

Vote November 7th- it makes a difference

by Norman Segel
Executive Director
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This year, twenty-five million 18 to 25 year old Americans are eligible to vote for the first time in a national election. But extending the right to vote to the young does not mean they will vote -- or even register.

It is no secret that many millions of young people are alienated from the nation's politics, antagonistic toward its governments, and indifferent to its future. Many ask the question "why should I vote? It doesn't make a difference -- my vote doesn't count."

The alienation and indifference are indeed great. Yet, we cannot afford to sit back and allow things to "just happen." We must and should have a say in what happens to our lives and what happens to the communities we live in. America has many problems that must be confronted; racism, war, poverty, sexism, pollution and dishonesty are but a few.

The vote is a tool, the function of which if understood correctly, can help us confront and deal with these problems. The vote is a means for an individual to express his or her beliefs; a tool which has, in the past, and can in the present and future, bring about change.

The vote does make a difference. Black citizens in Greene County, Alabama and Hancock County, Georgia have brought about dramatic changes in their local government because they



Wife in Name Only

During their courtship, Hannah spoke soulfully to Jim about the joys of raising a family. But right after the marriage, she changed her tune. In fact, she refused to have sexual relations with him.

Finally Jim sued for an annulment. "She is a wife in name only," he complained in court. "She deliberately misled me with all that talk about raising a family. The marriage was based on fraud."

"Maybe I was less than honest," Hannah conceded. "But if people had to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth before the wedding, there would be mighty few marriages."



Nevertheless, the court granted Jim an annulment. The judge said Hannah's deception involved no minor matter but an essential element of matrimony itself.

It is true that the law will overlook a certain amount of what it calls "the deceptive arts" in courtship. But deception about the intent to have sexual relations is usually considered too vital to be condoned.

This is so even if the subject of sex is never mentioned before the wedding. Courts say that the sexual relationship, even if not discussed, is nonetheless considered by common consent to be implied in the contract of marriage.

On the other hand, lying about something less important will not ordinarily justify an annulment. For example:

A disgruntled wife sought a decree on the ground that her spouse had lied about having a college education. But the judge decided this was not adequate grounds to annul the marriage.

"Surely every representation leading up to a marriage cannot be material," said the judge. "The fact that a brunette turned to a blonde overnight, or that the beautiful teeth were discovered to be false, or that the ruddy pink complexion gave way suddenly to pallor, or that a woman misstated her age, would lead no court to annul the marriage for fraud. The fraud must relate to something vital."

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Diggs will head D.C. committee

Some people would rather have the House District of Columbia Committee die than be taken over by a Black person in the next session, but such will not be the case, reported informed Capitol Hill sources last week.

The remarks came in response to statements attributed to Representative Joel T. Broyhill (GOP-Va.) that the legitimacy of the Committee had to be called into question. This was generally taken as a threat to scrap the District Committee which should be carried in the next session by Representative Charles Diggs, a Black Michigan Democrat.

In the past, the Committee has been under the chairmanship of Representative John L. McMillan of South Carolina. However, last month the veteran Democrat of 24 years was defeated in his bid for re-election (with the Black vote playing a significant role). As a result, Diggs will assuredly ascend to the Committee chairmanship by virtue of seniority standing during the next session.

The Committee has traditionally held decisive power over many of the affairs of this city, which still has no real vote in national affairs and a city council chosen by the President of the United States.

Last year the Committee contained 16 Democrats and 10 Republicans. Eight of those persons were from the South and three -- Ronald Dellums of California, Walter

Fauntroy of the District and Diggs (all Democrats) -- were Black.

Observers here who support Home Rule for Washington acknowledged that although there is some chance that Committee assignments in the 93rd Congressional session could stack the group against any progressive chairmanship Diggs might hope to wield, there is an equal chance that just the opposite could occur.

In some circles, it has been speculated that heading the Committee might become too time consuming a task for Diggs, who already chairs the House Sub-Committee on Africa. But the Michigan legislator has already said that should he take over the District Committee, he would seek out a highly competent staff to assist him in the work.

If the Committee has been legitimate up to now, say Black Capitol Hill sources, it should continue to be legitimate, at least until a Home Rule bill is passed. That, predict sources close to Fauntroy, should occur in the next Congressional session.

"It's just like the matter of bussing," said one Black official. "When I was bussed past white schools to get to a Black school for segregation, it was alright. But now, bussing white kids past white schools to get to integrated schools, there's a lot of fuss. Now, all of a sudden, it's a big issue."

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Black voters favor McGovern

"Although national public opinion polls show Black voters favor George McGovern over Richard Nixon 4 to 1 and although there are now more Blacks registered than ever before, there is evidence that fewer and fewer Blacks vote in Presidential elections every four years," an independent political research firm said this week.

The firm, Political Associates, headed by Georgia State Representative Julian Bond, reported that a recent Gallup poll gave McGovern a 4 to 1 lead over Nixon among Black voters.

