

Editorials

Election Had Few Surprises

In a somewhat traditional off-year election fashion of low voter turnout and the party in the White House losing in some vital areas, Tuesday's general election apparently had few surprises.

President Reagan made hundreds of brief television and radio political ads telling people that they could vote for him and his conservative policies by voting for (as the case of North Carolina) Jim Broyhill for the U.S. Senate. Reagan's strong push for Republican conservative senatorial candidates was out of his concern to retain Republican majority control of the Senate. This would have assured that key committee chairmanships would have been held by Republicans and assured an easier opportunity to fulfill a Reagan desire to appoint more conservative judges to the U.S. Supreme Court during his remaining two years.

Well this did not happen as the Democrats recaptured the U.S. Senate with an expected 53 or 55 majority in the 100 seats. Terry Sanford's win over appointed-incumbent Jim Broyhill with a 724,043 to 677,201 voter edge was one factor in the change of the U.S. Senate party control. However, since some Democrats are ideologically conservative too, Reagan may still be able to gain Senate support for many of his policies and court appointments.

Democrats Won 111 Seats

In the U.S. House of Representative, the Democrats were expected to maintain the majority of the seats. Late on election night Democrats had won 111 seats and were leading comfortably in 70 other races. The Republicans had claimed 70 seats and led in 65 others. With that trend expected to hold, analysts concluded Democrats will retain control of the House. Ninth District, first-term incumbent Alex McMillan will be among the Republican faithful as he defeated D.G. Martin for a second time by 3,221 votes, or 78,029 to 74,808.

In a somewhat mild surprise Republicans made substantial gains in governorships across the nation. In Alabama, for example, Guy Hunt, a 53-year-old, part-time preacher, defeated Democratic Lt. Gov. Bill Baxley to become the deep South's first Republican governor in 112 years. Likewise in neighboring South Carolina, Republican Rep. Carroll Campbell defeated Democratic Lt. Gov. Mike Daniels. With the final account of all returns, it is possible that the majority of the nation's governors may be Republicans. This possibility as the Post went to press may be a mixed blessing for the Republican Party because many of the governors in their party are young and considered to be more moderate to liberal than conservative.

In the Mecklenburg County Commission races, the first under the new district system, six of the seven seats were captured by the Republican Party. Carla DuPuy, Rod Autrey and Jerry Blackmon

defeated the Democratic at-large candidates Peggy Culbertson, Mike Gheesling and John Kelly Wall. Ms. DuPuy led all the candidates with 62,021 votes. Bob Walton, who was unopposed in District 2, will be the only Democrat on the new board to be expanded from five to seven members on December 1, 1986.

Kidd Won By Small Lead

In another small surprise, Mecklenburg County Sheriff C.W. Kidd who was trailing and apparently losing the election to Republican Marshall Moore, survived with a strong, late-night voter count surge that enabled him to win by a slim 270 votes, or 51,613 to 51,343.

In another election of interest, Democrat James Exum sought and won the N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice post he believes strongly should have been his last summer. With a 54 to 46 percent lead, Exum appeared late election night to be on his way to defeating incumbent Republican Rhoda Billings.

Republican Gov. Jim Martin had appointed Ms. Billings to the Chief Justice post last summer. In so doing, Gov. Martin broke a long standing tradition of promoting the seven-member court's senior associate justice to the top post. Exum was the senior justice at the time of Billings' appointment.

In the Mecklenburg County legislative races, Republicans held off efforts by Democrats who lost two years ago to retain the six-Republican, six-Democratic delegation.

Already speculation has begun about the "shortened coattail" of President Reagan. As we have noted, in spite of his heavy 30-second ads to promote GOP election efforts, especially that of Republican candidates for the U.S. Senate, little success is apparent from his effort. ABC News voter poll exists showed that an increasing number of voters believe that the quality of their lives is worse now than they it was in 1980. Furthermore, even those voters who felt that they had at least retained their 1980 status shifted back to voting for more Democratic candidates. Undoubtedly, too, many farmers have lost faith in the Reagan economic program as agriculture has faced increasingly difficult times.

Equally interesting in this matter of voter beliefs at exist polls is that cross-over voting is becoming an increasing larger part of the American voters' voter pattern and therefore party labels have less meaning. To state it another way we don't really have "Republicans" and "Democrats" anymore, instead we have conservative - both Republican and Democrats, and liberals - both Republicans and Democrats. For example, in North Carolina by party affiliation the state is largely Democratic but by election results we have a Republican in the governor's office, the 9th district congressional seat, and now seven of eight County Commissioners all basically conservative.

