

EDITORIAL

Editorial Articles Do Not Necessarily Reflect Or Represent The Views Of The Portland Observer

Better-off individuals, beginning in the summer of 1994, dramatically escalated their contributions to Republican candidates, while poorer individuals, usually through their labor unions, have traditionally pooled their money and contributed to Democrats through PACs.

Political Action Committees. In the 1994 elections, both party's candidates ended up with about the same amount of money.

(2) After election day, when the new Republican realities set in, the PACs joined in too, abruptly reversing their decade-long migration toward the Democrats, and seeking to cement new friendships among the large class of Republican freshmen. They were particularly generous to the newly-powerful GOP committee and subcommittee chairmen.

(3) The price of admission to the 104th Congress was around \$500,000, and most candidates raised their money primarily from PACs and large individual donors (donations between \$200 and \$1,000)—many of whom have a financial stake in the outcome of legislation. The half-a-million price tag was enough to exclude most Americans from even dreaming of running for Congress. Perhaps more importantly, the polit-

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

The Price Of Admission

ical debt the candidates incurred in raising that money may eventually stick millions of American taxpayers with the final bill.

These are just three of the trends documented and discussed in "The Price of Admission: Campaign Spending in the 1994 Elections," a study of the specific money behind the 1994 elections--i.e., the relationship between money and politics (who gave how much to whom).

The 250-page publication is illustrated with more than 1,500 charts and graphs that show the patterns behind everything from the timing of contributions to the average cost of beating incumbents.

It includes a rundown both of big-picture patterns in House and Senate elections, as well as a state-by-state recap of key congressional races.

"The Price" profiles the campaign finances of every member of the 104th Congress. These profiles include at-a-glance charts showing the breakdown of money received from PACs, large and small individual contributions, and the candidate's personal funds. It also shows the proportion of PAC money that came from business, labor and single-issue ideological groups, as well as a chart showing which interest group sectors dominated their PAC receipts.

It also identifies where the money came from--literally. Two charts highlight the 20 largest metropolitan areas providing both PAC and large individual contributions.

Washington, DC led in both categories. The area in and surrounding the nation's capital supplied about half the PAC money in the 1994

elections, repeating the pattern that was found in the two previous elections.

For the first time, the DC area was also the leading source of funds from individuals giving \$200 or more, nosing out NY as the nation's best location for political funds.

According to the author, Larry Makinson, tracking the money that funds the winners' campaigns is of more than academic interest.

Follow the money and you begin to see the lines of a power structure that lies deeper than the surface-level sturm und drang of partisan politics. For as surely as water flows downhill, money follows power.

The day after the 1996 elections, no matter which party wins, the successful candidates will not be lacking for friends with money.

Another study, Open Secrets, due out in 1996, will detail the patterns behind the nearly 830,000 large (\$200 or more) individual contributions to candidates in the 1994 elections.

"The Price of Admission: Campaign Spending in the 1994 Elections" by Larry Makinson is available for \$19.95 from Margaret Engle at the Center for Responsive Politics, 1320 19th Street, NW, WDC 20036, 202-857-0044, Fax 202-857-7809.

It's JaxFax recommended reading and an excellent political resource

Civil Rights Journal America's Growth Industry

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

Soon we'll no longer be known for our automotive industry or our Silicon Valley computer technical industry. We'll be known around the world as the nation which makes a living by incarcerating its citizens.

We now incarcerate somewhere around 1.5 million Americans, about half of whom are African American or Hispanic. The number grows by leaps and bounds every year, with prisoners often being doubled banded in already overcrowded and outdated facilities. With the recent passages of the so-called three strikes and you're out bills and mandatory long sentences for crack cocaine, the prison population can only continue to grow.

In our capitalist tradition, private enterprise is looking at these numbers and the privatization of the corrections industry is now occurring in many states, particularly the South and West. While the number of pri-

ivate companies running prisons is still small, The Corrections Corporation of America now has about 42 percent of the private corrections market and is seeking to expand to other states, including Ohio. In 1994, CCA saw profits of \$7.1 million, nearly double its 1993 earnings.

