Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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The 40th district

We had hoped in this space recently that State Sen. Verda Welcome and her long-time political ally Del. Troy Brailey could settle their present differences and move ahead progressively.

This is not to be, we note sadly.

From all we can gather, Sen. Welcome will run again in the upcoming election.

This of course means that she will be pitted against Del. Frank Conaway and Brailey.

Younger political contenders alreaady are moving into the potential vacuum this senatorial combat will create.

Tony Fulton, a young "old" Annapolis hand, is moving swiftly toward a campaign for a delegate's seat in the 40th as is Ralph Hughes, another young civic-minded activist who has extensive knowledge of how the state government operates.

There is every evidence these two new-comers have good chances of election with the three senior legislators all battling for the senatorial slot.

Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings, who has placed himself at a discreet distance from the Senatorial sweepstakes will more than likely seek re-election to his present seat.

Other scenarios are being whispered about in the 40th.

Talk is the District could do with an infusion of young "blood."

Speculation that established but still youngish politicians such as Councilpersons Mitchell or Mfume, could try for the Welcome seat without risking their present offices, has been brunted.

Neither Mitchell or Mfume would consider challenging the Senator's powerful political organization. If she gave either of them her blessing then it might be a new ball game.

The biggest question mark remains Mary Sue Welcome, the Senator's daughter and nationally prominent attorney.

The junior Welcome is on record as insisting her mother keep her post, but when the question as to whether she would want to run for this office if her mom were to desire said result, well Mary Sue, who has held office in Atlanta, managed recently not to give an answer to the AFRO's query that was clear and resolute.

Against this background, the 40th promises to be one of the city's most interesting political arenas this year.

Hot summer

The city fathers are expressing real concern about the mood of Baltimore when school closes in June and a host of unemployed young teenagers, black and white, find themselves with idle time, long hot days and no money.

Mayor Schaefer, in a series of meetings with White House officials and Members of Congress, has been trying to get this message through in Reagan's Washington.

He does not seem to be making a dent.

Mayors in large cities throughout the land share Schaefer's concerns.

The talk of long hot summers, not heard since the militant sixties, is being heard once again.

Significantly it is being prophesied this time by white political leaders, not blacks.

We hope Reagan listens to our Mayor and other urban representatives, because if he does not, America is liable to blow up in his smiling, All-American cowboy face.

HUB on the rise

Baltimore's HUB organization, the black economic development volunteer group of business and professional leadership, will soon have its annual awards banquet.

Guest speaker is the Rev. Jesse Jackson and before anyone says ho-hum — let us point out Jesse's Operation PUSH national campaign to head corporate America down the right road is gaining momentum.

Jesse's tactic, the 'withholding of enthusiasm' by black consumers from corporations that either do hire blacks in sufficient numbers or do business to a significant degree with black businesses is taking hold.

Coco-Cola is going out of its way to make friends with the black community again. Other giants of industry are following suit.

We think Jesse's new strategy is worth noting and following.

We urge all who can to attend the HUB banquet and hear Jackson's thrust for the Eighties.

Dr. Joseph Lowery heads Black Leadership Forum

Dr. Joseph Lowery, chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was elected chairman of the Black Leadership Forum, a group of 16 black heads of national organizations, at the March meeting of the Forum held at the National Urban Coalition in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Lowery, one of the founders of SCLC and a close associate of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., had previously served as vice chairman of the Forum. He is also pastor of the Central United Methodist Church, Atlanta's oldest and largest predominantly black United Methodist Church.

"We must seek to develop and implement guidelines and strategies that challenge the public and private sectors to put people to work—now," said Dr. Lowery upon his election. "We must mobilize the economic and political resources within the black community and serve as moral catalysts for substantive social economic and political change in the nation in order to secure a positive future for blacks and the nation."