"The support Blacks currently give McGovern nearly matches the average vote Blacks have given Democratic candidates in national elections since 1952," George Gallup reported.

"The vote of Blacks for the Democratic (presidential) candidates in the last five elections averages 77 per

cent," the Gallup report said.

"These figures and predictions must be encouraging to McGovern supporters and disheartening to the Nixonites," Political Associates said in a pre-election report on potential Black voting strength and current trends, "but a closer look at the declining percentages of eligible voters among Blacks who actually vote in Presidential elections would startle anyone interested in Black participation in American decision making."

A smaller percentage of registered and eligible Blacks actually voted in Northern cities in the 1960's than in the 1940's. Southern Blacks, who have had greater difficulty in winning the franchise, tend to vote in larger percentages than their Northern counterparts, and in rare instances, are registered in higher percentages than are Northern

Blacks.

"In 1968," Political Associates reported, "13 per cent fewer registered Blacks than whites voted for President. Had these voters participated in the 1968 election and split their votes in direct proportion to those Blacks who did vote, Hubert Humphrey and not Richard Nixon would now be President of the United States."

Low political participation and low income and education levels are parallels, Political Associates said. As long as disproportionate numbers of Blacks live below or near the poverty line, low voting profiles will result.

"In conclusion," Political Associates said, "black politicians and Black political activists of any party must make a special election period effort to insure a maximum Black vote."

With Ron Hendren

A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON

RICHARD NIXON: THE MEN BEHIND THE MAN

WASHINGTON—In one way—re-elected or not and like it or not—Richard Nixon will surely be remembered as one of the most effective Presidents since Roosevelt.

In four years he has (1) apparently come very close to achieving peace of his sort in the Vietnam conflict which has plagued this country for twelve years; (2) thawed relations with Red China, America's bitterest and most feared enemy for the last quarter of a century; and (3) at the same time eased tensions with Russia, whose leaders aren't even speaking with the Chinese, and who, along with the Chinese, have been directly aiding the North Vietnamese.

Those three accomplishments in themselves mark Nixon as a man of considerable talent, a diplomat to be reckoned with in the affairs of the world.

On the other hand, Nixon has proved astonishingly inept here at home. He has cloistered himself in the White House, surrounded by one of the most brazen and high-handed collection of knuckleheads, klutzes and even crooks to be assembled at one time in the White House in this century. And what is equally remarkable, he refuses to rid himself of the bums, even when faced with irrefutable evidence of their disservice to him and to the democratic process.

Less fortunate still, the President's poor judgment about personal advisors extends as well to his choices for judges and cabinet members, for he has:

—appointed a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who apparently tries to tell the Speaker of the House of Representatives what laws should and should not be passed.

—appointed a Secretary of Agriculture who within months after his confirmation perpetrated the Great Grain Robbery of all time, and exhibited his scorn for the small farmers whose interests he is supposed to represent.

—appointed a Secretary of Commerce, now his campaign finance chairman, who collects millions of dollars from undisclosed sources, funnels thousands through obscure Mexican bank accounts and defunct corporations, supports a spy operation from a small fortune stashed in his office safe, and has the unmitigated gall to maintain that the whole affair is completely proper.

The mind boggles. Washington hasn't witnessed anything like it since Ulysses S. Grant floundered in the near total corruption of his staff and friends 100 years ago. But the country re-elected Grant, and Nixon, with a 25 point lead, seems headed toward his four more years as well.

If so, we can only hope he will have the good sense to clean house after the victory celebration is over, and find some advisors who will help him devote serious, innovative attention to the problems here at home which have gone begging for the last decade.

But it's a hollow hope, not voiced with much assuredness, for the only people who seem to have Mr. Nixon's ear are those who ought to be kicked out on their

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Mike Walsh

has earned
your vote.
Here's why.

He has campaigned harder than any candidate in the history of the third congressional district.

Mike Walsh has met and talked to and listened to over seventy thousand people.

Seventy thousand people!

He has been going hard since January. Door to door. Person to person. Walking the district.

He now knows what the people want and need. Mike Walsh is concerned about the issues that concern you.

And he has demonstrated he has the energy and the interest to give his full attention to the problems of the third district.

Edith Green has been in office for eighteen years.

She has concentrated on higher education. Now it is time to elect a congressman who pays attention to the district.

Mike Walsh
He'll do more for you.
Here.
At home.



Mike Walsh was born in Portland and grew up in the Irvington district. He attended Portland University and earned a scholarship award. He went on to Georgetown University Law School in Washington, D.C. and worked on Capitol Hill as a congressional assistant.

Mike returned to Portland and was appointed law clerk to former Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, William C. Perry. He has been a practicing attorney in Portland for twelve years.

Mike is married and has three daughters. He has been an active leader in many community projects.

Paid by Workers for Mike Walsh for Congress Committee, Jim Larpenteur, Jr., Chairman, 1181 N.E. 39th Ave., Portland, Oregon.