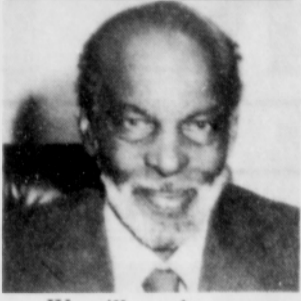


# EDITORIAL / OPINION

## Perspectives



### We've Got to Keep On Keepin' On

by Professor McKinley Burt

We will use the next several articles to tie up a few loose ends, and then we'll raise the curtain on an exciting and hard hitting New Year. I will continue to push that historic adage that "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty--and education."

I have assailed Oregon's high tech industry for coming up with that nefarious plan to "shut down Portland State University," a process which would wreak further havoc on the higher education aspirations of Portland's minorities and poorer whites. The self-imposed problems lying behind the machinations of these firms are further understood when one reads last Thursday's article by Valerie Rice of the Knight-Ridder News Service: "Time is running out on U.S. Memories Inc., the fledgling memory chip consortium that raised hopes for a return to competitiveness by the U.S. electronics industry"--Intel, IBM, etc. "Hope" is about all that was raised.

Like the nation's auto industry, these rather inept entrepreneurs snowed us with their grandiose and arrogant ads promising the good life for both the public and employees--and, like the Savings and Loan industry, would have the very same victims bail them out. It is understandable that high-tech would now look to state funds or any other source to bail them out of their debacle--even the lotteries. The consortium above has not nearly reached its goal of half a billion dollars so the poor and disadvantaged had better practice that admonition, "Eternal Vigilance."

Last week's article was titled "Education Needs Structure--Not Lotteries." I went on to describe these gambling schemes as free wheeling bonanzas for bureaucrats and hustlers, and a regressive tax on the poor. But there are other economic implications that can affect us all. I particularly appreciate the comments of National Basketball Association Commissioner, David Stern; "I find it a peculiar irony that today the athletic director of a great institution like Oregon State University would be sitting here, explaining why the people of the state of Oregon should encourage gambling by their population." This, of course, is the same university whose attitudes I have described to be as regressive as the lottery--especially in the area of race relations.

It is equally ironic that in its planning stages the Oregon State Lottery was extolled as the key element in advancing "Economic Development, capable of restoring the state's economic vitality in the face of a disastrous decline in Oregon's lumber industry. This process seems as flawed as that of the aforementioned "U.S. Memories, Inc.," the belated and failing effort of the hi-tech industry to reverse two decades of hindsight and gross underestimation of the Japanese. The enterprises funded by the lottery have a poor track record if balanced against the loudly heralded massive increases in payrolls and workplace incrementations that were to be gained; nothing at all like that North Carolina success model we described last week--employing the people, educating the kids for the 21st century. We are still waiting for our establishment media to conduct a thorough, in-depth analysis of this unique foray into a terra incognita. Who got what and why?

There is another media-highlighted situation that does not bode well for Blacks in the workplace. At the top of the news are the historic political upheavals in Eastern Europe--the end of the Cold War is forecast. Already, the defense department is projecting the closing of scores of military bases, the mothballing of scores of naval vessels, and the discharge of hundreds of thousands of military personnel. Now, the question is will the Trillion dollars saved over the next decade be used to rebuild America's infrastructure of decaying highways, bridges, industrial plants (which cannot compete with the Japanese), and deteriorating school systems--or will this money be expended to revitalize Eastern European Kinfolk in a messianic campaign similar to the Marshall Plan that followed World War II?

In either case the country will be facing massive unemployment and economic dislocations. We may ask how energetically Black leadership and social agencies are preparing for the onslaught? As Dr. Manning Marable told us last week, this is a nation where already "drugs are destroying our neighborhoods, nearly 2000 teenagers drop out of high school each day, two million sleep in alleys and abandoned automobiles, and 37 million have no type of health insurance." All this in a nation where lovmaking has become more dangerous than fighting.

## THIS WAY FOR BLACK EMPOWERMENT!

by Dr. Lenora Fulani

### The Non-Aligned Movement

For their own economic and political reasons the international "big guns"--the United States, the Soviet Union, and China--have made a deal with one another. These "superpowers" are dealing not from positions of strength, but of weakness.

As surely as the Berlin Wall has come tumbling down, the socialist world is clearly collapsing. At the same time the capitalist world is sinking under a stagnating economy; not surprisingly, it is poor and working people--and most particularly poor people of color--who are the first to go under. The social problems for which we are blamed and punished--drugs, crime, abuse, AIDS--are all symptoms of the profound social decay that is part of the economic crisis.

