

Wall Street Crash: "White Monday"

Monday, October 19, 1987 was not a good day for the stock market on Wall Street. In fact, it has been characterized by most financial analysts as "the worst day ever." It was the day that the market plummeted 508 points, the worst plunge in the history of Wall Street.

On that day, I happened to be at Emmanuel United Church of Christ in Lexington, Kentucky, preparing to watch the national evening news. The "NBC Nightly News", anchored by Tom Brokaw, began with the statement: "This is Black Monday." Mr. Brokaw was referring to the disastrous day which Wall Street had just experienced, being characterized as "Black Monday." I began to take strong exception to the use of that phrase. It was not appropriate to characterize the day of failure and calamity of this nation's financial center as a "black" day.

I know there are some who will say that no harm was meant because this term was first used when the stock market crashed in 1929, signalling The Great Depression. If I had been alive at that time, I would have taken exception then, too. The problem is that this society associates failure exclusively with the color "black" at the same time as it associates success only with the color "white."

Much of the media throughout the nation also characterized the



Civil Rights Journal
By Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

recent failure as "Black Monday." We all know the power that the media has in forming values. Let us remember the context of this discussion. We live in a racist society. To ascribe negative and positive values respectively, to the colors black and white is to enhance the institutionalization of this country's racist values.

Racism is both subtle and pervasive. That is why the victims of racism cannot afford to become silent and complacent. For too long certain racist connotations have become socially acceptable because they have not been consistently challenged. For example, some people still panic when a black cat crosses their path. Devil's food cake is chocolate cake; angel food cake is white. In movies the good guys wear white hats and ride white horses; the bad guys are identified by the color black. The color white is associated with puri-

ty, the color black with impurity. It is okay to tell a little "white lie;" and no one wants a so-called "black mark" on their record. It is within this context that we must be ever mindful of the psychological damage that is done to the entire society by the use of connotations that have racist implications.

Let's look at what really happened on Wall Street. The major financial decision makers at the time of both historic crashes were almost exclusively white males. Now, this is not to suggest that white males are prone to failure. But it would have been more accurate, although not appropriate, to have labeled this day "White Monday."

The truth is that there will probably be more bad days for Wall Street. Any financial system that is dependent upon the monopolistic advantage of the rich over the poor will inevitably fail. What we should all learn from this is that in times of great national distress or fear, more care should be taken to prevent the use of negative terminology, particularly when that terminology injures those who have had nothing whatsoever to do with the causation of the calamity.

If we are ever to expunge racism from our midst, we must understand the many, insidious ways that racism is manifested throughout our society.



Letters To The Post

Church Obligated To Supply Needs

Dr. Mr. Johnson:
I have been asked by the Baptist Minister's Conference No. 1 of Charlotte, NC to reply to your editorial that appeared in the Charlotte Post of October 15, 1987, entitled, "Black Church Begets Guilty Givers." I hereby submit the following:

It seems that the main idea presented in your article was that black church members are guilty of allowing black pastors to exploit them. I assert first of all that the Christian Church has a biblical and moral obligation to supply all of the pastor's needs and some of his wants. These needs include the normal material needs such as food, clothing and housing for the pastor and his family.

If housing needs extend beyond his tenure as pastor of the church, the congregation must also include a housing allowance adequate to help him buy his own house while still employed rather than live all his working years in a church parsonage; and have to move out at retirement time with nowhere to move. The pastor's needs also include adequate transportation. Eighty-five to 90 percent of the miles driven by the pastor are for the church business. His needs also include the education of his children, and an adequate pension plan to fall back on during disabled and/or retirement years.

If there are a few black churches in the Charlotte area able to take care of all the above needs of its pastor; whether through salary, allowances, anniversaries or appreciation days, God Bless them and more power to them. Any "laborer is worthy of his wages." The bottom line is, does the total income of the pastor, from whatever source, take care of all his economic needs and a few of his wants?

What Is Value Of Black Caucus Endorsements?

How can we define the character of a people, and by what institutions are they made unique? The simple answer is their means of worship. Worship defines mannerism and action. So if we are going to change a people, we must first alter the consciousness of those pastors who shepherd their flocks.

In recent history, the black minister was the pillar and leader of our communities. It is sad to see that position being undermined by political pamphlets in Church programs.

Who are the people who make up the Black Political Caucus, and what is the value of their endorsement? They could not elect Bob Davis in District 1. Since 1984, they have endorsed Walter Mondale, Jim Hunt and D.G. Martin--All these candidates lost heavily. It is a sad time in our history when a group such as this can undermine the strength of the black vote using our churches? How many jobs has the group created for black Americans? Has their endorsements stopped crime, drugs and prostitution in our communities?

We must take a realistic view of ourselves and "Give unto Caesar," the things that belong to Caesar and unto God, the things that belong to God.

years in college and three years in Graduate (Theological) School. This is a total of six years professional training in preparation for his calling. It is about the same amount of time a lawyer spends and a little less time than a MD or PhD.

