

A Jackson Win Could Spell End To N.C. Presidential Primary

Guest Editorial
by Dennis Schatzman

You might want to bet the house on this one: If Rev. Jesse Jackson wins the North Carolina Primary and Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore doesn't, look for a move in next year's General Assembly to scrap future presidential primaries in the state.

The hint came from State Elections Director Alex K. Brock in the February issue of *North Carolina Magazine*.

The article, "North Carolina's Experience In The Presidential Primary" quotes Brock this way: "If the March results for either party should establish a front runner, and if he should win the nomination, then Super Tuesday will have proven to be a major event... But if nothing much is decided on that day, then it's possible we may drop the primary in North Carolina."

Brock speculates that any future attempts to abandon the Presidential primary would probably be based on economics. He says a separate primary costs taxpayers \$800,000. Conventional wisdom however, indicates that such a decision

would be based on cold political realities.

At stake in North Carolina's pivotal Super Tuesday primary is not only the presidential future of Sen. Gore but also, and most important, the future political standing of Sen. Terry Sanford, former Gov. Jim Hunt, most of North Carolina's congressional delegation and dozens of state legislators who make up the core of Gore's political support.

Politicians hate being embarrassed and they hate losing control. And embarrassment and losing control of the delegation may very well befall the architects of Super Tuesday primary strategy and their North Carolina disciples.

Consider the following situation and its implications: Rev. Jackson, according to most state and national political observers, is certain to increase on the 243,945 votes he received in the 1984 primary where he finished third behind Gary Hart (284,877) and the eventual Democratic nominee, Walter Mondale (342,324). Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and Mis-

souri Rep. Richard Gephardt are coming into Gore's territory fresh off impressive showings in the Iowa Caucuses and New Hampshire Primary respectively. Add bankrolls and campaign organizations, equally as impressive as Gore's, both men will battle the Tennessee senator vigorously for the remaining voters and the remaining delegates.

The emergence of Sen. Gore as a serious presidential candidate is credited to Maryland developer and powerful Democratic fundraiser Nathan Landow who persuaded him to run when Georgia's Sen. Sam Nunn and former Virginia Gov. Charles Robb backed off. Landow and many other Southern Democrats believe that a Southern candidate and his backers could garner enough delegates on "Super Tuesday" to become a potent force at the Democratic Convention in Atlanta in August. They envision themselves being the prime movers in picking the eventual nominees for both president and vice president.

However, this strategy is in se-

rious jeopardy in North Carolina. Sen Gore has placed all his eggs in one basket, unlike Jimmy Carter in 1976, electing not to test his campaign ability in the North. This has opened the way for "front-runners" Dukakis and Gephardt to use their "momentum" and their money to appeal to North Carolina voters from a position of strength, the only position that counts in electoral politics. What may result is a plurality win in North Carolina by Rev. Jackson followed by Sen. Gore, Gov. Dukakis and Rep. Gephardt, who could attract a lot of former Gary Hart supporters. This trend could follow in varying orders in the other 19 states holding primaries on March 8.

In North Carolina, this scenario could prove embarrassing to the state's Democratic political establishment in many ways. While 20 percent of the state registered voters are black, they also represent just over 30 percent of the registered Democrats. This gives black voters a great deal of clout. In Presidential primaries, the candidates who attract that voting bloc are

certain to do well. "Doing well" in presidential primary lingo means winning delegates. North Carolina's 89 delegates are the third largest number at stake among the Super Primary states.

Texas and Florida rank first and second. In a race where two or more strong white candidates exist, a strong black candidate could enter and win a large number of delegates as Rev. Jackson did in 1984 and will do again on March 8.

