

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL

Asian caucus gives Jackson full support

by Chuck Goodmacher

Asian-Americans joined with other minority groups at the Democratic convention in demanding full recognition of their right to equal opportunity. A speech by Jesse Jackson was the apparent highlight of the Asia-Pacific caucus meeting Monday morning.

The caucus of Asian and Pacific delegates also pledged their full support to the minority platform planks submitted by Jesse Jackson and Gary Hart.

Jackson urged the delegates to "vote conscience, conviction, and candidate. We must not equivocate." Jackson's speech emphasized his plank calling for no-first-use of nuclear weapons. "For Asians, it means a 'no second use,'" he said.

Jackson also attacked, "The kind of thought process" which led to the killing of a Chinese-American in Detroit when the killers thought the man was a Japanese national con-

tributing to the loss of jobs in Detroit. He said we cannot allow Asian people to be scapegoats for our economic problems. "While our managers learned to fire people," he said, "Japanese managers learned to hire and make room for people."

"It's time for a change," Jackson continued, "we must redefine America."

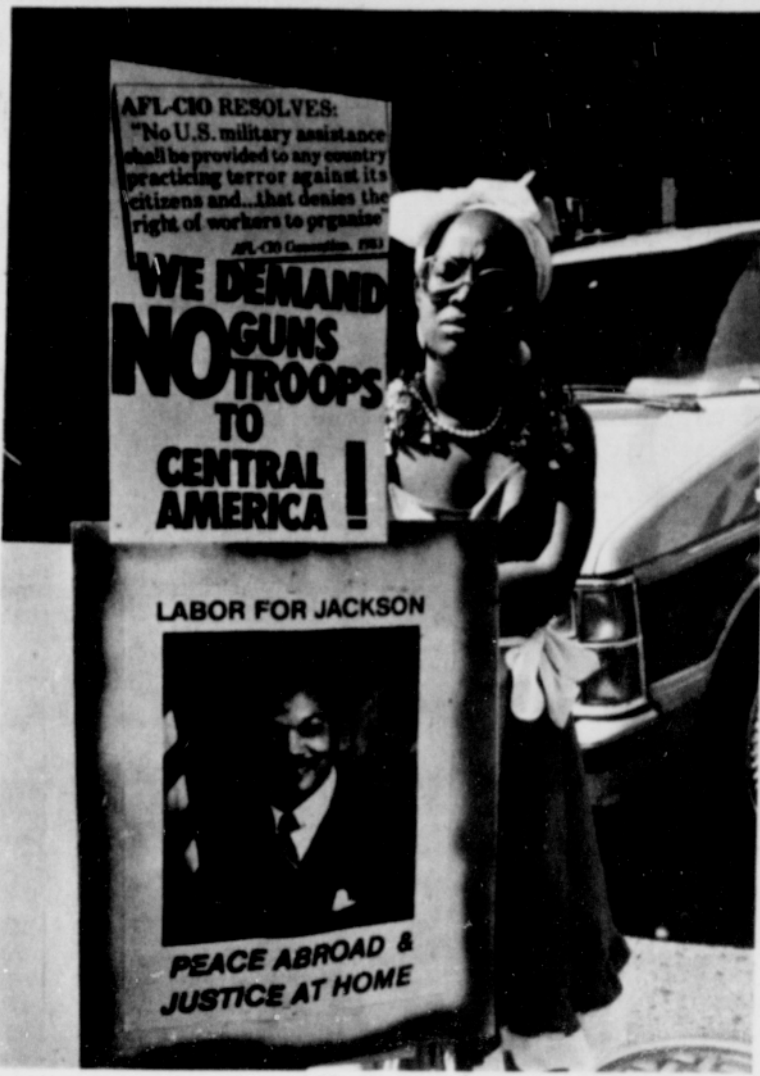
The Asian-American delegates gave Jackson a standing ovation, and Tom Hsieh, chairman of the caucus, told Jackson, "We're with you all the way." "Right on," was Jackson's reply.

Congressman Robert Matsui of Sacramento, California, told the *Observer*, "The Asian caucus is very actively supporting the minority planks, and in fact, they are doing everything they can to get it passed." Matsui added, "He (Jackson) was a pioneer for all of us."



Buy American

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)



Vote Peace '84

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Not the man, the plan Not the rap, the map

by Lanita Duke

SAN FRANCISCO—In his last public speech before addressing the Democratic National Convention, Tuesday, July 17th, presidential candidate Jesse Jackson quoted actor Ossie Davis in addressing Black delegates, saying, "It's not the man, it's the plan. It's not the rap, it's the map."

Jackson urged Black delegates to "vote conscience and conviction" on the first ballot. "They want to use us until they use us up. But so far, we don't have a vice-president or a campaign chairman."

Jackson's four minority platforms: Affirmative Action, fairness in the voting process, no-first-use of nuclear weapons, and real reductions in military spending, were receiving challenges from Mondale supporters. The issue of quotas was among the main points of contention as labor tried to suppress sup-

port. But Jackson said, "We have got to have affirmative action to offset negative action. We are still training our bosses to be the boss."

With the same type of determination that he utilized throughout the campaign, Jackson appealed to Black delegates for unity.

"We are together on more issues than we are apart. We must keep our agenda above politics. No matter who gets the votes, we have got to live together."

"Access becomes recess unless we come together. Keep your eyes on the prize. Whichever way your politics goes, we are the backbone of the progressive planks in the Democratic platform. We represent the creative, cutting edge of new politics in the world order. We have got too much going for ourselves to take 'no' for an answer."



The lighter side of labor dumps Reagan at march on Sunday.

