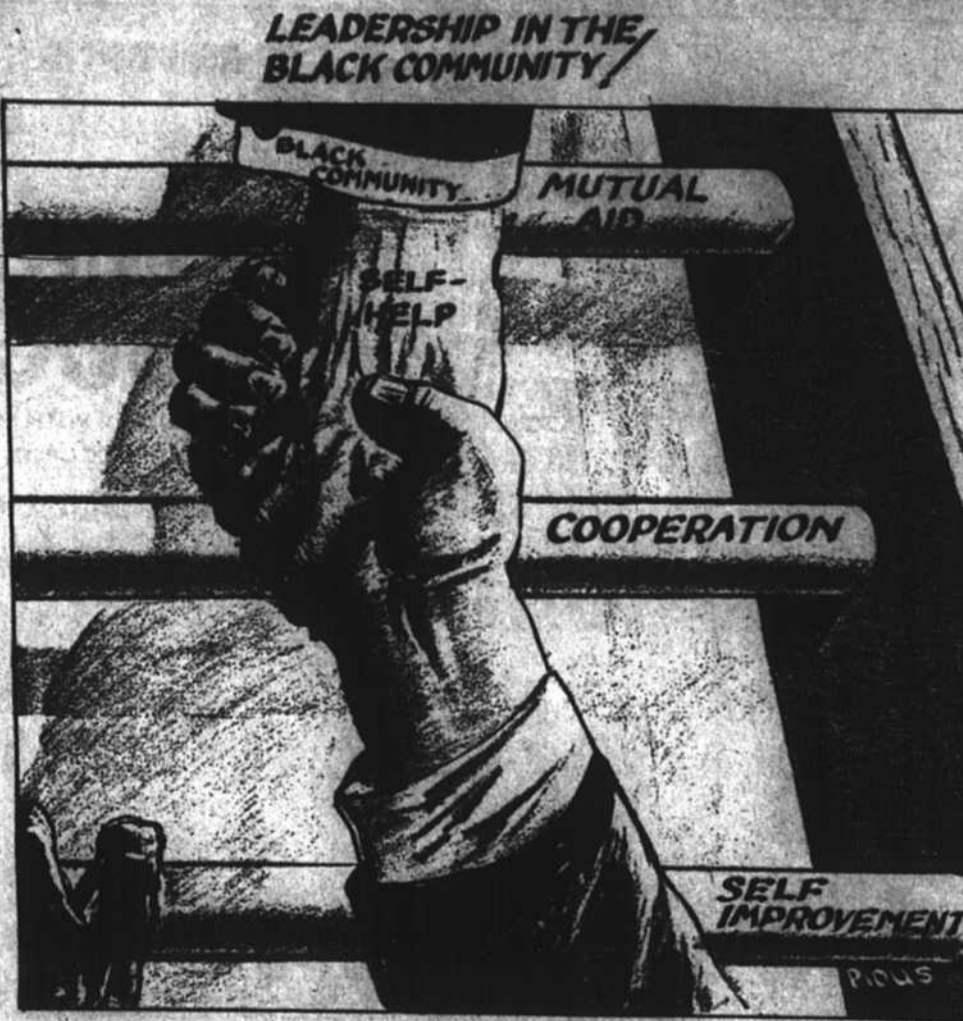
A fourth concern is that too much of the talk about a Black presidential candidate is centered on the emotional appeal of specific personalities and again, on Harold Washington's victory in Chicago.

Thirdly, the Rev. Jackson said, "A Black candidate is not for Blacks only, it could inspire a new coalition of the rejected, which includes women, Hispanics, youth and the poor." Unfortunately, within these groups there still exists considerable voter apathy and there is no evidence to date of the ability of a Black candidate to mold such a coalition.

Fourthly, Benjamin Hooks said, "...the reality of the situation is that it's doubtful at this point in history that a Black person can be elected." Evidence of this was apparent in Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's bid for Governor of California. A well-qualified candidate leading in the polls who lost because there were just enough white voters who would not vote for him only because he is Black as was confirmed by many political analysts.

Fifthly, a "symbolic" Black candidate will simply hurt the efforts of a white candidate supportive of Black voter concerns. Symbols we don't need, a candidate who has a reasonably good chance of defeating Ronald Reagan and his policies is needed.

Finally, setting race, rhetoric and emotion aside, the real issue for Black citizens is voter registration. If Black people register to vote and plan effective strategies at the local level through their party system, they can be an effective voice. Registering, knowing the issues, and voting are more significant than the race or sex of the candidate.



Pattern Of Violence, Police Brutality

1426 Church St.
Statesville, N.C. 28677
June 15, 1983

N.C. Civil Rights Comm.
c/o Dr. Tommy Young
World Associates
4303 King Arthur Place
Suite A
Greensboro, NC 27405

Dear Dr. Young:

As a result of a pattern of racist violence, police brutality, racial injustice and indifference or negligence, I am requesting an investigation of the city of Statesville and Iredell County, and all agencies and departments of local government that pertain directly to the enforcement of law and human rights.

