



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

Save the NAACP

The NAACP is in serious trouble. Its leader, Roy Wilkins, who has served courageously and loyally for all of these years is old and tired and has lost the confidence of many of the members.

The NAACP is governed by a self-perpetuating small group of old men who have managed to retain tight control. The election and convention processes are such that it has been impossible to break this control. Younger, more militant people have been pushed aside or forced out.

The organization has been in serious financial trouble for several years, partially due to lack of proper business management. Now it is faced with a judgement of \$1.25 million in a Mississippi suit.

In the branches, we see much of the same situation. The same few individuals have served as board members and officers for years and years. It is difficult to judge whether this is because they do not welcome new people or because new people do not offer to help. Whatever the cause, any organization needs new members, new ideas and new leadership. Sometimes the existing members have to get out and encourage others to participate.

Some branches are busy fighting serious problems, but others just exist.

In Oregon, we have seen expansion. There are new branches in Salem, Eugene and Corvallis and as it is with new organizations, these branches are active. In Portland, there is, of course, some "behind the scenes" work, but we see no real effort at the basic problems: school segregation, discrimination in employment, housing, police brutality, etc. The Portland Branch must have a program, but it is silent.

Do we need the NAACP? Yes, we do. For seventy years the NAACP has led the struggle for civil rights for all people. The NAACP brought an end to lynching; it did the legal work for Brown vs the Board of Education and the school desegregation suits that followed; it fought for equality in the military; it fought the Jim Crow accommodations; it fought for civil rights legislation; and it defended Blacks charged with criminal acts and those arrested because of civil rights demonstrations.

If the NAACP had not led the way we would not have the Civil Rights laws we have now; we would not have the Black elected officials; we would not have the opportunities that we do have.

The NAACP has been a great force for justice in this nation. It still strikes fear in the hearts of White America. It must be saved.

How can we save the NAACP? This must be a two fold effort. The Black community must come forward and offer financial assistance and participation. We must be willing to give credit where it is due. On the other hand, the NAACP, both nationally and locally, must accept this effort.

Roy Wilkins must resign as must every branch officer who is too tired or too busy to do the job. The rules must be changed to encourage growth and new ideas to meet the changing times. Young people must be encouraged to belong and they must see a purpose in their belonging.

We are in an election year. We hope to have a new administration next January. This will be an administration that is willing to seek advice and to respond to the Black community. We cannot afford to begin this new era without strong leadership from the NAACP.

Youth need juvenile court

The Legislative Interim Committee on the Judiciary has decided not to consider lowering the age at which juvenile offenders should go to adult court. The proposal had been made that the age should be lowered from eighteen to fourteen.

We see this as unnecessary legislation and legislation that could harm many young people. The juvenile court is properly the place for young people. Many youngsters of this age become involved in criminal activity because of home or peer influences. Many, with proper guidance, can be redirected and can live happy and useful lives.

Putting a young person before the adult court not only brands him as a criminal and gives him the accompanying publicity, but it increases the chance that his fate will be determined by incompetent legal advice. It denies to him the right to counselling and treatment that he should receive from the juvenile court. It puts all the blame squarely on the young person and does not consider the responsibility of parents or relatives.

The public is already protected from the few juveniles who commit serious felonies. The juvenile court can remand an individual sixteen or older to adult court if it thinks this is advisable. It is best that this decision be made on an individual basis.

Juvenile crime is reaching serious dimensions in this country and the rehabilitation of young criminals needs some close attention. There has never been enough money put into determining how to prevent criminal activity or how to treat the offender.

One thing we do know -- unless this nation can come to terms with the causes of crime -- discrimination, poverty, neglect, corruption -- we will see a great increase in crime among juveniles and among adults.

Another Point of View Carter's debt to Young

From The MICHIGAN CHRONICLE

Jimmy Carter has publicly acknowledged his political indebtedness to Representative Andrew Young of Georgia. Indeed, he should. It was the word of Andy Young that most Blacks leaned on in supporting the former Georgia Governor in the primary battles. Andy said Carter could be trusted and was worthy of support and that gave the Blacks the assurance that they needed.