With the clamor for tax cuts, many argue that private prisons will save taxpayers dollars. But the numbers show that privately-run prisons are slightly more expensive than public ones.

Many criminal justice advocates worry about this new trend toward privatization, recalling earlier abuses, when inmates were forced to build railroads, dig mines and work in textile factories under horrible conditions which often resulted in death.

They also question the accountability of private corporations and point out that it should be the government's responsibility to incarcerate.

On the other hand, private prisons tend to be new, modern facilities and

in at least one survey prisoners rated them better in health care, discipline, cleanliness, educational programs and inmate food and mood. Some private facilities, however, have experienced prisoner revolts, based on complaints about spoiled food, abusive guards and beatings and shacklings.

For many communities across the country the issue around prisons, whether public or private, is jobs.

As more and more blue collar jobs are eliminated, communities are turning to prisons as a source of employment for their displaced factory workers and increased state tax revenues in the case of private prisons.

For instance, Youngstown, OH is proposing to give 100 acres of industrial brownfields (land polluted from toxic wastes) to be used for the construction of a private prison.

With a 10.7 percent unemployment rate, this former steel and manufacturing town sees prisons as a source of jobs and income.

The O.J. Simpson verdict pointed

to the racial divide in this nation when it comes to criminal justice issues. As more and more people of color are incarcerated, these will take on increased significance. There are a multitude of difficult questions which must be faced by us all. Are prisons becoming the steel mills and manufacturing plants of the 21st century - the employers of unskilled European Americans, for whom little training is being done? Are prisons becoming the warehouses for young African Americans and Hispanic Americans, whose labor is no longer needed by our nation? What happened to the concept of rehabilitation, upon which our prisons supposedly were based? Do we really believe we can have a stable society when one in three young African American men is involved in the criminal justice system?

We as a nation must realize that no one is safe if prisons are our country's growth industry for the next century. And then we must do something about it.

King Remembered For Bloody Sunday

BY PETER JENNINGS, ABC NEWS

Memories of a defining moment in the civil rights movement, 30 years ago: Sunday, March 7th, 1965. Bloody Sunday.

John Lewis...now a member of Congress, then a student organizer, remembers it well.

The population of the county around Selma, Alabama was 80 percent

black. Not a single black resident was registered to vote.

Dr. Martin Luther King, and other leaders of the civil rights

movement, decided on a march in support of voter registration, from Selma, more than 50 miles to the state capital, in Montgomery, where George Wallace ruled in segregationist splendor.

On Sunday, March 7th, 1965, several hundred people set out on that march. As they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were attacked by Alabama state troopers, beaten with night sticks and bullwhips, trampled with horses.

Lewis recalls thinking he was going to die. He was knocked unconscious and, to this day, doesn't re-

member being carried back across the bridge to the small church where the march began.

But Bloody Sunday turned out to be a turning point. It galvanized the nation against the injustices which had become a way of life in too much of the country, and - in those days - particularly in the south. Two weeks later, Dr. King led a second, and much larger march, all the way to Montgomery, where they demonstrated in front of the state capital.

Just a few months later the Federal voting rights act was signed into law

- an event that might never have happened, certainly not so quickly, had it not been for the events of Bloody Sunday.

Last year, John Lewis - and others - returned to Selma for a memorial march. The police were there too - this time as escorts. A measure of the distance travelled since Bloody Sunday. And of the long road still ahead on the way to equality and human dignity.

Peter Jennings' Journal can be heard on the ABC Information Radio Network every Monday through Friday.

A Proclamation On Martin Luther King Jr.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Our country's motto, "E Pluribus Unum" - out of many, we are one - charges us to find common values among our varied experience and to forge a national identity out of our extraordinary diversity.

Our great leaders have been defined not only by their actions, but also by their ability to inspire people toward a unity of purpose. Today we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who focused attention on the segregation that poisoned our society and whose example moved our Nation to embrace a new standard of openness and inclusion.

