

# GOP turns 'good' Republicans into mean politicians

By James Alsbrook  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

One is white and the other is black, but Bob Dole and Clarence Thomas remind me of two wayward young girls who joined the wrong crowd and became prostitutes.

Dole was a "good" young man, a decorated war veteran. He had black political friends and he had been "straight" on the civil rights issue. Then came Richard Nixon and his "Southern strategy" to avenge Lyndon Johnson's civil rights initiatives.

Nixon and then Reagan courted Mississippi Ku Kluxers and other racists in their presidential campaigns in the South. They always condemned civil rights and equal opportunity laws, and urged the Republican Party in Dixie to change from the party of Lincoln to the party of slave-time racists like Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, and their disciples, Stennis, Bilbo and David Duke.

Dole tried to stem the Dixie tide. But well-entrenched, longer-tenured Southerners manipulated Mississippi Trent Lott into Dole's old job as Senate Republican leader.

With Senate leadership and prestige in the hands of Southern whites, Dole, the presidential candidate, needs Dixie approval and seeks it by attacking affirmative action and dodging civil rights matters like the NAACP convention. He must sing and talk Dixie. He must dance in lock step to the chin music of old-time Dixie's vile racism.

Clarence Thomas seemed to be a "good" young man when nearing graduation from the Yale Law School. Then came John Danforth, Missouri governor, Yale alumnus and heir to the Ralston millions. He was a "moderate" Republican, and a "do gooder" who gave Thomas a job in Missouri government. When Danforth was elected to the Senate, he got Thomas a job in the Reagan administration.

Thomas had never practiced law independently. He was a dependant, grinning errand boy and hatchet man for Republicans. He protected his job by obsequiously carrying out the racist political philosophy of Nixon and Reagan. He opposed the civil rights laws passed in the '60s, opposed the same affirmative action rules he used to get his

education, and challenged the 1954 Supreme Court decision desegregating public schools.

Dole and Thomas are firmly under the philosophical control of Dixie political leaders elected by segregationists and church burners who want to diminish federal power and greatly strengthen state power because:

1. Federal power in the Civil War (a) crushed unbridled white supremacy and slavery in the South, (b) made blacks citizens, and (c) gave blacks the right to vote. The slave states were forced to ratify three new and facilitating constitutional amendments or remain a conquered territory. The slave states swallowed this "equality" pill but immediately retaliated by setting up the Ku Klux Klan.

2. The federal government employed black workers despite state and local opposition to equally or better-qualified black workers. Before World War II, blacks with bachelor's, masters', law degrees or more were often forced to accept either menial jobs or government-controlled jobs such as postal worker or government clerk because of state and local racism. The Southern state and local governments

for many years had "white jobs" and "colored jobs," often putting ignorant whites in charge of black segregated schools. In Dixie public education, the prejudiced whites for many years permitted blacks to get education for menial jobs only.

The present South-dominated congressional leaders seek to reduce federal power so that race discrimination can be increased under state and local control.

The objectionable Republican leadership consists of Haley Barbour of Mississippi, chairman, Republican National Committee; Trent Lott, Mississippi, Senate Republican Majority Leader; Don Nickles, Oklahoma, Senate majority whip; Newt Gingrich, Georgia, Speaker of the House; Dick Army, Texas, House Republican Leader; and Tom DeLay, Texas, House Whip.

These men now set the nation's legislative agenda and sing Dixie tunes to which Dole and Thomas are dancing.

JAMES ALSBROOK is professor emeritus at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

## Message to Mel Watt: Become a conservative

By Andrew Cline  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

RALEIGH—Poor Mel Watt. He loves his job. It's one of the best jobs in America. But his only two chances of keeping it involve either Supreme Court perfidy or his own apostasy.

Mel Watt represents North Carolina's 12th Congressional District. On June 13, the U.S. Supreme Court, by a 5-4 decision, ruled Watt's district a violation of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states that "no state shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." North Carolina violated the equal protection clause when it used race as a "dominant and controlling" factor to create a district that was itself an unnecessary remedy to alleged past discrimination, the court ruled.

