

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

ONE OF THE sorest points in race relations is the accusation of "Negro criminality"--which unfairly indicts all non-whites for the misdeeds of some.

Critics of black people point to Negro crime as a justification for holding the black man down and as an excuse for their own wrongdoing.

They forget that white examples of "law and order"--like slavery, Klan terror, segregation, and double standards of justice--hardly inspire any feeling of being "law-abiding."

Other people offer a simplistic correlation between poverty and law violation, averring that an increase in economic standing would lower the crime rate, when the opposite is often the case.

Still others, agreeing with the white stereotype of the Negro as a criminal, have adopted this self-image and proceed to go through the motions of being master criminals.

They boast of burning down cities and destroying the nation, when in reality they have little power to do much but expel hot air.

In the face of conflicting evidence on the subject, lawbreaking by Negroes, thus, is seen to be a matter about which the final words remain to be said. But some facts are known, and today's Baffler will test your knowledge of them.

Scoring: 4-7: tops; 3: fair; 0-2: poor. Bonus Question at the end counts two points. Here's the multiple-choice quiz:

1. In many cities, the crime rate among black people is higher than that for whites. What is a contributing factor in this difference?

--A. The greater likelihood that Negroes will be picked up for a given crime, along with double standards of justice;

--B. Innate racial tendencies;

--C. The fact that whites are universally law-abiding.

2. How does the crime rate among upper and middle-class black people compare with that for corresponding classes among whites?

--A. The Negro rate is much higher; B. No higher; C. Non-existent.

3. Many whites, who self-righteously denounce Negro-area crime and shake in their boots at the thought of it, forget that:

--A. It's all right to commit a crime, if you have a good excuse;

--B. Black people are the primary victims of Negro crime;

--C. You can't legislate morality.

4. A good answer to give those who picture black people as criminals is to note that:

--A. Crime among Negroes is virtually non-existent;

--B. Everyone has his own speciality--and for some, it's criminality;

--C. White-collar crimes like embezzling and fraud, comparatively rare among black people, are much more prevalent among whites.

5. Which partial explanation of racial crime is most valid:

--A. Life was cheap during slavery, which destroyed the black man's family and community institutions;

--B. The abolitionist made the slaves lose respect for law and order;

--C. Black people don't go to church enough.

THE LOMAX POLL - Reveals Negro Opinions

By Almena Lomax

LOS ANGELES--Negroes have adopted a "So, what else is new?" attitude toward the white backlash in American politics, evidenced in the Nov. 7th state and local elections, and consider that the significance of the elections was not the backlash, but Negro political power.

There is nothing new about whites crossing party lines to vote for whites or in white interest against Negroes, but Negroes proved that they can turn out and elect Negroes and "reward their friends and punish their enemies." The Lomax Poll found in its 8th survey of National Negro opinion, released here Nov. 10.

Negro votes were held by Negroes to have elected Carl B. Stokes Mayor of Cleveland and Richard G. Hatcher Mayor of Gary, Ind., and the white vote was regarded as only a sprinkling. Negroes also felt that they played the decisive role in defeating segregationist Louise Day Hicks in Boston and that they will elect many more Negroes to positions of power and responsibility in the future and will supply the balance of power which will decide major elections, such as the 1968 Presidential race, this only Negro-conducted poll, the first to be devoted to reporting solely Negro opinion, found.

ASKED IF they thought Negroes elected to powerful government posts mainly by Negroes should follow the example of whites and appoint mainly members of their own ethnic group to administrative jobs, Negroes said they felt a policy of appointing the "best man," regardless of race, should be followed.

NEGRO VOTE STILL DEMOCRATIC

The Nov. 7th election did not indicate that the "old New Deal coalition of Negroes, Democrats and Labor" is dead, as claimed by the metropolitan media, and that Negroes are either growing independent or switching to the Republicans. Both Stokes and Hatcher are Democrats, and other Negroes who won were for the most part Democrats, also where the Negro vote was a decisive factor, as in Boston and Philadelphia, it was a Negro Democratic vote.