While the Soviet Union must divert its attention, and its resources, away from

liberation struggles and progressive governments to the demands of its own people for democracy and economic growth, the United States has been forced into a reconciliation (a "rapprochement") with the socialist world by the urgent need to open up markets: China, for example, represents one billion new customers for American products. Likewise, American investors stand to gain many economic advantages from the "cooling out" of conflicts in Black Africa; this is why the US was so anxious to broker the peace accords between the government of Angola and South Africa.

Meanwhile, the masses of the world's people have been excluded from the new arrangements... in just the same way as poor and working in this country are being left out of the "rapprochement" which has

## VANTAGE POINT



### Jackson's Presidential Bids Pave The Way For Victories On Nov. 7th

Articles and Essays by Ron Daniels

As the election returns rolled in on Tues., Nov. 7, it became clear that African-American politicians were posting unprecedented victories in cities like New York, New Haven, Durham, Seattle and in the state of Virginia. David Dinkins would be elected the first African-American mayor of the nation's largest city and Doug Wilder would become the first elected Black Governor in American history.

But while the air was filled with euphoria, particularly among African-Americans, a curious phenomenon was unfolding. Numerous journalists, analysts, opinion moulders and party pundits were having as different celebration. They were hailing what they perceived to be the demise of Jesse L. Jackson as the preeminent Black political leader on the national scene. Jesse Jackson was declared the "big loser" on Nov. 7.

Commentators virtually rejoiced in the victories of Norman Rice of Seattle, John Daniels of New Haven and of course Dinkins and Wilder. They were anointed the "new breed" of "moderate" and responsible "mainstream" Black politicians who could appeal to and gain substantial white votes. Their elevation to public office, so some analysts reasoned, meant the inevitable decline of the liberal-progressive style and substance of the Jackson factor in American politics. What this gleeful exercise in wishful thinking ignored, however, was the fact that the Jackson factor contributed mightily to the impressive results on Nov. 7. Far from diminishing Jackson's stature, the election results enhanced Jesse Jackson's standing as a pioneer who paved the way and opened the door to broader dimensions of political power and influence.

In both the 1984 and 1988 campaigns, Jesse Jackson repeatedly stated that one of the goals of his presidential bids was to increase voter registration and to inspire increasing numbers of African-Americans to seek public office at all levels. Jackson put forth the vision of a Rainbow Coalition and projected a platform based on "common ground" issues as the vehicles to victory for black and progressive politicians. And though Jesse's Rainbow was derived in '84 as a rainbow with one stripe, by 1988 there was no question but that rainbow politics had arrived.

The '88 Campaign set the tone, staked out the issues, and helped to create a mindset that is possible for African-American candidate to receive substantial support among white voters. It is useful to recall that of the nearly 7 million votes which Jesse Jackson won in 1988 nearly 3 million were white votes. Jackson did extremely well in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Washington State, Oregon and Idaho. He scored victories in Michigan and Vermont, the whitest state in the nation. Jesse Jackson clearly demonstrated that it was possible for a black candidate to receive sizeable support in areas with miniscule Black and minority populations.

Jesse Jackson also won the state of Virginia and the city of New York thereby strengthening the prospects for Dinkins and Wilder in 1989. Especially New York City, it was Jesse Jackson's '88 campaign which provided the cement which bound together the coalition which would eventually carry David Dinkins to victory. After a demoralizing failure in 1985 it was Jesse Jackson who urged blacks and Latinos to forget their past differences and join with labor, the Irish and other ethnic groups to forge a formidable coalition for change. When Jackson carried New York City during the '88 Democratic Primary he made believers out of disbelievers. It was on that night that the coalition was convinced that it was possible to dump Koch and win the office of Mayor.

These reminders are important, not because it is necessary to glorify the accomplishments of Jesse Jackson, but because there are always forces within the media, the party establishment and the power structure which seek to separate us from our history. Much of the media is hostile to Jesse Jackson because he won big in 1988 despite their persistent negative predictions to the contrary. And there are forces within the Democratic party, particularly the southern based

Democratic Leadership Conference (D.L.C.) who fear Jackson's brand of liberal-progressive politics. These forces would like a more moderate and mild mannered type of mainstream Black leadership to emerge. Jesse Jackson refused to be sufficiently accommodating.

