



AFRICA in Today's World

A TWO-WEEK "get acquainted" workshop conducted by the Agency for International Development (AID) in Washington, D.C., for foreign students entering American universities and colleges this fall has left most of the African participants more at ease, but some were still apprehensive as they headed for campuses throughout the country.

Some of the doubts expressed by the Africans when they were interviewed by Helen Gott of the Washington Post may seem trivial to us. But they undoubtedly represent serious problems to these dedicated young people, many of whom will return to their native lands to place their advanced knowledge at the disposal of new and struggling governments.

"The professors and I might not understand each other," said Thomas Sando Paul, from Liberia. He is one of the 325 participating students representing 60 countries.

"The libraries are much bigger than in Nigeria, and the books are arranged differently," said Beatrice N. Nwuke.

"Here you are graded on every piece of homework, and there are many exams throughout the year. It is not so in Somalia," said Osman Adam Haji Farah.

The workshop at Georgetown and George Washington universities was designed to help the students adjust to the American system of higher education before they are thrown into campus life.

"In the past, foreign students have had difficulty in such things as library techniques, notetaking, reading faster, and being familiar with what goes on on American campuses," explained Prof. Kenneth Croft, director of the program at Georgetown.

He said there were different practices in many foreign systems of education. For example, in French-speaking Africa the countries follow the French system, with no compulsory attendance and only one exam at the end of the year. In some countries only essay-type exams are given.

The workshop schedule included testing procedures, notetaking, language of the campus, uses of the library, methods of study, grading and doing research papers.

"They have the most difficulty with idioms and language peculiarities," said Prof. James H. Coberly, program director at George Washington.

"I think that American university slang is going to give me the most trouble," said Ahmed Mohamed Zaidan, a Sudanese, as he studied a five-page paper entitled "American University Terminology."

"I was so scared about studying in this country that I almost declined to come," admitted Thomas Paul of Liberia. "One of last year's participants told me I would get so much work I would hardly have time to eat, and then I wouldn't get the grade I expected because I'd find out I had studied the wrong things."

This is the sixth year AID has sponsored the workshop, although it has brought foreign students here to study for many years.

The importance of this program to American foreign relations cannot be overestimated. We commend the administration in Washington for giving it wholehearted support.

This nation needs all the friends it can get in Africa because the Red and Yellow Commies are waging a desperate battle to place the Dark Continent behind the Iron Curtain.

VOICE READERS COMPRISE A \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

Election Credits, DEBITS

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

THE VOICE gratefully and humbly wishes to thank West Las Vegas voters for their magnificent support--in most cases-- of primary election candidates endorsed by this fledgling publication.

Although we were forced by principle and policy to back a number of aspirants who had little or no chance of being nominated, nine out of a total of 20 candidates espoused by the VOICE were able to win spots on the ballot for the general election of Nov. 3.

It was particularly gratifying to note the huge majorities amassed in the 12 predominantly Negro precincts by the three candidates who received our "gold star" endorsement--Sen. Howard Cannon, Ralph Denton and Leo Johnson. Consider the following amazing figures:

In gaining renomination on the Democratic ticket, Sen. Cannon out-pollied his chief Clark County rival, Harry Claiborne, by about a 5-2 margin in county-wide voting. In the 12 predominantly Negro precincts of West Las Vegas, however, Sen. Cannon drew FIVE TIMES as many votes as Claiborne and swamped his No. 1 statewide opponent, William Galt, by some 14-11.

Denton, who failed to unseat Congressman Walter Baring by fewer than 2,000 votes out of 58,000 cast throughout the state, was able to out-poll Baring in Clark County by about 4-3. But in West Las Vegas, Denton drubbed Baring by 6-11.

Johnson finished 10th among 28 Democratic candidates seeking one of the eight State Assembly nominations from District No. 2, polling almost 5,000 votes to about 11,500 for front-running Helen Herr (another VOICE endorsee, we are happy to say). Johnson, however, out-pulled Miss Herr by better than 2-1 in West Las Vegas despite the fact that Miss Herr finished second on the list in the Negro community!

