

# Leading Democrat Pledges Independence From Jackson

BY DONALD M. ROTHBERG  
AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) --- Ron Brown says he will not pick a fight with Jesse Jackson to demonstrate his independence as the new Democratic party chairman, but that there are bound to be conflicts with the presidential candidate he worked for in 1988.

"I'm not looking for it, trying to orchestrate it," Brown said in an interview last week in advance of succeeding Paul G. Kirk Jr. in the party post. "I'm sure at one time or another I'll have the opportunity to demonstrate independence from any of the potential candidates in '92."

Brown's election to the party chairmanship was assured when three of his four rivals for the post dropped out and endorsed him. Only former Rep. Jim Jones of Oklahoma continued his challenge, but there was near unanimous agreement within the party that Brown will be a sure winner when the Democratic National Committee votes Feb. 10.

John Henry Anderson, the Georgia Democratic Party chairman who had supported one of

Brown's rivals, said there was "no doubt" in his mind that Brown would win.

To overcome the perception that the incoming chairman is too liberal, Anderson said Brown must "establish his independence from any groups and find us a candidate in four years who will appeal to the broad base of the electorate."

Opponents of the Washington lawyer-lobbyist, who will be the first black politician to hold the top party post, cited his ties to Jackson, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and Gov. Mario Cuomo as evidence he would give ammunition to those trying to paint the Democrats as too liberal.

"What does it take to help us win?" Brown asked rhetorically. "It doesn't have anything to do with the ideology of the chairman. (That is) a totally irrelevant consideration."

"We have fallen into a trap of allowing our enemies, our opponents or adversaries to define us. I think it's time for us to define ourselves and let the American people know what it means to be a Democrat."

He said the party must do a better job defining its positions on national security, crime and



Brown

drugs.

"We've got to get out of the box of having some people in this country believe that we are the party that blames America for everything that's wrong in the world," said Brown.

He said Congress would be the principal shaper of the party message and that he hoped to participate in leadership discussions on Capitol Hill.

Brown described himself as "one of the several messengers that have the ability and skills

to be a strong advocate."

He rejected the advice of many party activists that he must take some symbolic action to demonstrate his independence.

"I don't believe that," he said. "I've passed the test. I've been judged to be a fair and reasonable and common sense person. That's why it looks like we're going to have a celebration here in February instead of a fight."

At the same time, he said, "I am very sensitive to concerns that people have raised about perception."

Brown said he would travel to the South soon "and go to some statehouses and meet with governors and Democratic Party leaders to demonstrate that I want to reach out."

In the closing weeks of the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, Brown agreed to become convention manager for Jackson and some party activists are concerned about the perception that he is a Jackson partisan, a perception he says is incorrect.

When asked whether he felt he must do something to demonstrate independence from Jackson, Brown replied: "We've got to stop treating Jesse like some

kind of irrational being. He's a reasonable, rational political figure, political leader."

Brown continued: "I think he understands full well there might be times the next four years where we disagree on

something; where by the nature of my position and my role and the nature of his position and his role, it just makes sense that we'd be on different sides and I don't know that's going to be such a traumatic thing."

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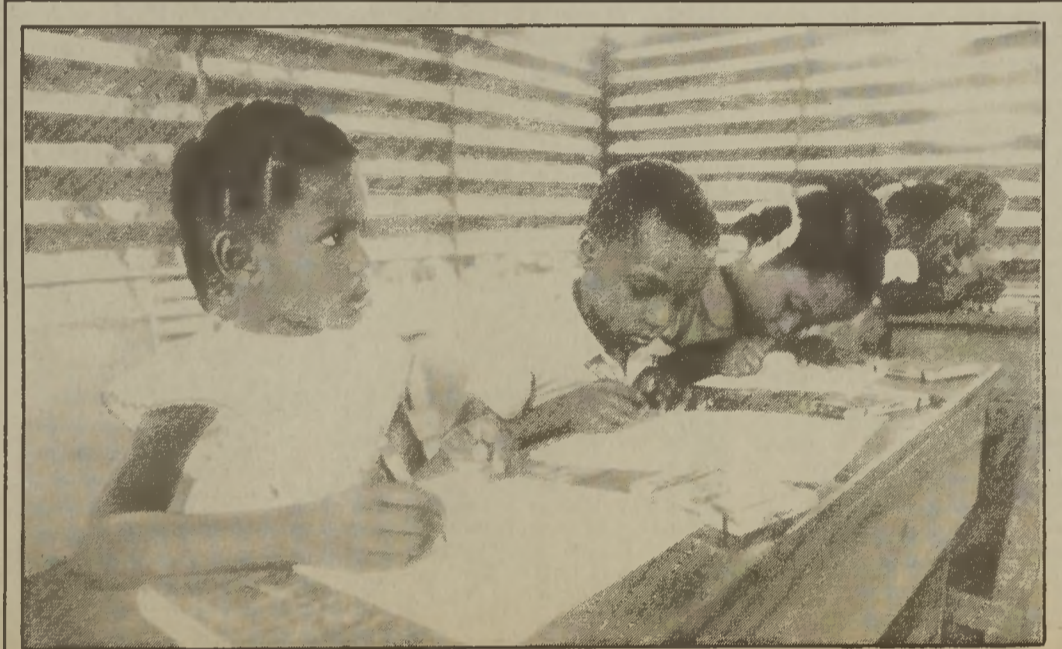