The same could happen in 1992 much to the chagrin of Democratic Party leaders. Suppose another national figure decided to run? Worse, what about a black "favorite son" like Rep. Mickey Michaux (D.Durham), Rep. Dan Blue (D. Raleigh), former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt, Rep. Sydney Locks (D. Lumberton), State NAACP President Kelly Alexander, Jr. or Winston-Salem Alderman Larry Womble, president of North Carolina Black Elected Municipal Officials? That candidate and his supporters could amass enough delegates to play a more strategic role at the Convention than, say, your more traditional

state party leaders. See how embarrassing that could be for them? That is not in keeping with the spirit of "Super Tuesday."

"Party leaders," reminds Brock, the state elections director since 1965, "are legally free to change the rules regarding the influence of the primaries if they believe the process is doing damage to the party's chances of fielding a viable candidate."

In this case a "viable candidate" would not be someone like Jesse Jackson, a black preacher, Michael Dukakis, an ethnic governor from "up north", or Paul Simon a bespectacled liberal midwestern senator who sports a bow tie. If any one of them beat Gore or give him a serious run for his money, look for calls to fold up the presidential primary tent in Raleigh next year.

I'm covering all bets. Any takers?

(Mr. Schatzman is a black consultant, a former elected official and free-lance writer who lives in Winston-Salem)

Why Whites Can't Solve Black Problems

By Doug McNair
Reprinted from
Denver Weekly News

I'm constantly amazed at how many of us are willing to trust white people to help solve black problems.

In each problem area where we've enlisted white people's assistance, look at the results. Whether it's unemployment, education, housing, business, etc., the same problems we had 20-years ago still remain unsolved today.

Why? It's my opinion that whenever we hook up with whites to solve black problems, we end up looking at the problems from their perspective and only band aid solutions are ap-

plied. White people don't want our problems solved because then they would have to compete with us on an equal basis and they're not sure they could keep up. They've seen what we've accomplished in spite of racism. Plus our supremacy in sports, the only area where we've had an equal chance to compete, is indicative of what we can do with an equal opportunity. Based on that, does any black person seriously believe that whites want to open up other areas in American society to equal opportunity.

There are some white people who don't feel threatened by black people having an equal chance to compete but there

aren't enough of them to make a difference. And even most of them are not going to work to change an American system that benefits all whites.

Ever wonder why most whites who work with blacks to solve problems in the black community always focus on poor black people? That way there's no competition. Who can compete with whites for more success: a successful or a poor black person?

If we never get another penny from "good" white people to solve our problems and instead finance our own solutions, we'd be better off. More importantly, every problem we have today would be solved in our lifetime.

Letters To The Post

It's Important For Blacks To Advertise

Dear Editor:

Being an African-American in the *Advertising Business* here in the city I felt that I had to respond to the "As I See It" editorial in the February 25th issue, and the *Charlotte Post* readership as a whole.

So many black Americans will go into business for themselves (some with good ideas) and forget to include in their budget advertising. And when our businesses fail we are ready to blame the community when really the blame lies on the management or poor planning. There are so many types of advertising but we as blacks when we start a business forget or we are not educated to the fact.

I must admit that I never visited Ms. Simpson's bookstore but I never saw or heard that much advertising about her business either. I did not start reading your paper until recently. We have this saying in advertising "IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR BUSINESS AND WANT TO BUILD IT THEN ADVERTISE."

As I stated earlier there are so many types of advertising, newspaper (which is great), T.V., radio, direct mail, specialty (in my opinion the least expensive) and word of mouth (which can make or break a business), to name a few. A business should not put all of their budget in one form of advertising. Our agency works with small and large

businesses alike. I have small business people (especially black) tell me that they can't afford to advertise. "My thought is if you can't afford to advertise then you are not getting and keeping the business that you need to survive."

As was stated in the editorial many African-Americans will go into business and expect the support of the community but when we cater to them, we are not given the respect (if you expect my \$\$\$s then respect me), the prices are higher and sometimes the quality is not what it should be for the money.

When we as African-Americans decide to go into business whether it be a business to cater to the black or white community we must remember that we must separate our business and personal beliefs. I'm as pro-African as the next person, but if a client comes into my business with a job that doesn't go against my ethical beliefs then the color of power is green.

