

THE Skanner
Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now

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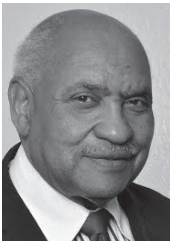


Opinion

The President Needs to Pull Out All Stops

Last week, Majority Whip Clyburn, Democratic leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, made the observation that the filibuster currently being used in the U.S. Senate to block the Voting Rights Bill as well as the George Floyd Bill, is a matter of tradition and not a part of the U.S. Constitution. There was also a reference to how former President Lyndon Johnson used the full weight of his office as president to secure the needed votes to get the Voting Rights Act passed.

It is a known fact that the president of the United States has far more power and influence than the minority leader of the U.S. Senate in the person of Mitch McConnell. Every Republican member of the senate at some point is going to need something from either the president or a cabinet office within his administration. The passage of the Voting Rights Act by the senate will undo most of what the states are doing with voter suppression. As suggested by Congressman Clyburn, now is the time to put all power



John E. Warren

The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint

and influence behind getting the senate to act, not only on

“President Biden needs to remember that without the Black vote, he would not be in the White House

Infrastructure as slated for this week, but, by all means, the Voting Rights Act. These items cannot wait and should not be held up.

President Biden needs to remember that without the

Black vote, he would not be in the White House. Without the influence of Congressman Clyburn endorsing him when he did, Biden would not have gotten the nomination of the Democratic Party to run for president. The Black vote has to be as important to the president, if not more so, than Donald Trump is to the Republican Party

The Texas Democratic Delegation, fleeing that state and coming to Washington, D.C. to lobby for the Voting Rights Act as a means of stopping voter suppression in that state, has given new meaning to the words, “All Gave Some, But Some Gave All.”

President Biden has spent enough years on Capitol Hill to know where the bodies are buried and who placed them. He and Chuck Schumer cannot continue to play “Gentleman Jack” with Mitch McConnell. McConnell must be stopped by any means necessary. That would appear to mean dealing with the filibuster by any means necessary. This must be done before the end of July when the Congress

goes on recess.

One thing should be remembered about Capitol Hill and the legislative process: There is always a loophole and a back door to solve every problem. Politics is never absolute about anything. Vice President Harris, while doing all she can, is not a substitute for the office of the president applying full power. To our civil rights leaders, your only message can be: Out with the filibuster, and pass the Voting Rights Act. No in-betweens.

If we did not let the pandemic stop the protest and emergence of our votes to take back the White House, we must not allow the pandemic’s resurgence, Republican gerrymandering of the congressional districts because of tampering with the census, or radical conservative acts of terrorism under the “Big Lie” to stop the salvation of democracy that we all are fighting for. Let’s call the Republican offices, their home districts and anyone who supports them and let’s make this happen before the end of July 2021.

NAACP Vancouver Letter: Police Accountability

The announcement in the case of Mr. Donald was disheartening, but did not come as a shock. Police accountability is something we do not have often, no matter if the victim is a person experiencing homelessness, a young adult with a future ahead of them, a child, or someone needing mental health resources.

Our community and communities alike are becoming conditioned to a traumatic cycle, and the first step to breaking this cycle is authentic

accountability; we need unquestionable independent investigations. In addition, we need thoroughly reimaged

“Rethink what you are doing to be anti racist.

policing in our community.

Communities disproportionately affected by our backwards way of policing cannot survive until this occurs. Our communities cannot contin-

ue to withstand such trauma, the current state of policing harms everyone including the police, we all need this level of reform.

This is one of many pieces of systemic racism that is rooted in our community that needs to be dismantled. Any organization that is whole heartedly invested in justice, needs to stand firm against the current way of policing, and band together to restructure the way we care for our community as a whole.

My call to action to all indi-

viduals is to rethink what you are doing to be anti racist.

Performative activism will not dismantle the systemic racism plaguing our community, your actions need to actually move the needle forward, and not just be a sign in a window or a fancy DEI statement.

We are dying and no one is being held accountable.

Sincerely,
Jasmine Tolbert
President, NAACP
Vancouver 1139-B

Black America Needs a ‘New Normal’: Equitable Credit Access

Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed dual crises. Over 542,000 Americans lives were lost and continue to increase. At the same time, the rippling effects of a massive economic downturn has caused the nation to lose 9.5 million jobs – more losses than even those of the Great Recession, finds the University of New Hampshire’s Carsey School of Public Policy.

Although many officials have called for a ‘return to normal’, millions of small businesses and communities need something new instead. In Black America especially, the ‘old normal’ never delivered equitable access to wealth-building opportunities as those that well-served served much of White America. Instead, a lengthy history



Charlene Crowell

NNPA Columnist

of public policies designed to create and sustain a burgeoning middle class systemically excluded Blacks and other people of color.

Now, while federal lawmakers seek to understand how best to bring the nation out of health and financial crises, many advocates are calling for a new paradigm: intentional inclusion of all who have been shut out, knocked down and underserved. Recent testimony before Capitol Hill committees focused on different issues but led to the

same conclusion: the time for change is now.

For example, comments during a February confirmation hearing for Adeyemo, nominated by President Biden to become Deputy Treasury Secretary, the nominee said, “Until we contain the pandemic, economic policy must remain focused on providing relief to those harmed by the public health crisis, especially those disproportionately impacted: low-income communities and communities of color. The pandemic has exacerbated inequality, strained families, and exposed disparities in opportunity throughout our country that existed long before COVID-19. Without additional relief, this hardship will become even more acute and will inflict long-lasting

pain on countless Americans.”

Adeyemo is the agency’s point-person to implement the executive order requiring all federal offices to submit diversity and inclusion plans to the Office of Management and Budget. In the interim, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, as reported by the New York Times, announced plans to invest \$9 billion into Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions as they look to step up lending.

Concurrently, the U.S. House of Representatives’ Financial Services Committee has convened multiple hearings that featured expert witness testimony echoing the calls of Mr. Adeyemo.

Read the rest of this commentary at
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