Yet, in spite of all the training, the gospel ministry is still the lowest paid profession in our nation. Much of the average pastor's time and experience is spent receiving low pay or no pay. As a Seminary student, I was called to my first church. I drove 50 miles one way to church twice monthly and received only \$20 per Sunday.

You stated in your editorial "if the pastor's financial position appears to be healthier than the church's, then you are a guilty

giver." Note that the pastor mentioned in the article was described as "one of the best pastors in the city." If the same analogy is applied to "one of the best" newspaper publishers in the city; or "one of the best" lawyers in the city; or "one of the best" doctors in the city; we will have a whole lot of guilty subscribers, guilty clients and guilty patients. All these persons' financial positions are far healthier than the people they serve.

Under current conditions in the black church, at least the income of the pastor and the income of the church's staff turn over at least once in the black community. What percentage of the newspaper staff does the same?

Rev. Preston Pondergrass

An Open Letter To JCSU President Albright

Sir:
It is disturbing to hear news that you have formed a committee to review the possibility of eliminating one or more of the sports activities at Johnson C. Smith, and even more disturbing that your school is not the only small college that must consider measures such as this in order to cut operating costs so you can survive in your efforts to provide quality education in our community.

The problems that confront small colleges and probably more so in small, black colleges is the lack of "Community Involvement" in the activities that surround those colleges and universities. Having graduated from a small, black College, that discontinued football in the late sixties for financial reasons, and then sitting by watching the larger universities profit from activities performed by a few talented young people from our community who enjoy participating either as athletes or spectators, while many others never get a chance to display their talents and even more so never get the opportunity to go on to a higher educational institution because of the lack of funds that are provided by programs such as sport lack of funds that are provided by sports scholarships in those larger colleges and universities. (sic)

There is not only room for small college sports in Charlotte, but there is also a need for your university (JCSU) to provide these activities.

I would also like to add that some of this fault must be given to you and your university for not reaching out to the young (under 15) people of our community. You should develop and provide programs that attract the young, future college students and their parents such as Black Awareness workshops. There is a need in the community for cultural activities as well as sports and there is a need for JCSU to be active in providing these activities as well.

I ask that while your committee ponders the fate of athletics at JCSU, that they also consider the importance of these and other activities to the community in general. Having attended numerous sports activities at JCSU, I realize that the community does not give the support that it should and can.

I strongly believe that through a dedicated public relations pro-

gram and greater emphasis on the recruitment of young athletes from our community not only can sporting activities be salvaged at JCSU, but it will have a positive impact on the recruitment of students who are seeking academic excellence as well.

I hope the committee will ask the following questions:
Would a dramatic increase in the attendance at these activities result in the revenues needed to continue these programs? How much of an increase in attendance would it require? Are there citizens willing to assist in salvaging these programs?

There are many high schools in the surrounding area of Charlotte that not only produce good athletes but also many good students that may elect to attend JCSU because of friends and relatives who also attend. With added emphasis on the improvement of the sports and cultural programs at JCSU, believe that not only would the overall enrollment increase but also an INCREASED REVENUE and the COMMUNITY'S IMAGE of the school itself will be realized.

We know that the bottom line is cost of operation and we realize that the cost of education is continuing to rise. While the larger colleges and universities continue to prosper and grow through the revenues received from sporting activities, the smaller colleges and universities seem to be on a road of destruction when it comes to surviving in the 80's.

I know I'm not alone in my thoughts when it comes to saving the programs that small schools offer the community so I submit this open letter to you and the Charlotte Post, for all to read, and I summon all citizens of the greater Charlotte area to come forward to give support in the preservation of ALL PROGRAMS offered at JCSU. We must remember, not only is this our school, but also that it has been providing QUALITY PROGRAMS in our community for 120 years and it can't stop now.

I say to you, Dr. Albright, don't give up on us, as we are sometimes slow to come to the rescue of friends in need, but we will provide JCSU with the support required to continue providing quality educational programs to the young of our community.

Richard H. Highland

How Not To Catch The AIDS Virus

Drug users, homosexual men, bisexual men and those who have sexual contact with homosexual and bisexual men are the most likely to develop AIDS.

People in those groups are at risk because of what they do, their "lifestyle." But two percent of all AIDS cases are even more tragic. These victims are people who innocently have what should be a life-saving procedure -- a blood transfusion.

AIDS was recently transmitted to two recipients of organ donations, even though blood tests on the donor showed no evidence of the AIDS virus. However, the donor, before his death, had received massive blood transfusions and had obviously become infected with the virus.

Although the risk of exposure to the AIDS virus is less than one in 10,000 in a blood transfusion (it becomes higher with multiple transfusions), that one unfortunate person will soon be 100 percent dead. Moreover, there is reason to suspect that there is a link

between syphilis and AIDS.