Watt, however, has other ideas. He believes that the majority of white Tar Heels are so inherently racist that they cannot bring themselves to vote for a black candidate. Therefore, to ensure that blacks get elected to office, the government must create special voting districts in which blacks outnumber whites. "There is substantial racially polarized voting in North Carolina," Watt told The Charlotte Observer after the ruling. He said that without racially segregated voting districts, blacks would be subjected to the same situation that existed when whites disallowed black voting. If Watt were correct, then he and Rep. Eva Clayton, who represents North Carolina's other majority-minority congressional district, would be the only elected black officials in North Carolina. They are not.

Ralph Campbell, who is black, defeated Franklin Freeman (now Correction Secretary), who is white, to win the Democratic nomination for auditor in 1992, then went on to defeat Republican J. Vernon Abernethy, who is white, to become state auditor. And, of course, Harvey Gantt twice defeated white challengers for the opportunity to take on Jesse Helms.

Of North Carolina's 170 state legislators, 24, or about 14 percent, are black. Though many were elected from urban districts in which minority voters make up a sizeable portion of the electorate, that is not the case for each of them. Nor is it the case that white conservatives automatically reject black candidates in favor of whites. Black Rep. Larry Linney, R-Buncombe, was elected by mostly middle class, white conservatives, as was Rep. Henry McCoy, R-Wake, who also is black (and happens to be my representative).

If white conservatives, like myself, who oppose all governmental preferences based on race can and have voted for black candidates over white ones, then Watt's argument is wrong, prima facie.

ANDREW CLINE is director of publications at the John Locke Foundation, a conservative think tank in Raleigh.

## Rebuilding by building black men

By Michael Session  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER  
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Born in Midway, Ala., Jesse Peterson learned first-hand the difficulties of growing up without a strong father figure. Raised by his grandmother, Peterson led a turbulent life in his youth that only resulted in an early adulthood filled with drug dependency and welfare assistance. Ironically, Jesse himself fathered illegitimate children, recycling his misery for others. At the age of 37, Jesse had decided he had enough. And so he found God and changed his life. Believing self-effort and moral commitment to be the twin keys to the regeneration of the black family — and hence the black community, Jesse founded in 1990 and currently presides over the Brotherhood Organization of a New Destiny. In Jesse's own words, BOND is committed to "rebuilding the black community by rebuilding the black man."

BOND is a non-profit grassroots organization formed for the purpose of addressing the ever-increasing problems encountered by black families and American communities at-large.

To solve the problems of the family, the problems have to be identified. Jesse does not hesitate in his diagnosis of what is wrong with many families:

"We believe this rebuilding process involves helping men to overcome the enslavements of denial and the deterioration that comes from living a non-committed life. We believe most men have failed their families and this is the cause of the breakdown of society. This failure comes out of men lacking character strength, self control and the moral values common to men of goodwill everywhere."

Instead of simply talking about the problems these families face, Jesse teaches people



how to overcome them. BOND holds weekly forums in order to discuss as a group how to overcome problems faced by families. Individual counseling is offered to help people find solutions to their problems. Political, social, economic, and spiritual networking is encouraged and opportunities for this type of networking are provided. Seminars are held to teach peo-

ple business, politics, economics, and education. Literature and audio/video material with information to help people realize the need to live a responsible and committed life are also offered.

What is BOND's message? The organization preaches that social and economic improvement comes naturally out of one's desire to improve one's self

and one's community. This should be guided by common sense and moral values. Husbands and fathers are taught to be responsible and committed to their wives and children. Wives and mothers are asked to do the same for their husbands and children. Young people are taught to seek the values that empower them with natural self-control, self-determination, self-reliance and the understanding to see those same values in others. BOND also stresses the responsibility of people and institutions in positions of power. Leaders are challenged to speak truthfully and live a credible life that reflects their words and allows their listeners to think and speak freely. Religious and non-religious organizations are asked to accept criticism graciously and conduct their activities with the goodwill and safety of the community in mind.