May I address myself to a specific case. My home was shot into and a cross was burned in my yard on Tuesday, February 15, between 1 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. by the Ku Klux Klan or by those possessing Klan mentality. To this day, I have not been told of anything that has been done progressively toward apprehension and prosecution of the guilty parties.

This lack of justice can be explained by the indifference or possible collusion on the part of the Sheriff's Department. Just days before my home was attacked, the Ku Klux Klan had met at the Sheriff's Department and informed

deputies of who they were and their purpose in being there. Part of the 15- to 16-member group was dressed in Klan uniform and scarcely needed identification.

The group stated that they were members of the Ku Klux Klan and they had come to bond a Black youth out of jail. The Black youth was incarcerated for the rape of a white lady. His bond was \$50,000. Deputies recognized and honored this group of sworn "nigger-haters," who historically have lynched thousands of Black youth, to the point that they permitted two of the Klansmen to enter the jail and relate their story to the magistrate. Then a member of the Sheriff's Department went to the cell where the youth was locked, and told the prisoner the Ku Klux Klan was there to bond him out. He wanted to know the reply from the prisoner. The young man declined the offer.

This action was taken by an Iredell County Sheriff's deputy working with the magistrate. Any approach by the Ku Klux Klan in this manner is intimidation. Intimidation indeed is a federal offense, covered by the civil rights statutes. Here you have county law enforcement officers and a magistrate aiding and

abetting intimidation of a prisoner they are sworn to protect.

I wrote as much in a letter to the editor that appeared in the Statesville Landmark and Record several days later, on February 5. I protested the Klan's actions and the activity of the Sheriff's officers and magistrate. Ten days later, my front window was blasted by Klan shotgun pellets as my wife and I lay sleeping. A cross was burning in my yard. An anonymous caller then threatened my life.

I ask you now, on behalf of the citizens of Statesville and Iredell County, to investigate fully the activities of the Klan and the collusion and protection apparently afforded them by local law enforcement officials. The list of acts of racist violence in this area is long and frightening. Lives are at stake, unless this violence is stopped. This very weekend the police have announced that a Klan rally is to occur in Statesville. Will the Klan be allowed to proceed unhindered, intimidating, murdering and denying Black people their rights in the past? I ask you to hold hearings in Statesville to get to the bottom of this situation.

Sincerely,
Rev. Wilson W. Lee
St. John's Baptist Church

Cornelius Black Mayor Potts Realizes Broad Scope Of Government

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
Nannie Potts has had a fascination for government policy for quite some time. She recently pointed out however, that now until she became mayor of Cornelius, she did not realize the broad scope of government. "I'm still learning a lot," stated Mayor Potts, who served the position since September, 1982.

Before becoming mayor, Mrs. Potts was encouraged to run for a seat on council. As a result of massive support from two citizens she received the highest number of votes which made her not only a councilman but mayor pro tem.

She had not really given much thought to becoming involved in government on an administrative level. However, when Smithville, a predominantly Black community was annexed by the town of Cornelius, many Black residents wanted to see a more concerned representative for themselves on the town commission.

Mayor Potts had been a councilman for only one year when the former mayor of the town of 1,900 resigned. That's when Mrs. Potts made her rise to mayor, representing the first time a Black or a woman held mayorship in Cornelius.

While being mayor is a strenuous and time-consuming career, Mayor Potts has another profession. Long before she entered government she was a teacher and she saw no reason why she should discontinue something she enjoys.

Mayor Potts teaches social studies, 10th-12th grades, at South Iredell High School in Iredell County. There she is the 1982-83 "Teacher of the Year." The mother of three children, and wife of Gerald Potts, the Cornelius mayor is a member of the National Teachers Association and the National Educators Association.

Mayor Potts also serves on the Board of Directors for the Davidson-Cornelius Day Care Center. She is a member of Black Elected Officials of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County and a number of other organizations. She is also a member of Torrence Chapel AME Zion Church.

Mayor Potts encourages everybody to become involved in government. "People need to know how money is acquired for various jobs that the government does. They need to become more aware of the rules and regulations that are involved in govern-

ment," she insisted. According to the mayor, the best way to become more aware of city government is by attending city council meetings or by visiting government offices and asking questions. The doors are always open to "recover government," Mayor Potts noted.

She is undecided about seeking another term, but Mayor Potts is certain she will remain involved and politically aware of the events taking place in Cornelius, where she has lived for 24 years.

Babysitting Course

Babysitting is often a young person's first job, and providing safe care for infants and children is a very important job.

The Red Cross offers a Babysitting course which can help participants learn the skills and functions of responsible and safe babysitting. Participants can learn how to: act in an emergency or in case of illness, prevent accidents, play with children of different ages, select safe toys and games, supervise children, diaper and dress infants, and feed babies and prepare simple foods for children.