"The AIDS virus in the blood bank is very high. The syphilis spirochete in the blood bank is astronomical -- and we're not being told that," said Gary Null, a nutrition expert.

As frightening as that warning is, there is a silver lining called: dextran.

Commercially called "Macrodex," dextran has the physical properties of blood plasma, but it is not made from blood. Therefore, there is no possibility of it containing the AIDS virus or any other germ. And, believe it or not, it has been available to hospitals for decades.

There will be no cure for the fatal disease of AIDS in the immediate future and the epidemic among members of the high risk groups (drug users, homosexual and bisexual men and their sex partners) will continue to spread. This means that the rest of the population will also be increasingly in greater danger because of the possibility of contamination.



Tony Brown's Commentaries

And for most of us outside of the high risk groups, the most likely chance of getting the AIDS virus is from a blood transfusion.

In the event that you or someone you know needs "blood" because of surgery or an accident, the fear of AIDS can be eliminated.

Ask for Macrodex. And don't take no for answer.

Tony Brown's Journal TV series can be seen on public television. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

Why Am I So Angry?

I am puzzled and disappointed. And angry.
This country doesn't need another long fight about a Supreme Court nomination.

Our President and the Congress need to be working hard and working together on the critical problems facing our economy and foreign policy.

But another confirmation battle is what we are going to have. The President says he is ready to fight again to force the confirmation of his latest nominee to the Supreme Court, Douglas Ginsburg.

It was a fight that he could have avoided.

The President knew that he could nominate a moderate conservative, well-qualified, experienced judge, and have the nomination sail through the Senate.

Conservative Democrats and moderate republicans who voted against the confirmation of Robert Bork were ready to support Judge Anthony Kennedy who was characterized as a "mainstream conservative."

With Judge Kennedy on the Su-



D.G. Martin One On One

preme Court, the President would have had most of what he wanted--another solid conservative voice on the court.

That appointment would have avoided the coming fight in the Senate that will command time and attention from the President, the Senate, and the country when so many other problems cry out for help.

Why did he do it?

News reports tell us that the President's advisors broke down into moderate and radical camps. Howard Baker and other moder-

ates urged the President to avoid another fight and nominate a conservative, experienced judge like Judge Kennedy. Baker wanted to avoid a confrontation with the Senate. He knew that the administration needed all its energy and leverage for other problems. He had assurances from some of the Senators who voted against Bork that they would not oppose Kennedy.

Attorney General Meese led the other faction. He pushed a no compromise position. Senator Jesse Helms let the President know that he would fight Judge Kennedy's nomination. He even promised a long filibuster.

So the President rejected Baker's advice--and nominated Meese's and Helms' choice--Douglas Ginsburg.

Why? Why did he force an avoidable confrontation when he needs a united country behind him? Why?

I don't know. I can't explain it. I don't think that there is a good explanation, and that is why I am so angry.

Reagan Cabinet Rife With Extremists

Guest Editorial
By David Kusnet

Former Education Secretary Terrel Bell made headlines recently when he revealed he had often heard "mid-level rightwing staffers" in the Reagan Administration make racial slurs.

Bell's revelations, contained in a soon-to-be-published book on his four years as a cabinet secretary, came as no surprise to students of the Far Right's influence over the Administration.

Virtually every administration has its share of incompetents or worse. However, this Administration has appointed a remarkable number of ideological extremists--some of whose records are so embarrassing that they have been forced to resign or have been denied confirmation by the Senate.

For instance,

"In 1985, the Administration appointed Marianne Mele Hall to the \$70,000-a-year position of head of

the Copyright Royalty Tribunal. She resigned after it was revealed she had helped write a book which said blacks "insist on preserving their jungle freedoms, their women, their avoidance of personal responsibility and their abhorrence of the work ethic."

"Anthony Bouscaren, a 1986 appointee to the National Council on the Humanities, had worked for the Pioneer Fund, an organization which has sought to prove that blacks are genetically inferior to whites. Bouscaren's nomination was rejected by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

"Carolyn Sundseth, who served as the Administration's liaison to most religious groups, declared members of the President's staff should "get saved or get out" -- a remark suggesting that only those who share her religious beliefs should serve in government.

Examining the records of these and similar appointees, observers are tempted to ask: "Where on earth do they get these people?" The answer is: from the Far Right, which not only places its own people in influential positions but harasses many of the most distinguished members of the Administration, including Howard Baker, George Schultz, and Terrel Bell himself during his years in the cabinet.

Political patronage is nothing new in American politics, but ideological patronage for extremists is unusual. And, when responsible positions are entrusted to people whose major credentials are bizarre or intolerant beliefs, people have the right to ask why extremists have friends in high places.

David Kusnet is a Vice President of People For The American Way, a 270,000-member nonpartisan constitutional liberties organization.