

EDITORIALS

What Do We Have To Give Thanks For?

On this Thanksgiving Day in 1984, many people are wondering why should we be giving thanks, or what do we have to give

thanks for? These questions should serve to remind us that Thanksgiving always comes within the midst of our national problems whatever they happen to be.

On this Thanksgiving Day 1984 our national problems of rising federal deficits, rising unemployment, rising numbers of

people falling below the poverty income level, and the ever-present danger of a nuclear war appear to completely over-

whelm us. Nevertheless, as a nation we have a traditional sense of hope and an everlasting faith that things can and will improve.

This hope and faith was clearly demonstrated in the recent national elections when the American people, concerned about

these national problems, voted for candidates whom they believed would turn our national hopes into progress realities. Undoubtedly, many black Americans don't agree that the elections of 1984 offer hope and progress. Nevertheless, our take-if-for-granted freedom to vote in free elections and to have a smooth transfer of the powers and reigns of government dictated by the ballot and not the bullet are something we should continue to be thankful for.

We should be thankful, too, that in spite of a national unemployment rate of over 9 percent, and twice that rate for blacks, Americans have more jobs than ever before. While this is no comfort for those

without a regular paycheck, it should offer hope each person can and will be one of those who is gainfully employed.

Thanksgiving should be offered, too, for the fact that with whatever problems most people have, the vast majority of Americans will have ample food on the dinner

table this Thanksgiving Day. This is most evident when we just think of the drought

and famine that is literally killing thousands of people in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa.

Thanks should be granted to Almighty God also for the fact that we are in an era of peace and not war; we can worship God freely or not worship Him at all; we can

speak and write freely, as in the case of this editorial, without fear of government control; and we can travel freely or change our places of employment at our own choosing.

These are freedoms that too many Americans assume are rightfully theirs. However, we need to frequently pause and offer thanks to God because such freedoms still do not exist in most parts of the world.

These freedoms for which we should be forever thankful, are the telescopes through which we can see the visions of better Thanksgivings in the future.

Thus, Thanksgiving is a unique holiday in that it causes us to reflect on our nation's past, to have a deeper appreciation for the present, and to see in the visions of the future, a hope for a better tomorrow for ourselves and our loved ones. Happy Thanksgiving To All!!!

Daddy King took his church's basic assumptions of the promise of eternal peace and justice in a life hereafter and stressed to his flock that the church can and should be a force for progressive change on this earth.

While living in the shadow of his famous son, Daddy King was, nevertheless, a primary source of spiritual wisdom and insight from which the young son drew strength and courage. In fact, Martin Jr. grew up observing his father providing a source of comfort and determination to many Southern blacks who were attempting to survive the ugly violence of the nation's racism.

Daddy King, we hope and pray that God Almighty will give you a secure resting place as a reward for your dedication and commitment to the human condition and for having instilled in your son, Martin Jr., the qualities of greatness. Thank you, Daddy King, for having been among us because each of us is, therefore, a better person because you thought enough to care, to love, and to sacrifice what you loved.

"Daddy" King - A Source For Goodness

Nearly every American is aware of the deeds and the resulting Nobel Peace Prize received by the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. whose leadership helped reshape the direction of the nation's civil rights history.

What fewer people are aware of is the source of the background or general commitment to non-violence and peaceful demonstration that was the foundation of Dr. King's mission.

The background force of which we are speaking is the elder King, Martin Luther King Sr. Dead at the age of 84, the Rev. King survived among tragedy. In addition to the loss of his famous son, Martin Jr., another son, A.D. King, drowned in a swimming pool in 1969. Five years later Daddy King's wife of nearly 50 years was shot to death in the church where he pastored.

