

Congressional Comedy: Pork Chops & Gravy II

PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

I only got one dissenting letter last week when I compared the two Democratic frontrunners, Clinton and Brown, to an old comedy dance team, "Pork Chops & Gravy." And that was to advise me that a better choice would have been the Vaudeville comics, "Butter Beans & Susie" -- a hilarious team that Sammy Davis Junior used to introduce as a kid.

In any case, my point seems to have been well taken, to a degree. But, unless you have a better crystal ball than I, it may not be so funny that the nation is probably going to reject both Governor Pork Chop and Governor Gravy on grounds of pettiness and irrelevance -- leaving us with the choice of rerun of poverty under President Bush, or drawing a Texas wild card, H. Ross Perot (at least the Texan knows the problems at General Motors).

Meanwhile, we see that the White House is contemplating several frightening options of its own. There is the LIBYAN WAR CARD being discussed -- A Washington Post columnist suggests that the polls showing a disillusioned (and poverty-stricken) electorate have prompted the Presidents' advisors into pushing him toward a reprise of the "Desert Storm-Great General" role. We do not know if the United Nations will be as cooperative this time; especially since LIBYAN OIL IS THE LIFE BLOOD of several key members.

Another very unsettling development is the administration's new campaign financing plan. It is not that different from an earlier program that DEREGULATED THE SAVINGS AND LOAN INDUSTRY and allowed

a host of thieves and hoods in business suits to rob depositors, investors and taxpayers of hundreds of billions of dollars. That caper created thousands of new well-heeled campaign contributors -- including a number of LAW FIRMS sued for their part in the conspiracy.

But, pay that no mind, the Bush Administration now seeks the equivalent DEREGULATION OF CREDIT UNIONS. Say, it worked before with that Congress we've got.

While the congress reviews its ethical position on bad checks, cocaine stocks at its post office and other assorted perks that have placed most incumbents in mortal danger, let us travel back to the ranch in Oregon for another look. The other week we castigated several venerable institutions whom we accused of a dereliction in duty that has been extremely costly to the state's citizens who can least afford any further economic loss. One specific failure of legal and financial oversight by governmental agencies is the disgraceful situation brought about by that Dominion real estate outfit.

We did notice on the evening news that these operators are very much still in the DEHOUSING picture and that it is suggested that the minority person who outbid the city for the distressed properties may be a FRONT FOR THE ORIGINAL COMPANY. Where in the world are the relevant city, county, state and federal agencies and usually highly visible politicians?

It was last week, I believe, that I was fussing about the state's (treasurer) lax attention paid to "PERS" (PUBLIC

EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM). The rash of felony escapades get little more attention than auto thefts, though the daily press does have a reporter who is turning over some stones with familiar names (including Japanese). Perhaps they will eventually get around to assigning an investigative reporter who will follow up the careers of state investors (guardians?) of our pension funds to see how many quickly link up with those they did business with while OUR EMPLOYEES.

Another situation that is distressing many of us to no small degree is that recent audit of the state's INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE FUND (SAIF). The draft state audit report says that the corporation understated its net income by a total of \$106 million in the past two fiscal years. The agency's president says that he did not DELIBERATELY MISREPRESENT the firm's financial position -- at a time when he was urging the state legislature to revise worker compensation laws. What we are told is that there is a complicated (mysterious) reinsurance plan for which SAIF will be paying about \$110 million a year to some eastern outfit (here we go again!)

We hope that this is not another Washington D.C. PORK CHOPS AND GRAVY routine. You remember all those Oregon small businesses that had their workers comp canceled -- and how many desperate injured and sick Oregon workers are being denied fair or any compensation? I talked with at least a dozen of them when a volunteer at Providences Hospital. This is indeed the "wild west." More next week.

RELIGION

You've Got To Go To The Wilderness

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

March 18, 19 and 20th, Maranatha Church presented their second annual Pacific Northwest City-Wide Revival which featured, for the second consecutive year, Evangelist Iona Locke.

Evangelist Locke is a tall, slender, very attractive female in her mid-thirties with a forceful, convicting delivery.

She and I sat down, following her Thursday night sermon, to chat for a few minutes. I discovered that she is one of nine children: four boys and five girls. Both her parents have gone to home to Glory but she said she will not stop until all her sisters and brothers are saved. She prays daily that God will grant her the opportunity to see this before she closes her eyes. Her sisters are all saved, and now she is working on her brothers.

I asked her if God had given her the gift of singleness. Her response was an unequivocal, "No!" There is a young man on the horizon; but, he will have to "hoe many rows" to keep up with Iona. The girl is on fire for the Lord! And I pray that nothing should diminish the brilliance of the flame.

"I've been carrying the Gospel for twelve years now." Iona reminisced, "If it was left up to me, I would not be doing this. I tried to run away from this responsibility and God set up some serious road blocks. This was the farthest thing from my mind but God has a way of getting His way. What I do is purely through the inspiration of the Lord. I have nothing to do with it other than to say, 'Yes, Lord!' I was truly frightened. I can appreciate it

now -- but at the time I was called, it was totally against my character. God can convince you or you wind up being lost."

