

Andrew Young

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voice." And from the white mob guarding the courthouse door, someone called out, "Ya damn right. We're right here behind you."

Remembering that day in Mississippi, I'm presently obsessed with a chilling question: What "states' rights" would candidate Reagan revive? In his speech this month at the Neshoba County Fair, Reagan declared that he believed in "states' rights," and as president would do everything he could to reorder priorities to "restore to states and local governments the powers that properly belong to them."

Traditionally, these code words have been the electoral language of Wallace, Goldwater and the Nixon Southern strategy. So one must ask, is Reagan saying that he intends to do everything he can to turn the clock back to the Mississippi justice of 1964? Do the powers of state and local governments include the right to end the voting rights of black citizens? Would Reagan dare to commission, directly or indirectly, the Sheriff Rainey and the Vigilantes to ride once again, poisoning the political process with hatred and violence?

Over the past year we have seen attacks on black leaders. Many in the black community are convinced that the shooting of Vernon Jordan was part of a conspiracy to incite violence and thereby contribute to furthering the

country's move to the right. Now comes Reagan's symbolic visit to Mississippi, coupled with a recent Klan endorsement of the Republican platform. Bill Wilkinson, Imperial Wizard of the "Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan" — regarded as the largest Klan organization in the country — wrote in his group's newspaper that they endorsed Reagan and that the Republican platform "reads as if it were written by a Klansman."

All of this prompts me to pose this question to the Urban League's John Jacobs: Do you really believe the black vote is up for grabs this year?

Surely black memories are not that short. Despite the terrorism of the '60s, the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965, leading to the enfranchisement of millions of voters and the election of thousands of black public officials. But this was paid for with the blood of those three civil rights workers in Mississippi; of James Reeb, a Unitarian minister; of Viola Liuzzo, a Detroit housewife; of Jimmy Lee Jackson, Father Jonathan Daniels, and hundreds or even thousands of others over the years.

Now, many people believe that social justice, civil and human rights have been achieved, and that those who would kill and terrorize blacks will no longer be tolerated in the United States. Yet the nightriders are still out there, waiting for the day when federal protection of voting rights and civil rights is withdrawn.

At Landmark Hotel

Miss Galaxy International Pageant Was Huge Success

The Miss Galaxy International Pageant, held last Friday and Saturday at the Landmark Hotel, brought to Las Vegas a bevy of pulchritudinous young women, who certainly attested to the fact that "Black is beautiful." The 20 young ladies, along with their relatives and friends, came from all over the country.

The pageant was sponsored by Youth Together, Inc., an organization

whose goal, as stated by Major Davis, its Founder and Executive Director and Jim Dixon, its President, "is to establish regional, state and local offices where youths can be trained each year in the areas of public relations, marketing, pageant production and promotion, accounting and general office management."

But ultimately a winner was chosen. She turned

out to be Jennifer Kaye Washington, an 18 year old, 5'5" Taurus from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her goal to become a professional singer should easily be reached, for she possesses a rich and resonant voice, which she used to excellent advantage and with which she won the plaudits of the judges and the audience.

First runner-up was

Leslie Johnson, a talented jazz singer now enrolled in the Stanzenberger Business College; second runner-up was Cecilia White, an excellent harpist and ballet dancer from Colorado; third place runner-up was Evelyn Cannon, an exceptional baton twirler from Arizona; and the fourth runner-up was Denise McGough, a dancer and psychology student from Ohio.

Marion Bennett Youth Productions

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"Lively Spot" on the CBS Affiliate in Detroit, Michigan, the Assistant Director for "The Disc Jockey TV Special" on Channel 28 and has appeared on TV's "The Jeffersons," "What's Happening" and "Kojak."

He is presently em-

ployed by the Economic Opportunity Board as the project coordinator for the Marion Bennett Youth Productions, Inc. In an interview with the Sentinel, Randy related that he decided to take the job as a project coordinator, because he felt it was more important for him at this time to try to "pave the way and open doors for the youth, so that they might have avenues and opportunities to use their

talents." Randy is ably assisted in the coordination of the Marion Bennett Youth Productions, Inc. project by Connie Garrett, an actress of note, who has appeared on TV in "General Hospital" and on stage in Hollywood in a two-act play entitled "Heartbreak At Midnight," for which she received rare reviews. She plans to audition for a part on Redd Foxx's new comedy series expected

to air this fall. To date over 40 young people have participated in this worth-while program. Projected plans for the project include Video Film training, a traveling show and another stage production. But, especially, the production company would like to repeat its presentation of "Phyllis." However, all of these projects require funds, backing and a theatre.

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