

Jackson Once Again Focusing On White House

by Jerry Garner

Last week in Greenfield, Iowa, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, leader of the National Rainbow Coalition, began mounting his second attempt for the presidency of the United States when he opened his first headquarters for his new presidential exploratory committee. If he is successful during the 1988 election, he would be this nation's first president of African descent.

It's not surprising that Jackson chose a farm town to launch his presidential bid. During the Reagan era, thousands of farmers have lost their farms and many fault the administration's farm policies. Like any seasoned politician, Jackson is catering the farm vote by promising them aid in return for their support in 1988. Last month, Jackson came to Portland to raise money for depressed farmers in Oregon.

By forming an exploratory committee, it appears that Jackson and the



Rev. Jesse Jackson. Photo by Richard J. Brown

Democratic Party are still feuding over the 1984 election. Since the conclusion of the 1984 presidential election, Jackson has voiced his anger at the Democratic Party after a committee created by the Democrats recommended that the party retain in 1988 its "threshold" rule, under which a presidential candidate must get a minimum percentage of votes within a congressional district in a primary to win any delegates. Although the commission recommended lowering the threshold from 20 to 15 percent, in the past Jackson has said this didn't go far enough.

Jackson said the Democratic Party has built into rules for '88 things that will disenfranchise people. Jackson isn't the only Black leader upset with the Democrats. Many Black leaders believe the Democratic Party is less committed to civil rights and Black progress.

Black leaders say Paul Kirk, chairman of the Democratic Party, is planning a strategy for 1988 in which the party tries to woo back conservative whites by ignoring the concerns of African Americans. Kirk has denied this and stated that the party will not compromise its historical commitment to civil rights and racial equality.

Jackson's entrance into the presidential race should make the 1988 election a lively one. Many think the Democrats will regain the White House after Reagan's term expires. The Democrats have plenty of reasons to possess this optimistic view:

Despite receiving a majority of the Black votes, Jackson received only 12 percent of the votes at the 1984 nominating convention. This is why Jackson is courting the farmers, in an effort to broaden his appeal beyond the Black community.

However, it's highly unlikely that Jackson will be occupying the White House after the 1988 presidential elections. I say this because, despite the increase in Black registration and turnout during the 1984 elections, Reagan won re-election by a large margin. The massive Black turnout, which split 9-1 Democratic, was counterbalanced by registration of military personnel, Christian fundamentalists, suburbanites and bigots who, by and large, voted Republican. The same can occur again in 1988.

Jackson could, however, determine whether a Republican or a Democrat occupies the White House. After the Democratic nominating convention is over, there is a strong possibility that Jackson could run for president as an independent.

Jackson has said, "People are not enslaved to parties anymore. They're not chained to party labels. They look at candidates as individuals and react according to their personalities."

First, the Iran/Contra scandal will make many Americans question the ethics and leadership ability within the Republican Party.

Secondly, the United States became a debtor nation for the first time under the direction of the Republicans. Presently the U.S. trade deficit is over \$140 billion dollars.

Thirdly, under the Republicans, farms are being foreclosed in record numbers, poverty and homelessness and unemployment have increased to numbers surpassing those during the Great Depression.

Finally, the Democrats have already recaptured both the House and the Senate, thus demonstrating the electorate dissatisfaction with the policies of the Republican Party.

However, the Democrats would be making a serious mistake if they sit back and think that they can reclaim the White House solely on the failures of the Republican Party. The Democratic Party must reassess its basic message in an attempt to learn from two consecutive drubbings in the last two presidential elections. In addition, the Democrats must come up with policies of their own in an effort to solve the nation's domestic and foreign problems.

The Democrats must also make peace with Jackson to assure a victory in 1988. Spurred by Jackson's crusade-like campaign and by simmering resentment against Reagan, Blacks registered and voted in record numbers in 1984. The proportion of voting-age Blacks registered to vote jumped more than seven percentage points, a record increase, to 66.3 percent, the highest level in history, according to U.S. Census Bureau.

Allen Temple CME Church Annual Missionary Day

The Missionary Society of Allen Temple CME Church will be presenting their annual Missionary Day on Sunday, March 29, 1987, 3:00 P.M. at 4236 N.E. Skidmore.

This year's theme is "Missionaries of the 80's". Participants on the panel will be Alzena Dedeleavaux — Allen Temple, Helen Taylor — Bethel AME and Grzelie Sellers — Maranatha Church. The panel discussion will focus on "why become a missionary, what are the responsibilities of a missionary and how are the responsibilities carried out", to dispel the "myths" about missionary work. Following the discussion will be a question and answer period.

Also, an award presentation will be made to Allen Temple's two oldest missionaries.