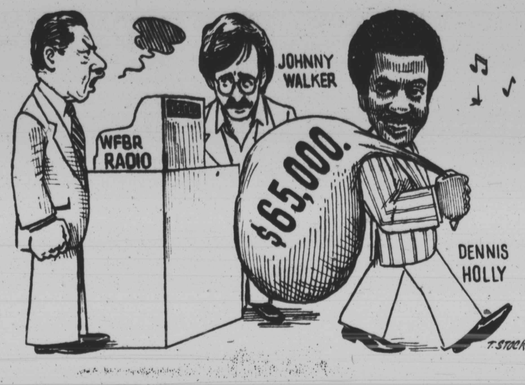
Dorothy I. Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. was elected vice chairperson; M. Carl Holman, President of the National Urban Coalition, was reelected to serve as secretary-treasurer.

Previous BLF Chairman Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, ended his two-year term as chairman following the tenure of Vernon Jordan, former president of the National Urban League and founder of BLF in the summer of 1977.

Other developments during the meeting included a statement issued by BLF members strongly opposing the Civil Rights Act of 1982, HR5602, known as the "Wednesday Group Proposal," which was introduced in the House of Representatives of March 3.

"The results of passage of such a bill can only decimate present statutory mandates and legally sanctioned civil rights laws," said the statement. "Proposed actions, regardless of stated purpose, cannot be tolerated by this body."

The statement was signed by Dr. Joseph Lowery, M. Carl Holman, president, National Urban Coalition; Julius L. Chambers, Esq., president, Legal Defense and Education Fund; Hon. Walter Fauntroy, cbairman, Congressional Black Caucus; Theodore Hagans, President, National Business League; Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Ind. Dorothy Height, president, National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; Benjamin Hooks, executive director, NAACP; John E. Jacob, president, National Urban League; Eddie Williams, president, Joint Center for Political Studies.



MADELINE MURPHY

Election frauds I have known

Part III

"Wasn't that somethin' that happened in City Council last night?"

The question was posed to me by a shopper in the A & P Tuesday, and before I could even nod she continued, "Guess we're gonna have to show 'em next year!"

But the valiant effort to point out as Councilman Kwiesi Mfume (D-4th) did that "those filling the slot did not take 'advantage of the opportunity' to nominate a black person as representative of an area (sixth councilmanic district) of the city which he said is 50 percent black."

As Councilman Nathan Irvy (D-2nd) delcared, "It is time that Baltimore wake up to the realities of life and recognize that the City Council should be more representative of the people of Baltimore," only shows the serious business, the horrendous job that has to be undertaken now and toward 1983 in the sixth district.

Incidentally, Irby and Mfume were the only ones who passed on the vote to replace the deceased Joseph P. Murphy with Timothy Murphy.

There is hope according to Councilman Michael Mitchell (D-4th) George Della (D-6th) will go on to the Senate and "The black majority will then have some input into the sixth district."

Those who live in the sixth district should take up that challenge recognizing that being elected will be the only way we will ever achieve representation.

With the redistricting of the City Council a reality, this will make our job even more difficult, especially if citizens of the sixth district do not begin to organize for 1983; proceed with an intensive voter registration drive; and develop the machinery to get out the vote on Primary Election day WHERE IT COUNTS!

But there also should be an intensive movement on the part of legislators to develop reforms within the election laws.

Especially, when yet another Murphy from the sixth district has high hopes of capitalizing upon the former successful election using the "name's the same" gambit.

So here is the final and third part of my election frauds journal of 1970:

I recall a few years ago suggesting reforms to the Law Reform Unit of Legal Aid. I am listing some reforms I believe should be instituted.

We cannot afford to let this opportunity pass, especially when the City Council and Mayoral elections are in 1983, when the 18-years - olds might have the vote, when the bosses, in the meantime, can sharpen their unscrupulous and corrupt blades to a fine point to cut us out of the running ONCE AND FOR ALL: Black legislators-elect, HEED these election reforms:

(1) Drawing by lot, positions on the ballot to overcome "the name's the same" racket. In 1967, when this happened to me, I was successful in getting the Court of Appeals to order a horizontal listing across the ballot, to avoid the confusion of two Murphys, a Murray and me.

