



The Confederate flag flies in Portland.



Senator George McGovern meets the press during campaign stop in Portland. Directly behind the Senator is Dr. Robert Hughley, and next to Dr. Hughley, Blaine Whipple, McGovern's state chairman.



Wally Priestly presents his views to a candidate's fair.



Senator Morse discusses the issues with Corine Winchester, Sylvester O'Neal, and Lewis Winchester.



Senator Morse visits in Unthank (Malcolm X) Park during a busy Sunday in Albina.



Trailblazer Stan MacKenzie attends opening of McGovern's Albina headquarters.



Senator Wayne Morse enjoys a cup of coffee with Mrs. Clarine Smith and Tim Stafford during coffee hour at Bethel.



An alert secret service agent guards the candidate.

A funny thing happened on the way to McGovern

by Carlos Russell

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A few weeks ago, I extolled the virtues of Senator McGovern. More than that, I committed myself to give some of my time to his efforts. For me this was a risky political position since I am a Black man, and an advocate of Black political and economic power, was taking the step of supporting a white man over a Black woman.

Cry shame! Heresy! Or what have you. I suspect that this is the dilemma facing many Blacks. But none-the-less, I felt then, as I do now, that Senator McGovern is the person who, given the political positions he has taken, could best deliver for the Black community.

Why do I say this? Well, if we look at the Democratic hopefuls for Blacks, there are only two candidates, Shirley Chisholm and George McGovern.

Lindsay is out... thank God. Hubert Humphrey carries Johnson as an albatross... the war around his neck, and is a tarnished, one-time liberal, who should be put to pasture. He still practices the politics of yesterday. His voice, a hollow drum. Color him faded.

Muskie... the light that faded. Color him amber. McCarthy... one issue, one song, one poem. Color him blue.

George Wallace... S.O.B. Color him "sheetless."

Scoop Jackson... do I have to? Color him green.

So now we are left with Shirley and George. Shirley is Black, articulate, charismatic, and would have us believe that there is a programmatic component to her candidacy. But as much as I searched, all I hear is James Brown's "Talking Loud and Saying Nothing."

Almost every issue is reduced to male vs. female... vaginal politics, so to speak. As Assemblywoman, she authored no major bills, and as a Congresswoman, the same. Also, Shirley was not in Gary. Can you imagine? 10,000 Blacks and the one Black candidate remains in Florida.

Further, while it is true that the Congressional Black Caucus is no paragon of existence, witness the disclaimers of Gary and their unwillingness to stick to the game plan which they set.

There was Louis Stokes in Boston at the forum on "What Our National Priorities Should Be," saying, "While it is true that we were the initiators of the Gary Convention, the members of the caucus who participate did so as individuals."

"Thus the convention can not bind the caucus as a body." Still Mrs. Chisholm by her lonesome, bolted, and on her own decided to run, using her favorite weapon, accusing them of chauvinism and having other commitments.

No, I cannot support Shirley. Gary was the clincher. I refused to be taken for granted. She has been too sure of the Black vote. Skin color is not enough.

Why McGovern? Taken by him so far falls squarely in the ball park of the Black position. He supports the liberation struggles in Africa. Is for a guaranteed annual income: one

of the first, if not, the first to say so. Would cut moneys for Portugal and Spain. Believes in reparations for Blacks and would suggest a "master plan" for the ghettos. Was first against the war. Believes that the real war is against rats, lead poison, dope pushers, abandoned buildings, despair and hopelessness. No, his record, so far, is really unbelievable.

But a Funny Thing Did Happen on My Way... I Stopped! Suddenly after two meetings at his New York headquarters, that putrid aroma of white paternalism perfume permeated the air.

The New Democratic Coalition vintage. For the uninitiated it is an attitude which says "We know the Black community, and how to deal with them."

Reform politics as practiced by NDC and some so-called liberal whites is to regular politics what neo-colonialism is to colonialism. In my book, the politics of NDC is vulturistic. They are paper tigers; hanging on to McGovern, hoping to gain legitimacy and credibility if and when he wins. Remember, they supported Goldberg.

The clincher for me was the revelation that Senator McGovern on his trip to New York to speak to the Negro Women's Hunger Convocation, was to tour the Bronx a tour that took three months to plan, yet his people in New York had done so without considering a tour in Harlem and the mayoral politics of New York.

Strangely the putrid air is not something that is said for this is always milk-soppy, but rather that nothing which is advantageous to Blacks, ever really seems to happen. It seems that Blacks must always wait for white sanction.

We also tried to get the whites to consider visiting 116th or 125th Streets. But we were told that "it couldn't be done, plans were already laid out... may create confusion." We then suggested that it would have been good for the

Senator to express sympathy to Minister Farrakhan and the Muslims for the violation of their sacred temple of worship by the New York City police, since the right of worship is universal. Some of the whites felt that this may be interpreted as opportunistic or would present special problems... too risky, etc.

I smiled and remembered the quiet attribute to Saul Alinsky: "The liberal is a person who leaves when the fight begins."

This thought triggered another quote attributable to Dick Gregory, "The liberal is the guy who would hang me from a lower branch."

It was then that a funny thing happened to me, I said to myself, check out these white folks and what power do Blacks really have in the New York, McGovern campaign?

Do they have power nationally? Rumor has it that Yancy Martin, McGovern's H.N.L.C. really has no power. Is this true? It seems to me that the only reason for supporting anyone at this time is that the candidate supports the National Black Political Agenda, and a role in all the decision-making processes which would affect the lives of Blacks.

Specifically, in New York that would mean that NDC would not be the sole arbiter of McGovern's candidacy, they have their not-so-hidden agenda. And that Blacks at headquarters, who-so-ever they be, be given the lever which will allow them to deliver for Blacks.

Coalition denotes equals. If Blacks are to participate, they can not be errand boys, "Are you running with me Senator?" If this happens, then it would suggest to those Blacks who like McGovern and are willing to help should go fishing, for here in New York it's the same old same old.

(Carlos Russell is Dean of the School of Contemporary Studies at Brooklyn College and a member of the American and a member of the Amsterdam News Editorial Board.)

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