

Point of View

POLITICAL PANDERING: A RECIPE FOR DIVIDING THE NATION

Editorial

By Bayard Rustin

Increased pandering to ethnic groups is a dangerous phenomenon that has come to dominate American politics and thus further fragment our nation.

In the current Presi-

We have seen this currying of favor in the unseemly attempts by politicians to debate where the U.S. Embassies in Israel should be located rather than presenting the American people with concrete

cans. Their responsibility is to fashion out of diverse and frequently competing group interests in our country a common interest, an

growing underclass of poor, of unacceptable levels of joblessness.

We live in a difficult economic and social climate. The rich become richer, the poor poorer; the middle class is anxious about its future; and the unskilled have become economic untouchables.

In such a climate those who are running for our nation's highest office owe it to the electorate to speak about these issues which have created deep divisions within our country and to articulate programs and themes which will fashion a national unity out of the diversity and agony that abounds.

Do not misunderstand me. I do not suggest that blacks should not be proud they are blacks, or that Poles should not be proud they are Polish, or that Jews ought not to be proud they are Jewish. I

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American interest. Their responsibility is to put forth an economic and social program for the uplifting of all society. The politician has an obligation to articulate the fundamental issues which confront our society — the problems of deindustrialization, of

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dential campaign we have witnessed numerous illustrations of this trend. Rather than addressing the fundamental issues of unemployment, inflation, and lack of educational opportunity that cause agony amongst poor ethnic groups; rather than presenting concrete proposals to eliminate such problems, politicians spend their time in minority communities eating spaghetti, kielbasi, knishes, orrice and peas.

proposals for peace in the Middle East. Such pandering gives no credit to candidates but is a measure of the degree to which the political process has deteriorated.

Running for the Presidency of this great and diverse country ought to be an enterprise of unification and coalition-building. Those who seek to be President should engage in those efforts which speak to all Americans as Ameri-

To Be Equal

KEY CIVIL RIGHTS BILL PENDING

By John E. Jacob

The Civil Rights Act of 1984 is before the Congress, sponsored by a bipartisan coalition of legislators.

The Act is necessary to undo the results of a recent Supreme Court decision that said an educational institution is free to discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its activities that are not funded by the federal government.

That decision was a misreading of Congress' intent in 1972 amendments to an education act. Before the Court's decision, an institution accepting federal funds for any purpose had to comply with anti-discrimination mandates in

all of its activities.

After that decision, the possibility is raised that so long as there is no discrimination in the fed-



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erally-funded program, it could discriminate elsewhere.

For example, the college in the case, Grove City College, is now bound not to discriminate in its student aid

program since those were found to involve federal funds. But it could, if it chose, bar women from certain

All activities would be clearly covered so the Court's ruling would be nullified and civil rights protected.

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sports activities or even from some classes, since no direct federal funding is involved.

The Grove City ruling involved the Court in some tortured reasoning that clearly contradicted Congress' intent in passing the sex discrimination amendments.

The proposed civil Rights Act would correct that by barring all discrimination by any recipient of federal money.

The need for the Act is great, for the Grove City ruling opened a loophole in civil rights protection laws. While it was concerned only with sex discrimination in higher education, the principle it embodied could be broadened at some point to compromise civil rights protections based on race, age and handicaps.

Language in the civil rights laws is similar to See JACOB, Page 14

As expressed by one of the area daily newspapers on Tuesday: "The big question: Who will replace Wilson?" It looms as one of the most significant questions on the community agenda today.

On Monday Commissioner Woodrow Wilson pleaded guilty to charges of taking a bribe during the political corruption probe code-named Operation YOBO.

There are a few names bantered around these days as his possible replacement. Among them are business development specialist Bob Bailey, who is director of the Nevada Economic Development Company, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, a veteran broadcaster and participant in the entertainment field for 10 years. Bailey is a 29-year resident of Las Vegas and served as the first chairman of the Nevada Civil Rights Commission. He is also a member of the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce Executive Board.

Housing developer Leonard Mason's name is also added to the hopper. Mason is a principal with the Mason Development Co. A 42-year resident of Las Vegas (a lifetime resident), he helped to establish the NAACP Youth Branch during 1958. He currently serves on the Urban League Executive Board, has served as Assistant Director of the Las Vegas Manpower Planning Council and has been involved in many civic activities, to include the rehabilitation of many buildings in the community.

Another possibility is Evan Williams, secretary-treasurer of Dalton Properties, another Las Vegas resident actively involved in many community activities. Among the most notable are that he was the prime mover behind the development, restoration and rehabilitation of the Carey Arms Housing Project, the builder of the NAACP Arthur McCann Senior Housing Project, the builder of two other housing projects known as Monroe Manor I and Monroe Manor II and has been involved in the rehabilitation of many other structures in the community. He is a member of the NAACP Executive Board and has served on the Executive Board of the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce.

A woman added to the list is Gwen Brown-Coleman, Executive Director, Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce, an 8-year native of Las Vegas. She has helped with a 5-year study plan on West Las Vegas with the Nevada Department of Economic Development, is a member of the Executive Board of the NAACP, a member of the Westside Community Development Commission, a member of the Nevada State Council of Libraries and was a member of the Governor's Commission on Minority Business Enterprise.

Perhaps others will be added to the list during the forthcoming weeks.

Governor Richard Bryan will have the awesome task of appointing a successor to Commissioner Wilson's post. It is hoped that the selection will not have any political overtones. The appointment must be someone who is a registered Republican to fulfill the unexpired term which ends Jan. 1, 1985. It is a very important appointment carrying a huge responsibility. The community deserves a selection that will truly represent the constituency of Clark County Commission Seat D.

GREATER VOTES, GREATER POWER

The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one indicated as the SENTINEL-VOICE editorial represents this publication.