This was done only for the Constitutional Convention, even though the Board of Supervisors of Elections already by law had the option to list either horizontally or vertically. They had to be ordered by the court to do what was within their power to do!

(2) Having elections for loans, referendums, questions, etc. a separate times from the election of people running for office.

(3) Merit system for ALL employees and judges of the Supervisor of Elections.

(4) Twenty-four hour weekend for all State elections.

(5) Mandatory education at all public schools every year on the use of the voting machines, a Citizen Education Week or Month, which would be the joint responsibility of the Boards of Education and Elections, with joint budgetary responsibility.

(6) Free distribution of copies of Election Laws to every registered voter in plain English.

(7) A listing sent to all registered voters of the questions, loans, referendums to be voted on with explanations of them all and the implications clearly outlined part of Citizen Education month.

(8) A registration of poll watchers at the time of election so they can be trained along with the judges of election.

(9) Orientation of new voters, especially 18-21 year-olds, on voting procedures, use of voting machines and their rights.

(10) Polling places should only be in public places. They should not be changed unless due time is given to notify all the voters. This has been changed.

(11) Polling places should be listed in big print according to District, rather than Ward, with ward and precinct designation under the District.

(12) Registration of voters should be made available year round in shopping centers, department stores, market places, as well as at the Peoples Court Building. Refer to Pennsylvania and California law.

(13) Referees from the Law Reform Unit, Legal Aid, League of Women Voters should be hired at elections to be stationed at all polling places during elections as neutral observers, mediators and intermediaries between judges, watchers and police.

(14) Broadcast of returns should begin no earlier than four hours after close of polling places, to avoid corrupt practices on the part of precinct judges padding the votes.

(15) A system of vote counting updated and computerized to avoid human error.

FOREWARNED IS FOR-WARNED.

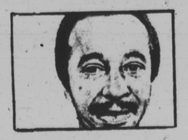
Even though no reforms come about within the next year, we black people should have learned a very important lesson from the 1970 election. Having learned the lesson that democracy can only be practiced when people are ever watchful of their rights and willing to take all legal means necessary to protect their rights, we must go one step further.

We must enlarge the circle of enlightened people. We must pressure those who represent us in the legislature to seriously address themselves to legislation which will be the legislature to seriously address themselves to legislation which will be most relevant to our needs in regard to election laws.

We must continue to discuss the implications of the past election frauds, be prepared to encourage many more people to participate in voting and working diligently for candidates on election day, to insure their victory...SO THAT THIS DISGRACEFUL ABRIDGEMENT OF OUR RIGHTS WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Vote registration has become much easier through the work of this writer in the Committee on Voter Registration and Education. The committee called in the Commission on Civil Rights when the Board of Supervisors of Elections refused to use neighborhood centers with volunteer registrars.

Through legislation put forth by Sen. Verda Welcome, we now have mail in registration forms.



PARREN J. MITCHELL

Increased evictions

In 1976, the City of Baltimore commenced an Eviction Prevention Program (EPP). This program, burdened with a back breaking caseload, generally has been effective.

Last year, out of 141,102 summary ejectments, 2,783 evictions actually occurred; 633 of which were families. The rate of actual put-outs has doubled since the program began in 1976.

Under the Eviction Prevention Program, the city has a contract under which the furniture of the evicted is picked up and stored in a warehouse for 30 days at the cost of $7per day and an average $60 moving cost. These costs must be paid by the evicted person (or family).

In addition, under the program, the Department of Social Service (DSS) is limited to offer assistance in eviction cases to twice per year. Of that number, 204 received funds to pay the rent, and 162 cases were found to be ineligible for assistance.

Reaganomics is having a devastating effect:

(1) Upwards of 75,000 educators have been laid off due to the federal program cuts during the 1981-82 school year. It is estimated 37,000 education employees lose their jobs for each $1 billion cuts in education funding.

(2) More than 150,000 teachers will lose their jobs over the next two years if the proposed budget cuts by the Reagan Administration are approved by Congress.