As the deputy to Dr. Martin Luther King, the Congregational minister who now represents Georgia's Fifth District in the Congress, Andy Young won the hearts and minds of all of us during the turbulent '60s. A gentle warrior with malice toward no one, Black or white, Andy built a solid reputation for integrity and total commitment to social justice.

In backing Jimmy Carter, Andy has put all of his goodwill on the line. We are pleased that Jimmy Carter seems to appreciate this fact. Let us hope that he never forgets it.

Gun control

by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Copley News Service

There has been much debate recently on gun control. However, no substantial gun control measures have ever been instituted. There seem to be several harbingers of change which indicate the need for serious consideration of gun controls.

Last July, a slaying took place in Baltimore, Maryland, that involved two individuals who had an argument.

This may not sound so shocking until it is revealed that the "murderer" in this instance was a 3-year-old boy, and the "murder weapon" was a .357 magnum. Apparently, the child had taken the weapon from the kitchen table at the home he was visiting.

It should be noted here that a .357 magnum is the second most deadliest handgun next to the .44 magnum. In fact, this weapon when used with the proper ammunition can be utilized for deer hunting.

The availability of such a firearm has not been limited by law. The existing law forbids the ownership, possession and/or usage of such weapons as hand grenades, mortars, bombs, machine guns and auto-

matic rifles.

Clearly, the need for controls on more sophisticated weaponry is acute.

Most murders are committed through impulse, and most are spontaneous acts. Nearly three-fourths are committed while the slayers were engaged in an argument with family or friends.

The mood of public opinion seems to be shifting toward the attitude that a gun "means trouble."

The Los Angeles Times reported that in a 1975 survey, 82 per cent of the respondents who did not own guns wanted weapon registration as a method of control as opposed to 69 per cent in 1969. By the same token, more gun owners themselves favored registration; in 1969, 55 per cent recent responded favorably as compared to 73 per cent in 1975.

Not only has the general public become aware of the need for firearms control but also many law enforcement officials have become advocates for control. It is no wonder for a firearm was the leading cause of death in 1974 for 96 per cent of local, county, state and federal officers. Those supporting gun control include Patrick Murphy, former chief of police,

District of Columbia and New York City; Clarence Kelley, director of the FBI; and Peter Pitchess, sheriff of Los Angeles County.

Each has made proposals which would limit the proliferation of weapons in this country.

In spite of increasing public and official sentiment toward gun control measures, the United States has the highest concentration of weapons of any county in the world.

A World Health Organization study indicated that the United States had the most handguns -- 13,500 per 100,000 inhabitants. The next highest had only 3,000 handguns per 100,000 inhabitants.

So it is no surprise that in 1974, 68 per cent of the homicides in this country were caused by a handgun, rifle or shotgun.

A very strange situation exists in this country. The need for firearm control is obvious.

Yet nothing is on the books to prevent further loss of lives and increased proliferation of weapons. Gun control legislation must be quickly adopted.

The legacy of the Civil Rights Movement

The 1976 Democratic national convention was a product of the civil rights movement. Twenty years ago no one would have predicted that the Democratic party would nominate a presidential candidate from the deep South, much less that many Blacks would be enthusiastic about his nomination. Never more clearly has the political revolution worked by the civil rights movement been demonstrated than at this convention.

Even without a quota system more than 10 per cent of the delegates were Black. But the political impact of Blacks was larger, even than their representation on the floor. Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan inspired the convention and the nation with her keynote address.

After her speech, there was even talk of running her as a symbolic protest candidate for the vice-presidential nomination. Representative Jordan rejected the idea, saying that if she ever allowed her name to be placed in nomination for the national ticket, it would be a serious effort. It would not surprise me in the least if a Black becomes the presidential or vice-presidential candidate of the Democratic party in the near future.

At this convention the most important Black leader may well have been Andrew Young. Indeed, he was Carter's most important supporter. Young symbolizes the changes that have taken place in the civil rights movement in the last two decades. He got his start as a minister active in Dr. King's SCLC.

Today, as Congressman from Atlanta, he has made the shift from protest to politics, from confrontation to compromise.

That shift is not the result of selling out, but of finding new strategies for a new political period.

