

Black unionists evaluate elections

by Bayard Rustin and Norman Hill

Before we lament the results of the Presidential election, we ought to look at some good news.

The large majority votes that Mondale received from blacks (90 percent), Jews (66 percent), Hispanics (65 percent), and members of AFL-CIO union households (57 percent) justify our belief in the traditional coalition upon which we have always relied to pursue the interests of common people. Those figures ought to encourage us to continue building the labor-ethnic ties that are the strength and sinews of a truly progressive agenda.

Another piece of good news is that the massive voter-registration campaigns did have an impressive effect on voter turnout: more people voted this year than in 1980. This increased participation in the electoral process is a healthy trend, and it will be important in the years ahead to continue effort to bring more people into the democratic decision-making process.

In addition, Mondale succeeded in attracting a large share of very poor people's votes; his program and campaign were clearly perceived as favoring the poor and unemployed.

However, the problems that will be facing Democrats, as they analyze the results of the election, loom large, as we see in some other figures.

Among the 15 percent of the voters earning under \$12,500 a year, Mondale won a majority of 53 percent. The largest income group, that is, those earning between \$12,500 and \$24,999, rejected Mondale by 57

percent to 42 percent. Even more distressing from the point of view of coalition-building, the Democratic Party, which has not succeeded in winning a majority of the national white vote since the landslide victory of Lyndon Johnson in 1964, this year won a mere 34 percent of the white vote. Those figures must lead the party to a serious re-evaluation in the months and years ahead. The party that claims to speak for the people has lost the loyalty of large numbers of the working and middle classes. If the party does not revise its message and program, it is simply asking for more defeats and greater demoralization. The manner in which the labor and civil rights movements participate in the debate may well be of great significance in the party's search for a road to electoral victories. For blacks and labor, this must not be a time for despair, nor a time to question our most deeply held principles, but an opportunity to examine our strategies and tactics.

It would be easy to explain the polarized white-for-Reagan, black-for-Mondale vote simply as the result of old-time racism. A more accurate explanation is perhaps more difficult, but the solutions are less formidable, than when we did face the racism of Jim Crow days.

This year the party adopted some positions — both on domestic and foreign policy — and tolerated some forms of behavior that seemed almost calculated to alienate large numbers of traditional Democrats. Many people watching the Democratic conven-

tion on television did not see a party representing the common man and woman's aspirations, nor one articulating a dream for a strong and prosperous America that all people could share in, but rather they saw a scene of perceived cliques jockeying for power and scheming on behalf of their respective "interest groups." Ronald Reagan did extremely well with his unifying themes of patriotism, pride, and common effort for a better society — themes the Democrats did not even try to enunciate.

Also of some significance is the failure by Democrats to emphasize traditional moral values. Reagan's largest vote came from the 15 percent of the electorate describing themselves as born-again Christians.

Clearly our challenge is to help to

formulate a program that brings the working and middle classes of all colors back under the umbrella of a party that truly looks out for people and not for elites. The interests of Blacks, other minorities, ethnics, and women, though each having special features, do not diverge from those of the vast majority of the American people. The interests of union members surely do not diverge from those of other working Americans. The values of all these groups are consonant with the mainstream. So the Democrats have indeed no reason to turn their backs on the aspirations and ideals that minorities, women, and labor have always been proud to fight for and to uphold. On the contrary, our common aspirations are the basis on which to build a winning coalition in the future.



Ebrahim Moshiri has been hired to develop a computer program for the Portland Community College Cascade Campus.

PCC adds computers

A new computer science instructor at the Portland Community College Cascade Campus, Ebrahim Moshiri, is developing brand new curriculum for a program which will officially start in 1985 at the same time that he teaches three basic computer classes for the college.

The computer science curriculum will be designed for both vocational and transfer programs, offering either an associate of arts or associate of science degree. The vocational program will be aimed at small business and fit into the focus being established at Cascade to assist the north/northeast Portland area community.

Moshiri has taught chemistry at Portland State University as well as graduate level computer science and computer aided design classes for the electrical and mechanical engineering students at PSU. He completed his doctorate at PSU with a dissertation of computer modeling of photochemical smog formations in a polluted atmosphere.

Moshiri has written many articles that have been published on his photochemical smog computer modeling. In 1983 he won the first place competition for the Pacific Northwest International section of the Air Pollution Control

Candidates forum set

A candidates Forum with city council hopefuls Dick Bogel and Herb Cawthorne will be held on December 3, 1984, 8 to 9 p.m., in the Buckley Center Auditorium, The University of Portland, to give students and the public a chance to hear and see the candidates in action addressing a wide range of issues. This will not be a debate.

Dick Bogel, former police officer, news anchor, and aide to commissioner Mildred Schwab, and Herb Cawthorne, Portland State University administrator and school board member will each present a 10-minute opening statement followed by a question and answer session with a panel of student reporters and the general public. Both candidates will then make concluding statements.

These candidates are both vying for Charles Jordan's vacated city council seat. As the two top vote-getters in a field of 19, they face a run-off election December 18, 1984.

This will be the first joint appearance by the candidates on a college campus. The program is sponsored by KDUP-AM 86 and the Third World Coalition.

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