

GOVERNOR HEARS WESTSIDE STORY

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The Political Pendulum

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FOR THE PAST CENTURY the Negro vote has swung from party to party in the manner of a political pendulum--back and forth, back and forth--Republican, Democrat, Republican, Democrat.

Is the Negro vote swinging back toward the Republican column? It has happened before and it is likely to happen again--eventually, but when?

There are visible signs that forces are stirring the political climate in a manner which could swing the Negro vote back to the 'other side' of the pendulum's arc. Who knows when? Who know why?

The Negro voter is politically sophisticated today. A century ago, as a rookie in the game, he joined forces with the Republicans. He was then obligated to the party of the Emancipator to show appreciation to the martyred President who had cut the shackles of his bondage. The image of Abraham Lincoln nudged the conscience of the Negro voter and, unquestionably, motivated his loyalty to the Republican Party right up to FDR and the 'New Deal'.

THE NEGRO HAS LEARNED HIS POLITICS THE HARD WAY. For more than a half century he was naive and gullible. He listened to political promises, he believed, he supported, and later he suffered. For years he was politically ignorant or rejected. He was not permitted to attend the inner sanctum caucuses of policy making that laid the ground rules and established the patterns. He learned by waiting patiently and watching carefully. He learned all the tricks by being the target of most of them.

The Negro has learned that his two most important implements for waging his struggle for full citizenship are his vote and his money. He has learned by trial and error that both his dollars and his votes must be used collectively and with purpose. The Negro is fully aware that judicious implementation of his two chief weapons has vital bearing on his plans for progress.

The Negro vote remains on the auction block to go to the higher bidder. The Democrats have bid for and won the vote for the past 8 years. The Republicans laid claim to this political plum during most of the preceding 8 years. Before that, it was the property of the Roosevelt-Truman Democrats for nearly 20 years. FDR had wrestled the favor of the Negro vote from the GOP back in 1932.

The Negro fully realized the value of his collective vote in 1960. John F. Kennedy won a cliff-hanger in the Presidential race over Richard Nixon, the Republican standard bearer. It was the Negro Block Vote in four large Metropolitan areas that gave the victory to JFK.

The Negro voters cast an overwhelming plurality for Kennedy in New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Detroit. It was the Negro vote which gave the electoral votes of the four respective states to the Democrats. If Nixon had won New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Michigan, he would have defeated Kennedy by a landslide. The Negro vote turned a big tide in 1960.

In 1964, less than two years ago, Nevada had an intimate experience with the potential of the Negro Block Vote. The West Las Vegas voters gave Howard W. Cannon a plurality of 3500 votes over his Republican opponent. Cannon won the Senate race by a mere 84 votes.

THE NEGRO VOTE IN LAS VEGAS ALONE carried enough weight to tip the scales in Cannon's favor. The choice of the Negro voters was enough to veto the majority decision of all the rest of the voters in the whole state of Nevada. If the U.S. Senate contest could have been decided by excluding the tally in the Westside precincts, Nevada would have a Republican junior senator on Capitol Hill. His defeated opponent would have won the contest by more than 3000 votes.

The results of that 1964 balloting have established the local Negro Block as the most loyal, most consistent, and most valuable stronghold in the Democratic party throughout the entire state of Nevada. This is a premise that defies intelligent rebuttal.

Clark County Democrats outnumbered Republicans in 1964 by nearly three to one. For every thousand registered Republicans, there were nearly three thousand registered Democrats.

THE WESTSIDE VOTERS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW why it took all of their votes, all of their party loyalty to give victory to a good Democrat. It is obvious that the majority of Democrats on "the other side of town" were traitors to the party. If the others had been as faithful as the Negro voters, Cannon would have won by thousands of votes. He actually won by less than one hundred votes. He won because the Negro vote did not jump party lines.

The Negro vote is loyal to the party as long as the party is loyal to the Negro cause. The Negro has absolutely no obligation to either

STRAIGHT POOL CHAMP



A WINNER AND A GENTLEMAN -- CISERO MURPHY

Brooklyn, New York's 30 year old Cisero Murphy, only Negro contestant in the world's richest pool event, the \$30,000 Stardust Open pocket billiards tournament held at the Stardust Hotel last week, defeated Jack "Red Raider" Breit of Houston, Texas, and three-time former world champion, Irving "The Deacon" Crane, Rochester, New York in a playoff for the Straight Pool crown.

Cisero outlasted Crane, 100-74, and then ran out with 89 balls to overwhelm Breit, 100-12, after trailing, 11-12.

In round-robin finals for Overall championship, Murphy and Ronnie "Fast Eddie" Allen of Los Angeles, the tourney's Nine Ball champ, tied with 4-2 records as One Pocket division winner Larry "Boston Shorty" Johnson, was eliminated after winning only one of six matches.

Allen then won the playoff for Overall title by defeating Murphy in Nine Ball match, 11 games to 5, and Straight Pool, 100 points to 86, after Murphy had won opening One Pocket contest, three games to one.

Murphy, married and the father of a 4-year-old daughter, wound up \$2,500 in prize money. Winner of last year's World Invitational at Burbank, California, Murphy left Las Vegas immediately after losing to Allen to compete in World Straight Pool tournament at the Commodore Hotel in New York City.

Cisero, who won the hearts of galleryites in the Stardust tourney with his sportsmanship, was a three-letter athlete at George Westinghouse High School in Brooklyn. He aspires to own and operate his own billiard parlor in the New York City area.

party. He is obligated only to his country and to his cause. His cause is to seek and win his rightful little piece of the country he loves.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, the Negro voter is deeply entrenched in the Democratic ledger, but "tomorrow", if the price were right, he would jump parties with no regrets. He would do exactly what the majority of Clark County Democrats did in the 1964 U.S. Senate contest, when they cast their votes for a Republican candidate.

Republicans have recently been working like eager beavers to gain

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