(3) While these and other program cuts have forced unemployment to enormous levels, another new and ominous indicator of an economy in turmoil has emerged: homeowners are defaulting at a record rate on their mortgage payments as more than one in 20 mortgages nationally are in arrears, the Mortgage Bankers Association reported December 13.

The association predicted the mortgage delinquency rate would rise even further in the next few weeks because of rising unemployment, another vivid sign of how severely the recession has hit the nation and how it is reaching deeply into the middle-income brackets.

These national developments are reflected in Baltimore. Just last month, 252 evictions took place. Projections indicate there will be 3,500 evictions by the end of this year.

As of March 3, 1982, 1,400 eviction cases were in housing court.

Clearly the Eviction Protection Program will collapse under the additional weight of cases, without additional personnel and funds (also for DSS).

The City of Baltimore, bludgeoned by federal cuts, is finding it exceedingly difficult to maintain last year's level of service. I hope that the EPP will be given a high priority by the city fathers.

What would "charm city" look like if hundreds of persons and families were on the streets any day, guarding their furniture, trying to survive?

Such a grim picture does not, in any way, fit the image of "charm city."

Letters

Poly by any other name

Dear AFRO:

On numerous occasions in the past, our school has been identified by members of both the electronic and print media as "The Baltimore Polytechnical Institute," "Polytechnic Institution," "Poly High School," and most disturbing and annoying, "Poly-Western High School," or "Poly-Western Complex High School."

Such appellations totally are incorrect and have been a continual source of irritation and annoyance to the many thousands of people in this area, who have either matriculated or have been employed at the school over its 98 years of existence.

Instead, it would be most proper and correct to identify our school as the "Baltimore Polytechnic Institute," "Polytechnic Institute," "Polytechnic," or "Poly."

Given our upcoming centennial year commemoration activities will be occurring in the not too distant future, we take the time to bring this concern of ours to your attention now.

In doing so, we would like to point out our school is one of the truly unique success stories in the history of formal education anywhere.

Therefore, we hope you can appreciate and understand our annoyance and irritation when other than proper identifications are made in reference to our school.

Our feeling is these mistakes are unintentional and are a result of either a lack of knowledge, especially by those in the media who are not originally from this area, or, regretfully, a lack of care.

Accordingly, we are respectfully requesting you notify your communicators of news, sports, features and business-financial affairs, as well as their supervisors of our school's proper names.

JAMES C. DeWALD

Republicans - party of the people

Dear AFRO:

In the last statewide elections, the Republican Party "took a giant step forward" by voting for and nominating Senator J. Glenn Beall and his black running mate, Dr. Aris Allen.

Our party voted for and elected them in the Republican primary, proving the Republicans are the party of progress.

While the Democrats talk about progress, talk about justice and equal opportunity, the Republican Party acts and does what is right.

I am sure Anne Arundel County Executive Robert Pascal will continue the tradition started by Senator Beall and choose a qualified black person as his running mate.

In order for the Party of Lincoln to win in Baltimore City and the counties around Washington, D.C., we must do more than talk and give promises we are not obligated to keep.

We must show the people of Maryland the Republican Party is the party of the people.

Where there is equal opportunity for all, regardless of sex, race or national origin.

PAULA CARVER

Samuel BANKS

Crime and the black community

In spite of the colossal, mythological, and grossly misleading accounts pertaining to crime in the nation's urban centers, the overwhelming number of 31 million black people in our nation are solid citizens and law-abiding.

Our urban centers would be totally dysfunctional or paralyzed if one-tenth of the black populace were involved in criminal or deviant behavior. The remarkable fact is, given the dreadful pressure-cooker existence, most black Americans endure that crime and antisocial behavior are not at higher levels.

Rational, concerned and sensitive citizens, black and white, would agree crime is to be deplored wherever it exists and whatever the source.

Recent newspaper polls focusing on the attitudes and beliefs of black Americans have indicated a preponderant number of blacks believe very strongly in law and order with justice and the value of hard work and persistence.

