

Voters Plan Final Decisions on Civil Rights Act

by Larry A. Still
WASHINGTON D.C.,--CNS-- Voters throughout the country go to the final polls this week to cast decisive ballots on such dramatic issues as the government's handling of taxes, war, civil rights, social welfare and the role of black political leaders in their communities.

The national election, Tuesday, November 6, not only decides the future of President George Bush's Republican administration or the Democratic party dominated Congress, but it should determine whether the new influence of African-American elected officials is increasing or declining in the last decade of the 20th century. Howard University political science professor Ron Walters has urged activists to plan coalition strategies based upon selected goals. Independent campaigner Ron Daniels pursues a Black agenda for President and another Ron (Brown) seves as chairman of the Democratic National Committee to promote multi-racial populist influence.

"What we are doing is way beyond partisanship," Brown said after passage of the Democratic minded budget reconciliation proposal during the third weekend debate. "The Democrats stood up for the elderly and young people...against the wealthy in getting the country going again... (The new legislation) is much fairer for all Americans...We are working for the working people of America..." Brown continued after for the all-night voting.

The most significant political race is in North Carolina where Democratic former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt is campaigning against veteran Republican Sen. Jess Helms to become the only member of the United States Senate. Recently referring to the role of the church and civil rights in developing black political leadership, Linda Faye Williams of the Joint Center for Political Studies and Kennedy Center on Public Policy told a Harvard audience black politicians who run for office in majority-white districts represent "the most secularly-oriented politicians of all." Such politicians will become increasingly common, Williams continued because

"Blacks have already won in most of the major majority-black jurisdictions. For the rate of black elected officials to grow, one has to win in the nonblack... (districts)"

The modern (post-reconstruction 1800s) record number of 24 black members of the House of Representatives should increase to at least 25 or more in November with an additional congressman from Louisiana along with the replacement of senior CBC member Augustus Hawkins (D-CA) by Los Angeles Assembly member Maxine Waters. In New Orleans, either State Sens. William Jefferson or Jon Johnson or Marc Morial will be the winner in a three-way, run-off election to replace Rep. Lindy Boggs (D-LA) after the veteran congresswoman voluntarily stepped aside in the predominantly black district.

Three African-American Republicans are also seeking new seats in the House of Representatives, including former Cincinnati, OH, mayor J. Kenneth Blackwell; Al Brown, Louisville, KY, management consultant, and Waterbury, CT, Gary Franks who is seeking the congressional post vacated by Connecticut Rep. John Rowland. Brown is challenging 10-term Democratic Rep. Roman Mazzoli and Blackwell is campaigning in the Ohio First District vacated by Democrat Thomas Luken. Grand Old Party candidates were favored to win out over incumbents until President Bush's antics with the budget and civil rights caused a tailspin for the GOP. Supporters have vowed to seek passage of the affirmative action legislation in the next session of Congress.

Democratic party chairman Brown made his claim for solidarity even after Black Caucus members threatened to "boycott" the budget reconciliation process to protest the Senate's failure to override Bush's veto of the Civil Rights Bill. The budget passed 228 to 200 with more than enough votes despite the CBC objections as the 23 voting members cast 13 votes against the measure with 61 Republicans and 11 joined 160 colleagues and 47 GOPers to vote yes. NO votes were cast by Reps.

Ron Dellums (CA), Mervyn Dymally (CA), Charles Hayes (Chicago), Cardiss Collins (Chicago), Gus Savage (Chicago), William Clay (MO), Floyd Flake (NY), Major Owens (NY), Charles Rangel (NY), Ed Towns (NY), Louis Stokes (OH), Donald Payne (Newark), Craig Washington (TX).

Reps. Julian Dixon (CA), Hawkins (CA), John Lewis (GA), Kwazi Mfume (MD), George Crockett (MI), John Conyers (MI), Alan Wheat (MO), William Gray (PA), Harold Ford (TN), Mike Espy (MS) voted yes with the Democratic leadership. House speaker Tom Foley (WA) later congratulated Gray as the "best Majority Whip in history" after the Pennsylvania minister accurately predicted that 180 party members would support the bill (one less than voted). White House picket Dick Gregory who single-handedly protested the veto, also told a Harvard University Foundation dinner for television commentator Tony Brown that "all the CBC should have voted against the budget because "They wouldn't give us what we wanted. We shouldn't give them what they wanted..." Gregory was the first black man to stage a joke against the system by seriously running for President.

Retiring congressmen Hawkins and Crockett and District of Columbia Congressional Delegate Walter Fauntroy are the latest politicians to leave the active scene. Fauntroy gave up considerable influence, power and seniority in an ill-fated effort to succeed convicted Mayor Marion Barry who is appealing a six-month sentence for drug possession. Voters will make a final decision on Barry's future when they vote on his campaign to remain on the D.C. City Council.

The ranks of former civil rights leaders turned politicians continues to grow as former Atlanta Congressman-Mayor Andrew Young leaves office as others seek mainstream goals like Gov. L. Douglass Wilder of Virginia. However, Rev. Jesse Jackson continues his quest for symbolic leadership as the unpaid, non-voting Senator for D.C. Statehood.



The happy news is that there seems to be ever more democracy in the world these days.



Voting may be an increasingly popular activity around the world.

One example: Austrian citizens living in the U.S. are eligible for the first time to cast their vote in parliamentary elections, in elections of the Federal President, as well as in plebiscites. A law to this effect became effective on March 15.

According to the Austrian Embassy in Washington, Austrian citizens age nineteen or older are eligible. They must have their names entered in the "Wahlerevidenz" (voters' roll) in Austria. This is done through the proper Austrian representation (Embassy, Consulates General or Honorary Consulates) depending on the person's place of residence.

Austrian representations will provide applications with forms as well as with detailed instructions on how to apply for inclusion in the "Wahlerevidenz". They will also give guidance on the technical procedures of casting the ballot.

Some 400,000 Austrians, approximately eight percent of the electorate, currently live abroad. 20,000 to 30,000 live in the U.S. "The next parliamentary election will take place October 7th," Austria's Ambassador in the U.S., Friedrich Hoess, said. Therefore, the Ambassador urged, Austrians living abroad should apply for registration as soon as possible to ensure their participation in the forthcoming poll.

For more information contact the Austrian Embassy 2343 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20008. (Tel. 202-483-4474) or one of the Austrian Consulates General in New York (Tel. 212-737-6400), in Chicago (312-222-1515) or in Los Angeles (Tel. 213-444-9310).

Dr. Sabesin Proves His Success


Dr. Sabesin is Dyrenforth Professor of Medicine at Rush Medical College and Director of the Section of Digestive Diseases at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago. he received his M.D. degree from New York University College of Medicine, was a resident in internal medicine at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, and was a clinical and research fellow at the National Institutes of Health. He was also a fellow in gastroenterology at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and a research and clinical fellow of Harvard Medical School faculty. Dr. Sabesin was Professor of Medicine and Director of Gastroenterology at the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences before assuming his current position.

Author of more than 150 original scientific publications, Dr. Sabesin has focused his research on lipid and lipoprotein metabolism, intestinal lipid absorption, hepatic lipoprotein metabolism, and experimental liver injury. He has served in gastroenterology research review groups for the National Institute of Digestive Diseases and the Veterans Administration and on numerous committees of the American Gastroenterological Association, the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, the American College of Gastroenterology, and the American College of Physicians. He has also been on the editorial boards of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, the American Journal of Physiology, and Lipids. Dr. Sabesin is a fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology and a member of many scientific and medical societies. For the past ten years he has directed a national postgraduate course in gastroenterology sponsored by the American College of Physicians.

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