Evangelist Locke hails from the east coast -- Detroit, Michigan to be exact. She is a teacher in the Sunday Academy and the President of the Ministerial Alliance. She works under the tutelage of Rev. Marvin Winans, senior pastor of Perfecting Church and he is the lead singer of the Winan Family Gospel Singers.

"God inspired tonight's topic because I've found that many ministers have to deal with their own flesh before they can deal with their ministry and the same is true for the lay person. I've seen television evangelists devastation, such as



Evangelist Iona Locke

Bakker and Swaggert. It is really bad and it's giving Christianity a bad name. There were several others also. These men were not anointed by God. I've found that we have to deal

with these rotten things in the flesh and that they cannot be removed without God's help. I read an article that revealed Rev. Swaggert's problem had not just begun. According to his grandmother, he had problems as a child. Sin was lying dormant. It was awaiting the opportune moment to reveal its ugly head so that it could ruin lives, so that it could make God's Church look bad." Just then, she sighed, "My Lord."

She continued by sharing, "As Christians, we have to learn to deal with the problems and know that it is only through the help of the Lord that we will ever receive the eradicating help that we sorely need. Only God can remove sin! Good works is not going to get it! One day -- you look and that old ugly thing that has been lying dormant all these years will raise its old ugly head in your life, and you won't know what to do or how to get rid of it. If the proper procedures had been taken from the beginning instead of covering it up, God would have handled it and thrown it in the seat of forgetfulness. Then, your life is free to minister to the needs of others."

Excerpts from Thursday's night's sermon, "You've Got To Go To The Wilderness!"

"...too many of us so-called Christians have some really bad attitudes. Finger pointing is only one of the many bad habits. But -- one thing is cer-

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Profile of Brother Charles Edward Coleman I Evangelist Church of Christ Pittsburg, CA



Charles Coleman was born December 4, 1955 in Oakland, CA to Melrose and Ernestine Coleman. Charles completed 14 years of his education in Oakland, which included McClymonds High School and Merritt College.

Bro. Coleman was added to the body of Christ in 1976, under the teaching of Evangelist Joe O. Pitts, Sr. serving the 13th Avenue Church of Christ in Oakland, CA. Charles' membership remained at 13th Avenue for ten years, during which time he began preaching and teaching God's word. Bro. Coleman

also served in the capacity of Youth Minister, Chorus Director, and New Converts Minister.

Bro. Coleman has served the church by way of teaching classes, home studies and Sunday School. He has preached in various congregations throughout the Bay Area and outside, including Southern California and in Illinois. Bro. Coleman also worked alongside Bro. T.O. Jackson of Oklahoma in the Evangelism department for the 1985 San Francisco Crusade for Christ.

Bro. Coleman later placed membership at the Church of Christ at MacDonald Avenue in Richmond, CA where he served as minister of Personal Evangelism and Care Group Director for four years alongside Evangelist's J.C. Thomas Jr. and Rolland Jackson.

On September 30, 1990 Bro. Coleman became the Evangelist of the Diane Avenue Church of Christ in the City of Pittsburg, CA. There under his direction the following programs have been set up: a Substance Abuse Program, Literacy Program, Child Abuse Awareness Program, and a local network television program entitled "Righteousness Exalts a Nation." This program is aired weekly and can be viewed in Pittsburg, West Pittsburg, and Antioch, California.

In Loving Memory of Willis A. William 1915-1992

Memorial Service was held Tuesday, March 31, 1992 at 11:00 a.m. at the Chapel of Vann & Vann, Portland, Oregon.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelations 21:4

In Remembrance of Hattie Belle Pettis 1919-1992

Hattie Belle Pettis was born on August 9, 1919 in Brooksville, Mississippi to John and Joella Harrison. She was one of nine children. She married the late Augustus Pettis on May 8, 1939, and was blessed with five children; Vernon Pettis who preceded her in death, Ms. Augusta B. Hayter, Mr. Maceo Pettis, Ms. LaVerne Strong and Ms. Brenda J. Vaughn, all of Portland, Oregon. There is also a half-son Mr. Arthur Lee Pettis, of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Hattie Belle Pettis was known for her love, generosity and compassion for all people. She confessed her belief in Christ at an early age. After moving to Portland, Oregon she joined Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church under Pastor O.B. Williams, and maintained her membership there until her death.

Other family members include a sister, Mrs. Winnie Lee Thomas, of Lockport, Illinois, a host of nieces, nephews, grandchildren and friends.



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Denise A. Bell, Pastor

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Worship and Praise - 10:45-12:15 p.m.
Fellowship and Potluck - 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Worship and Praise - 1:45-2:30 p.m.
Fellowship Sing-A-Rama - 2:45-5:00 p.m.

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Evangelist, Charles Coleman I
Pittsburg, California
Greg Fobbs, Local Minister