So while African-Americans can legitimately applaud the outcome of the Nov. 7 election, we need to guard against the dangers of media manipulation, divide and conquer and the old game of we'll pick your leaders for you. When we decide to demote Jesse Jackson we'll let America know. For now lets give him his props. Jesse Jackson's campaigns paved the way for the successes on Nov. 7.

## Civil Rights Journal

by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

### Virginia Thanksgiving, The Impact Of Wilder's Victory

The United States of America will never be the same now that for the first time in history an African-American has been elected Governor of a state. The myth that this was an impossibility has now been broken. L. Douglas Wilder, the grandson of African slaves in Virginia, has now been elected Governor of Virginia.

While much of the national media has concentrated on the narrow number of votes that enabled Wilder to win the election, the national significance and impact of Wilder's election in Virginia should not be underestimated. In a state where the electorate is approximately fifteen percent African-American, it took a large number of Anglo-American voters to cast their vote for Wilder which caused his election.

At a time when there has been a resurgence of overt acts of racial violence throughout the nation, Wilder's election is indeed a welcomed step forward for the improvement of race relations in the United States. Although Wilder correctly did not base his campaign on the issue of race, there were racial overtones in the manner in which his opponent tried to infer to the voters of Virginia that the state was not ready for an African-American to be Governor. Of course, Mr. Marshall Coleman, the Republican conservative candidate for Governor, was unsuccessful in making that argument to the voters of Virginia.

Douglas Wilder expressed his gratitude for all of the hundreds of thousands of his supporters. Wilder also realized that his election should not be viewed in isolation

of past history or in isolation of the present moment. Remembering the struggle of his grandparents who were slaves on Virginia plantations, Wilder stated, "We have come this distance because people who have come before us believed and kept the faith." At the wilder victory celebration there was a spirit of giving thanks because of the success of the campaign in bringing all Virginians together despite racial divisions.

Wilder affirmed, "I believe in coalition politics and we have shown that coalition politics works." Another significant aspect of Wilder's election is that the path has now been made for others in other states to more readily consider running for Governor and other statewide elected offices. For one, Andrew Young is now strongly considering running next year for Governor of Georgia.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. dreamed of this day. The election of Douglas Wilder to be governor of a state that once was one of the leading states of the Confederacy during the Civil War is in itself a significant turn of history. Thus, we all should join in the spirit of giving thanks that this kind of victory can be won in the wake of the Reagan years and amidst what many have concluded is a more conservative America.

When families gather for Thanksgiving this year throughout the nation we do have much to be thankful for and we all should be grateful for the gift that Douglas Wilder and the voters of Virginia have given to the nation.

## OPINION



## COMMENTARY

### Election Year 1990: Goldschmidt or Frohnmayer?

The forth coming election for 1990 promises to be the most interesting in recent memory.

Governor Neil Goldschmidt is being challenged by Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer. While the Governor has yet to announce his candidacy, his bid for re-election (if he decides to run) faces a serious challenge from the Attorney General.

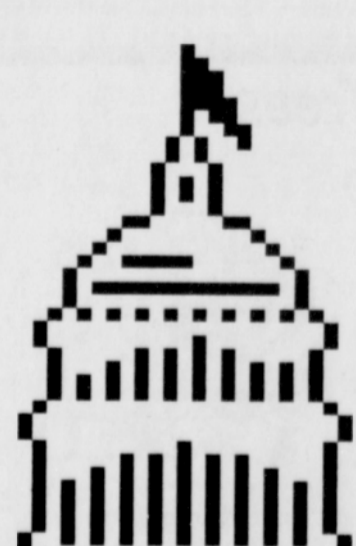
Some Oregonians are miffed at the Governor's alleged lack of leadership in areas such as education, prison overcrowding, crime and youth gangs.

of Petett was considered by many to be "lukewarm" at the most.

Meanwhile, Frohnmayer has launched a formidable campaign which appears to be well organized and well financed. Given this

states problems with drugs and crime he has made a creditable impact as the number one law enforcement officer in the state.

The race for Governor should be interesting?



African-Americans are miffed at the treatment given Freddy Webb-Petett. It appears that the only real criticism of the Governor that is justified is the manner in which Ms. Petett was forced to resign as Administrator of Adult and Family Services Division. Unquestionably, Ms. Petett's resignation was forced as a result of power politics manifested by the Republican bloc in an apparent attempt to embarrass the Democratic Administration. Goldschmidt's defense

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