

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Jesse Jackson-Pioneer Politician!

In the spring of 1983, while some prominent elected black officials and most of the nation's black civil rights leaders were debating the pros and cons of a black presidential candidate. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, one of those participating in these debates, had all but announced that he would be the black presidential candidate, with or without the endorsement of the other black leaders.

Avoiding direct answers to news media questions as to whether he would be a presidential candidate throughout the summer and fall of 1983, Rev. Jackson finally announced in November that "Our time has come" and that therefore he would be a candidate for the presidency of the United States.

That announcement, in a rousing, revivalist, emotion-filled statement from the Washington Convention Center, has led Rev. Jesse Jackson to two appearances on the cover of NEWSWEEK magazine within an unprecedented seven-month period; daring and successful trips to the Middle East and Cuba got the release of U.S. servicemen, political prisoners and others; controversial statements offensive to Jews; threats to divide and upset the unity of the Democratic National Convention; and to be afforded the opportunity to be one of the major speakers of that convention.

To skeptics, Rev. Jackson argued forcefully that full-scale get-out-the-vote campaign could substantially reduce Ronald Reagan's re-election bid. He argued further that increased black votes could elect hundreds of black candidates for state and local offices. Jackson said the goal is to achieve "parity" in officeholding equal to the proportion of blacks in the electorate and that the only way to achieve this was to have a black presidential candidacy - his. He added, "Run! If you run, you may lose. But if you don't run, you are guaranteed to lose."

New Excitement!

In the preaching and politicking across America leading up to the National Democratic Convention, Rev. Jesse Jackson as an orator was unmatched and caused even his strongest opponents to take notice. With poetic phraseology, the 42 year old minister-civil rights leader-turned-politician aroused audiences, inspired new voter registration among both blacks and whites and brought a new excitement to national politics.

The impact and courage of Rev. Jackson's oratory was probably best dramatized in his speech-sermon at the National Democratic Convention when he said to a national television audience in eloquently sincere words, "If in my low moments, in word, deed or attitude, through some error of temper, taste or tone, I have caused anyone discomfort, created pain, or revived someone's fears, that was not my truest self.

"Please forgive me. Charge it to my head and not my heart. As I develop and serve, be patient. God is not finished with me yet." Yes, it takes courage to admit a mistake,

especially to and before millions of people. Yet, the meaning of the courage Jackson showed was not fully appreciated until some prominent news commentators noted that Richard Nixon never asked the American people's forgiveness for his Watergate conspiracy.

In spite of these Jackson successes as a crowd pleaser, some political observers claim that Rev. Jackson frightens and "probably scares the hell out of a lot of white people." Undoubtedly, if this is true, it is because Rev. Jackson's nomination-seeking style of arousing crowds was not consistent with the white news media consultants' viewpoint that presidential candidates must convey quiet competence and inspire confidence similar to the drab, conservative unemotional manner of a conservative minister's sermon.

The response to this white political psychology was put in perspective by another white former media consultant to then presidential hopeful Sen. Alan Cranston, who said, "You cannot apply the white politician's logic to his (Jackson's) campaign. He is not a traditional white politician running for the nomination. He is a movement politician running in that movement...to excite under-30-year-old blacks" to vote.

Rev. Jesse Jackson's address to the National Democratic Convention was not only history setting or a campaign speech, it was the culmination of part one of a crusade. In fact, in the months leading to the convention, Rev. Jackson said, "When history records our deeds, let the record show we arose to the challenge, answered the call, reclaimed our faith and broke down the partitions."

Since then Rev. Jackson has proclaimed, "Our mission is to change the face of American politics. The rainbow coalition is a moral cause, not just a political campaign."

Platform Demands

Rev. Jackson went to the convention with presidential front-runner Walter Mondale staying an arm's length away and making few concessions to Rev. Jackson's party platform demands - elimination of run off primaries, endorsing hiring quotas, having the Democratic Party going on record to reduce the defense budget, and pledges to never be the first to use nuclear weapons.

Nevertheless, the uncertainty of Rev. Jackson's anticipated convention speech-compromising to achieve unity or firm demands leading to possible disunity - caused many politicians to think seriously for the first time about the issues of the poor, political inequality, equality in jobs and housing and defense vs. social spending.

It was these kinds of concerns that led Rev. Jackson to say in his convention speech-sermon, "Our flag is red, white and blue, but our nation is a rainbow - red, yellow, brown, black and white - we're all precious in God's sight...(we all) make up the American quilt."

From Capitol Hill

Blacks Played Important Role In Convention

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The 1984 Democratic Convention is different from any ever held in the history of this country. While the City of San Francisco has gone all out for making the convention people comfortable and happy, one of the greatest entertainment features of the convention was the party given by Speaker of the California Assembly, Willie Brown, who is Black. Brown said, he was giving a party for ten thousand of his close friends. This party was held at Pier 45 on the Fisherman's Wharf. The huge building which was a huge warehouse was beautifully decorated with miniature reproductions of known places in the city. There were two bands, when one took a break, the other would play. There was plenty of different ethnic foods and the free drinks never even got low. The crowd dined, wine and danced until the wee hours.