Today we as African-Americans must realize and remember that we can't protest as we did in the 60's. Today we can and must protest against a wrong with ECONOMIC CLOUT. We being African-Americans (our ancestors were not greeted by the Statue of Liberty and open arms when brought to this country against their will, nor were

there plans for a new or better way of life in a new land as other minorities who came to this country) must remember that usually we have to be twice as smart, twice as good and work twice as hard sometimes in order to make it.

To put the blame of the *Book-Source* failure on the black community is a smack in the face. With over 100,000 African-Americans in this city and since the store was catering to and depending on the black community for survival and a majority of our population live on the west side of the city (the 28216 zip area) I think marketing research would have advised the owner to locate in that area.

I hope the failure of this one business doesn't discourage other blacks from starting businesses of their own. **BUT MY ADVICE TO ANYONE THINKING OF STARTING A BUSINESS IS TO FIRST STUDY THE MARKET AND PLAN FOR A LOT OF LONG HOURS AND SOME HARD TIMES, AT LEAST THREE YEARS.** With the economic clout of the African-American community in this city no business in the community should fail.

I am a new subscriber to your paper. Keep up the good work as one of the voices for this African-American community.

DONNELL HARRIS

Need To Learn How To Run For Office

Dear Editor:

I would like to commend your newspaper for being a voice for the black community and on the educational article in the February 25th issue: "Valuable Lessons From Those Who Ran For Office In The Wrong Way."

With this being a presidential election year and Brother Jesse Jackson, the most qualified candidate (my opinion) on the Democratic ticket, Majeed on

the County Commission District 2 ticket, Arthur Griffin the School Board and Yvonne Mims Evans for the District Court Judge seat being vacated by Judge Fulton and the many other candidates running for elected office the article was opportune and informative.

After working on many local campaigns for the past eight years, I've noticed there's no discussion on "How To Run and

Win."

I hope other people thinking about getting into the political arena memorize this article or get advice before running for office. With as many blacks as we have in this community we should have more blacks in elected office.

Keep up the good work.

GREG HARRIS

What A Way To Choose A President

What a way to choose a President! It doesn't seem to make much sense.

Would any rational process have the contenders for the highest office in the land spend the winter in Iowa and New Hampshire? Should those two states have the exclusive power to define who the contenders for President will be?

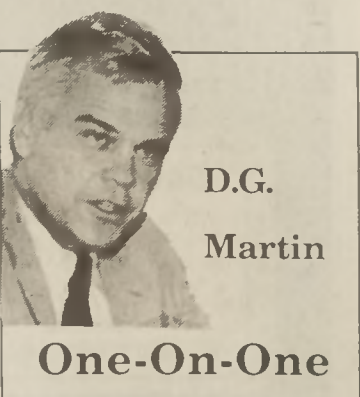
Nobody would have designed it that way. It is not what the framers of the Constitution had in mind--by any means. No other country in the world selects its top leaders that way.

The early primaries and caucuses are ordeals. Some of the best potential candidates are sitting on the sidelines because they will not subject themselves to the torture of such "nonsense."

It is not like the old days, we hear, when wise old politicians went into back rooms and chose delegates, who then went to conventions with other back room leaders, who then went into other back rooms to make choices among the "best" of the people in the back rooms.

Won't anybody say something about the primaries?

I will. Sure, they are not perfect, but I am glad that the process is out of the back room. No more Warren Harding! In Iowa and New Hampshire,



D.G. Martin
One-On-One

the future President of the United States campaigned face to face with American people. He talked to small groups in living rooms and around kitchen tables. Looking them in the eye.

I am glad we have a process that forces our future President to spend time with lots of different individuals.

The future President, whoever it turns out to be, may never again have the time to talk--and listen--to ordinary people on their terms and their turf!

After Iowa and New Hampshire, things changed.

Candidates in next week's Super Tuesday primaries are flying from city to city for hurried airport news conferences--hoping to claim a few seconds on the local news. Speeches. Rallies. Fund-raising. Hurry. Hurry. There is not enough time

for eyeball-to-eyeball discussions with ordinary folks anymore.