Miller Says:

Speak The Language To Corner A Foreign Market

By Sherman N. Miller
Special To The Post

A Wilmington, NC, small businessman recently gave me a disquieting view on America's trade deficit. He argued that foreign trade is beyond the realm of small businesses because shipping rates are too high to be competitive. This chap's assessment offers little hope that the devalued American dollar will translate into new opportunities for American small businesses.

This small businessman's comments suggest that there may be other elements in the trade deficit question that need closer examination. Recent reports reveal that the dollar is not universally weak. It may be weak in Western Europe but it is still very strong against currencies in newly industrialized countries such as South Korea and Taiwan.

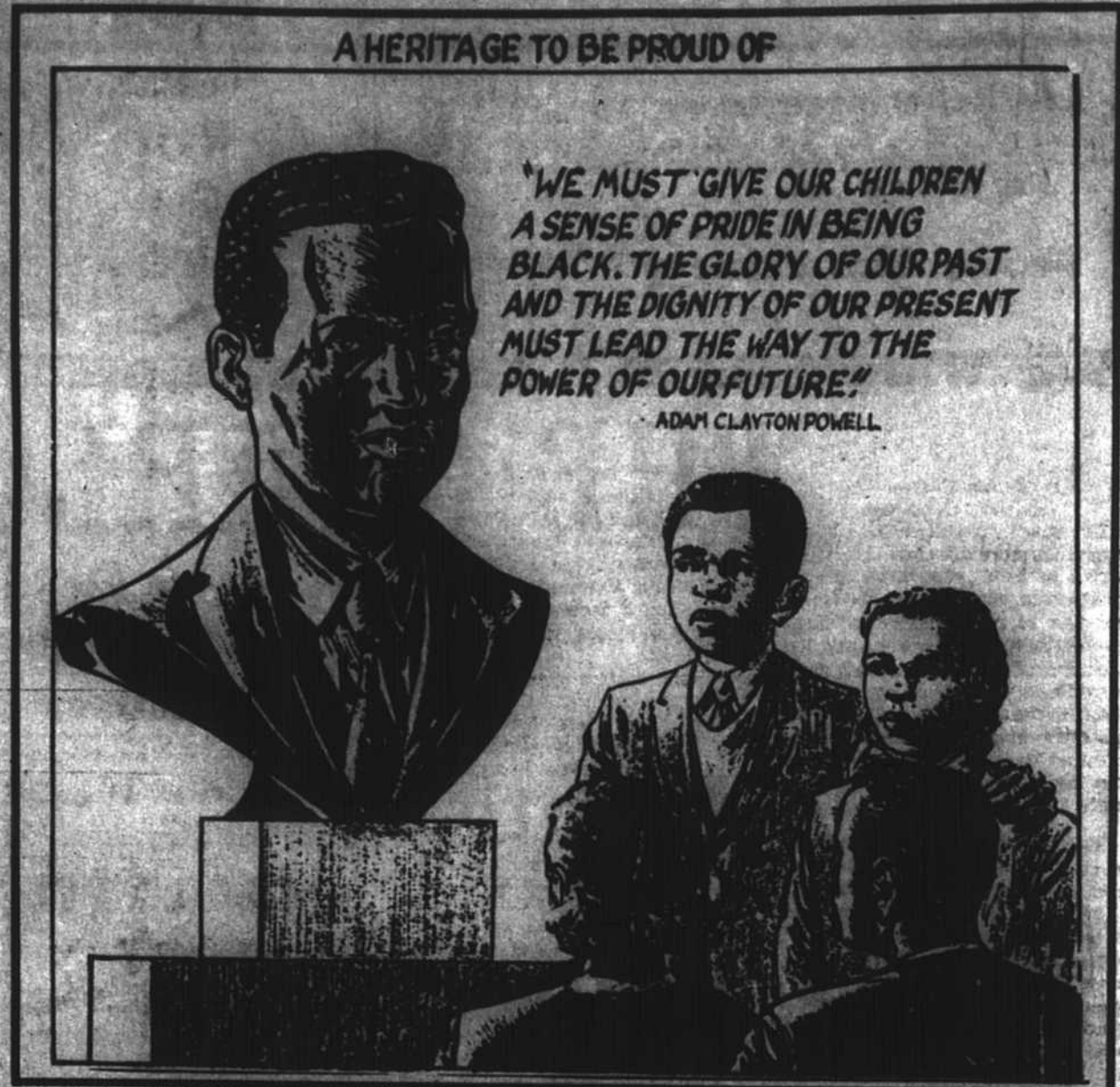
This North Carolina businessman also vented his frustration at Americans' ignorance in the international marketplaces. He questioned whether our school systems were preparing students with the proper skills to compete in a world market economy.