THERE WAS AMPLE additional evidence that our carefully considered endorsements met with widespread approval among the West Las Vegas electorate. And we also were pleased to note that several non-endorsees who used the VOICE to publicize their candidacies through paid advertisements were able to make the ballot in November.

On the other side of the ledger, we were disappointed--ashamed may be a better word-- by the wretched voter response in West Las Vegas to the Congressional race. True, the total West Las Vegas turnout approximated the overall state percentage. But out of 3,488 Democratic voters registered in the 12 predominantly Negro precincts, only 1,514--less than 45 per cent--voted in the Congressional contest compared with a statewide percentage of 58 per cent!

This showing was disgraceful when one considers that a man who openly despises the Negro's legitimate aspirations was a candidate in the Congressional race. Is it any wonder that the Las Vegas Sun's Bryn Armstrong commented: "One of the most puzzling aspects of the primary election was the light turnout of voters in West Las Vegas. Baring's vote against the Civil Rights Bill should have aroused some interest there. . ."

The Nevada Voters League and the Las Vegas Women's Democratic Club West did a good job in getting the voters registered. But something went drastically wrong when it came to getting those same voters to the polls in sufficient numbers to nominate some candidates pledged to further the Negro cause and defeat others who couldn't care less about the colored man's welfare.

FOR THE SAKE OF UNITY, the VOICE went along with all 14 endorsements of the Nevada Voters League, but only two of these endorsees

survived the primary. According to Review-Journal political analyst Jude Wanniski, "If the League had been 90 per cent effective in putting together a bloc vote, it would have elected Denton, every one of its four Assembly endorsements, elected Bernie Posin over Darwin Lamb in the at-large Commission race and Flora Dungan over Bob Baskin in their race, and would have given Al Matuccci the top vote in the Justice of the Peace contest."

Denton's narrow loss to Baring was a particularly bitter pill to swallow. Our only solace, perhaps, lies in the fact that Denton was able to chop down Baring's 12,000-plus majority in the 1962 primary to a measly 1,720 this time. We can only hope that Baring's close shave will sober his thinking and persuade him to become a true representative of ALL his constituents should he win reelection in November.

In the meantime, if you are not registered to vote in the general election, DO IT NOW! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT. And after you qualify, make up your mind to get to the polls on Nov. 3 regardless. We still have a big job facing us on the national level. Complacency could be disastrous. If you don't think so, just consider what happened to Ralph Denton. Then close your eyes and visualize Barry Goldwater in the White House.

HAPPY NIGHTMARE!

What Other Editors Say:

(From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

Support for Integration

A series of national polls by two respected social research men shows that the long-range climate of public opinion is favorable to enforcement of the new Civil Rights Act, whatever the fearful may think.

Dr. Herbert H. Hyman of Columbia University and Paul B. Sheatsley of the University of Chicago conducted surveys in 1956 and late last year, and measured them against earlier findings. They report in *Scientific American* that for two decades now support for various forms of racial integration has grown among the adult white population.

To a degree the researchers report what might be expected: that integration is less amenable to those more than 60 years old than to younger persons, that the South remains more opposed than the nation as a whole, and that on the other side the North remains least amenable in the one area of housing integration.

Even so, national support of fair residence opportunities has jumped from 35 per cent in 1942 to 64 per cent now. Nearly one third of white Southerners appear to favor public school desegregation, and the research data indicate that this figure shows a remarkable change of opinion. As for basic attitudes underlying views on integration, the study shows that at least 80 per cent of the whites now believe Negroes to be as intelligent as whites; the figure was 50 per cent in 1942.

Such changes offer a non-legalistic measure of the effects of the 1954 Supreme Court decision on school integration and its aftermath. What the court did above all was to start the nation thinking. Thinking has inevitably led to change. Politicians and out-and-out race baiters may yet try to capitalize on immediate or localized opposition to this change, but they are fighting in a lost cause.

Las Vegas Voice

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