Throughout these tragedies and the struggles for justice and equality that led to his famous son's death, Daddy King never embraced bitterness or disillusionment. He never lost faith in his fellow man. Instead,

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From Capitol Hill

Blacks And Jewish Relations Remain Unshaken

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

During this '84 campaign, there has been great subtle efforts to separate blacks from other minorities. Especially, has this been undertaken to divide the black and Jewish communities. This Administration and the media have been very vigilant in their attempt to do so. Both groups tried to make something of Rev. Jesse Jackson's off-the-record joke about "a lot of Hymies in New York." Rev. Jackson, realizing that the statement was mistaken, and had become offensive, did what any wise person should do, and that is to go before the proper people, explain and apologize. These groups tried to make a great political divisive issue out of Rev. Louis Farrakhan's statement. Rev. Farrakhan is only one person who is not running for any office, and he even offered to meet with the Jewish community and explain his statement which he said was taken out of context.

Vice President Bush, in his attempt to divide the black and Jewish communities, sounded a tinkling bell when he emphasized that this Administration will not tolerate racism, whether it is by the Ku Klux Klan or Louis Farrakhan. He left out the fact that this Administration's civil rights reversal policies have done more harm to racial justice and unity than the Klan, and that Rev. Farrakhan was only one voice expressing his beliefs. The Vice President would have done more to cement good race relations, had he ignored both of those factors.

Jewish people who have suffered discrimination in this country have been supporters of blacks who are



Alfreda

still, after more than 300 years, seeking justice and equality. So both groups have experienced suffering. They have commonalities of agreement. One is that Israel, having been created by the United Nations, is a legitimate country; they believe in the peace and security of Israel. There may be differences in ways of achieving those goals.

Rev. Robert Pruitt of the Metropolitan AME Church in addressing a Hebrew congregation and putting to rest Rev. Farrakhan's statement, "Jewish religion is gutter religion," disassociated the black community said, "Judaism is the basis for three of the great religions of the world: the Jewish religion, Christianity and Islam itself. Jewish religion gave our world the prophetic tradition which has so fueled the dedication to justice that all moral people and peoples hold dear, out of which the civil rights leadership of our country comes, and from which human rights leadership around the world draws its sustenance."

Representative Walter Fauntroy said that blacks and Jews have a

common quest for peace. Blacks oppose militarization of our foreign policy, instead they emphasize non-violent solutions. They are very supportive of the peace and security of Israel. Blacks have a growing concern with reported Israeli-South African economic and military relations.

Fauntroy cites affirmative action as a concern for blacks. They hold belief that historical wrongs must be remedied and that affirmative action is one major court-sanctioned avenue for legal redress of historically enforced affirmative discrimination. Jews view quotas in the light that it was once used against them. It placed a ceiling on Jewish participation. With them it was used as an exclusionary tactic, but blacks view quotas as inclusion in the mainstream, when all else has failed.

Rev. Fauntroy shows that blacks and many Jewish people are working together. Especially is this true in Congress. The Black Caucus Alternative Budget always gets great Jewish support. They heartily support Congressman Augustus Hawkins' Job-Creating Community Renewal Act, H.R. 1036. Jewish congressmen have shared with members of the Congressional Black Caucus in the struggle against racist, South Africa. Fauntroy sees evidence that the relationships between the black community and the Jewish community are moving from charity to parity. He says, "We can not only discuss that on which we agree, but we can now talk with each other about that which we disagree in an atmosphere based upon mutual respect, dialogue and cooperation."

Some Jewish people have fallen prey to the Reagan Administration's

attempt to arouse Jewish ire by constantly citing an emotional issue over the Farrakhan statement and its tremendous effort to kill Jesse Jackson's influence by emphasizing the Hymie statement.

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg in a New York Times article stated that the rich usually vote their pocketbooks. However, despite the economic and social rise of Jews, many of them continue to vote with the "have-nots." He said, "today, a growing number of middle class Jews are in revolt against such liberalism. They want to protect their class interest as haves, through alliance with the extreme right. They see little reason to resist prayers in public schools or an anti-abortion amendment. Even the emergence of a right-wing Christian America, would be a cheap price to pay for support for Israel as a bastion of anti-Communism." The Rabbi states that their call for Jews' economic and social success, is a minority view. He emphasized that without the social programs of the New Deal, many Jews could not have continued their education. He spoke of how these special programs are now helping blacks, Hispanics and other minorities and that the majority of the Jewish community, which was once the outsiders, cannot afford to join the forces of selfishness. They belong with those who cared about them when they were friendless.