The civil rights movement has not won all of its goals, but has won enough to work a fundamental transformation in American politics. It was the successes of the Civil Rights Movement which made possible the nomination of a Southerner as the Democratic presidential candidate. The more than doubling of the number of Black voters in the South in a few short years, as a result of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, stimulated the emergence of moderate and liberal Southerners, like

Jimmy Carter, Dale Bumpers, and Raibem Askew. By challenging the legality and morality of segregation, the civil rights movement worked a profound ethical and psychological change in the attitudes of white Southerners. As such, it contributed to the decline of racial politics. We now have much more than ever before, a national politics which can only be of benefit to Black Americans.

The political transformation was also seen in the selection of Walter Mondale as the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, in the Democratic platform, and in the acceptance speeches of Carter and Mondale. The selection of Mondale, a leading liberal and a protégé of Hubert Humphrey, was filled with historical irony. For it was Humphrey's 1948 convention speech in support of integration that led to the bolt of the Dixiecrats. All of the people considered by Carter for the vice-presidential nomination had good civil rights records, but Mondale was most closely identified with the kind of civil rights activism that was once anathema to the South.

Carter's acceptance speech was clear, forthright, and encouraging. Carter identified himself with the aspirations of Blacks and other Americans who suffer from unemployment and poverty in his attack on "a political and economic elite who have shaped decisions and never had the account for mistakes nor to suffer from injustice. When unemployment pre-

vails, they never stand in line looking for a job." Carter supported full employment, universal voter registration, a comprehensive national health program, tax reform, and welfare reform.

The Democratic platform also reflected the input and needs of Black politicians. It commits the Democrats to guaranteeing jobs to all Americans who want to work and to reducing the adult unemployment rate to three per cent within four years. The most significant innovation in the Democratic platform recommended combining existing welfare programs into a single income maintenance program substantially financed by the federal government. Even on foreign policy, the platform reflected the aspirations of Black Americans as it proposed stronger sanctions against the racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia.

The civil rights movement has worked a fundamental transformation in American politics. To take full advantage of the new political situation, our strategy must complete the transition from protest to politics, from symbolism to accomplishment, from confrontation to coalitions. The uncompleted portion of the civil rights agenda is economic and thus requires an approach which is not exclusively Black, but which appeals to the needs of all Americans who suffer from poverty, unemployment, poor housing, and inadequate health care.

Workshop explores home sale/purchase

The latest information regarding buying or selling homes through FHA, State GI, and conventionally bank financing will be the subject of a Real Estate Information Workshop Tuesday evening, September 14th, at the Portland Community College, Cascade Campus. The workshop is sponsored by E. G. Stassens, Inc., Realtors; the Portland Observer; and the U. S. National Bank, Union Avenue Branch.

Stassens Sales Associates Bob Nelson

and Cal Toran are organizing the workshop. Time is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. thinking about selling their home or purchasing a home to attend. The sessions will be held in Room B-47, Cascade Hall, Portland Community College, 705 N. Killingsworth. Time is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Representatives from the FHA office, the State Veterans Administration and U.S. National Bank will discuss the various programs and answer any questions from those attending.

Letters to the Editor

Disagrees with pay

Dear editor:

How you can suggest financial remuneration for draft evaders is beyond my comprehension. It is my personal feeling that the men who have left this country rather than serve in the Viet Nam War should be welcomed home. They should not, however, be treated as returning heroes. They are not heroes. They are

men who stood firm for what they believed in and left this country rather than take part in a war they could not condone. That is well and good. It is their free choice to do so.

However, it is not their right to expect that they be offered financial benefits the same as those young men who did fight those battles. These draft evaders deserve our sympathy and understanding

but they do not deserve our financial support for standing up to their own convictions.

I do not personally identify with the draft evaders, but I do respect them as individuals for standing up for what they believed in. I do not wish to support them financially, however. I prefer to welcome them back home, accept their decisions and try to understand them -- but do not

ask me to financially reimburse them for their beliefs.

Yours very truly,
Daria Kofner Swensen

(Editors Note: We advocate that those men who suffered imprisonment or who did alternative service at low rates of pay because they believed participation in the Viet Nam war to be morally wrong, receive the same benefits as those who did serve. Since there is nearly universal acceptance that the war was wrong, this is like paying the victims for criminal acts committed against them.)



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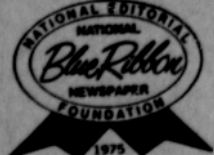
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