

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

**MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.**

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## As I See It Implications of the recent elections for Blacks

by Lenwood G. Davis

Perhaps the only bright spot in the recent elections for Black people was the election of three Blacks to Congress - Barbara Jordan, Congresswoman from Texas; Yvonne Brathwaite, Congresswoman from California; and Andrew Young, Congressman from Georgia. There were numerous Blacks elected to state and local positions all over the country (mostly in the South).

Many Blacks obviously did not vote in the elections for various reasons. Apparently the Republican Party did benefit from the Black vote. About 11% of the Black vote was cast for the President as compared to the 5% that Mr. Nixon received in 1968.

I would not be surprised if President Nixon appointed a Black to his cabinet. He also will probably appoint a number of Blacks to numerous Sub-Cabinet positions. Mr. Nixon will not be making these appointments because he has a change of heart. Rather be-

cause he does "owe" us more consideration in this election than in the 1968 election. Black support was definitely more visible in this recent election. The President, no doubt, would like to change his image of being insensitive to the needs and aspirations of Black people in the United States. I predict that we will see a "changed" Richard M. Nixon in the next four years.

We historians and political observers had not given Mr. Nixon a high rating as a President. And no President, obviously, wants to go down in history with a mediocre image. Mr. Nixon is well aware of his standing with historians. Therefore, he will try and change his image. He most definitely wants history to treat him kindly. Fortunately, he has four more years to change his image. We historians will be observing and recording his actions closely.

Mr. Nixon's foreign policy will be treated kindly by his-



historians. His domestic policy leave something to be desired. Hence, he must devote most of his resources to deal with its race relations, poverty, inflation, unemployment, welfare, civil liberties, confidence in government, governmental spending and surveillance.

NOTE: Part II of "Implications of the Recent Elections for Blacks" will continue next week.



### The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

### Civil rights phantom

Mr. Kim H. Whitmore, Administrative Assistant to Attorney Lee Johnson, in his letter to the editor printed below, implies that Mr. Johnson is not what we said he was -- that he is not "sitting on" civil rights cases. Then we ask, "Who is?" Maybe the guilty one is the phantom!

For, if such a phantom "sitter" does exist -- Who is he? It is the duty of the Attorney General to write charges on cases certified to him by the Bureau of Labor. If the phantom can delay the process for six months without the Attorney General even being aware that he is derelict in his duties, he is a powerful phantom. If he can speak with the Attorney General's words in advising blacks to drop their cases without the Attorney General hearing, then he is an ingenious phantom!

Black people and the people of Oregon need to know what has happened to these cases. In the name of justice, civil rights cases should receive top priority since they involve the jobs, homes and lives of individuals.

Maybe the Attorney General is not the "Sitter", but someone in the office certainly is. We call that person the civil rights phantom. It is he who has accomplished the sheer genius of taking over the Department of Justice. This should not be allowed to happen in the State of Oregon, founded by free men.

So we urge Mr. Whitman to come forward and identify the phantom or give the Oregon State Police information to aid the search. The phantom must be found! The phantom can surely not be the Attorney General who was elected to be the Champion of Justice, the defender of the Law and the guardian of the Truth. Catch the phantom and convert him for Justice's sake!

Hotline Northeast is a telephone service for people in Northeast Portland to receive emergency help, information, and personal counseling. The hotline is open during hours when most city agencies are closed. We answer calls during the following hours:

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### The National climate has changed since '68

by Benjamin E. Mays

When Martin Luther King, Jr. came out against the Vietnam War just a few months before he was assassinated in April, 1968, most people were shocked and stunned that Martin Luther would dare criticize his country in this manner.

He was the first national character to do this. Now senators, governors, educators, ministers and candidates for the Presidency are saying, "Get out of Vietnam." Some black leaders were

among the first to criticize Martin Luther.

But by the time the national campaign came off in the fall of 1968, Vietnam had become an issue in the campaign and it was respectable to criticize Johnson for his conduct of the war. There is no doubt in my mind that Hubert Humphrey was defeated in part because he was accused of being Johnson's man in the conduct of the war.

He did not repudiate Johnson's conduct of the war to

satisfy the large number of people needed to make him a winner. Then too the Chicago Democratic National Convention left a bad taste in the people's mouth. Nixon took advantage of the situation and promised the people he had a secret plan to end the war, which has not been revealed sufficiently to end the war in almost four years.

In 1972, people are not upset about Vietnam. Nixon's law and order platform has not reduced crime. Unemployment had not decreased, inflation is still with us, and the National deficit continues to increase. The climate has changed. Why?

Although the war has not ended, the President has led the people to believe that he is doing his best to end the war and that the war is near the end. He is convincing because all ground soldiers

except 27,000 have been taken from Vietnam. The people do not see that on the sea and in the air the war has been escalated with some 100,000 air men, Navy and Marine men still fighting the war and Hanoi is being destroyed.

There are also some 43,000 engineers and technicians on the scene. It amounts to this: not as many Americans are being killed and what happens to North Vietnam the vast majority of America couldn't care less. The President is so sure of his ground now that he can boldly say that he cannot say just when the bombing will cease -- certainly not until our prisoners of war are released, others accounted for and the invasion into South Vietnam stops.