This, to be sure, is not to suggest crime is not a serious problem in the black community — it is a clear and pernicious factor.

Black on black crime, while miniscule in terms of the total number of blacks involved, is one of the most serious and debilitating situations facing the black community.

The very survival and health of blacks in the United States dictate a reversal of this grievous and malignant situation. We must, once again, renew the spirit of the 1960s in reestablishing a sense of pride and positive self-identity and community.

It will, however, not be enough for black America to want to extirpate crime in black ghettos and throughout the nation.

The majority white community which, by and large, has created the lamentable socio-economic conditions which give rise to crime must, in fact, open the doors of opportunity and end separate and unequal living in our nation.

A comment contained in the "Report of the National Commission on Civil Disorders" (i.e., The Kerner Report), is apt and fitting:

"What white Americans have never fully understood — but what the Negro can never forget — is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto.

"White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

More than 13 years later, this central fact has not been learned and acted upon in a constructive manner by the larger white society.

Until the wretched social pathologies evidenced in separate and unequal schools, deplorable housing stocking, inadequate health care and Depression levels of unemployment are addressed frontally and resolutely by the white majority holders of powers, it is sheer folly to bemoan crime and deviant behavior.

All people, black and white, must feel they have a stake in society and they count if social order, stability and progress are to go forward.

The factors of institutional racism, social exclusion and bigotry continue as the paramount impediments to an improved and viable social order.

The penal institutions of our nation, especially here in Maryland, are jam-packed with a disproportionate number of young blacks and Hispanics who are viewed as "losers" by our society and consigned to a social scrapheap.

Here in Baltimore, as is true of penal facilities at Jessup and Hagerstown, inmates are crammed into dehumanizing facilities with little or no possibility for rehabilitation.

When the inmates are released after serving their sentences or via parole, they return to their communities, for the most part, enraged, embittered and devoid of marketable skills to compete for jobs.

It is surprising, given the factors of societal hostility, distrust and resistance to former inmates that recidivism rates are not higher than the average of 50 percent in some areas of the nation.

The treatment of inmates in most of the penal institutions of our nation is a national disgrace and scandal. The objective of rehabilitation for inmates, in fact, becomes a callous and insensitive warehousing and dehumanization of inmates.

Locally, the extraordinary work of Jerome Dyson Wright's Community Residence Center on Lanvale Street for former inmates represents a magnificent contribution. Wright, a former inmate, is a solid citizen and an extremely valuable human resource.

Baltimore City and Maryland owe an enormous debt to Wright for his remarkable and selfless contribution to the "losers" in our city and state. In view of the severe cutback in federal support, Wright's Community Residence Center runs the risk of being closed.

This dreadful possibility, to be sure, most not be permitted to occur. Every citizen of this community and state who cares genuinely about human uplift and opportunities for former inmates should rally to the aid of Jerome Dyson Wright's Community Residence Center.

The failure of Wright's Community Residence Center, in reality, would be a failure of all of us. Let us, with resolve and determination, support the caring and humane efforts of Wright.

It, too, is abundantly clear unless jobs and hope are generated within the body politic, crime and deviant behavior will intensify and increase; especially among blacks, Hispanics and the poor.

Black churches, fraternal groups, sororities and civic groups now should be about the process of counseling black children and youths and opening their doors to provide food and clothing in a time of profound crisis.

The backs of black Americans and the poor are firmly pressed against the wall. Nonetheless, we must, through it all, maintain our spirit and press forward.

A wise comment of the redoubtable Dr. William E. B. DuBois, 42 years ago in "Dusk of Dawn," is highly pertinent for this fracturing and lacerating period of Reaganomics:

"Either the United States will destroy ignorance, or ignorance will destroy the United States.

"...These are (i.e., reference to jobs, housing, etc.) some of the chief things which we want. How shall we get them?

