

Point of View

The End Is Near

WHICH WAY WILL BLACK VOTE GO?

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

The 1980 election campaign is moving toward the finishing line, and the outcome may hinge on the black vote. The candidates have been courting that vote but none have managed to fire the enthusiasm of black voters.

According to various polls I've seen, President Carter is the clear favorite among black voters, although there is general disappointment with his failure to deliver on his 1976 campaign promises.

Like other Americans, many blacks express dismay over the inconsistencies and policy shifts over the past four years. And more than most Americans, they are concerned with economic failures and the continuing devastating unemployment in black communities.

To counter such disillusionment, the Carter campaign team has pointed to his accomplishments: federal job programs, tougher

civil rights enforcement, a broad youth employment plan, expanded urban aid, and other steps of importance to black voters. And they point to Congress' failure to act on Presidential initiative



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s in welfare reform, national urban policy, and health insurance.

Also on the + side is the appointment of many blacks to high positions in the Administrations and to federal judgeships.

To such positives, they've warned against the possibility that a Reagan administration would stack the

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Revitalizing The Economy

By Norman Hill

On August 6th, in a speech delivered to representatives of the Urban League, President Carter announced his plans for an economic program which would create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and help to reindustrialize America's declining industrial base.

The program which the President articulated is based on a combination of approaches: It creates incentives for private investment in modernizing industry and commits investment in such vital areas as national highway and railway transportation. It creates an Economic Revitalization Board

headed by Lane Kirkland of the AFL-CIO and Irving Shapiro, Chairman of DuPont chemicals. The program, likewise, calls for job-training initiatives and provides support for communities which are hardest hit by the current recession.

All of these proposals are practical. Indeed they are more modest than those of which organized labor and civil rights groups had supported. But all of the Carter proposals can have a far-reaching effect on blacks and other working people.

In the past, President Carter has shown sensitivity in providing equal opportunity for

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CARL ROWAN

Much More Than Presidency Is At Stake

MONTICELLO, N.Y. — It is so hard to get Americans to focus on the fact that a lot more than who occupies the White House will be at stake in the Nov. 4 elections.

City managers gathered here are preoccupied with the contest of the Oval Office, which many say turns them off to the point where they may not vote. The same was true of a broad-spectrum group at a dinner in Flint, Mich., last week.

It is as though people don't give a damn that, with 24 Democrats but only 10 Republicans up for re-election in the Senate, the Republicans could wind up in control of that powerful body. The liberal National Committee for an Effective Congress says 14

Democratic senators are in "real jeopardy," and Senate Minority Leader Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia has said that it is "conceivable" that his party could lose control.

The Democrats have some vulnerable newcomers running for the Senate, and the GOP is out after them, but the great Democratic concern is that high-spending, ultra-conservative special interest groups have targeted veteran liberal Democrats like George McGovern of South Dakota, Birch Bayh of Indiana, Frank Church of Idaho and John Culver of Iowa.

Church, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has warned fellow Democrats that "we're

all an endangered species." He pointed out that Democrats running for re-election this year were elected in 1974 when the Republican Party was reeling from the shock of Watergate. This time they must run on a ticket led by a troubled Democratic president.

It is difficult to imagine what GOP control of the Senate would mean, since that hasn't happened since the Eisenhower sweep in 1952. But clearly it would not bode well for America's minorities and disadvantaged, considering those likely to take over as chairmen of key committees.

Jesse Helms, the North Carolina arch-conservative, would be in line to become chairman of the Agriculture,

Nutrition and Forestry Committee, which oversees food stamps and other nutrition programs. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina would replace Edward M. Kennedy as head of the Judiciary Committee, which handles critical matters like federal judgeships and civil rights legislation. John Tower (Texas) would run the Armed Services Committee and Barry Goldwater (Arizona), the Select Committee on Intelligence.

The likelihood of Republicans gaining a majority in the House of Representatives is much slimmer, since a swing of nearly 60 seats would be needed, and House members traditionally have a better re-election

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Election Viewed Dead Heat

OUR FUTURE IN THE BALANCE

By Bayard Rustin

By all indications, the 1980 Presidential Election is shaping up to be a dead heat. Neither President Carter nor Ronald Reagan has pulled ahead to a commanding lead. Rep. John Anderson's chances are non-existent and he has been relegated to the role of a spoiler who appears to be hurting President Carter more than Ronald Reagan.

One would think that interest would be high in a close race for the highest office in the land, particularly when that race is between two men of such different points of view as President Carter and Mr. Reagan. And yet the polls reveal not only a great deal of voter uncertainty, but a great deal of voter apathy as well. Voter apathy ap-

pears to be particularly pronounced among blacks, for whom ironically this election is of critical importance. Those blacks and others, who sit this



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election out will merely be allowing others to determine what kind of government they will have for the next four years.

Most voters recognize

that President Carter is a decent and humane man who is concerned about the problems of poverty, racial discrimination, and unemployment. Moreover, most workers are aware that the President has shown himself to be friend of labor in his support for the efforts to achieve Labor Law Reform, in his successful restructuring of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and in his support for the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Bill. Blacks, and other minorities, are aware that the President has appointed more blacks and women to important administration positions than any President before him. And they know that President Carter has been a dedicated champion of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Yet despite all this, I still hear the common wisdom that it doesn't make any difference who is elected. The evidence of history tells us something different. In 1968 there was a close race between Richard Nixon and Hubert Humphrey. Many liberals deserted the Humphrey candidacy because they were dissatisfied with the candidate's views on Vietnam. Many of them argued then as now that there was no difference between Nixon and Humphrey. Of course, not only were there differences, they were profound. Those liberals who today are abandoning President Carter and those who say it doesn't matter who wins would do well to remind themselves of 1968.

Ronald Reagan is not

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