

EDITORIAL

Soul Food Restaurants - Live Or Die

Soul Food Restaurants are here to stay as long as there are Black people and ghettos. The survival of these choice places of dining is another story in itself. One apparent fact is that 3 out of every 10 businesses survive or make it past the first year. So, where does that leave the small Black restaurant? Ask Sam Carol of the now defunct Uncle Sam's Dynamite Soul Food Restaurant.

The reasons behind the failure of Sam's Restaurant are varied. But the outstanding factors leading to the downfall of most black businesses is THE LACK OF CAPITAL, POOR MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, and most important, THE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE BUSINESS.

As for Soul Food restaurants, well, the general public is not quite ready for them on a commercial basis. Now, mention tacos, pizza or egg foo yong and you won't have much trouble convincing anyone to venture to the local silver-lined "stop and go" restaurant.

However, if you have a taste for some neck-bones, red beans and rice - and don't forget the candied yams - one must travel to the other side of the tracks to satisfy one's taste buds.

The concluding factor is that it will be Black people who will make these restaurants into profit making enterprises or make them into empty store fronts with white washed windows.

BAYARD RUSTIN

Exec. Director, A Philip Randolph Institute



It has become fashionable in recent years to speak knowingly of an impending realignment of the Democratic Party. Since the time of Franklin Roosevelt, the Democrats have secured the allegiance of working people -- black and white.

Now, we are told, all that is changing. Conservatives, such as columnist Kevin Phillips, predicted that white working people would soon shift their loyalties to the Republican Party, in large measure as a reaction to racially-tinged issues. Liberals, such as Fred Dutton, an advisor to Senator McGovern during his presidential campaign, envisioned the emergence of new and basically middle-class forces to replace working people as the Democratic Party's base (Dutton specifically pinned his hopes on the youth vote).

Both Phillips and Dutton have had ample opportunity to experiment with efforts to create a new coalition, and it is obvious that both have failed.

The Democratic Party's base is its biracial, working class constituency. Students, the activist middle class, academics -- all may participate in party affairs and influence to one degree or another its direction; they do not, however, comprise the bulk of its voters.

Beyond providing the Democratic Party with the power of numbers, blacks and organized labor have injected a sense of vigor and commitment into the political system. Middle class activists often assert that their superior dedication and moral vision compensate for the lack of a mass base. But there can be little doubt that it has been labor -- in combination with the black community -- which has most energetically and effectively defended the interests of ordinary people.

Blacks and labor, moreover, have often done this together -- as partners in a strong, biracial alliance containing vast potential for transforming the political process. Labor has been instrumental in helping to elect black candidates, such as Congressman Andrew Young, Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, and Congressman William Clay.

There have been instances when the labor movement did not support a black candidate; these occasions, however, have been rare. In the overwhelming majority of cases, labor has supported black candidates, contributed money and

He Cleared The Path...His Dream Came True



manpower when a black candidate was involved in a close election, and conducted education programs among white members who might have misgivings about supporting a black candidate.

The relationship between blacks and the labor movement has been one of close cooperation most of the time, and occasional differences which are resolved with no feelings of enduring bitterness. Yet one would never know this, if one limited his reading to the most popular liberal magazines and newspapers. The message of these journals is that blacks and the labor movement are deeply split over the direction of the Democratic Party and, particularly, that labor is trying to limit black representation on party governing committees.

In these accounts, the AFL-CIO is usually described as a "conservative" force within the party. This is absurd on its face. Labor cannot be conservative and yet give unqualified support to Andrew Young, Barbara Jordan, and Tom Bradley, lead the fight for impeachment, and have the only coherent program to protect the interests of minorities and working people against the possibility of economic depression.

There is no question that there are differences between some blacks who serve on the Democratic National Committee, and the labor movement over the guidelines for party governance. A number of blacks, led by California Assemblyman Willie Brown, walked out of a recent meeting because of a disagreement over delegate selection rules and have threatened to boycott the party's Charter Conference, scheduled for December in Kansas City.

There are three observations which need to be made.

First, however serious the differences may appear now, the likelihood is that some agreement can be reached that will be acceptable to all sides.

Second, leading a walk-out of a committee meeting may be a dramatic way of expressing one's discontent, but it does nothing to further the role of black people within the party. Black people have achieved important power within the Democratic Party; they are certainly not being excluded from its affairs. But they will not be able to exert that power, except in an essentially negative or counterproductive way, if they threaten to bolt the party simply because a decision does not go their way.

Third, there are those within the Democratic Party who would prefer to see a cleavage between blacks and the labor movement. They themselves are antagonistic to labor's role in the party, and are not above exploiting racial differences to help assure their own dominance.

Recent history should have made clear that the future of the liberal coalition does not lie with the middle-class oriented forces who formed the nucleus of the McGovern campaign. The future lies with the working class majority of both races, and their representatives in the labor movement. This is why it is essential, more than ever, to resist those efforts to divide these two forces for social change.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

October 21, 1974

I am puzzled, confused and concerned. The other day there was a killing of a young Black man by a Las Vegas officer who alleged that the youth was involved in a burglary. The suspect was shot in the head by the officer. My main concern is WHY IS THERE SUCH A "HUSH -HUSH" IN THE DAILY PAPERS? After the initial report, there has not been a single report on the investigation. Why this sudden silence? Almost daily we are reading about the Boston school bus situation. What is going on in Las Vegas? We'd like to know.

An interested reader.

LAS VEGAS VOICE

NEVADA'S BLACK COMMUNITY WEEKLY
"An Uninterrupted Publication Since 1963"

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTEREST and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for BLACK CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| LAWRENCE ALBERT..... | Publisher |
| COL. ED BROWN..... | Consultant |
| SANDRA McILVEIN..... | Treasurer |
| BEATRICE J. BRYANT..... | Office Manager |
| BETTY A. BROWN..... | Composition & Layout |
| CLINTON WRIGHT..... | Photographer |
| DOROTHY JOHNSON..... | Food Forum |
| EVA POOLE & BETTY TERRY..... | Religious News |

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

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST
Price per copy - 15¢ * One year \$7.50
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada).