

# Reagan's Attitude Toward Blacks

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anything, Reagan reads, and what his staff lets him decide. The press has reported numerous times over the last 10 days that President Carter, Rep. John Anderson and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy would speak here — and that there was speculation as to whether Reagan would think it worthwhile to address a convention of blacks believed to be hostile to him. Whatever the reason for Reagan's not knowing, or not showing, Hooks' blast provoked him to reveal some of his attitudes and intentions regarding black Americans. "I have not and will not

write off the black vote in this campaign," Reagan said in response to Hooks' speculation that the former California governor had excluded blacks from his victory strategy. "I intend to establish policies which will encourage greater capital investment in America's black communities and thereby create more job opportunities for everyone," Reagan said. "The American family and black families in particular are now paying a terrible price for the economic policies of the present administration." What Reagan is saying is that he wants private enterprise, not government, to do whatever must be done to lift black

America out of what amounts to chronic depression. The reaction here indicates that if this is all Reagan has to offer, he had indeed "written off" the black vote, even if unwittingly. Blacks here scoff at suggestions that "greater capital investment in America's black communities" will alleviate, not to mention solve, the woes of joblessness, bad housing, poor schooling, which afflict them. Blacks ask if Reagan never heard of "red-lining," the

policy of financial institutions refusing to mortgage property in poor neighborhoods; if Reagan is unaware that businesses, supermarkets and other investors have been abandoning black communities. Someone around Reagan should have told him that he is parroting the Nixon promise to "give blacks a piece of the action" — that is, let them find prosperity through the creation of their own businesses and free enterprises.

## CETA Funding Youth Program

The executive board of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) has approved more than \$150,000 for the training program for 215 14- and 15 year olds.

The field visits will provide insight into a number of professions. They will be supplemented by a day of classroom training, guest lectures and films on various occupations.

The program, vocational exploration, will be operated by the Economic Opportunity Board (EOB), and will give teenagers "an opportunity to receive experience and exposure to the world of work through visits to various public, private non-profit and commercial businesses," according to Ernest Byrant, the former CETA executive director.

## Sentinel Editorial

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"The committee should be composed of the city's Beautification Committee, planning commissioners, merchants and private citizens," he said. Big deal! There's a typewriter exercise that summarizes what really needs to be done at this point: "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." To get the job done, the city needs to be pressed into action for the black community. Let us not forget that election winds are now blowing. Somebody needs to realize that action speaks louder than words. There's no time for that old political rhetoric and "promises." A cleanup campaign and public education programs need to be instituted...and now. DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT!

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