

Point of View

Publishers Statement

The general membership meeting of the local chapter, NAACP, was held Sunday for the purpose of nominating qualified members for the various posts within the organization.

During early January an installation program will be held for those who emerge victoriously during the upcoming Dec. 20 election. The slate has 19 members vying for 17 positions and now the membership must now decide who will lead beginning 1981.

The current NAACP records show that there are 558 paid-up members but this significant number is for naught if the members do not turn out and cast their vote on Dec. 20.



Betty Brown, Publisher/Editor

During the general membership meeting, the election hours were extended to allow all of the members an opportunity to make it to the local chapter headquarters on Saturday, Dec. 20 between 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

At the end of the meeting, Rev. Willie Davis, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, made a passionate plea for unity within the organization and warned of the outside forces who would like to see the NAACP fail. He called for the eradication of internal strife & urged everyone to pledge their full support for this very important organization.

We wholeheartedly agree with Rev. Davis and the many others within the chapter who "want to see it work."

The full slate of "candidates" are qualified, concerned members of the community who want the NAACP to be successful in all of its undertakings. Now it is left to the members to select their President and others for the new term.

LET'S ALL GET BEHIND THIS ELECTION AND TURN OUT IN FULL FORCE. YOUR VOTE WILL DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF THE NAACP FOR YEARS TO COME.

NOTICE

TO ALL SECOND BAPTIST MEMBERS

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR YOU TO UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY. THIS MAY BE DONE ON SUNDAY, OR ANY DAY OF THE WEEK BY COMING TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 2:30 P.M. THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY CAN REGISTER FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY.

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CARL ROWAN

Horray for 'teacher power & poor power'

WASHINGTON — I sat down for a television discussion with four of my journalistic colleagues last weekend and found three of them in a fit of angst over those delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

One professed to be appalled by the number of delegates who were welfare recipients. Another was horrified that the National Education Association (NEA) had muscled so many teachers into this gathering of the majority party. Three were disturbed that, in their view, the 3,381 delegates to the New York convention were phonies, masquerading as representatives of "the people" when in fact they were mostly on the government payroll, or dole, and had vested in-

terests in the perpetuation of huge and wasteful governments — federal, state and local.

Since I accused the Republican delegates of being a bunch of private clubbers, looking for a president who will govern America the way they govern their country clubs, I felt a duty to see if the Democrats were truly a bunch of free-loaders, crafting a platform and picking a candidate guaranteed to keep those bureaucratic goodies and government giveaways coming.

CBS News surveyed all 3,381 delegates and computerized the results. I asked CBS how many of the delegates were on welfare and was told that only 29 delegates were unemployed and that even they were not necessarily on welfare.

A mere 5 percent of the delegates had incomes under \$12,000 a year, whereas 40 percent had family incomes of \$25,000 to \$50,000 and 27 percent had incomes of more than \$50,000 a year.

It is the worst kind of slander, then, to suggest that the delegates to that convention were either "poor" or "eating at the public trough."

Let me make it clear, though, that it would not have bothered me if several welfare recipients had been there, since I reject the elitist notion that only the moneyed and the propertied have any right to say how this country should be governed.

But what about this alleged teacher-coup in Madison Square Garden? The NEA, the

nation's biggest teachers union, did indeed play a powerful role — suggesting that the nation's teachers are not the slow-learners they seemed to be for decades.

The NEA disdained politics until 1972 and made its first presidential endorsement (of Carter) in 1976. CBS says that this year NEA sent 246 delegates to the convention. The rival American Federation of Teachers had another 85 delegates. Add school administrators and you have 522 delegates representing education.

Does the presence of all those educators bother me? No. I prefer them to 522 ward heelers who are nominated by some craven political boss. The National Association of Manufac-

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SHAPING GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

By Vernon E. Jordan

One of President-elect Reagan's prime campaign themes was a call to "get government off our backs." Like most campaign rhetoric that may not survive the realities of governing, but some concrete proposals to trim the federal role may be



JORDAN serious. If so, they'll rightly face vigorous opposition from people concerned with civil rights and economic justice.

One prime example of a smaller role for Washington is the plan, reportedly favored by

Mr. Reagan, to transfer federal welfare and education programs to state control, along with the federal funds to pay for them.

If implemented, such a plan would be disastrous. The record of the states in this area ranges from fair to awful. State welfare allotments have so lagged behind inflation that the real income of many recipients was halved in the 1970s.

strated unrelieved hostility to poor people and minorities.

It's too often forgotten that many such programs became federal responsibilities because the states defaulted in their obligations to their own citizens. "States rights" was a cover phrase for blatant discrimination and deprivation of minority interests and black civil rights.

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. is President of the National Urban League.

Block grants have had a spotty history of accomplishment in housing and other areas. Turning federal programs in welfare and education into block grant programs for states to administer would result in even worse conditions, since many states governments have demon-

Today, some of the states with the weakest tax effort provide the lowest welfare payments and per-pupil school investments. To turn over vital federal programs to the tender mercies of such backward states would be an irresponsible forfeiture of federal responsibilities.

The odd thing about

the proposal is that it is not a conservative one. If the Reagan administration wants to come up with constructive conservative solutions to national problems, welfare provides a perfect testing ground.

A truly conservative solution to welfare would be one that put more cash into the hands of the poor, reduced the red tape and bureaucracy that has such power over poor people's lives, and grants to poor people the same freedom of choice and responsibilities enjoyed by others.

So a truly conservative solution points to a refundable income tax as a replacement for welfare. Prominent conservatives have endorsed such a plan, which would automatically ensure that all people have minimum income levels and maximum freedom.

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