(Photos: Richard J. Brown)



Hispanics urge fight on immigration bill

by Chuck Goodmacher

Some Hispanic delegates boycotted the first ballot for the Democratic nomination to urge Democratic party leaders to kill the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill. The bill passed the House of Representatives on a 216-211 roll-call vote and is now before the U.S. Senate.

The Hispanic caucus is unanimously opposed to the bill because, they say, sanctions against employers of illegal aliens will be prejudicial against all Latinos. Congressman Robert Garcia, of the South Bronx, said Tuesday, the fate of the bill is as important to Hispanics as the defeat of Ronald Reagan in November.

"Employer sanctions hanging over brown and Black faces," said Garcia, "is something we cannot afford. We know what discrimination is. We have lived it."

The move to boycott the roll-call vote ran into staunch opposition from prominent Hispanic elected officials who appeared satisfied with previous statements opposing Simpson-Mazzoli by Mondale. However, even while San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros urged

delegates not to abstain, the vast majority chanted, "abstain, abstain."

Mario Oldedo, national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) spoke in favor of the ballot boycott. "We're saying that rhetoric is not enough," he said.

Cesar Chavez also urged the delegates to abstain from voting and also to spread word of the new boycott of non-union grapes. He said there are no federal labor laws protecting farmworkers and enforcement of state laws by the current Republican governor, Dukmejian, is almost non-existent.

Speaking from the floor, Cynthia Chavez-Kelly, of Wyoming, urged her fellow delegates to boycott the ballot. Hispanics, she said, must "make the strongest statement we can...we will no longer tolerate the institutionalization of racism through enactment of this bill."

The 271 Hispanic delegates and 92 alternates almost unanimously supported Jesse Jackson's planks for voting rights and affirmative action and for Gary Hart's anti-inter-vention plank.



Cable cars and New York stars.

(Photos: Richard J. Brown)



New power force inspires Black caucus

by Lanita Duke

SAN FRANCISCO—During the Democratic National Convention, the Black Caucus met daily, to plot strategy, with renewed empowerment brought about through increased voter registration, the election of Chicago's Mayor Harold Washington and Philadelphia's Mayor Wilson Goode, as well as, the presidential candidacy of Jesse Jackson.

These combined factors made the Black vote a vitally important force in the 1984 campaign. Their force is reflected in 1,000 delegates—the largest number of Black delegates in the history of America's body politics.

Some of these delegates complained that, "one party writes us off, while the other party takes us for granted." They were also dissatisfied with the ineffective opposition mounted by congressional Democrats to some of the Reagan administration's policy initiatives.



Richard Hatcher, Democratic National Committee vice-chair and Mayor of Gary, Indiana. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

These sentiments led Jesse Jackson to call on Blacks to, "Renegotiate their compact with the Democratic party."

Richard Hatcher, vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee and Mayor of Gary, Indiana, said only a minority within those one thousand Black delegates were for Jackson. "He has 400. If all one thousand had supported Jackson, we would be sitting here with the power in our hands to decide who the next president will be."

Hatcher predicted that would have happened if, "Our national leadership had stayed together." He did not buy the argument that pragmatic politics overruled the progressive candidacy that Jesse Jackson offered.

"There is nothing pragmatic about not acting in your own best interest. In the end, Jackson is the future of this country. What he represents is what America is going to be. I could not face my children if I did not support Jackson in this effort."

Mayor Harold Washington addressed the caucus by stressing the main goal he would like to see pushed—"Putting people to work in meaningful, gainful jobs. Our constituents want jobs, not excuses. The Democratic party must transcend candidacy. It is a coalition that has to reach out to people. If not, they are going to turn to the streets. Then we would have problems."

Grassroot News coverage of the Democratic National Convention was made possible through a grant from Professional Training System, Dr. Edward Ward, Ja'Bells Beauty and Barber Supply, Brooks and Tate Employment Agency, Mrs. Betty Smith and other private contributions.

Gays, lesbians march for equal justice

by Chuck Goodmacher

Over 150,000 supporters of gay and lesbian rights turned out in San Francisco for a march and rally Sunday afternoon. The demonstration was intended to impress Democratic delegates, and the American public, with gay political strength and of the moral basis of their appeals for expanded civil rights.

Later that evening, Oregon's delegation was treated to a welcoming party at the home of San Francisco prominent gay activist, Jerry E. Berg.

Sixty-five gay persons are delegates or alternates to the convention. None of the Oregon delegates are openly gay.

A plethora of signs and banners reflected the diversity of concerns within the gay and lesbian communities and emphasized the presence of gays across the nation.

One contingent chanted, "Gays, straights, Black and white/Together we struggle/Together we fight," and groups representing gay American Indians, lesbian and gay Asian-Americans and Black gays all took part. One man held up a sign proclaiming, "Gay, Jewish, Democrat and I vote!"

Marchers also carried signs declaring their home states which ranged from New Hampshire and Georgia to Colorado and Alaska.

With few exceptions, the gay community is solidly Democratic and organizers hoped the march would spur active opposition to Reagan. Said Karen Clark, a lesbian state representative from Minnesota, "This march will help mobilize gay and lesbian voters to show they have a stake in defeating Reagan."

The Democratic platform includes planks supporting gay civil rights, increased funds to combat AIDS, and an end to regulations banning gays from the military. "They need us," said San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt, "and we need them."

Jerry E. Berg, an attorney serving as a commissioner on San Francisco's powerful Board of Permit Appeals, hosted a lively reception Sunday night, for Oregon's delegates and alternates, at his Twin Peaks home. He was raised in Salem and his mother served as an Oregon delegate to the 1960 Democratic convention.