Miller

Our paths had crossed at a World Trade Conference in Richmond, VA; thus his comments called to mind two international business experiences, one of which corroborated one of his contentions.

I once became distressed by an eerie sensation of solitude while riding on a train in the Republic of China (Taiwan). As the train approached the first station, the conductor's words were not discernible nor could I read the Chinese font signs on the station's walls. This was the first time that I had felt totally dependent on someone else, and as I



As I See It

Black Women In Corporate America

By Gerald O. Johnson
Special To The Post

Recently, I gathered four lovely, young, black professional women to share some of their work experiences with me. Prior to the gathering, I had pre-conceived ideas of what I would hear. What I heard and what I learned was unexpected, interesting, and downright enjoyable.

The victims, sorry, my guests were Laura McClettie, Assistant Manager in Customer Relations for Southern Bell; Evelyn Dove, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Charlotte; Christy Bryant, Assistant Vice President for NCNB; and last but surely not least Cynthia Randolph, Technical Sales Representative for Hewlett Packard.

We got the session started with, "discuss how being a Black female has helped or hindered your upward mobility." Evelyn decided to go first by citing an incident that happened while working as an Attorney for the City of Gastonia. "I was told that I



Gerald

First in series

was a young, attractive, Black female, you aren't expected to be smart," she said. Evelyn felt that prior to getting a position with the City of Charlotte, she experienced resentment from other white females at lower levels. She had no one to give her encouragement.

Christy, on the other hand, cited that being in the right

place at the right time has been instrumental in her career development. She was assigned a white female manager early in her career at NCNB. The manager was instrumental in giving females opportunities to demonstrate their abilities. Once given the opportunity, it was up to Christy to perform.

It was a consensus that one problem facing Blacks in the Corporate workplace is not having people at higher levels who can identify with you. Evelyn felt strongly that a lot of the discrimination found in the workplace is unintentional. It is created due to a lack of being able to identify with certain people. The "buddy syndrome" locks out people who if given the opportunity could shine. Hence, they all felt a mentor was a plus for getting ahead.

Laura described an eight tier management level at Southern Bell where very few women or very few Blacks ever reach beyond the second level. Moreover, there were few of either at the second tier. Currently, she is at the first level. Being both Black and female, Laura feels that her efforts have to be superior to her peers just to keep up. Getting ahead is nearly impossible, but that still is her objective. Laura continued with "not having Blacks in upper level positions limits the possibility of other Blacks being lifted to upper levels."

Both Laura and Evelyn have used their Corporate-learned skills as springboards to becoming entrepreneurs. Laura owns and manages a cleaning service and recently opened a retail clothing store for children. Evelyn has a "Positive Concepts" enterprise where she gives motivational seminars and lectures. "The training I have received from Southern Bell has been extremely beneficial for me," Laura said. "I felt that if I could do all these positive things to enrich Southern Bell, I surely could do them for myself," she continued.

Cynthia finally woke up and said, "Prior to joining Hewlett Packard, I saw limited opportunities for upward mobility in previous jobs." Cynthia has a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of South Carolina. Her first job was with a utility com-

panies, the more problems I solved.

In recounting my South Asia Pacific tours, I recalled that I had encountered few business people who did not speak and read some English. I also recalled hearing stories of children being required to study English in some Asia Pacific school systems. The real American tragedy is we have a record trade deficit yet fewer Americans are learning foreign languages.

Between 1975 and 1981 the number of students earning bachelor's degrees in foreign language dropped from 17.6 thousand to 10.3. Furthermore, the number of students taking foreign languages in institutions of higher education, between 1960 and 1980, peaked at 174.2 percent of the base year (1960 - 100 percent) and fell back to 142.9 percent by 1980.

Since a poor ability to communicate with and understand the values of the rest of the world is an Achilles Heel for American industry, we must take aggressive action to correct this business enigma.

glanced over at my interpreter, I silently prayed nothing would happen to him.

My business mission had been to give numerous technical presentations day after day. My interpreter translated whenever an audience had difficulty with English. On occasion I posed an issue and heard my host discuss it amongst themselves, in their native tongue, for several minutes and merely reply, "No!" or "Yes!" These short-replies left me feeling empty inside.

This emptiness had caused many thoughts to shoot through my mind on the way to the next customer. What had they been saying to one another? What had made them say yes or no? Could I have better addressed their objections had I fully comprehended their words and emotions? Will this new group speak English or perhaps understand American?

On another occasion I had a domestic responsibility for a company near Miami, FL, that employed many Latin America immigrants. Here I had found that the more Spanish phrases I learned on my own or from these

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