

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

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The Message Is The Same

The first Negro newspaper, Freedom's Journal, owned and edited by Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwurm, appeared in New York City on March 16, 1827. Its first editorial, stressing the fight against slavery and discrimination, is published here in full. It will be observed that this newspaper appeared four years before Garrison's Liberator, credited by many historians as the first Negro newspaper.

"TO OUR PATRONS

In presenting our first number to our Patrons, we feel all the diffidence of persons entering upon a new and untried line of business. But a moment's reflection upon the noble objects, which we have in view by the publication of this Journal; the expediency of its appearance at this time, when so many schemes are in action concerning our people--encourage us to come boldly before an enlightened publick. For we believe, that a paper devoted to the dissemination of useful knowledge among our brethren, and to their moral and religious improvement, must meet with the cordial approbation of every friend to humanity.

The peculiarities of this Journal, renders it important that we should advertise to the world our motives by which we are actuated, and the objects which we contemplate.

WE WISH to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the publick been deceived by misrepresentations, in things which concern us dearly, though in the estimation of some mere trifles; for though there are many in society who exercise towards us benevolent feelings; still (with sorrow we confess it) there are others who make it their business to enlarge upon the least trifle, which tends to the discredit of any person of colour; and pronounce anathemas and denounce our whole body for the misconduct of this guilty one. We are aware that there are many instances of vice among us, but we avow that it is because no one has taught its subjects to be virtuous; many instances of poverty, because no sufficient efforts, accommodated to minds contracted by slavery; and deprived of early education have been made, to teach them how to husband their hard earnings, and to secure to themselves comfort.

Education being an object of the highest importance to the welfare of society, we shall endeavour to present just and adequate views of it, and to urge upon our brethren the necessity and expediency of training their children, while young, to habits of industry, and thus forming them for becoming useful members of society. It is surely time that we should awake from this lethargy of years, and make a concentrated effort for the education of our youth. We form a spoke in the human wheel, and it is necessary that we should understand our pendency on the different parts, and theirs on us, in order to perform our part with propriety.

THOUGH NOT desiring of dictating, we shall feel it our incumbent duty to dwell occasionally upon the general principles and rules of economy. The world has grown too enlightened, to estimate any man's character by his personal appearance. Though all men acknowledge the excellency of Franklin's maxims, yet comparatively few practise upon them. We may deplore when it is too late, the neglect of these self-evident truths, but it avails little to mourn. Ours will be the task of admonishing our brethren on these points.

The civil rights of a people being of the greatest value, it shall ever be our duty to vindicate our brethren, when oppressed; and to lay the case before the publick. We shall also urge upon our brethren, (who are qualified by the laws of the different states) the expediency of using their elective franchise; and of making an independent use of the same. We wish them

(See HISTORY, page 11)

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

EDITORIAL

PARTY POLITICS AND THE NEGRO VOTE PART IV

Presidential Candidates - 1968

The Republicans and the Democrats will each select a standard bearer, sometime next summer; each party hoping to see its party colors flying over the White House after the 1968 Presidential Election.

There is one glowing difference between the two parties in the matter of choosing their respective presidential hopefuls.

The Republicans have absolutely no idea as to whom they will select. The Democrats, on the other hand, have absolutely no question as to their choice, who will be the Tall Texan, L.B.J.

ONLY LAST month (June), the GOP governors met and decided that the time was not ripe to pick the Republican candidate for President. On the other hand, the Demo heads of State also convened, but they gave L.B.J. their wholehearted confidence and backing. A few of the die-hard Dixiecrat governors held off, refusing to commit to L.B.J.

Nothing short of a miracle or a disaster will prevent unanimous selection of Lyndon B. Johnson as the Democratic candidate, and, party scuttlebutt to the contrary, Hubert Humphrey will be his running mate.

Bobby Kennedy is the only other Democrat whose name has been seriously mentioned as a candidate for the nomination. Bobby is a knowledgeable politician who must view his candidacy, at this time, as political suicide.

IF A Kennedy-Johnson power struggle were to erupt on the floor of the 1968 Demo convention, the party would suffer wounds of division which could not possibly be healed by November.