In the instances of Stokes and Hatcher, the white Democratic and Labor votes were acknowledged to have left the coalition, but Negroes expected this. In elections where Negroes are candidates, Negroes expect the issue to be race, despite what the candidates say. Except in rare instances, such as the election of Senator Edward Brooke, of Massachusetts, to the United States Senate on the Republican ticket, Negroes do not consider that members of their race can be elected to public office by whites, and most feel that Brooke, in the present racial climate, could not be elected.

Negroes are still Democrats and consider that their best chance of winning public office is as Democrats, except in the Deep South. There, because most incumbents are Democrats, Negroes feel it would be better to seek Republican nominations and appeal to Negro voters of both parties on a "Negro Representation" platform in the runoff. Third parties, even the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, are for "demonstration purposes" and have no practical value, Negroes feel.

CAN DEFEAT WHITE BACKLASH

Negroes feel that they, in collaboration with Labor and liberal and progressive whites, can defeat any white backlash candidate for President, whether the avowed anti-Negro candidacy of former Alabama Governor George Wallace or the more subtle white backlash candidacy of California Governor Ronald Reagan. White backlash supporters of Governor Wallace are held to be throwing their votes "down a rathole", just as Negroes would be who support third party candidates. No Republican hopeful besides Reagan is considered to be anti-Negro, or to be "capable" of drumming up or taking advantage

of white backlash sentiment.

THE ELECTIONS of Stokes and Hatcher and of other Negroes, and the tipping of the scales in behalf of Kevin White in Boston were held to be proof that there are as many as three times more Negroes in the United States than the 1960 Census and other sources have stated. (The writer, in an article in the Los Angeles Times for Oct. 30, 1966, set forth the premise that there are approximately 65-75 million Negroes in the United States, based on the estimate of six million Negro votes cast in the 1964 Presidential election, or 40 percent of the potential, with an additional potential of 9 million, or 15 million in all, to which is added the official U.S. estimate of 3.8 children per average Negro family.)

As an example, the 1960 census listed Cuyahoga County, of which Cleveland is the county seat and largest population concentration as 15.5 percent Negro. Over the three-month period between Stokes' filing and his election, Negro population estimates for Cleveland in the daily press of the country rose from 25 to 40 percent.

Similarly, in the 1960 Census, the Lake and (See LOMAX, page 4)

THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- Nov. 30, 1944 The Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., was elected to his first term in the U.S. Congress from New York.
- Dec. 1, 1869 First National Negro Labor convention, Washington, D.C.
- Dec. 2, 1492 Columbus discovered the Caribbean island of Haiti.
- Dec. 2, 1859 Famed abolitionist John Brown and his Negro co-conspirators --Shields Green, Dangerfield Newby, Sherrard Lewis Leary and John A. Copeland--martyred. Osborn P. Anderson (A Voice from Harper's Ferry) escaped to later serve with distinction in the Civil War. Brown and his followers were hanged for raid at Harper's Ferry.
- Dec. 2, 1891 Dr. Charles H. Wesley, former president, Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio and now director, Association for the Study of Negro Life and History was born.
- Dec. 3, 1948 The Rev. Silas A. Peeler, former president, Bennett College and Methodist minister, died.
- Dec. 4, 1833 First convention of the National Anti-Slavery Society held in Philadelphia.
- Dec. 5, 1955 The first mass meeting, out of which was born the Montgomery (Ala.) boycott movement, was held.
- Dec. 6, 1849 John M. Langston, acting president, Howard University, Washington, D.C., from 1873-75, was graduated from Oberlin College, Ohio.
- Dec. 6, 1869 National Labor convention in Washington creates Colored National Labor union.
- Dec. 6, 1949 Huddie (Leadbelly) Ledbetter, king of the 12-stringed guitar, died.
- Dec. 6, 1956 Col. Paul E. Magloire, President of Haiti, was forced by popular opinion, to resign. He was elected in 1950.

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BONUS QUESTION: Contrary to popular opinion, the Negro crime rate for rape, as compared with that for whites, is:

ANSWERS: 1. A; 2. B; 3. B; 4. C; 5. A.
BONUS ANSWER: No higher.