

Point of View

Editorial

Ali Should Quit Fight Game

The legend, Muhammad Ali, continues to throw out the bait despite his poor showing at the "Last Hurrah" WBC heavyweight championship fight against the champ Larry Holmes at Caesars Palace on Oct. 2.

Ali is currently claiming that medications given him for thyroid problems contributed to his sluggish showing in that fight.

Larry Holmes, back home in Easton, Pa., while Ali hits the headlines and airwaves said last week he doesn't want to fight Ali again "because I know what I'll do to him."

Holmes battered the 38 year old Ali into submission after 10 rounds in defense of the World Boxing Council heavyweight title.

"At one time after the fight," Holmes told the press, "someone asked Ali if he could have beat me when he was in his prime, when he was 30. He said, 'I don't know.' Now he's trying to find excuses. That's not like

Ali."

Holmes again said he really didn't want to fight Ali and although his purse was \$3.5 million-plus, "I didn't fight him for money. I had no choice."

Holmes found himself in what he called a "NO-WIN SITUATION — not fighting him and being accused of ducking Ali; beating Ali and being accused of ducking Ali; beating Ali and being accused of beating a fighter past his prime; losing and being accused of being a phony champion who held the title only because Ali was in retirement.

WBC president Jose Sulaiman indicated the day after the fight that he would be reluctant to sanction another Ali fight and said he hopes stricter conditions could be placed on champions coming out of retirement to fight for titles.

We fully agree with Sulaiman. Ali and others like Ken Norton should forget the fight game. Their attempted comebacks could not only hurt themselves but hurt the fight game.



CARL ROWAN

The Malaise Within Black America

WASHINGTON — There is a malaise of the spirit in black America, arising from the fact that black unemployment rests at appallingly high levels, the gap between white family income and black family income is widening and divorce, desertion, and separation have become ever more destructive of black families.

Blacks look frantically for leadership out of this dark period when the civil rights movement is in limbo and white America courts right-wing solutions based on paranoia and the blandishments of preachers who offer bigotry in the name of "Christianity."

That is why more than 5,000 of the nation's best-educated, most affluent blacks — mayors, Cabinet of-

ficers, lawyers, teachers, civil leaders of every sort — met in Washington last weekend for the annual "legislative weekend" of the Congressional Black Caucus. They were looking for new inspiration, new leadership. Some went home bitterly disappointed.

Some came for social and political reasons, believing that if you are a black SOMEBODY you have got to show up at the caucus weekend, even if only to prove that you can afford a \$100 dinner ticket. But a lot of blacks spent hundreds of dollars on airplane tickets, \$90 or so a day for hotel rooms and much more for luncheons, concerts and the like, because they were mindful that this is a year in which the

presidency, the future ideology of the Supreme Court, the leadership of Congress, the stakes and our cities are at stake.

The Black Caucus failed its constituents. Blacks are only 16 of the 535 members of Congress, yet the Black Caucus has become a potentially awesome political force. Its legislative weekend has become probably the most prestigious of all gatherings of black Americans.

Yet, Saturday night, a black man of achievement, waiting for dinner that was almost four hours late, said to me: "Carl, what the hell is this? What are we supposed to be achieving with this fiasco?"

It wasn't the late din-

ner that irritated him. He long ago accepted the reality that everything was on CPT (colored people's time) — meaning one to four hours late. He was angry because he had spent several hours listening to black politicians and actors massage their own egos, and he had listened to a long performance by Gladys Knight and the Pips (excellent in any context), but he couldn't remember ever hearing any discussion of Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, John Anderson. He was waiting for a ringing appeal for blacks to get out the vote, but it wasn't there.

That Black Caucus dinner was depoliticized, because

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Some Political Direction

The Choice For Democrats

By Andrew Young

Since the national elections of 1978, there has been a widespread notion that the country is moving to the right. Likewise, there are those who have counseled the Carter administration and many Democratic candidates to head in that same political direction. They have been urged to abandon their vision and accommodate their views to a surge of conservative rhetoric coming from men who live in the past.

In 1978, the so-called shift to the right was attributed to three contests where liberals lost to conservatives: The unseating of Sen. Dick Clark in Iowa, the defeat of John Hill for governor in Texas, and Dick Celeste's loss to Gov. James Rhodes of Ohio.

In all three of these elections, which were won by narrow margins, blacks, urban voters and the young failed to turn



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out in large numbers at the polls. The reasons why these voters stayed home were different, but the end result was the same. When the urban, black, poor and young voters don't vote, liberals and progressive candidates fail.

In Iowa, Roger Jepsen, a forthright member

of the "New Right," won no more votes than the Republican who lost to Sen. John Culver in that state in 1974. But the Democratic turnout dropped from 462,000 in 1974 to 395,000 in 1978, the under-30 vote was practically nonexistent, and Jepsen upset Sen. Clark by 26,000 votes.

In the Texas gubernatorial race of 1978, voters in the heavily affluent, conservative areas stormed the polls in support of Bill Clements, the Republican. But the black and Hispanic turnout was down sharply from 1976. In Houston's predominantly black and Hispanic 18th Congressional District, the turnout fell from 108,000 in 1976 to 36,000 in 1978. Statewide, Clements won by only 16,000 votes out of 2.3

million cast.

In Iowa, Jimmy Carter had beaten Gerald Ford by only 11,000 votes out of 4 million cast in the 1976 election. Carter's margin was provided by a strong turnout in the cities. In Cleveland's 21st Congressional District — which is 75 percent black — Carter won by a landslide of 107,000 votes to 17,000 for Ford. Two years later, the turnout in this district was down to 67,000, and Rhodes won the governorship by 47,000 votes out of a total of 2.7 million.

Strategically located voting groups that traditionally support liberals — minorities, urban residents, and the young — make up a powerful constituency, but they must be aroused before they will vote.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The Greater Las Vegas Urban League is sponsoring a "Meet The Candidate" forum on Saturday, October 18, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Lorenzi Park, on Washington and Rancho.

Everyone is invited to attend. It's a forum that should be very beneficial for everybody, not only the public but the candidates as well.

Here's your chance to hear the candidates platform and what they plan to do if elected... the date is Saturday, Oct. 18 starting at 2 p.m.

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