

Point of View

THE 1984 ELECTIONS: A CHECKLIST FOR BLACK VOTERS

By Norman Hill

We are a little less than one year away from the 1984 elections, yet the presidential campaign is already in full swing. October brought with it the AFL-CIO's decision about which of the Democratic Party candidates received the labor federation's endorsement. It also was the month in which Jesse Jackson decided to throw his hat into the ring and run in the Democratic primaries.

The forthcoming political year will pose im-

portant choices for black Americans, who more than likely will play a pivotal role in the selection of the Democratic Party's nominee for President, and in the ultimate outcome of the 1984 elections at the national, state, and local level.

The black vote will prove to be decisive in elections in the Mid-west and South, areas with a high concentration of voting age blacks, which are essential to the success of the Democratic Party. The significance of the black vote is un-

derscored in the following statistic: in 1980 there were more unregistered black voters than Ronald Reagan's margin of victory over President Carter in 12 states. These states —

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Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia — accounted for a total of 138 electoral votes out of 538. In a somewhat closer election, as the 1984 race promises to be, this solid bloc of states will prove to be the difference in the outcome.

The obligation of black Americans to participate in the electoral process is clear. What today may be less clear is which candidates have earned black support.

What should black voters look for in assessing who from the current field of candidates best answers the needs of black Americans and all working and poor people? Several vital policy positions should be a part of every black voters issues checklist for evaluating candidates in 1984:

• How does the candidate stand on the issue of jobs programs? (With over 20 percent of black workers on the unemployment rolls, any candidate who deserves black support must demonstrate a commitment to jobs training, re-education of displaced workers, and skills training. Such a candidate must also clearly spell out an economic strategy aimed at full employment.)

• What is the candidate's position on indus-

trial revitalization? (A large proportion of black workers are employed in manufacturing. The decline of manufacturing jobs had been an important feature of the current recession. The re-

vitalization of our nation's industrial base, therefore, is central to black economic progress.)

• Does the candidate support protecting our nation's industries

against unfair foreign competition? (U.S. industries have been suffering from unfair foreign competition as a result of foreign government subsidies of their export products. Some foreign governments have placed trade restrictions which inhibit the free flow of U.S. goods to their lands, while taking advantage of our nation's commitment to free trade.

Clearly, the above is not an exhaustive checklist. Black voters will also be focusing on such matters as a candidate's experience and electabil-

ity. Yet the above checklist is a good yardstick by which to measure the many candidates competing for the black vote in Presidential primaries and in state and local races throughout the nation.

The 1984 Presidential campaign will be crucial for the black community.

There is every indication that black voters will be voting in higher numbers than ever before. Many candidates will attempt to win black and white votes by resorting to slogans and rhetoric.

Editorial

Blacks in Las Vegas are and always have been resourceful. However, many of our resources have either been exploited or used in ways that have not been entirely beneficial to the masses in our community.

One resource within the Black community is being used to promote good within our community. We refer to Radio Station KCEP, funded and operated by authority of the State of Nevada and the Clark County Economic Opportunity Board. This station is being used to acquaint its listeners with world events, sports activities, public forums, talk shows, cultural events and many other goings on that would not normally be introduced through other means. This enables others within the larger, Las Vegas community to hear, first hand, many of the good things that are in progress within our community.

Radio Station KCEP has just undergone an almost complete remodeling operation. The offices and studios are now larger than ever. New equipment has been purchased and installed,

new personnel have been brought on board, new rules and regulations are now in place, the operational power of the station has been increased, and several other exciting things have happened to the station. The community can feel proud of the many accomplishments that have taken place to better enable the station to serve the populace.

KCEP can, and undoubtedly will, be a beacon light in our community, serving as a guide for other persons who would like to develop other resources.

The management and staff of KCEP are to be congratulated for a job well done in bringing to our Black community a radio station to be used and enjoyed by all.

The station is only one of many resources in our community that are working hard to make the area a better area in which to live.

We wish for the management and staff of KCEP a very happy holiday season, with many good wishes that they will continue to serve the community in an efficient and courteous manner, as has been their policy in the past.

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



A few weeks ago we wrote about the troops in Lebanon. We took the position then, as we do now, that our troops cannot survive this conflict because of the lack of any clear-cut policy from the Reagan administration as to what they should be doing there. Of course, we have grown accustomed to hearing the old saying that the troops are there to protect the peace.

Peace for whom? Certainly not for the many who have been killed, those without homes, or the 240 Marines and sailors who were crushed with massive concrete boulders from a suicide mission conducted by Shiite Moslems.

In an article written a few weeks ago, I mentioned that this is a war we cannot win. I spoke of

how the Shiites feel that it is an honor to die for their cause. Well, we find today that Washington is taking on a new appearance with laden sand trucks, and heavy concrete pillars placed at entrances where the President speaks. This is being done because now we are learning that there are elements in this world that are not awed by the might of this country. We are finding, much to our dismay, that the mightiest country in the world cannot fight a terrorist war short of killing many innocent people in the process. So why do we stay in Lebanon?

Well, recently we have heard that it is because

Israel is our friend and we have a president who is obsessed with Communism in the region. The price we pay for this is to have in place hand-held missile launches around the White House to shoot down any terrorist attack from the air.

Our presence in Lebanon does more for the Israelis than it does for the United States. Israel is almost bankrupt from the production of military hardware to fight its war in the Middle East. The inflation rate in the country is one of the highest in the industrial world. You can imagine how the Prime Minister of Israel felt upon learning that the United States would assume a greater involvement in the conflict in Lebanon. It was probably like having Israel's inflation rate dip about thirty points.

There is nothing that this country can do in Lebanon short of jeopardizing world peace. It is a conflict we cannot win nor stabilize. Our continued presence in Lebanon can only enhance further killing and destruction of the land.

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