

EDITORIALS

'You're A Part Of The Solution, Or You're A Part Of The Problem'

THE VIEWS OF THE WRITER'S ARE NOT ALWAYS THOSE OF THE PAPER'S



The Point Is...

by Albert A. Campbell

Who Are We?

A short while ago a friend and I were talking about some of the problems of Black people in this country. One in particular was the difficulty Blacks are now having with identity. We both arrived at similar conclusions; that being, Black people are thoroughly confused as to what they are, who they are, and what role they should play in this country.

It is commonly felt that if a Black advocates being a Black first and an American second, he is more than just a militant. He is a radical and possibly even a fool. While on the other hand, most other nationalities, or all I would say, are first from their mother land and second Americans.

Being confused, Blacks have tried to amalgamate into the American system, but most of all in doing so, they've also tried to lose their identity, which is quite impossible except for those who can "pass". Blacks struggle to be everything but what they really are.

If you look at other nationalities or ethnic groups, you'll find that they are first what they were born to be, and second, adopting some of the life styles where ever they happen to be. Jewish people do not attempt to deny that they are Jewish by melting into a society and losing their original identity. They simply strive to harmonize within the society but at the same time maintaining their identity. Likewise, the same holds true with the many other nationalities in this country, except Blacks. Our strong desire to be a part of this society influences us to melt into it, thereby taking on many false identities.

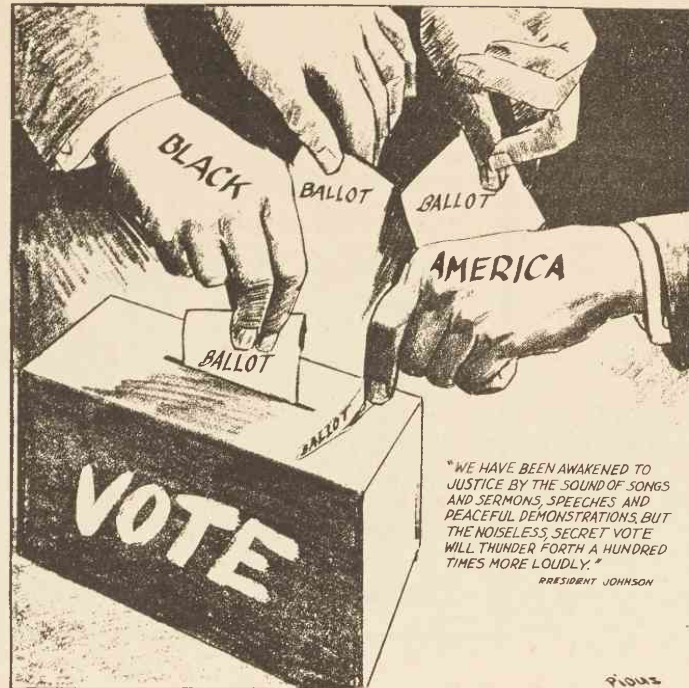
Cultures of other ethnic groups are brought to this country by them, and very strong efforts are exerted to maintain them, even in this country. Large sums of money are earned while exploiting the different cultures of foreign lands. Movies makers compell us to admire the traditional dance of another country or marvel at customers which are strange to us. Yet Black culture and customs have been ignored and in some cases ridiculed. And because of this, Blacks dislike, and in some cases are ashamed of their natural attributes. Consequently, while struggling to be a part of this society, we tend to deny some of our natural abilities.

Many nationalities are notorious for certain natural abilities, and all should be proud. Germans are known for brain power, while Japanese are known to be expert machinist. Right here let me point out, that everybody cannot be the same. Somebody has to be a dancer, somebody has to be an athlete, while others have to be whatever else the world needs.

There is nothing dishonorable or disgraceful about being a good anything. If your natural abilities lean toward athletics, than be a good athlete, and don't be mislead into believing that yours is the talent of a dummy. Dummies don't earn upwards of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year. Dummies don't become national, or even international celebrities. What ever your talent might be, if properly viewed and used, the rewards for them can be unlimited financially, emotionally, and any other way so desired.

"Black and Proud" has been a popular saying that I would like to see practiced.

THIS IS SOMETHING WE CAN DO FOR OURSELVES...VOTE



TO BE EQUAL

by Vernon F. Jordan, Jr.



Cities--The Hidden Issue

We've managed to get this far in the election campaign without anyone really pressing the big hidden issue -- the fate of the cities.

Except for the growing metropolises of the so-called "sunbelt", most major American cities are experiencing loss of jobs, deterioration of housing stock, poor transportation facilities, high rates of inner-city poverty, and extreme fiscal crisis.

Large section of some cities look like bombed-out wastelands as housing abandonment spreads. Crime makes many neighborhoods unsafe and the schools are laying off teachers in the face of the special needs of poor pupils.

Such a situation calls for a Domestic Urban Marshall Plan that would harness the vast powers of the federal government, state and local governments and the private sector for a full-scale effort to save the cities and restore urban vitality.

But neither candidate has endorsed such a program, or even come close to it. Caution seems to be the byword, as both candidates fear scaring off voters with proposals for bold new programs.

But this assumes a conservation among the electorate that's not justified. True, many public opinion polls show more people willing to call themselves "conservative." But at the same time most people favor social programs like national health insurance and expanded efforts to cut unemployment.

One national poll on federal priorities found only 3 percent concerned about "excessive spending on social problems." The same people who parrot the common complaints about Washington and "big government" also say they want the government to do something about jobs, housing and other issues that affect their lives.

