

CAPSULE COMMENTS

By Paul C. Smith

LOOKING FORWARD

As the year 1973 comes to a close, one cannot help but reflect what has transpired during the year. However, looking back, one can only help if one uses that knowledge to help make the next year more productive toward goals not achieved.

This past year we have had 2) State Legislators - 1) State Senator, - 1) County Commissioner - 1) School District Trustee, and one elected Municipal Judge serving. This does show progress. We have Blacks working in jobs not heretofore open to Blacks - in greater numbers. All of the Community Service Organizations have been successful in obtaining funding.

The Food Stamp program has replaced commodity foods. We have not had any unsolvable problems, or crisis situations.

While we have not achieved all of the goals we set - we can be thankful and count our blessings.

Look forward to the year 1974 as a year that even further gains will be made. These are the things we ask and pray for. As the song says: "There is no mountain high enough, or river wide enough to keep us from succeeding."

Attorney General Robert List has ruled that: Minors may legally make a citizens arrest and sign criminal complaints. He also ruled: That a second conviction within 3 years of driving under the influence carries a mandatory ten day jail sentence even though the previous conviction occurred prior to July 1, 1973.

INCOME OF BLACK AMERICANS IN 1972 WAS 51 BILLION DOLLARS, SAID DR. ANDREWS BRIMMER, BLACK MEMBER OF FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD.

\$51,000,000,000,00
INCOME OF BLACK AMERICA 1972

BLACKS RETICENCE TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES IS A MAJOR FACTOR AND IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITIES UNDER-DEVELOPMENT..

DOUGLAS C. GLASGOW, DEAN OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK.



Democrat guidelines drop 'quotas'

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S COMMITTEE on Delegate Selection and Party Structure, the so-called Mikulski Commission, has concluded its work on proposed rules under which it suggests that delegates to the 1976 national convention should be selected. These rules are to be presented to the Democratic National Committee in early spring, 1974.

Much of the political furor that threatened to bog down deliberations was over the so-called "quot" issue, under which the state delegations to the 1972 Democratic National Convention were to have representation of minority groups, women and youth in "reasonable relationship" to their presence in the state's population. "Quotas" were explicitly prohibited by a footnote in the 1972 rules, but many doubted that the prohibition had worked. The ban on "quotas" is now written into the body of the rules.

The Mikulski Commission's proposed rules put emphasis on "affirmative action" by the state and national parties to make sure that minority groups, native Americans, women and youth are included in the delegate selection process and in all party affairs. The increased emphasis on "all party affairs" is significant.

STATE AND NATIONAL PARTIES are required under proposed rules to adopt and implement Affirmative Action Programs (the appendix to the rules includes two model affirmative action programs). Affirmative action must reach all levels of the party structure. It is particularly important to see that affirmative action is applied to the activities of state and county party committees. Both the affirmative action plans and delegate selection rules, for the first time, must be submitted to a 17-member Compliance Review Committee (CRC) of the Democratic National Committee before implementation.

The proposed new rules set a "goal" for representation of minorities, women and youth based on "their presence in the Democratic electorate." "Presence in the Democratic electorate" is difficult to determine precisely since registration and participation figures by race must generally be estimated. However, based on national averages, blacks certainly are a higher proportion of the Democratic party than they are of the population at-large. The commonly accepted estimate is that blacks make up 20 percent of the Democratic party, as against 11 percent of the nation's population. However,

in judging whether the "goal" is met, the rules point to both performance under an approved Affirmative Action Plan and the composition of the state delegation. However, composition of the delegation is not to be PRIMA FACIE evidence of non-compliance.

The Affirmative Action Plans are to be submitted to the Compliance Review Committee on or before December 15, 1974. The Committee then has up to 60 days - that is, until February 15, 1975 - to act on the plans submitted. Implementation of the approved plans is to begin not later than March 15, 1975.

Then delegate selection plans are to be submitted to the Compliance Review Committee by July 1, 1975, and the CRC has 60 days to review the plan submitted. And at any time up to 30 days preceding the initiation of a state's delegate selection plan, any group of 15 Democrats in the state can challenge the Affirmative Action Program on the basis of non-implementation.

SEVERAL OTHER CHANGES were made in the delegate selection rules which guided the 1972 Democratic delegate selection process. Slate-making, whereby any individual or group of delegates sponsors or endorses a slate of candidates for convention delegates, is now permitted. However, no slate is to receive preferential treatment as the result of such endorsement, nor is any state to be identified as the "official" state.

Also, in states where no state convention is held to elect delegates, the state committee or the publicly elected national convention delegates can elect not more than 25 percent of national convention delegates. This is an increase from the 10 percent maximum which was allowed under 1972 guidelines.

Another change affects the participation of Democratic senators, congressmen and governors at the national convention. Some party members had argued that those officials should be EX-OFFICIO, that is, automatic, delegates, while others felt delegates should be elected separately at a time near the convention date. The new rule urges the Democratic National Convention to "extend privileges, except voting rights," to these elected officials and members of the national committee who are not elected voting delegates.

A further change requires that delegates to the 1976 national convention fairly reflect the

presidential preferences of those who participate in the presidential nominating process in each state. This rule is an effort to resolve the California dispute that erupted in 1972 with the challenge of the state's winner-take-all primary after that primary election had been held.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF other provisions in the Commission's proposed new rules which existed in the same, or similar, form in 1972. These include the following: state parties must adopt explicit written rules and procedures and publish and make available at no cost their rules, relevant state statutes, and a clear and concise explanation of how Democratic voters can participate in the delegate selection process; all official party meetings and events are to be scheduled at times and places to encourage participation by all groups, and times and dates shall be uniform throughout the state; all official events, rules, etc., are to be publicized widely; no person is to be excluded from any stage of the delegate selection process for failure to pay a cost or fee; no less than 40 percent of any party body above the first level of the delegate selection process shall constitute a quorum; the unit rule shall not be used at any stage of the delegate selection process.

Copies of the rules as reported out of the Mikulski Commission (named for Baltimore Councilwoman Barbara Mikulski) can be obtained by writing the Democratic National Committee, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
 900 West Bonanza Road, Lobby Suite (Moulin Rouge Hotel) Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 Telephone 648-2615

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