"By voting where we may vote; by persistent, unceasing agitation; by hammering out the truth; by sacrifice and work...We will not be satisfied to take one job or little less than our full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a free born American, political, civil and social; and until we get these rights we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America.

"The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone, but for all true Americans. It is a fight for ideals, lest this, our common fatherland, false to its founding, become in truth, the land of the Thief and the home of the Slave — a by-word and a hissing among the nations for its sounding pretensions and pitiful accomplishments."

How tragic it is, that almost a half-century later, 31 million black Americans are struggling and battling for "every single right that belongs to a free born American."

It is an ineluctable struggle, rooted in race and class that we must win.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

WE'D LIKE FOR YOU TO MEET a lady who does a great service, Mrs. Harriett Howard.

IT'S 2 O'CLOCK on a Wednesday afternoon. The telephone rings for the third time in 10 minutes. "Hello . . . Service to Military Families. Can I help you? Hmmm . . . yes. What is the Serviceman's name? And yours? What branch of the service? What can I help you with? Your husband is in a hospital in Panama for a tonsillectomy and he is scheduled for surgery tomorrow . . . ?

Mrs. Harriett Howard, a Red Cross volunteer, is the speaker.

EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, Mrs. Howard works in the Service to Military Families and Veterans Division of the Baltimore Regional Red Cross.

Since 1905, the Red Cross has provided a channel of communications between men and women on active duty worldwide and their families back home, along with short term personal, family, and financial counseing and assistance.

A "phone-intake counselor," Mrs. Howard collects vital information from the callers and refers it to the Red Cross social workers.

"I enjoy talking to people on the phone. I get satisfaction from helping people. There are so many people out there that can't make decisions. The advice I offer may be small, but it can be very helpful."

In addition to volunteering for the Red Cross, Mrs. Howard is active in her northeast Baltimore community.

A soprano, she sings with the Trinity Baptist Church Choir. Someday, she would like to work with a production company that promotes gospel music. "I'd like to encourage children to stay in Christian music rather than entertainment," says Mrs. Howard.

For all we know

BEFORE BECOMING A VOLUNTEER, Mrs. Howard was an administrator in the Baltimore City Department of Education. Her job was to supervise "15 counselors who never had supervision before, but needed it."

The job of "floating administrator" was created specifically for Mrs. Howard, who holds a bachelor's degree in education from Morgan State.

"Originally I was interested in social work, but I changed to education," Mrs. Howard has also attended Loyola, Johns Hopkins and Coppin State.

"I have held on to some of the children I have counseled," says Mrs. Howard. "They keep in touch with me. There are three with whom I am very close.

"One is my Godchild. When you are a Godmother, the mother looks to you for help. Sometimes the children look to you for help more often than their parents," she says.

This helpful side of Mrs. Howard's nature is only one reason why she is a Red Cross volunteer.

Dr. Pearl Brackett, a Red Cross administrator, was a friend of Mrs. Howard's from her days in the Department of Education.

"Dr. Brackett encouraged me to volunteer," says Mrs. Howard, "and Jo Sloan, the department head for Service to Military Families and Veterans, is a personal friend of mine."

MRS. HOWARD encourages her friends to volunteer.

She notes, "Their reply is, 'I don't know what I'd say to people.' People are afraid because they don't know what to say, but it just comes naturally."

Mrs. Howard fits right in with the staff in Service to Military Families.

"They tease me because the longest and most controversial calls come in while I'm on the phones," she says. "Once, we had three different people call in about the same death, and that was very unusual."

HER FAVORITE experience as a volunteer involves directing a trouble teenager to a halfway house for help.

Mrs. Howard recalls, "A young lady called at the end of the day. She was crying because her parents kicked her out of the house."

Because it was the end of her shift, Mrs. Howard's supervisor said it was okay for her to pick up the young girl on her way home. "I met her at the corner of Howard and Lexington," says Mrs. Howard.

"When I found out she had actually been temporarily suspended from school, I took her to Search Light halfway house.

"Eventually, the counselors there pried the grandmother's name from the girl, and the grandmother picked her up the next day.