Most of Peterson's time is now spent running BOND and giving speeches. Previously, Jesse hosted a talk show in Oregon, and ran his own custodial business. As president of BOND, Jesse never took a dime for himself until this past year, as his time has been increasingly devoted to fulfilling BOND's goals. Everyone else affiliated with BOND from the instructors at the seminars to the secretary who keeps track of membership is strictly volunteer. The funding for BOND activities comes from grassroots donations and people who have become successful through BOND's guidance. As a former drug addict and welfare dependent, Jesse Peterson's background is one of hopelessness and despair. As president of BOND, he is forging a new future for himself and many others.

MICHAEL SESSION is regional coordinator for Project 21, a black conservative organization.

## When we stand up for children, we stand for selves

Marian  
Wright  
Edelman



This past June 1, hundreds of thousands of Americans stood for children at the Lincoln Memorial as an American community to commit ourselves to putting our children first, to building a just America that leaves no child behind, and to ensuring all our children healthy and safe passage to adulthood.

The important thing is that we stood together: red, white, brown, black and yellow; young and old; rich, middle-class, and poor; female and male; physically and mentally challenged; Jews, Gentiles, Christians, and Moslems; Republicans, Democrats, independents, liberals, moderates, and conservatives — each an inextricable part of the amazing sacred mosaic of

God's universe and of America's democracy. We came from every state and from over 3,700 sponsoring organizations, representing tens of millions of Americans.

We came by trains, planes, buses, and cars. Some of us walked, and some came by wheelchair. Some came with family, and some had no family. No one was excluded. Some of us who came are working so hard at two or three jobs to make ends meet that we spend little or no time with our children. And some of us are so desperate for one decent job and child care that we do not enjoy the time we do have with our children. Some of our children have access to the best health care in the world, and some of us live in fear every day that our children will get sick and be unable to see a doctor because we have no health insurance. Some of our children are tracked to Princeton and Yale,

and some of our children are tracked for prison and jail — for about the same cost but with vastly different dividends, for them and for America. What Stand For Children Day revealed is that while we are not all the same and do not agree on everything, we do agree on one crucial thing: That no one in America should harm children and that every one of us can do more to ensure that our children grow up safe, healthy, and educated, in nurturing families and caring communities.

Children depend on many adults — their families first and foremost, but also their neighbors, teachers, and religious and community leaders — to guide their way and support them on their journey to success and adulthood. That's why we stood for our children and families on June 1.

That day helped us realize that together we can give our

children back their childhoods, safety, and hope, and improve millions of young lives right now. It helped us see that we as a nation need to do more of what we know works for all our children, like every other wealthy, industrialized nation. We stood together because we know that government is only part of the answer and because we know we are the answer — individuals, families, community and religious leaders, and citizens who hold ourselves personally accountable and who hold our leaders publicly accountable with our voices and votes. As active citizens, we can make our leaders help rather than hinder our children, and make it easier rather than harder for families to raise healthy, safe, educated, and moral children.

We stood together because we realize that children require a seamless web of family, community, employer, and government

## Letters To The Post

### We support black churches

The writer is chairman of the board of elders, Central Christian Church.

We, the Board of Elders of Central Christian Church, Lexington, Kentucky, are outraged by the tragic epidemic of church burnings which has occurred in recent months. We are also concerned about the sickness manifested by such mean, mindless, and cowardly behavior. We are especially dismayed that so large a number of the destroyed buildings belong to African American congregations. We are equally concerned that voices of hatred, often manifesting themselves in racism and extreme social views, are at the root of some, if not many, of these despicable acts.

We urge all churches and other religious bodies to condemn these actions. We believe we need to join together in seeking both appropriate penalties for those responsible and generous resources to restore the church buildings. We commend the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA in providing leadership for all the churches in responding with positive, practical help.

We support the use of federal investigative resources, in conjunction with local efforts, in pursuing the causes of these burnings, the possibility of a conspiracy of religious and racial prejudice, and the prosecution of the responsible culprits.

We are grateful for those national and local leaders who have condemned these abhorrent acts. We continue to believe that with strong leadership it is possible to create a climate that will lead us beyond the racism, intolerance, and hatred that continue to exist in our nation.

Paul H. Jones  
Lexington, Ky.

South Carolina native MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN is president of the Children's Defense Fund, and a leader of the Black Community Crusade for Children. For more information, call (800) 663-4032.