PHOTO: RUDOLPH VON BERNUTH

Third World classrooms that were once opened only to boys are shared today by girls as well. These children in southern Haiti receive pre-

school instruction in a program sponsored by CARE.

fasts and lunches, often the only nutritious meal of their day.

"Relief organizations like CARE," says Levinger, "have a responsibility to help the recruitment effort by tailoring their activities to meet the needs of women and children."

In India alone, the Indian Government's Integrated Child Development Services Program

reaches more than ten million children with meals and basic information on health and nutrition. CARE provides logistical support and training to run the enormous operation.

A free meal in school, which families would otherwise have to provide at home, can also furnish incentive for parents to allow girls who would otherwise be

at home gathering firewood, grinding grain or taking care of younger brothers and sisters, to attend classes.

Says Levinger, "The impact of the quiet revolution is just beginning to be felt by women and children throughout the developing world. In the future, it will affect not just the lucky few -- but everyone."

## Progress Slowed For U.S. Blacks In 1988

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38 percent between 1970 and 1978, but declined to 36 percent by 1987.

Black youth have been negatively impacted, wrote Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund. Black babies are three times more likely as whites to be born to mothers who haven't had prenatal care, is twice as likely to die in the first year of life, and if the child is male, is six times more likely to be a teenage homicide victim.

"What America needs is a comprehensive, long-term investment in policies and programs which help all poor children and

their families," Edelman wrote.

"We need a new national commitment to ensure as well as we can that every child, black and white, has basic health and nutrition services and the opportunity to attend good schools, to develop strong basic academic skills, and to become economically independent as a young adult."

Dr. Price Cobbs, president of Pacific Management Systems, determined that blacks will be responsible for becoming a part of mainstream America while valuing its differences.

Maintaining a sense of awareness will be especially important culturally and in the work-

place, where greater numbers of non-whites will emerge by the start of the 21st century.

"As we approach the year 2000, African-Americans must take leadership in further developing and refining the language and imagery which describes differences. We must actively challenge the notion that there is something called colorblindness," Cobbs wrote.

"At present, most visible symbols and most of the language describing success or power relates to white people. Such descriptions must be changed as black people define themselves and their successes beyond a comparison with whites."

## Black Politics In Charlotte Is Changing

Continued From Page 1A

"We've had in the past a tradition in the black community of uniting behind one candidate because of the perception of being a minority," he said. "Now, we're going to see a shift where there will be competition without splitting the black community."

To win an at-large, blacks will have to gather broad support from all voters, but Culp said there may also be white resentment to that kind of candidacy. A case in point was the 1987 city council race, where Ron Leeper vacated his District 3 seat, one of two in black districts, to run at-large. He finished fifth, just missing election.

"I think there's a segment of the white community that believes in black representation, but may not be willing to support a black candidate at-large," Culp said.

Contributions from black voters could also boost black at-large candidates, who are usually not as well financed as whites. Ironically, most political contributions to blacks in the more costly at-large races come from white supporters.

"The minority community is going to have to come up with fi-

racial support for black candidates," Culp said. "In order for black at-large candidates to be more viable, the black community will have to contribute more."

Black candidates may also have to live with the double-edged sword of integration, Culp said. As more blacks move into predominantly white districts, candidates who live in those areas will have to win over skeptical whites.

"The difficulty with integration is that politically, you have put yourself in a district where most of the voters are white," he said. "On the one hand, our society is saying 'Let's integrate,' but on the other hand, it's saying to black candidates 'You have to live in a black district to win.'"

Racially-motivated voting pat-

### NAACP Has Inauguration

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg chapter of the NAACP will install its officers Sunday, Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. at Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church at 1001 Grandon Road.

The Rev. David Morrison, pastor of Greater Bethel, will officiate the ceremonies, and the public is invited to attend.

terns will likely continue, Culp maintains, adding that single-shot voting occurs for a number of reasons, including ideology and gender.

"I think single-shot voting will always be with us, not only with the black community, but the white community as well," he said.

Although single-shot voting is generally frowned upon by local politicians, it happens often, Culp said. Whites may vote exclusively for white candidates, but because the number of minorities running at-large is usually small, single-shots for one are easier to detect.

"Selective voting is not just unique to the black community. The difference is that it's not obvious in Dilworth, but it is in University Park."

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