From Montgomery to Birmingham, from the Lincoln Memorial to Memphis, Dr. King led us to see the great contradiction between our founders' declaration that "all men are created equal" and the daily reality of oppression endured by African Americans. His words have become

such a part of our moral fabric that we may forget that only a generation ago, children of different races were legally forbidden to attend the same schools, that segregated buses and trains traveled our neighborhoods, and that African Americans were often prevented from registering to vote. Echoing Abraham Lincoln's warning that a house divided against itself cannot stand, Dr. King urged, "We must learn to live together as brothers, or we will perish as fools."

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s call for American society to truly reflect the ideals on which it was built succeeded in galvanizing a political and moral consensus that led to legislation guaranteeing all our citizens the right to vote, to obtain housing, to enter places of public accommodation, and to participate in all aspects of American life without regard to race, gender, background, or belief.

But despite the great accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement, we have not yet torn down every

obstacle to equality. Too many of our cities are still racially segregated, and remaining barriers to education and opportunity have caused an array of social problems that disproportionately affect African Americans. As a result, blacks and whites often see the world in strikingly different ways and too often view each other through a lens of mistrust or fear.

Today we face a choice between the dream of racial harmony that Martin Luther King, Jr., described and a deepening of the rift that divides the races in America. We must have the faith and wisdom that Dr. King preached and the convictions he lived by if we are to make this a time for healing and progress -- and each of us must play a role. For only by sitting down with our neighbors in the workplace and classroom, reaching across racial lines in our places of worship and community centers, and examining our own most deep-seated beliefs, can we have the honest

conversations that will enable us to understand the different ways we each experience the challenges of modern life. This is the peaceful process of reconciliation that Dr. King fought and died for, and we must do all we can to live and teach his lesson.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 15, 1996, as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this occasion with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

--William J. Clinton

perspectives Black History Month Is Near At Hand

Well, we say that every year about this time. And we usually follow on with the warning that one's accomplishments and traditions are to be kept at the forefront at all times, lest noble motives and passions fade from memory in the battle for survival. Great peoples and cultures have perished for less cause.

This year, I plan several modifications to the format of my presentations in the pages of the Portland Observer.



By Professor McKinley Burt

For one thing, there will appear two full page displays entitled "The Best Of McKinley", each featuring four of the most cited documentation of major contributions to technology and culture that I have presented in the last dozen years.

This format should provide readers, schools, industry or governmental agencies several rather accessible and informative presentation aids for discussions and seminars on African and African American accomplishments on the world stage. Suitable, also, for walls and bulletin boards, these are selected accounts of successful endeavors that have enriched the culture, lifestyles and folkways of the civilized world since the beginning of history.

We will meet the great black poet and revolutionary of Russia, "Pushkin," whose huge statue stands yet today in "Pushkin Square" in a Moscow park across the street from the new "Super-McDonalds" fast food concession -- and we'll learn of Ira Aldridge, the African American Shakespearean actor who also wowed European audiences last century, especially in Russia. And then there was the Dumas family, generations of generals, writers, swordsmen, lovers and diplomats.

These transplanted Africans, settled in France and included

in their prolific output, such classics as "The Count of Monte Cristo" and the "The Three Musketeers". Among the scores of plays and novels we find several that were modified into the librettos for world-famous operas. One grandson, as prolific a lover and gourmet as novelist, once declared of a lady who claimed her baby to be

his;" if the child is born with hair as wooly and nappy as mine, then I gladly will assume the responsibility.

Back on the American continent, we shall cite the African American inventors whose innovations of the past and present have made possible our sophisticated infrastructure of architectural and transportation network, as well as the modern delivery systems for our food supply and other necessities for modern urban life.

So, too, is it that the educational and political structures have availed themselves of the acumen and the energies of ebony innovators.

It is with special delight that I shall recount conversations with the great "Crowthwaite" before his death in the late seventies. This is the man who held over 90 patents on the heating, air conditioning and plumbing apparatus that makes living in 100-story high rises possible in the modern world.

The brilliant, black engineering graduate of Purdue University had a lot to say about the devastating effect of denying black youth the true account of their magnificent history.

He was equally disturbed that "the social-engineering types" prevented him from gaining a direct interface with the disadvantaged youth who desperately needed this motivation and confidence-building input.

Such a great man who contributed so much money and time.

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