So there's little reason for candidates to misread the polls and assume they've got to soft peddle the issues that really concern people. Both the candidates are being cautious, saying that only a little tinkering will do the trick and shrink from programs of the scale of a Domestic Urban Marshall Plan. Meanwhile, supporters of both imply that once the

elections are behind us the winner will take a bolder stance.

But why mistrust the people? Everyone knows that poverty is eating away at the cities like a cancer, and that the numbers of the poor sharply increased last year -- an additional 2.5 million people became poor, largely through loss of jobs and the end of their unemployment insurance coverage.

Not enough people are aware that the federal government takes a disproportionate amount of urban resources in taxes and then redistributes much of it to other sectors. Hard pressed New York City, with 7.6 percent of the population paid 11.4 percent of all federal income taxes in 1974 and now is shutting down hospitals, schools and day care centers.

The federal government has been running an unofficial Marshall Plan program for the suburbs for years, with road-building programs, housing mortgage subsidies, and tax breaks, and the private sector has cooperated by a wholesale movement of plants and offices away from the inner-city.

No one labelled this as a special program, but that's the result of a multitude of federal and private actions. As the financial magazine, Business Week, put it: "Restoring the cities to self-sufficiency" would mean "the kind of investment that has reproduced pieces of the city, including whole business districts, in the suburbs over the past several decades. Neither Carter nor Ford is talking about such investment. Anything less is not likely to make much difference to cities."

The candidates know this. They know that whoever wins the election will have to deal with an urban crisis that can largely determine the future of the nation.

So why not level with us now? Why ask people to go the polls unsure of how the candidates will deal with this hidden issue? The candidate who goes to an inner-city slum to see first-hand what's happening to our cities and uses it as a forum to unveil his plans for a Marshall Plan for urban America will do more than spark a lacklustre campaign, he'll take a giant step toward victory in November.

N. C. Department Of Human Resources

State Recruits Physicians

RALEIGH -- Everyday, North Carolinians are finding it increasingly difficult to secure the services of a physician. Quite often the problem lies in the physician's inability to add new patients to an already over expanded practice, or the lack of a physician or enough physicians to serve a community.

The N.C. Office of Rural Health Services is trying to ease the problem through its Physician Location Assistance Program. According to Paul Harrison, physician recruitment coordinator, the program is designed to recruit physicians and assist them in locating in a place in which they want to live and work. To his knowledge, North Carolina has the only state operated physician recruitment program in the nation.

Harrison is assisted by Kristina Zipin and another part-time employee. Since none of the staff members are North Carolina natives, each can relate to interested physicians what attracted them to the state.

"We are basically interested in recruiting physicians to communities with a population of 35,000 or less," stated Harrison. "But we will place a doctor in contact with the proper local authority if he is interested in settling in a more metropolitan area."

The physician recruitment program has been in existence for nearly two years. During the first year of operation, the program recruited six physicians to the state. An additional 32 physicians were recruited to North Carolina this past year and the program is currently assisting 60 different communities seeking doctors.

The program recruits physicians through two different means: by advertising in national medical journals and by mail to second and third year primary care residents. When a response is received from a doctor, a member of

the state office contacts the physician to gather basic information. Based on this data, several communities are selected and background information on each one is forwarded to the interested doctor. Unless the office receives earlier correspondence, they follow-up with a telephone call two weeks after the information is mailed. If the physician expresses an interest in a particular community, the physician recruitment office contacts a community representative and the community issues an invitation to the doctor for a visit. Once an invitation has been extended and accepted, the physician recruitment office steps in again and makes whatever arrangements are necessary.

The physician recruitment office places its emphasis on recruiting primary care physicians such as obstetricians/gynecologists, pediatricians, internal medicine, family practice or emergency room physicians as opposed to dentists, optometrists, etc.

Last year, the state office had approximately 1,800 responses to advertisements and letters. On several occasions, the physician recruitment office has been able to recruit husband/wife teams or a partnership practice.

If a community changes its mind about recruiting a physician, the Office of Rural Health Services has some alternatives to offer. The community may wish to seek designation as a rural health clinic site or receive assistance from the National Health Service Corps which works closely with Rural Health Services. In some cases, the students participating in the Educational Loan Program for Medical and Related Studies of the Office of Rural Health Services wish to locate in rural areas and the office can direct them to communities requesting medical care.

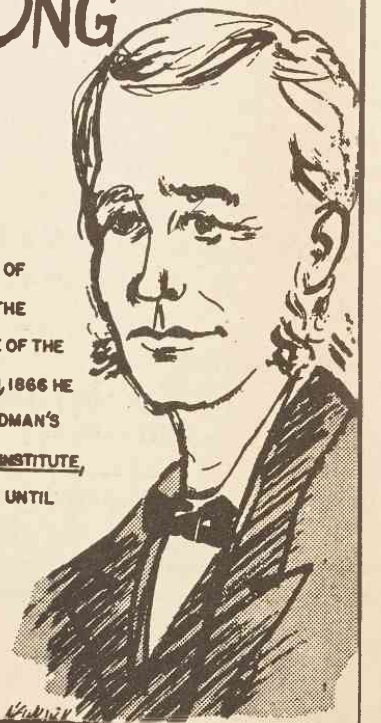
Things You Should Know

Samuel Chapman

ARMSTRONG

1839 — 1893

BORN ON THE HAWAIIAN ISLAND OF MAUI — A UNION GENERAL IN THE CIVIL WAR, HE COMMANDED SOME OF THE FIRST NEGRO TROOPS / IN MARCH, 1866 HE BECAME A LEADER OF THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU / HE FOUNDED HAMPTON INSTITUTE, VA. IN 1868 AND SERVED THERE UNTIL HIS DEATH!



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