

Point of View

Editorial

SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE

The Editorial, "Blacks Do Not Look Alike, Nor Act Alike," which appeared in the Sept. 25 issue of the SENTINEL was aptly written by its Feature Writer Roosevelt Fitzgerald. The article vividly sketched how attitudes of many constantly group all Blacks in one category. The case in point was the recent "drug bust" in the Gerson Park area. The actions of a few reflected on the entire community. It was the Westside "this," the Westside "that."

The general press treatment of the incidents suggested that all blacks are involved one way or another in such criminal activity. Fitzgerald said,

"Always, someone or some area has to be placed in the position of the scapegoat.

Somebody must pay the piper in order for it to appear that the job is being done. Such is the case with black communities. Blacks are seen collectively as a community whether it is on a street, campus, town, state, country or world level."

He continued, "What a person does, whoever that person is and whatever that person happens to be, is a reflection on every black person who has ever or will ever live."

Often, one has to be wary of those who occasionally make the comment, "some of my best friends are black." Many really need the "litmus" test.

Time will really tell who the genuine "liberals" are.

Is there really a need to say, "some of my best friends are----?"



CARL ROWAN

The Old 'Soft On

Communism' Act Again

A REFLECTION THROUGH A MIRROR

DETROIT — At a breakfast meeting with reporters Monday, Republican Party National Chairman Bill Brock was oozing optimistic reasons why Ronald Reagan is going to be the next president of the United States.

Brock figured that a hapless Jimmy Carter will be the single greatest asset in Reagan's campaign; that when Reagan hammers on "pocket-book" issues, the voters will throw out "an administration that deliberately throws people out of work to fight inflation;" that the tide of voters is running inexorably in favor of the Republicans. When the campaign began in 1976, only 18 percent of voters

were supporting Republicans, compared with 30 percent now, while the Democrats' 54 percent support in 1976 has dwindled to 40 percent now, with the tide running inexorably in favor of the Republicans.

"Is there any way that Reagan could blow this election?" a reporter asked.

"Yes, by yielding to the temptation to respond in kind to the brutal attacks that we expect from the Carter campaign people," Brock replied.

Ironically; almost simultaneously in California Reagan was dishing out some unprovoked brutality of his own. He was telling Mike Wallace

of CBS' "60 Minutes" that "the Soviet Union is going to throw a few bones to Mr. Carter during the coming campaign in order to help him continue as president.

"I would be very worried about me if the Soviet Union wanted me to be president," Reagan added.

This is the modern version of the old ultra-right wing slander that "Democrats are soft on communism."

Reagan is starting early to portray Carter as the candidate of the Kremlin, and this is just the sort of reckless rhetoric that will convince millions of voters that Reagan is too irresponsible to be entrusted with the powers and responsibilities of the Oval Office.

Reagan told Wallace the Soviets are wrong if they think him "trigger happy." Brock tried to assure his breakfast companions Reagan is "stable and thoughtful" and will produce a coherent foreign policy. Very clearly, the Republicans perceive a need to lessen voter fears that Reagan is going to drag the country into nuclear war. But those fears will grow if Reagan persists in Soviet-baiting in a way designed to make Carter look like a tool of the Kremlin.

When a reporter suggested that two themes dominated the made for Reagan GOP platform — "soak the poor" and "confrontation

and war with the Soviets" — Brock denied it.

"Our platform is remarkably progressive on economic issues like jobs, economic growth, full employment, and to blacks," he said. "And Gov. Reagan is not challenging the Soviet Union. Jimmy Carter is the confrontationist, with nothing to back it up, and that is the ultimate in dangerous situations for this country."

Reagan and Brock are going to have to get their stories together. Carter can't be the Kremlin's patsy and a dangerous confrontationist at the same time.

The reality is that the Soviet Union is plenty ticked off at Jimmy Carter, with Soviet spokesmen accusing him of trying to starve the Soviet people with a grain embargo and other Soviets making angry remarks about the Carter-inspired Olympic boycott. The president has lost some of his 1976 support precisely because some liberals think he has gone too far in restoring the Cold War.

Americans should expect Reagan to say how he differs with Carter on arms control treaties, the U.S. military budget and similar issues. But they surely do not expect him to try to hang the hammer and sickle around Carter's neck.

This is neither campaigning nor statesmanship. It is just a plain old McCarthy-era cheap shot.

CENSUS FAILURE NEEDS ADJUSTMENT

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Black people have always had their problems with the U.S. census. Back in 1790, the first census counted



JORDAN

a black person as three-fifths of a white person.

The last census, in 1970, undercounted blacks by at least eight percent; whites by two percent. So blacks had progressed to being counted as about 94 percent of whites.

That first undercount was deliberate and reflected a slave society; the recent undercounts are the results of faulty

counting procedures and reliance on techniques that may be inherently inaccurate in today's society.

Even the gross undercount of blacks and other minorities doesn't fully reflect the damaging impact of the numbers. For the undercount is concentrated among young people, especially young men in inner cities. The result is to reduce the amount of funds available to deal with the educational and employment problems of young adults.

Black organizations have been clamoring for adjusting the undercount, and they've been joined by mayors and other officials with a stake in an accurate count.

Their efforts have been rewarded in a recent ruling by federal district judge Horace W. Gilmore, who decided the undercount un-

constitutionally deprives minorities of their right to representation.

"The undercount gives rise to a violation of the one-person, one-vote principles," the judge ruled, "because blacks simply are not counted as much as whites."

The census results are used to reapportion Congress, and state and local legislative bodies. If such reapportionment took place on the basis of the flawed official population figures, then black and minority neighborhoods would lose seats and have their votes diluted.

important as the political results of the undercount are, the economic ones may be even more important. Census figures are used in federal and state aid formulas that govern the distribution of many billions of dollars each year.

Revenue sharing aid is the most obvious of these, but far more federal dollars flow into cities based on census figures on population, income, housing, and others.

As if that wasn't enough, businesses use the census figures and

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