There were 936 Black delegates and alternates. Never before have so many Blacks been of such great importance at a Democratic Convention. These delegates have not been idle, but they have been very busy trying to get issues relevant to Blacks before the traditional leaders of the Party. They were not able to get a strong affirmative action plank in the platform. Their nuclear freeze plank has been included in the platform. Eradication of the second primaries was not accepted by the platform committee, so it was brought to the convention floor. One of the opponents who spoke against eradication of the second primaries was Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young. He was greatly booed. The next day in



Alfreda L. Madison

the Black elected officials meeting, Coretta King stood up before the audience and said her heart was heavy, because Andy Young was booed, and some in the crowd booed her, she cried. Mrs. King should realize that politicians are often booed, that is a price they have to pay, and if they can't stand it they should not accept a political position. Coretta stepped into something that she should have stayed out. She portrayed her Mayor as someone who is so weak that she has to protect him. She needed to realize that Jesse's people had gotten more Blacks registered than any other group and that he had gotten more attention focused on the importance of Democrats not taking Blacks for granted than anyone else, and that she was one of three persons who tried to organize Blacks against Rev. Jackson, but with no avail, and the Jackson people just responded as human beings usually do. In her statement she said that Blacks must not divide themselves. Rev. Jackson had the majority of Blacks who were for doing away with second primaries. Then who was instrumental in the division, since

BE A PART OF THE NEW AWARENESS

BLACK BUSINESS MEN AND POLITICIANS SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING FOR IT IS ONLY THROUGH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLOUT THAT ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE UP THROUGH SOCIETY.

MICHIGAN CHRONICLE

SUBURBIA

THE FLIGHT OF CAPITAL FROM BLACK COMMUNITIES



Political Potpourri

Martin And Mondale Share Ideologies?

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

Whether congressional candidate D.G. Martin and presidential candidate Walter Mondale have ever discussed politics together is uncertain.

Nevertheless both Democrats seem to share ideologies when it comes to cutting the national deficit. When Martin began campaigning several months ago he was about the first ninth district candidate talking about pay as you go.

"The cold truth is we are undermining the financial viability of our country and we will ultimately destroy it if we do not insist that the Congress and the President implement pay as you go principles," Martin once stated.

At the Democratic National Convention, Mondale firmly declared, "As the Congress, my message is we must cut spending and pay as we go. If you don't hold the line, I will. That's what the veto is for."

The pay as you go plan seems to be the most feasible solution offered for the economical mess America suffers. The plan isn't the prettiest one that could be painted but it's certainly the most realistic. It will mean tax increases.

Frequently, Martin and Mondale have stressed they will support tax increases. That frightens people. But what citizens need to realize is the tax trend won't change; increases are inevitable. The congressional and presidential candidates are merely being honest as opposed to the present administration which tends to spring such news suddenly.

"Let's tell the truth...Mr. Reagan will raise taxes and so will I."



D.G. Martin
9th District candidate

Mondale delivered in his acceptance speech. He claimed the Reagan administration will place the burden of taxes on average-income families. Mondale stated the concept is unfair, believing corporations and wealthy families should pay more taxes and "avoid playing the loopholes."

Martin, who supports an evenly distributed tax increase, admitted it's not a popular deal to lean toward, but noted he's doing so because he's not willing "for our legacy to our children to include an obligation to pay for all the programs we wanted but would not pay for." To illustrate the seriousness of avoiding immediate payment for programs, Martin calculated a \$200 billion deficit this year creates an automatic \$20 billion increase in the budget for the next year just to pay the interest on the increased debt.

Asking Congress to establish

terms of immediate payment when they propose to create programs is in complete order. As elected state representatives, they should have the necessary intelligence and resources to meet such a requirement.

Since a strong defense, social service programs, education, etc. are pertinent to our nation's survival, decision-makers in Washington had better concentrate less on voting themselves pay raises and maneuver that money into a viable system that will keep the bills at a minimum.

President Reagan recently addressed the black appointees in his Administration.

He laid out a review of how the Administration has improved economic nationwide. Now, less than a month since the President announced he and his forces are acting "with energy and determination," the 1984 Democratic platform is naturally displeased with the way which the Reagan Administration has handled economic affairs.

Provided below is the information which Reagan announced to black appointees and information which the Democratic Party had on its agenda at the Democratic National Convention.

REAGAN: One change our Administration has brought about is doing more to help black Americans than all of the programs put together, and I'm talking about economic expansion. Today, inflation is less than half. As a matter of fact, it's down to about a third of what it was when we took office. Retail sales and factory orders are up. Since the expansion began, the unemployment rate has shown the steepest drop in 30 years, and over 6 million Americans have found jobs. And more Americans are working now than ever before in our history, and more jobs are being created at a faster rate here than in any other major industrialized nation.

DNC: The government must implement policies that will keep people working, bring interest rates down, free savings for private investment, prevent another explosion of inflation...We must have an economic policy which includes a commitment to employ all Americans who want a job in our country.

Over the last three years, 1.5 million men and women have become discouraged workers and more than eight million have fallen into poverty. Over 50 percent of all minority youth are unemployed, and black males have effectively lost 13 percent of their labor force participation. Investment in jobs for all Americans constitutes the key investment for the future of the nation.

Reagan and the Convention suggested more employment training for teenagers. While the President concentrated on primarily the teens, the convention took its steps further noting housewives and displaced workers have need for a retraining program.

REAGAN: To reduce teenage unemployment, especially black teenage unemployment which is the highest segment of unemployment in the country, we've proposed a Youth Employment Opportunity Wage for the summer months...I'm convinced that it's only common sense to enact this Opportunity Wage and help young people get summer jobs, needed discipline, and experience. They won't be taking jobs away from permanent workers. But they will be, as unskilled and new in the job market, working at a rate that I think would be commensurate and fair for their position in the work force.

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