There are too many people to reach. Too much ground to cover. Big money and TV are taking charge.

In Iowa and New Hampshire, victory depended on direct personal appeal and organization.

From now on, it depends in large part on who can make the best 30 second TV spots and who can raise the most money to show those spots the most times.

Maybe the campaign shouldn't always begin in Iowa and New Hampshire--but there should be somewhere, where the candidates for President have to talk to, listen to, and touch ordinary Americans directly.

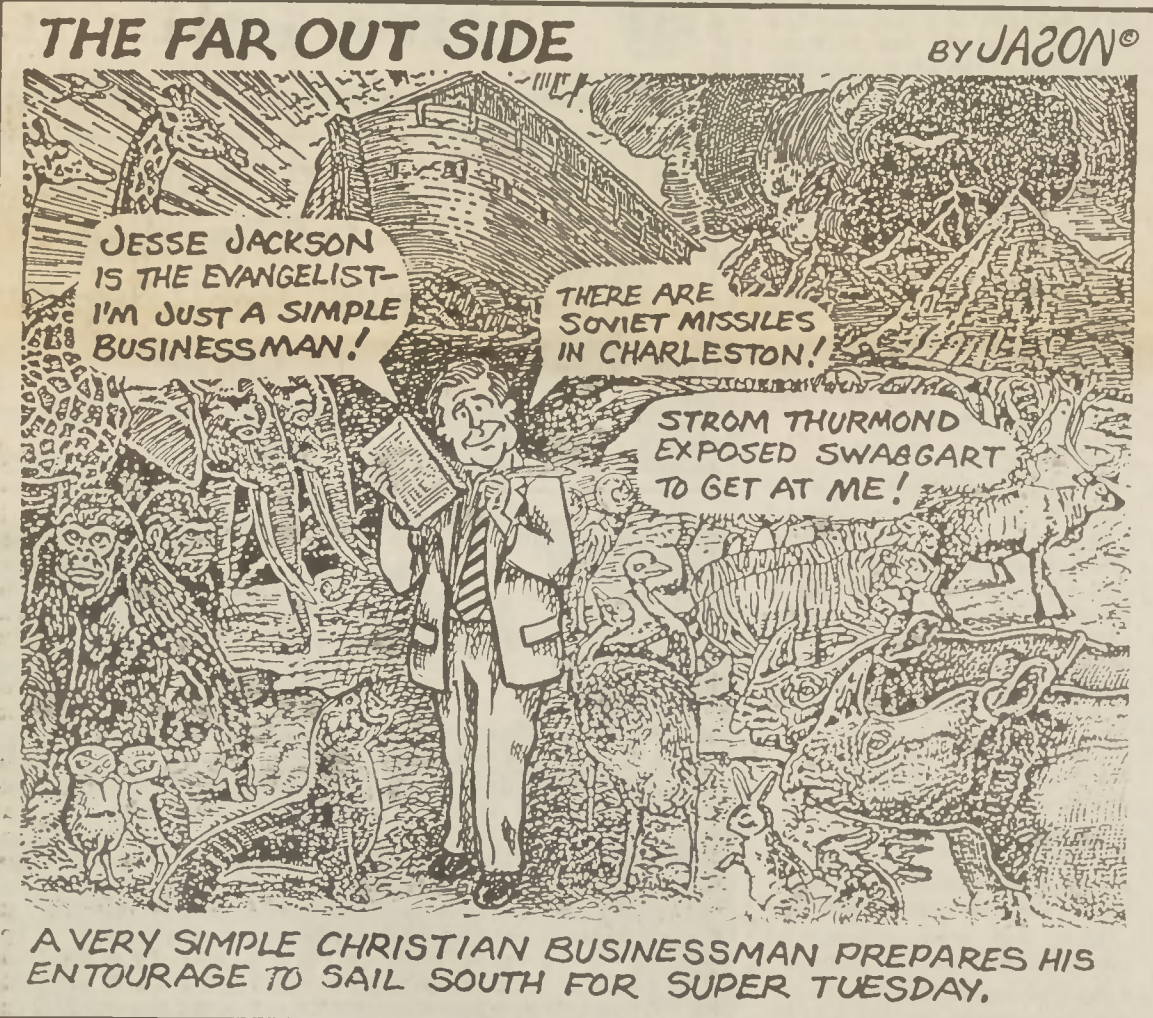
There should always be a somewhere, where Americans--after being touched directly by the candidates--make their choices for President.