"It's my favorite experience because I could directly help and it was so out of the ordinary."

MRS. HOWARD has been a Red Cross volunteer for almost a year now.

One reason she volunteers is that she sees the need for volunteers in the Service to Military Families and Veterans Department. There is also a need for volunteers in the other Red Cross volunteer, call 467 - 9905.

NEWSNOTES

BISHOP MONROE H. SAUNDERS is at home recuperating from an operation. He and his wife and family recently experienced deep sorrow at the death of her father, McNeil Brockington Sr.

Last rites were at Bishop Saunders church, First United Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic, 5150 Baltimore National Pike last Stunday. He is buried in Arbutus Memorial Park.

FLETCHER ROBERTS, a former star AFRO reporter and photographer, is now one of Boston's finest journalists. We worked together on the AFRO's award - winning AMEN Edition which announced Richard Nixon's resignation as president; and is now a collector's item.

Mrs. Harriett Howard is the pleasant voice servicemen and their families hear on the Red Cross phone — 467-9905, Ex. 240.

Tony Brown's Comments

Black and white criterion - judgement of human quality?

By Yahya B. A. Muhammad

It appears we African - Americans again are allowing ourselves to be manipulated into a racist posture in the political arena. A posture which does not add strength to us politically but tends to favor caucasian people who have a racist mentality.

This is not to say all Caucasians are racist, there are many fine Caucasians, who, through the years have done much in the field of human growth and development. There are many who have voted for qualified African - American candidates to represent them in government, even though they "caucasians" were the majority of registered voters. One example of this is the election of Mayor Thomas Bradley, of Los Angeles.

When we allow white racists to manipulate us into helping them to polarize the races, we only hurt ourselves.

Let us put ourselves in any human and decent Caucasian's place for a moment, if we can, and ask ourselves the question, would we vote for a candidate of another ethnic background, regardless of his or her qualifications, if he or she based everything on race? The answer obviously is no.

Let us not allow ourselves to be dragged into value judgements where the only criterion is black or white. Where have we left the human spirit? Everything is not black and white. We must help kill racism which leads man to think he is superior or should dominate another man simply because of race.

Politicians have used these divisive tactics for years to stay in office, employers have used them for years to control the work force. When are we going to wake up and qualify on our merits and not our so-called color? We have the strength and capacity to do it, let us stop making excuses and pave the way for a better America for all of its citizens.

We can not do it as long as we hold onto blackness as a racial identity. Black, a word which, in its very meaning is polarizing and debilitating; opposed to white, dismal or forbidding, destitute of moral light or goodness, atrocious, evil, wicked, calamitous, threatening, clouded with anger, a Negro.

How can we expect to have ethnic dignity with a word of such debilitating meanings to represent our ethnic worth?

It is time for us to grow out of blackness into the posture of a true humanity.

We should remember the stock of a person, the color of a person's skin, the amount of wealth or the degree of prestige enjoyed have no bearing on the character and personality of the individual.

The only distinction which should apply is the criterion of goodness, moral and spiritual excellence.

Realizing this, we, as an ethnic group should never again allow ourselves to be used by the power brokers to paint outselves into a black corner, while they continue to enjoy the fruits of human relationships with the peoples of the world.

Let us begin to use our brains more effectively and not just our brawn.

Look at the history of the Jewish minority in this country.

How many times have other ethnic groups been moved to act emotionally when they were dealing with them, committing such acts as pushing or shoving them or destroying their property, only to find themselves outwitted by them because they were working from intelligence. They use the law to bring such people before a court of justice, where, in most cases they win a judgement against the aggressor.

We live in a city about 60 percent African American, and in the sixth councilmanic district (which includes the Cherry Hill area, with its large African American population), the representation is all Caucasian. However, we need not go into a frenzy or on a racist trip because of it.

I am sure we can agree a HUMAN BEING does not have to be of our ethnic background to represent us.