Rabbi Hertzberg says that any one who recalls the moral and political reasons which created Israel should reject the fundamentalists who cast it as the major factor in Armageddon and the self-styled political realists who see it leading anti-Soviet interests in the Middle East.

IT IS UP TO US TO IMPOSE ORDER—NOW



ARE WE GOING TO SIT AND LET BLACK COMMUNITIES CRUMBLE AROUND US? GRASS ROOTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, MUST EMERGE, TO FORGE A UNITED EFFORT AGAINST CRIME, NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING, BLIGHT AND DECAY.

Democrats Could Have Done Worse!

By Sabrina Johnson
Post Columnist

The Democrats could have done worse in the election: they could have lost some seats in the Senate and more seats than they did in the House of Representatives. And they could have lost Minnesota.

The challenge for the national Democratic Party is to increase its appeal to the white middle class or face the prospect of a continuous series of defeats locally and nationally. The Democrats ended the 1984 campaign without a marketable message, without a geographic base, and without a national leader. But it does have an abundance of fantastic would-be leaders.

It may be argued that the Democrats have not won a presidential election since 1964 and that Jimmy Carter's election in 1976 was a Republican give away resulting from the Watergate scandal. Aside from that, one predicament is apparent, the South has been lost - which was once the Party's national base. Future Democratic presidential candidates may have to give up that region the way their predecessors gave up the West. In losing every Southern



Sabrina

state, Mondale received only 25 percent of the white Southern vote. In parts of the South, especially North Carolina and Texas, Reagan's coattail theory worked as predicted.

In Texas people are talking seriously about an era of Party realignment. Predictions have been made that Democratic office holders will switch Parties in the next few years.

The 1980 and 1984 elections brought only 41 percent of the popular vote to the national Democratic ticket. However, this time it was a more liberal 41 percent. In analysis, the national Party has been reduced to a base of blacks, Jews, white-collar workers and an upper middle class elite. Mondale lost a great many Southern whites and urban Catholic ethnics

who voted for Carter in 1976. These are two of the major streams of historic Democratic support and they are disappearing from the Democratic Party.

In the mid 1960's the Party lost much of its appeal to such voters when it pushed through costly social programs. It lost more appeal during the Carter years when inflation was high and the economy in chaos. The Party has lost its economic credibility.

The odds are that the national Party will make transition from the New Deal liberalism of Walter Mondale to the more moderate neo-liberalism of Sen. Gary Hart. The result could be a Party more committed to social justice and compassion, but less eager to use government as a tool for every purpose and more concerned about economic growth and fiscal responsibility.

The Democrats need to repudiate the past and move towards drawing the voters of the future. Democrats will draw strength from the past. The pattern in American politics since World War II suggests that Democrats have a chance at recapturing the Senate in 1986 and possibly the White House in 1988, when Reagan will not be on the presidential ballot. Maybe they will do well - since Ronald Reagan was a long shot and remains the most conservative and ideological President in modern American history.

Ronald Reagan won 49 states and 59 percent of the vote. He ran as an incumbent in a time of peace and prosperity - this still suggests that possibly the old rules of history do not apply to presidential elections and politics any more.

Nursing Scholarships

The American Lung Association of North Carolina, Metropolitan Region, will offer three \$500 scholarships to The Critical Care Nurses Seminar in Atlanta in May, 1985. The scholarships will be open to any critical care nurse in non-manual positions at Charlotte Memorial, Presbyterian, Mercy, Cabarrus Memorial and Union Memorial Hospitals.

To apply, send the following information to the American Lung Association of North Carolina, Metropolitan Region, at 531 Greenbrook Drive, Charlotte, N.C. 28205: (a) A resume, (b) an essay of 100 words or more on why you should be selected to attend the seminar; and (c) Two letters of recommendation. Applications should be received by January 2, 1985. Announcement of the winners will be March 1, 1985. For further information, call 537-5776, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.