

Point of View

Editorial

We Complained, We Got Results!

Within the past few weeks, the SENTINEL carried a couple of articles relating to the trash pile accumulating at the corner of Highland and Carey Streets. It was an unsightly mess and was growing daily by leaps and bounds. It was purely a disgrace to the community. We were saying that community pride was being destroyed because of city neglect.

Well, community pride did something about that problem. The SENTINEL learned that a number of residents in that area complained to the City Fathers about that trash pile, which was slowly developing into another city dump.

It became a dumping point for old mattresses, furniture, toys, trees, clothes, carpeting, linen, broken TVs and radios, cracked plaster board, cement blocks, dried-up lumber, broken bottles, beer and soft drink cans — you name it, they dumped it.

Finally, the city trash removal equipment moved in last week and scrapped the entire area. It looked clean enough to hold a block party or celebration.

Our hats off to the many families living in that area who helped to push for better conditions.

This shows what unity can really mean. It's good for all of us.

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"The Truth Shall Set You Free!"

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CARL ROWAN

Did The Best Man Win The Nomination

For a few glorious minutes Tuesday night most of the delegates and visitors at the Democratic convention would gladly have gone home saying: "Our nominee is Kennedy, and in that speech he talked about precisely the America that I want."

But they went home knowing that Kennedy was not the nominee, that he had set a standard of eloquence and inspiration that the real nominee would not match and that he had put a social and moral stamp on the convention that the convention's ultimate choice would disavow and dishonor.

Thus, many delegates woke up Wednesday with hearts almost as heavy as their heads, asking themselves, "Did the best man win?"

Delegates who in the wake of Kennedy's brilliant speech asked, "How did he ever lose the nomination?" were asking themselves the next morning, "How do we wind up endorsing a

man who says he can't run on a platform that his constituents have approved with almost a religious zeal?"

Those delegates will go home asking if they "party reformed" themselves into the ludicrous position of nominating a man who renounces the convention's position regarding jobs, abortion rights, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and other important issues.

The outcome of this convention was determined by a lot more than the reform rules. Kennedy lost mostly because of Kennedy. He was nobler in defeat Tuesday night than at any time in a primaries campaign that began as a series of small disasters for him.

There was bitter irony in the fact that Kennedy's greatest glory was achieved by fighting for the cities which harbor so many jobless and poor blacks and other minorities, even when the black mayors of many of those cities had long ago

endorsed Carter and rounded up the votes that Carter needed to win primaries.

Carter defeated Kennedy partly because of powers of incumbency — because as president he controlled billions in federal grants for transportation, housing and other things vital to cities. In short, the black mayors may have preferred Kennedy's promises and programs, but they know Carter controlled the money.

Carter may have won, also, because he understands better than Kennedy the mood of the people who will do the voting this fall. Explaining why the president will disavow parts of the platform, an administration source said today: "Most Americans respect a president who makes decisions based upon his best judgment of the nation's interests, and they expect that he would not after those judgments to achieve some transient political advantage

at the convention or anywhere else."

In short, the president is saying, "You delegates let Kennedy sweep you up in emotion so you would demand that we throw billions of dollars at unemployment and other problems. Well, I know better, and I know how to defeat Reagan, so I've got to disavow the fruits of your recklessness."

Carter may be right in assuming that the planks that Kennedy forced into the platform are out of tune with the frugality song that Americans are singing. Still, that Kennedy speech carried this message for a lot of delegates: Americans are drifting into selfishness and meanness because no one is leading them to anything else. Listen to this marvelous response when I beseech you to stand firm for compassion, fairness and justice.

A Cold Wind From Philadelphia, Miss.

By Andrew Young

Andrew Young, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations starts with this column, exclusively in this area with the LAS VEGAS SENTINEL. His articles will appear periodically with in-depth, thought-provoking analogies of national, international and community situations as affects minorities.

The thought of Philadelphia, Miss., always sends chills up my spine.

Ronald Reagan's recent visit to that town, where he proclaimed his support for "states' rights," reminded me all too vividly of my own two

journeys there in the past.

The first was in 1964, when civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were murdered in Philadelphia's Neshoba County for trying to register black voters. Those were the days when the Ku Klux Klan mentality held that whites had a license to kill blacks — and the doctrine of "states' rights" prevented federal intervention to protect citizens' human rights, including the right to vote.

My second time in Philadelphia was in 1966 during the "March Against Fear," begun by James Meredith in the context of that year's elections in a

fear-ridden state.

Meredith's contention was that someone had to prove that black people could participate in the political process — run for office, register and vote without fear of reprisal. He was shot after marching only a short distance from the Tennessee border into Mississippi, and the nation was forced to focus on the Mississippi elections, vigilante violence, and the answering cry of "Black Power!"

Thousands took up where Meredith had fallen, and Martin Luther King Jr. said that it was hardly appropriate to march against fear without a stopover in Philadelphia,



ANDREW YOUNG

the place regarded by all Mississippi blacks as the bastion of white racist

terror. Here, local officials were intimately involved in the legacy of fear and intimidation. Sheriff Lawrence Rainey and his posse were nightriders in good standing, and a black man's life wasn't worth much once he decided to approach the courthouse with voting on his mind.

I remember Martin on the Neshoba County Courthouse steps in 1966, describing how the bodies of the slain civil rights workers had been found buried in a dam two years earlier. He said, "The murderers of Goodman, Chaney and Schwerner are no doubt within the range of my (See Andrew page 22)