We also can agree we have qualified people of our own ethnic background who can and should represent us. We know their sympathies should register a little deeper with us because we are of the same ethnic heritage, and have had similar experiences.

With that knowledge, we should work with patience and perseverance to register every eligible voter, to vote into office the quality of representation we need.

By using this approach, perhaps we will strike a blow for racial harmony, which will, itself, help everyone concerned to achieve freedom and justice for humanity.

Self-love is basic for self-help

Dr. Chancellor Williams, author of The Destruction of Black Civilization, is being discovered near his almost 84th birthday.

It was my pleasure to introduce him via national television to an appreciative, if you believe the mail, and ecstatic audience. The volume of letters was extremely heavy in spite of cancellations on about 50 percent of the public television stations because of pledge week activities and one station that cut it off after 40 seconds "due to technical difficulties."

What did he say? This brilliant historian, basically, talks common sense—a rare find these days. You must respect yourself before others can. Your heritage is the only civil right you need. He proclaims Africa is our origin, not slavery in America.

I want to share with the readers of this column what so many people around the country had to say about his philosophy of self-help based on self-love.

Mrs. Velma Brooks of Cleveland Heights, Ohio wrote: "Please thank Dr. Williams for his determination to search for the truth solely on feelings that his people had made great contributions to mankind. Because I, too, have that feeling, and now with Dr. Williams supplying his knowledge, I know now it too, to be a fact!"

Other comments: "Indeed you touched upon the very ideas I've been 'preaching' for quite a while. I thoroughly enjoyed your program."—Ms. Diane Plummer of Athens, Georgia. "Let me take this opportunity to say 'thank you' for producing a show like yours and for giving us all a better perspective of ourselves."—John Morgan of Atlanta, Georgia.

Ms. Shirley Hawkins of Los Angeles, California was deeply moved by Dr. Williams. "I never got a chance to see your show until March 9th, when I viewed the segment on the destruction of Black civilization with Dr. Williams. It was very interesting and informative. It had the effect on me of a thirsty person receiving a much needed drink of water. Not that I have seen your show, I will never try to miss it. How you could interview Dr. Williams as he talked about Black civilization and especially how some Blacks see themselves and each other in the present day without letting tears fall from your face is a mystery to me.

"I almost cried because I know the man was telling the truth. And, yes, there needs to be a mass education of self-awareness for Black people, because I see Blacks exhibiting negative behavior towards themselves and each other nearly everyday."

Mr. Lisle H. Davis of Westbury, New York wrote: "I'm enclosing $2.00 for a transcript of Dr. Chancellor Williams' interview with you. I fully agree with both of you that we as a Black race need to go back to learn about all the contributions we have made to civilization."

Some viewers were impressed with Dr. Williams' notable information. "I will take this chance to thank you for telecasting such useful truth and relevant information."—John Morgan of Atlanta, GA. "My family and I watched your program. Our young ones are searching for words of truth and wisdom like you shared today."—Yvonne Young, Far Rockaway, N.Y. Mr. Peter Bailey of New York wrote the following:

"Saw your program last night on which you interviewed Dr. Chancellor Williams. It was righteous, informative, educational and productive. In other words, brilliant! One of the best I've seen on television."

Verne A. Hodge of Las Vegas, Nevada felt proud after watching Dr. Williams on television. "Dr. Williams' words have the power to emancipate us from an externally imposed self-accusation that we are the cause of our distress. When we know our true history, then we can achieve our true destiny, to bring peace on earth and goodwill to all men."

Ms. Georgia Gowan of New York, wanted to purchase a copy of Dr. Williams' book: "I hope that I will have no difficulty purchasing The Destruction of Black Civilization, for that surely is my intention this week." (Note: It is available at Pyramid Bookstore, 2849 Georgia Avenue, Washington, DC 20001).

Dr. Williams is our hero and the mail from truth-hungry viewers proves it.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, can be seen on public television Thursday, on Channel 32 at 9 p.m. It can also be seen on Channels 22, Monday, 10:30 p.m., and 26, Thursday, 9 p.m.