What's On Your Mind?

Let us hear your comments, ideas and opinions.

Write to:
Letters To The Post
P.O. Box 30144
Charlotte, NC 28230

Please include name, address and phone number. We edit letters for clarity and grammar.



BY JASON

THE FAR OUT SIDE

JESSE JACKSON IS THE EVANGELIST- I'M JUST A SIMPLE BUSINESSMAN!

THERE ARE SOVIET MISSILES IN CHARLESTON!

STROM THURMOND EXPOSED SWABGART TO GET AT ME!

A VERY SIMPLE CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMAN PREPARES HIS ENTOURAGE TO SAIL SOUTH FOR SUPER TUESDAY.

I'm White And Will Vote For Jackson

Dear Editor:

I'm a white North Carolina voter and I will be voting for Jesse Jackson on Super Tuesday. I've struggled with whether he can be elected and if not, am I wasting my vote. I've decided that is not the issue. He is the only candidate that has dared to speak squarely to the issues of our time. That's important to me.

I've heard so many people say-

"I like what he is saying, BUT...". Polls have shown that voters from states that have already cast votes said Jackson spoke to their concerns yet ended up voting for another candidate. One has to ask what has happened to the issues?

Can Jackson win? I'm not going to consider that question. I want the issues I care about to get strong representation at the Democratic Convention and get put before the nation. I have de-

ecided that the best way to achieve that is to give the Jesse Jackson candidacy my vote. Can the power of my vote have any greater influence if I vote for another candidate because of some vague undetermined electability?

Alone in the voting booth each of us will have one chance, with our inner voice, to speak.

KEN FRANKLIN

It's Up To Us: Stop U.S. Aid To Contras

Dear Editor:

Upon my arrival from Nicaragua a few months ago, I presented certain facts I witnessed while I was there. The main idea was that the U. S. should stop funding the Contras and that was based on the inhuman and unethical actions being taken by the Contras.

Here again, I restate it but this time it is for the efforts that are being made by the Sandinistas in trying to improve the quality of life for citizens in Nicaragua: Sandinistas are trying to correct some of the dehumanization, exploitation, and neglect they incurred under the leadership of a world-known totalitarian dictator by the name of Somoza, his brother, and their government. Let us not forget that the United States of America supported the

dictator for many, many years:

The constitution of Nicaragua says that a person can be elected for a four-year term, and that he can succeed himself for one more four-year term and that is all. But that U. S. supported dictator stayed in office almost fifty years counting his brother's reign, according to interviews.

This fact plus a falling economy, inflation, poverty, illiteracy and children having to drop out of school in the second grade because they were being taught in classes where they could not speak the language were, I was told, some of the reasons Ortega and others felt there should be a revolution which did happen.

There are six ethnic groups in Nicaragua, and the government (Daniel Ortega) in an attempt to solve the drop-out problem, due

to inability to understand the lessons, has a large program called bi-lingual and bi-lingual education taught in the schools.

Another program they have instituted is called autonomy. This program guarantees all the towns in the areas total freedom in running their towns.

Ortega has freed many more of the captured Contras.

Ortega has agreed to direct talks with the Contras.

This and more, shows that Ortega is trying for peace and any negotiated attempts at peace should be looked at as attempts for a negotiated peace in Nicaragua, and no aid should be sent to the Contras to keep the war going on.

WILLIAM DEAN