

Point of View

CIVIL RIGHTS AND UNCIVIL WRONGS

By Bayard Rustin

According to a recent report in the *New York Times*, the Harvard Black Law Student Coalition and the Harvard Third World Coalition are calling for a boycott of a Harvard Law School course on race and legal issues



Bayard Rustin

because that course will, in part, be taught by a white civil rights lawyer. The lawyer in question is Mr. Jack Greenberg, executive director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The leaders of the boycott are protesting Jack Greenberg's appointment for two reasons. Because he is

white, the students believe that Mr. Greenberg is, in the word of the Third World Coalition, unable to "identify and empathize with the social, cultural, economic, and political experiences of the third world communities." Secondly, the students are opposed to Mr.

Bayard Rustin is President Emeritus of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and one of the founders of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Greenberg's serving as director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, again presumably because he is not black.

The objection to Mr. Greenberg's role in teaching the Harvard course and to heading the Legal Defense Fund simply because he is white amounts to nothing more than blatant racism, i.e. the denial of a person's right to pursue certain activities solely on account of his race. Blacks, as victims of racial dis-

crimination, should be the first to reject the view that race can disqualify one from any particular pursuit.

Anyone who objectively examines the record will conclude that Jack Greenberg is eminently qualified both to teach civil rights law and to direct

berg has shown himself to be one of our country's most effective fighters for racial justice and civil rights. Over the years he has directly participated in many of the landmark civil rights victories which have been won in our nation's courts.

What, then, one might ask, has provoked the militant protest of Harvard Law School's young blacks? Today, black law students at Harvard feel frustration at the fact that their less privileged counterparts in the ghetto are suffering unemployment rates

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an important civil rights organization. Indeed, during his twenty years as head of the Legal Defense Fund, Mr. Green-



Alice Key

The weather today is as dark and gloomy as is the present economic picture. One wonders if one thing has anything to do with the other. It could be. Inexplicable as it may be, it is an absolute fact that during the filming of 20th Century Fox's picture "Stormy Weather" (starring the late Bill Robinson, Lena Horne and Cab Calloway), every single day that actual filming began, it rained — it poured — it flooded. I mean the weather was stormy.

Film making is not done in the sequential order of the story line. For any number of reasons, the director makes the decision of which scene to shoot. Stormy Weather, oldtimers will recall, was a musical comedy with a number of lavish production numbers featuring an array of singers and dancers supporting the talents of an impressive roster of stellar luminaries.

No matter how many weeks a routine was in rehearsal, the weather remained clear, if not always sunny. On the night before or the morning of the first day of actual shooting the sequence, the heavens would open in as symbolic a downpour as can be believed possible. Moreover, it would rain intermittently in varying degrees of precipitation throughout the filming, only to clear up when shooting was over, and rehearsals began again.

I am reminded of this mild phenomena this morning as I look out the window and ponder the Economic Opportunity Board's present regrettable and undeserving position as a political football. The politics of the situation stems deep in the past and the circumstances are as ambiguous as they are far-reaching. The on-going investigation of EOB, I am certain, will prove this to be the proverbial tempest in the teapot. However, it is not to this aspect of the case that my thoughts are concerned

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PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



The Black Community will play a pivotal role in the Democratic primary this September. The political futures of a few candidates hang in the balance. The pivotal role in which the black community will play, stems from the fact that there will be a few elections in which the black vote will be the margin of victory.

It is the margin of victory for which many candidates are seeking. They are aware that in a close election the black vote could make or break the candidate. Therefore, we find some of the major races being played out in the black community this election year. As money changed hands in the attempt to barter the black vote for private gains or with those trying to become the new power brokers in the black community, it is causing an uproar when these selfish purposes are exposed.

The political influence of the black community is found in its ability to vote as a block. If we allow white candidates to split that block, the result is the loss of political influence. Political influence is just one of the tools in our arsenal to achieve self determination. If we allow our voting strength to be scattered among those seeking to become the new power brokers and those wishing to sell our votes, we will continue to be ineffective as a political entity; by ineffective, I mean not being able to achieve the "greatest good for the greatest number" of black people.

We must think beyond our own petty differences and try to do what is right for the community as a whole. This means that those who wish to be the new power brokers will have to justify their actions in terms of the greatest good for the greatest number of people. Those who wish to exploit our desires for greater service from government should and will be exposed.

In order to salvage something from the competing interest to deliver the black vote to whomever, I, as the elected representative from the area and one in whom the voting populace has placed a great deal of confidence, will offer a few recommendations. These recommendations will be forthcoming within the next couple of weeks.

Greater Votes, Greater Power

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LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Having taken a brief survey of the conditions in the Black community, the Black population in the predominantly Black area and the Black Businesses that are located in and around the community, and the money that comes into this community, we have begun to wonder why our support for black business has been so negative. We have a number of small businesses located in our community. These businesses could become Large Businesses by a united effort of support. In so doing, we could create some many needed jobs for our Youth and Adults!

We are appealing to black people and Black Business people to take a good look at this situation and not only look at it, but put forth a united effort in combining our resources for a better community.

Let us consider the two Credit Unions located in our community. The more money we deposit in these Credit Unions the more money will be available for loans for the improvement of the area that we live in. It is important that we look at Black Businesses and the support of it, individually, and collectively, for the benefit of our children and grand children and unborn generations. All large and successful businesses had their beginning small and uncertain. As they did, so can we. In fact, we must make it work.

In this competitive society we as black people have always been able to achieve and succeed despite the fact we began behind and we still have the ability to succeed. Let us make Black Business our Business.

Rev. S. P. Parks