Bobby knows this. Bobby also knows that he cannot muster the necessary support to win the nomination from the President. In addition, Bobby Kennedy knows that he would be a dead duck as far as the 1972 decision for the Presidential candidate goes if he opposed Johnson for the nomination.

R.F.K. WILL be the loudest voice for party unity to be heard at the Democratic National Convention. This strategy will just about clinch the Presidential Nomination for him 4 years later. Bobby will carry the colors of the Democrats in 1972.

Getting to the "Loyal Opposition," the Republican Party, it is impossible to predict who it will trust with its standards, or how deeply they will inflict wounds on one another. If Republicans delay their in-fighting until Convention time, they will be giving the White House back to the Democrats. They could not possibly heal their wounds, nor mend their fences by election time.

There are many strong contenders for the GOP nomination. They include Gov. Romney of Michigan, Richard Nixon, Gov. Reagan of California, Senator Percy of Illinois, and the powerful dark horse, Gov. Rockefeller of New York.

Romney, Percy, and Rockefeller have been classified as 'moderates'. Nixon, as usual, is a 'middle-of-the-roader', and Reagan is way out in right field as a Goldwater Conservative. Reagan, incidentally, is the golden boy in the eyes of Gov. Paul Laxalt. Both Reagan and Laxalt were ardent supporters of Goldwater in 1964.

IF MEMORY serves correctly, Richard Nixon campaigned quite vigorously for Goldwater for President in 1964.

Romney and Rockefeller were opposed to Barry Bilgewater from beginning to end. They are the Republican possibles least tainted with Republican Conservatism.

Senator Percy is the most unlikely entry to win the GOP nomination. He is too green on the national scene to be given serious consideration.

No self-respecting Negro, including Negro Republicans, could possibly vote for Reagan, Nixon, or any other ultra conservative candidate.

Reports on Romney from Michigan Negro politicians are not unfavorable except that Romney is Republican and the vast majority of Michigan Negroes are Democrats.

Gov. Nelson Rockefeller has repeatedly received the majority of the Negro Vote even though New York Negroes are predominantly Democratic.

Although political hacks class Republican Governors Romney and Rockefeller as moderates, they are both as liberal as Republican platforms will permit.

SHOULD THE Republican Convention come up with a meaningful liberal platform, and nominate Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, the GOP would make considerable inroads into L.B.J.'s grip on the Negro voters.

However, if the Democrats strengthen their platform position on Civil Rights, including a strong provision on Open Housing, L.B.J. will capture a larger percentage of Negro votes than he won in 1964.

From the viewpoint of the Negro voter, the Republicans can forget it, unless they adopt a liberal platform, and name a liberal man like Rockefeller.

Lyndon B. Johnson has been the very best friend the American Negro has ever had in the White House. It is not likely that the Negro voters will forget the Tall Texan at the polls next November regardless of the Republican platform, promises, or candidate.

★ ★ THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY ★ ★

July 13, 1863 Anti-slavery riots in New York City.

July 13, 1870 Richard T. Greener was the first Negro man to graduate from Harvard College.

July 14, 1793 Richard Allen, founder of the AME church, organized city-wide nursing service during yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia.

July 14, 1881 Tuskegee Institute (Alabama) enrolls first students.

July 14, 1946 Fletcher Martin, Louisville, Ky., was the first Negro to be awarded a Nieman Fellowship.

July 15, 1873 Quinn Chapel AME church, one of the oldest churches in Chicago, was destroyed by fire for the second time.

July 16, 1862 Ida B. Wells-Barnett, initiator of anti-lynch campaign of 1890's, was born in Holly Springs, Miss. Before coming to Chicago where she was an opponent of segregation and a political worker, she edited her own paper, The Memphis Free

Speech, in Memphis, Tenn. In 1892, three of her friends were lynched in Memphis, and because of her editorials and investigations, her paper was destroyed by whites. She lectured against lynching in U.S. cities and England.

July 16, 1866 Freedman's bureau, organized (See THIS WEEK, page 7)

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