The American mind has changed radically on the war

since 1968. Nixon could continue the war indefinitely. After all, the people who are being bombed are not white. It might make a difference were the North Vietnamese white.

There is a conservative trend in the nation. The conservative trend expresses itself in the attitude toward the war, busing, unemployment, the hiring of people on their merit despite inequality in opportunities, the decrease in concern about providing better housing for all the people, and the appointment of constructionists to the Supreme Court Bench.

If this trend continues there will be a great reaction in the years ahead. The nation tends to take on the attitude of the President of the United States.

### Letters to the Editor

#### Johnson innocent?

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Having been an interested reader of your newspaper for some months now, I was concerned by the treatment the Attorney General was afforded in your recent news story and editorial.

Your news story headline reads: "Smith accuses Johnson: Civil Rights delay." No where in this "news story" does the reporter present Mr. Johnson's views in response to the Smith accusations. Generally, even the most blatantly biased "news" presentations give a few column inches in response to admitted accusations.

The second treatment which concerned me was the fact that, to our knowledge, your office never asked Mr. Johnson if he would like an editorial interview. Again generally speaking, newspapers endorsing candidates for political office interview both party representatives as a matter of courtesy.

Hopefully someday you and Mr. Johnson could get together and listen to each others views. I suggest this because I am confident that at the conclusion of any such session you would be pleasantly surprised.

Very truly yours,  
Kim H. Whitman  
Administrative Assistant

(EDITORS NOTE: Our news story of November 2, 1972 -- SMITH ACCUSES JOHNSON: CIVIL RIGHTS DELAY was not based entirely on our conversation with Mr. Smith and the documents he provided. We have watched Mr. Johnson's actions over the past four years and have talked to Belton Hamilton, Ruth Spencer, Russ Rogers and others who were either involved with the Civil Rights Division or were complainants in Civil Rights matters

#### Thank you

Dear Rev. Henderson:

I wish to extend congratulations from the Staff of MEDIA on your second anniversary of the Portland Observer. Although new to Portland, I have learned that your paper has provided a much-needed service to the community.

I look forward to reading the Observer in the future and wish you continued success.

Sincerely,  
Joseph W. Bostic

#### Thanks

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Congratulations! So glad you have made it. Have enjoyed the paper this past year.

Pray the Lord will help you to be God's Channel for right in this community.

Sincerely,  
Evelyn Collins



With Ron Hendren

A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON

#### THE SOUTHERN STRATEGY: IS IT REALLY WORKING?

By Ron Hendren

RALEIGH, N.C.—If there is one area in the country where President Nixon's coattails appear to have been long on the surface, it is this southern state which elected a Republican governor for the first time since Reconstruction and a Republican U.S. Senator for the first time in 72 years.

The President carried North Carolina by a better than two-to-one margin, pretty much as expected even though the state is considered as progressive as any in the South. (Perhaps best known among its recent leaders is former Governor Terry Sanford, himself a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President this year. Now president of Duke University, he was the first southern governor to come out for John F. Kennedy in 1960, and was nationally acclaimed for his contributions to progressive education in the state in the early 1960's.)

This year, however, North Carolina elected conservative television commentator Jesse Helms to the Senate. A man who is so far to the right he thinks President Nixon is a liberal, Helms nonetheless, turned prodigal son and embraced the President religiously in the closing weeks of the campaign, a move which many say was the prime cause of Democratic candidate Nick Galifianakis' defeat. ("If you're going to vote for President Nixon, it makes sense to send Jesse Helms to the Senate," his ads proclaimed.)

But even here, the President's pulling power was not what it appears to be at first glance. In the May Democratic primary, Galifianakis, a young congressman, defeated Senator B. Everett Jordan, who had held the seat for nearly fifteen years and is one of North Carolina's best loved political figures in recent history. A progressive (earlier this year Jordan voted for the end-the-war amendments and opposed the Lockheed loan, something few southern senators dared dream of doing), Jordan gave Galifianakis no issues other than his age—he is 75—and the fact

that he had undergone cancer surgery about the time the campaign was gearing up.

Neither issue was valid. The Senator's strength, physical and mental, was and is remarkable, and his operation was an unqualified success. Nonetheless, Galifianakis ran on the age-health issue and many North Carolina voters became convinced that Jordan was a sick man. Thus Galifianakis won the nomination, but alienated many Democrats in the process by his tactics. And even though Jordan magnanimously supported his former opponent, financially and otherwise, it wasn't enough. Too many voters just didn't bother to split their tickets and give Galifianakis the "penance vote" he had counted on.

Now, many observers are convinced that Jordan would have beaten the Republican candidate even though the state went so heavily for Nixon. Some even think Jordan might have carried in the Democratic candidate for governor, who instead went down to defeat along with Galifianakis, something which has not happened in this heavily Democratic state for a century.

Thus the President's pulling power, while it undoubtedly played an important role in North Carolina, was quite likely not the deciding factor. The state is Democratic at heart and is likely to stay that way, the President's Southern Strategy notwithstanding.

And North Carolina, traditionally a leader in the South, is likely to resume that role four years hence by electing a Democratic governor. As for Jesse Helms, the man who thinks Nixon is a liberal, he is likely to be one of those rare southern phenomena in politics—a one-term Senator.

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