The Red Cross Babysitting course will be held on Mondays and Wednesday, July 11, 13, 18 and 20 at the Red Cross, 2425 Park Rd. One class will be held from 10 a.m. until noon. The other class is in the evenings from 7-9 p.m. Participants must be at least 11 years of age. The course fee is \$3.

Enrollment is limited. Call the Red Cross at 376-1661, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., to sign up for the Babysitting course.

Syndrome Network

Attention all women who struggle with some aspect of the Pre-Menstrual Syndrome: WomanReach is assisting in organizing a free information and support Pre-menstrual syndrome network for you.

The July 11 meeting on Monday, 7-9 p.m., will be held at the United Way Auditorium which is located behind the United Way Bldg., 301 S. Brevard St. Bring your questions and your friends. For more information and to register call 334-3614 weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NEWLYWEDS

During the planning stages of a wedding, you're almost assured of being reminded of the high divorce rate. But another high rate of separation abounds—death due to fire!

From Capitol Hill

President Ronald Reagan Should Return To Basics

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
"We, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish the Constitution of the United States." Blacks were not included in this preamble to the Constitution until the NAACP made the United States Judiciary interpret the Fourteenth Amendment so Blacks were included in the Constitution.

President Reagan is sounding the alarm that we must return to basics in education. As Chief Executive of this nation, Mr. Reagan needs to return to the basics of the Constitution, instead of trying through chicanery, to again remove Blacks from being beneficiaries of basic Constitutional rights.

William Raspberry spoke of William Bradford Reynolds as receiving education, when he accompanied Jesse Jackson to Mississippi, where he got first hand information on the denial of voting rights for Blacks. What Mr. Reynolds got on that trip was only the equivalent of Day Care education in concerns of the injustices and inequity of opportunities



Alfreda L. Madison

for Blacks in the United States. Reynolds forgot the Justice Department's reversal in the Jackson, Mississippi annexation case, where annexation was allowed, which clearly diluted the Black vote. This was done to accommodate Representative Trent Lott who is furious over sending federal registrars into Mississippi. To refresh this Administration, recall is a basic learning element.

Laws and court decisions prohibit discrimination in the use of federal funds. Yet, the Reagan Administration, being so eager to carry out its Heritage Foundation promise to get rid of all civil rights, asked the Courts to prevent Internal Revenue from denying tax exemption to schools that clearly discriminate. After the public outrage over the Administration's stand in the Bob Jones University case, just like an elemen-

tary school child, it came up with a face-saving device, by asking Congress to make a ruling in the matter. Justice could not afford to file a brief on behalf of Bob Jones University, so it refused to file a brief in opposition. The Courts asked NAACP Legal Defense Attorney William Colman to take the place of the Solicitor-General.

The Grove City College, which has students who receive federal aid, has refused to sign the required civil rights compliance forms. The Appellate Court rendered a decision against the college, which has appealed it to the Supreme Court.

Civil Rights Commission takes the broad interpretation of discriminatory measures in the Grove College case. It feels that Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - student assistance, Title IX - sex discrimination, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - handicapped and Age Discrimination Act of 1975 - adult education, should be included in the decision. Bradford Reynolds is against this broad interpretation.

June, 1983, a White House report shows that President Reagan has filed 40 positions with Blacks. Some Blacks hold two positions and among this number are incumbents, pending appointments and

those who have left the positions.

Mr. Reagan has appointed one Black U.S. Attorney, six Black marshals and pending appointments of three Black judges. The scarcity of these Black appointments is not from lack of qualified people, because 1980 census figures show that between 1965-1982, Black federal, state and local elected officials increased from 500 to 1,500.

The Civil Rights Commission found that many Blacks have the same qualifications as whites who have received Reagan appointments. Actions implemented by this Administration necessitate strong affirmative action enforcement. Not so, with the Administration. It is leaving affirmative action to the good will of the whites. The Reaganites must recall that Constitutional guarantees of equal protection under the law are contained in the 5th and 14th Amendments; are violated by intentional, purposeful or deliberate actions that harm persons because of their race, sex or national origin. Title VII and Executive Order 11246, Emergency School Act forbid actions that disproportionately affect persons on racial, sexual or national origin grounds. The Administration allegedly withheld a study that proves that adherence to

federal guidelines in awarding government contracts have increased minority businesses. It also ignores the tremendous progress Black students have made through the federally funded Title I programs.

Reynolds' trip to Mississippi should make the President see that instead of Blacks' failure to know the truth, it is he who needs enlightenment on the matters.

The right to vote without intimidation, equal job opportunities, which re-

quire affirmative action enforcement and equal educational opportunities which require special methods to bridge the historical disparities caused by inferior educational opportunities - all are basic rights guaranteed all citizens by the Constitution of the United States.

So what President Reagan needs to do is to return to serious study and implementation of the basics for which he was elected to do and that he took the oath to carry out.

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