



BLACK EMPOWERMENT

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REFLECTIONS ON SENATOR BROOKE'S DEFEAT

When Senator Edward W. Brooke was losing, during the early election night counting, in his re-election bid for the U.S. Senate, Senator Charles Percy remarked that he could not believe that the good people of Massachusetts would ever turn their back upon Edward W. Brooke.

What Senator Percy doubtless bore in mind are at least several facts of which all black Americans should bear in mind as they reflect upon the meaning of Edward Brooke's tenure in the United States Senate.

For one thing, Senator Charles Percy as a deeply sensitive and knowledgeable man would be mindful that—regardless of any actual or perceived mistakes—Senator Brooke brought to the United States' Senate some of the most remarkable gifts of our age.

Among the U.S. Senators who were Mr. Brooke's colleagues, he stood out clearly as a giant. Some scholars have suggested that in terms of statesmanlike demeanor, Mr. Brooke has had no recent peer. Hence black Americans should be profoundly proud of Mr. Brooke as an exceedingly rare role model not only for our people but for our nation as a whole.

We far too often talk the rhetoric of equality when our goal and thrust should be toward excellence alone. No man or woman, in the profoundest sense of the term, is "the equal" of another. Each of us has unique gifts in the development and exercise of which no one may be our peer.

Senator Brooke assuredly did not seek "to be equal" but rather to excel. In this thrust, the striving toward excellence alone on Mr. Brooke's part should find more than sufficient reason to hail our former U.S. Senator as a priceless hero among us.

As Senator Percy spoke of Mr. Brooke he also probably had in mind Mr. Brooke's brilliance of mind, which he

used constantly to re-shape and re-define issues in order to be a true leader, as a figure ahead of the crowd.

One had simply to read, week by week, Mr. Brooke's messages to the people of Massachusetts to discover his remarkable ability to move consistently toward the refinement or the re-assessment of issues rather than to entrench himself in a justification of where he had stood in the past.

For black Americans this is a trait which we must revere

most deeply and come to follow assiduously. For much too long a time now, so much of our leadership has been bent upon "self-justification." We need to get away from that kind of perilously childish behavior.

One of the great hymns of the church reminds us that "New occasions teach new duties (and)

Time makes ancient good uncouth."

While we must prize the spirit in which we plowed and raked the furrows in the field behind us, our rights must be kept securely upon the plow and upon the task ahead which remains to be accomplished... in its own way.

Reverence for the past does not call for an invitation of its actions but for an acceptance of its spirit of excellence and of openness which thereby created accomplishments appropriate to the past.

Senator Brooke came as close as any recent member of the United States Senate to recalling in his great mind and in his rich imaginative powers the oratorical skills and the handsomely commanding presence of our best statesmen in our nation's idealized past.

Yet, Mr. Brooke did not adopt positions appropriate

to the 18th or the 19th centuries. Rather he stood in the forefront of the pioneering leaders of our present day. That he did so successfully without controversy but with a spirit of conciliation should suggest to all of us as black Americans that we can—and perhaps must—accomplish any truly enduring purpose in a spirit of winsomeness.

Once we succumb to the spirit of antagonism rather than sustain a stance of cooperation, we are needlessly caught in a trap where our energies are largely lost in defensive efforts rather than being spent in a constant forging ahead toward the realization of our goals.

That we must be enduringly grateful to Senator Edward W. Brooke should be evident. He should be held in the highest honor and esteem among us. We must see in him a great man among—and above—our nation's greatest in the field of political life. As a pioneer in ways in which we must pioneer, if freedom is to be our goal, we must salute and emulate much of his spirit in almost all that we do each day.



HEW NEWS

Hew secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr., has announced his intention to name James Pickman, deputy Executive Secretary of HEW, as Executive Deputy Commissioner for Resources and Operations in the Office of Education. Mr. Pickman's appointment is subject to approval by the Civil Service Commission.

"Jim Pickman's demonstrated capabilities in administration, his initiative, and his intelligence have been invaluable to the department and to me since he joined us here at HEW. Appointing Mr. Pickman to his new position in the Office of Education is part of our continuing effort to place outstanding, energetic administrators in top policymaking positions," Secretary Califano said.

As Executive Deputy Commissioner for Resources and Operations, Pickman will have responsibility for policy guidance in the day-to-day management and operations of HEW's Office of Education, which has 3,500 employees, 120 separate programs, and an annual budget of \$12 billion. His responsibilities will include national policy direction of program evaluation and dissemination efforts, as well as leadership in the area of budget, finance, contracts and grants, audits, planning and personnel.

Commissioner of Education Ernest L. Boyer said, "I am delighted that Jim Pickman is coming to the Office of Education as its chief of operations. Mr. Pickman and I have worked together very closely during the past two years, and I have been deeply impressed by the thoroughness and the quality of his work. I'm confident he will give outstanding leadership to key areas in OE."

Before coming to HEW in March 1977, Pickman was vice president of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, a private community development corporation in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, N.Y. The Restoration in the country.

Pickman, 36, is a graduate of Princeton University, where he obtained a B.A. at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1963, and Harvard Law School, where he earned an LL.B in 1966. Prior to his work in Bedford Stuyvesant, Pickman practiced law and business in New York City.

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