

OVER IRAN ISSUE

Christian Men Act Like Idiots

"The biggest brain on record was that of an idiot; one of the smallest was that of the gifted French writer Anatole France." — Ashley Montague

It's a disturbing thing to sit by and look at the Iran hostage situation and to see inspired Christian men acting like idiots.

I wonder, which shall it be, instant confidence or instant frustration?

Negative feeling is one of our greatest mental handicaps and the greatest killer of people.

The mind is a treasure house within us and can be yielded if only we will open our mental eyes. There is a gold mine within us, from which we can extract everything we need to live life gloriously, joyously and abundantly.

There are many of us who are yet sound asleep, because we don't know the boundless love, intelligence and richness within. If only we can become magnetized as a piece of steel that is able



REV. Wyatt

to lift twelve times its weight; then that will be the time that we can draw forth what ever we want!

On the other hand, we can become demagnetized, have lack of confidence and faith and be full of fears and doubts. And when the opportunities come we may say, "I might fail; I might lose my money; people will laugh at me."

This latter type of man will not get very far in life, for if he is afraid to go forward, he will simply stay where he is.

Black People Have A Lot To Worry About

...if the recent presidential primary campaigns are a preview of things to come.

By Norman Hill

If the recent presidential primary campaigns are a preview of things to come, then black people - indeed all Americans --

about. I am not talking about the results of those primaries. Rather, I am disturbed that virtually all the candidates have consciously avoided any serious discussion of the

political choices solely on meaningful hints and impressions. Similarly, the economic, social and Democratic candidates have also failed to offer any substantive or well-formulated economic or social proposals. Aside from an occasional disagreement about the wage-price controls and gas rationing, the Democrats have limited themselves to nebulous discussions about leadership qualities, administrative talent, and personal integrity. These issues are, of course, important. But they are not the key questions confronting America.

As things stand now, there is no reason to expect any improvement in the campaigns quality. For the most part, the various candidates seem to agree that vagueness, catchy slogans and image-making stunts are far more profitable than specific proposals and commitments.

Indeed, after the New Hampshire primary, the withdrawal of Patrick Caddel, one of President Carter's chief political advisors, claimed that 85% of the voters had made their decisions irrespective of the issues. In Caddel's view, the election is -- and should be -- a referendum on which candidate is the best leader, the most honest, and the most decent.

To counteract these perilous trends and their allies black people must demand specific proposals and serious political discussion from the presidential candidates of the both parties. The transformation of the presidential election into a beauty contest deprives voters of their only opportunity to express in a

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have a great deal to worry

real problems of our time, problems like black unemployment, chronic inflation, trade policy, the fiscal crisis of urban centers.

My point, I believe, is well illustrated by political events in New Hampshire. Judging by what the media focused on there, one might conclude that today's most critical issues are Ronald Reagan's sense of humour, George Bush's attitudes about debates, Ted Kennedy's family life and Jimmy Carter's personality.

On the rare occasions when issues did receive some attention, virtually all the candidates dealt with them vaguely and with broad, meaningless generalities. On the Republican side, for example, candidates talked about need to bake a larger "economic pie," the desirability of massive tax cuts, and the goal of a greatly reduced government.

However, all of these proposals, no matter how eloquently stated, are little more than empty rhetoric. They provide some hints about the possible direction of a Reagan or Bush Administration, voters can hardly make intelligent

of black people. In effect, the "image candidates" are saying to blacks: "Vote for me and maybe you'll be surprised." The problem, however, is that all the surprises of recent times have been quite unpleasant. Moreover, the vagueness of presidential politics has been an important factor leaping to the withdrawal of thousands of black voters from the political process. Today, fewer and fewer black people believe that they can influence the political direction of the society. And as more blacks stay home on election day, the overall political strength of the black community declines.

Such an approach, however, has two serious problems. First, the "best man" in terms of proposals and program and political direction. And second, presidential candidates of the both parties. The transformation of the presidential election into a beauty contest deprives voters of their only opportunity to express in a

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