

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

70,000,000 WILL NOT VOTE

Washington, D.C. - More and more people of voting age -- over 70,000,00 of them -- will not vote in the November elections. This means that the next president of the United States will sit in the White House saddened by the knowledge that more than 70% of his fellow citizens of voting age did not vote for him. His name could be Ford. Or it could be Carter. But either will learn the shocking truth -- for the first time in over 50 years, a great majority of eligible Americans will not vote in the presidential election. And the winner will be the choice of a rank minority. The non-voters will be a real 'Silent Majority.' All this, according to Maurice Mitchell, Chancellor of the University of Denver, who took part in a year-long, national survey on Non-voting in America, a project conducted by the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, a bipartisan panel of civic, education, labor, business and political leaders.

And who are the non-voters? The study by Peter D. Hart Research Associates, states they "fit the stereotype of being less educated, less affluent, more urban AND LESS OFTEN WHITE! Another shocking aspect of the 'I Won't Vote' cast are those they survey calls "Drop-outs" -- those who voted frequently in 1968 or before, but have become disenchanting and estranged from the political process. They are older, more education, more affluent and more alienated than non-voters. Black persons are not along among non-voters - more than 74% of them are white. 20% are in the upper income brackets, 23% live in the suburbs and the majority are over 35. What a revolting development! On a confidence rating of 13 major institutions, the two major political parties are at the bottom. The wide-ranging survey among 1,486 non-voters who were asked 201 questions in 42 states and D.C. showed most of them distrust major political and economic institutions, political leadership -- and us, the media.

BUT WE WRITE ON - By a margin of 87 to 8, non-voters interviewed, chorused the refrain: "What this country needs most, more than laws and political programs, are a few courageous, tireless, devoted leaders in whom people can put their faith." We say, Amen. Political leaders they most admired: John Kennedy (50%) lead the pack; Franklin Roosevelt (20%); Dwight Eisenhower and Harry Truman (10%). All are dead. Only 1% mentioned either of the '76 candidates as heroes.

The black voters, being wooed on all sides, constitute the balance of power, if they could be harnessed. If they but got out to register and vote they constitute one fifth of the total voting age population, according to the "Guide to Black Politics 1976," a study released at the Democratic Convention in New York by DeeCee Joint Center for Political Studies, showed. Here are the said facts:

Of five major cities studied, New York with a 5,660,043 voting age bloc numbers 1,030,449 blacks eligible for the ballot box. But they won't vote. Chicago's 2,285,559 include 632,766 blacks; Los Angeles, 2,058,548 potential voters has a low black voter eligibility - 327,485; Philadelphia's 397,959 blacks are in the city's total of 1,341,343 eligibles, and Detroit's 395,589 blacks are among 1,017,608 eligibles. Among smaller cities, Baltimore has a whopping 42.3%. Washington, D.C. has the banner black voter eligibles among the nation's 20 largest cities -- 64%. Of the capitol's 756,510 eligibles 735,051 stand out in beautiful color. Congratulations!

Now look at some tragic figures: New York City has 1,668,115 blacks in a total population of 7,894,862. But it contains only 18.2% blacks of voting age. Though the Empire City is One-Two in the nation's population rating, it has the lowest (18.2%) blacks of voting age. Washington is No. 1 (64%); Newark (48%); Atlanta (45.9%); Baltimore (40.8%); Detroit (38.9%); Birmingham

(37.7%); Philadelphia (25.7%); Oakland (27.7%); Chicago (27.7%) and New York is lowly is last among ten cities studied. This is a bleak black picture. The major cities are playing second fiddle to smaller municipalities around the nation.

The political study, citing a '76 census projection of potential black voters, says the ballot boxes could log 15,380,000 brothers and sisters, almost half the 33 million expected to vote. It is too much to ask but should all eligible Blacks vote there would be a recognition factor for the black community of unparalleled proportions in the history of American politics. Another facet of the study: The South does a better job in getting out the black vote. White New York and other Northern cities lag percentage-wise far behind the rest of the country, five Southern states and D.C. go far beyond the one-fifth ratio of black eligibles.

Watch: District of Columbia (67.7%); Mississippi (30.5%); Louisiana (26.4%); South Carolina (26.1%); Georgia (23.7%) and Alabama (22%).

But there is stark reality to the twin studies. They bear thee messages: (1) There is disenchantment with the body politic. The president will be chosen by a meager minority; (2) Blacks are also among the disenchanting. But through it all, I urge those that follow this corner - STAY LOOSE!

What Are You Doing To Help YOUR Community?

Join Ray Willis and Maria Donoso for a look at what minorities are doing in Southern Nevada.

Along with special local and nationally known guests, they make this an interesting and informative half-hour



Sat. 4:30 PM Sun. 7:00AM

minor key



The Temptations are to music what the Ford family is to the automobile industry, and after 14 years in the music industry, it's finally happened, "The Temptations Do The Temptations," their exciting new album celebrating the silver anniversary of The Temptations' 25 solo albums for Motown Records.

For those of you who don't go all the way back with The Temptations, their very first album was, "Meet The Temptations" (1964), since that time they have left a glittering trail of gold classics, compiling 12 gold albums including their last three, "A Song For You," "House Party," and "Wings of Love."

The Temptations have been a part of the Motown royal family and hit-making tradition, and are one of the few groups around today who have survived major personnel changes and still remained at the pinnacle of stardom around the world.

It is a remarkable feat, considering their loss of two of music's vocal wonders, Eddie Kendricks and David Ruffin, solo stars whose departure would have destroyed the average male rhythm & blues group.

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