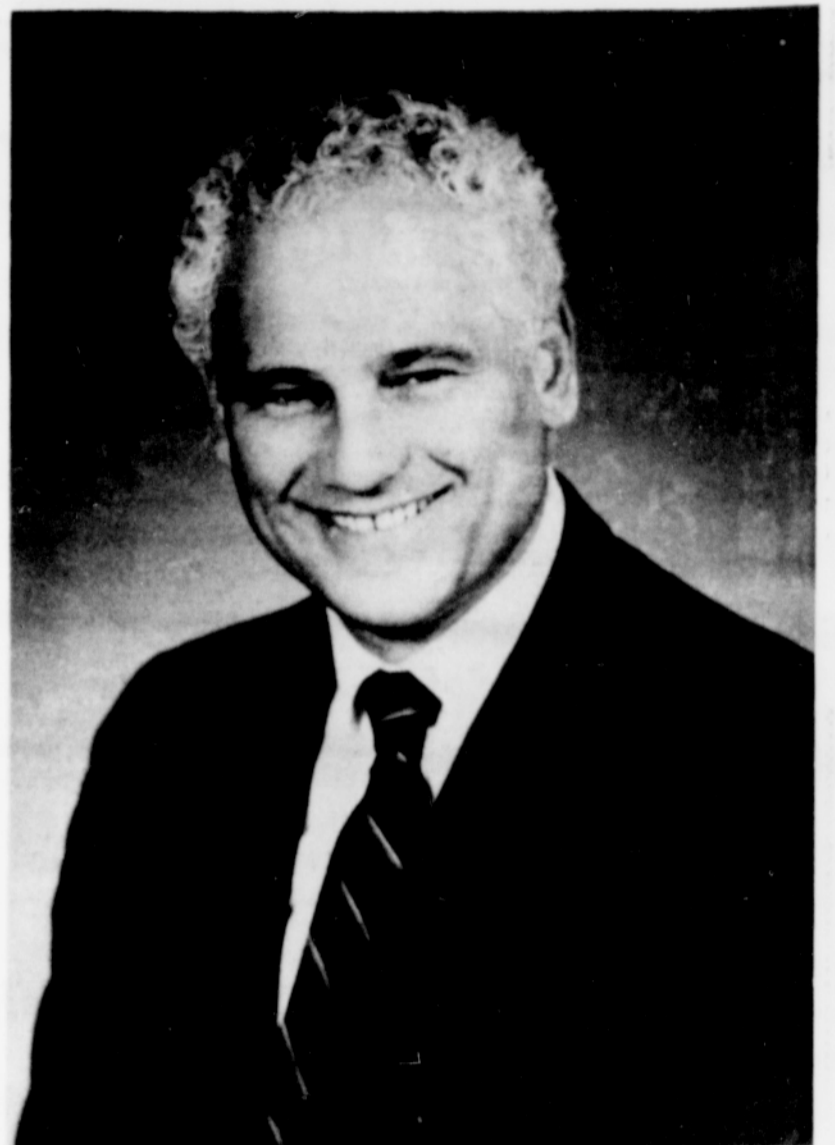
Obituary

Hattie Mae Browning was born October 21, 1926, in Banks, Arkansas, to Robert Childs and Amanda Hardy Childs. Caught by an angel, she was deceased March 22, 1987, in Portland, Oregon.

Mrs. Browning is survived by her husband Louis; daughter Demetrias June Alice; sons Robert Louis, Lynn Edward, and Xavier Lloyd; grandchildren: Ukana, Dameion and Eric, all of Portland.

She is also survived by foster sister, Jettie M. Clay of Portland; sisters Gladys Richards, Elnora Newton, Rose Banks, all of Pasadena, Ca.; Ludie McGruder of Altadena, Ca.; Avestine Hunt of Kansas City, Mo.; brothers Robert Childs, Jr., of Altadena, Ca.; James Childs of La Puente, Ca.; and a host of numerous other relatives and close friends.

Mrs. Browning was a teacher in Banks, Arkansas, before coming to Portland in 1945. She was a member of Vancouver Ave. Baptist Church, the United Chorus Pacific N.W., the Mission Chorus, and the Bible Study Fellowship.



Gov. Neil Goldschmidt.

Goldschmidt Comments Are Dangerous

The comments of Governor Goldschmidt in the March 19th edition of The Oregonian suggesting that someone should "Squash Ron Herndon" are extremely dangerous and irresponsible for a number of reasons.

First, it is obvious to anyone that racial hatred and its accompanying violence is alive and well in Oregon. Moreover, several supremacist groups, such as The Order and the Klu Klux Klan, have announced their preference for Oregon as a potential homeland for a "whites only" nation. These groups are encouraging their members to move here; their track record shows that violence is never far behind their planning.

Secondly, most black leaders in America have always lived with the threat of death. It is a threat which our history reveals is very real, as countless letters and phone calls challenging the safety and welfare of black leadership in the Portland area continue to surface.

It is the height of insult for the Governor of Oregon, on behalf of all Oregonians, to callously verbalize a wish for the physical elimination of a black critic. It is sad to discover the level of hostility the governor harbors toward any who are concerned about his treatment of black citizens of Oregon.

The Governor has long-stated his desire to open Oregon up for business. The question now remains, "Just what type of business is he interested in attracting?" His statement could give a clue.

Bobbie Gary

Class of '77

Parkrose High School class of 1977 will hold their 10 year reunion August 1st and 2nd. For further information, contact Peri Bogh at 232-1305 or Eileen O'Brien Isham at 245-6543.

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