

# Point of View

## Editorial

### Register — What Are You Waiting For?

Are you registered to vote? Have we been missing out on our rights by not exercising our responsibility to vote for persons and issues of our choice? Have we become so complacent about participating in our governmental affairs that we have begun to say, "Oh, what's the use?"

Our willingness to accept the status-quo is directly proportional to our willingness to register to vote and vote. If we are unwilling to take the few minutes required to register to vote and then vote, then we might be letting ourselves in for some very hard times ahead. The opposite is also true. It appears that many politicians, both those presently in office and those who would like to get into office, have written us off as a non-caring group who can be persuaded to accept anything they present to us. These persons are paying very little attention to us as Blacks.

The only way to stop this inattention to Blacks and their needs is to make sure that we all are registered to vote and then exercise this privilege.

After registration, we must become informed on the issues, present our needs as pertinent issues, and make sure that we vote our convictions.

As we enter into another election year, we will be hearing from many politicians who have been unable or unwilling to confront us during the past two or more years. We must avail ourselves of the opportunities to hear as many sides of each issue as possible. Without this information, we cannot make decisions concerning our local, state, and national governmental affairs.

Many individuals and organizations around our fair city are working toward the next election. If we are not registered, we must become registered. After registration, we must vote.

#### WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

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NNPA FEATURE

## COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



### Stop Making Yourself Feel Bad

We can make ourselves feel terrible by simply criticizing ourselves. If you tell yourself you are dumb, you will feel just as bad as you would if someone else had called you dumb. It's even worse since you know you are not dumb, but quite intelligent. So why call yourself dumb?

Let's look at some negative, irrational statements that actually make us feel bad:

A. "I'll never be able to stop smoking."

B. "I think Lee is a no good, son of a ———"

C. "All I need is drugs to get myself together."

D. "There is no point in even trying to make my life better."

Now let's look at some ways to counter the above negative, irrational thinking with positive, logical reasoning.

You can Stop Smoking: No one smokes all of the time. You don't smoke when you sleep or conduct other chores. However, when you think that you can't stop, you don't want to attempt to stop; you don't put forth the effort to stop. There are

things that you really can't do, such as jump off a 15-story building and survive. That's logical thinking. So, you simply don't jump. The same goes for smoking. You think you can't, so you don't try. The way to stop smoking, stop over-eating or break any habit is to tell yourself that you can do it. Then, decide to do whatever is in your best interest. Think logically. Tell yourself the truth. Then do it!

Lee may have his faults but he is, also a human being. Thus, he could not,

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## FROM CAPITOL HILL

By A. Madison

### President Reagan Must Prevent U.S. From Being Labeled A Racist Country

President Reagan may have to sign a South African sanctions bill in spite of his abstention at the U.N. vote against sanctions for South Africa and his constant contention that his "constructive engagement" policy is working.

During operation of the Reagan policy, controls limiting Black South Africans' access to White areas have been strengthened, arrests for past law violators have doubled, and more than nine million Blacks have been forced to barren homelands set aside for them. The four million Whites own eighty-seven percent of the South African land, while the twenty million Blacks own only thirteen percent.

Despite modest economic and social advances by urban Black Africans, the average Black makes only 18 percent that of Whites and only one eighth per capita of Whites is spent on Education for Blacks.

More Blacks have been killed and Black leaders

imprisoned without having any charges placed against them, and there are heavy bans on Black assemblage. The present state of emergency gives the police power to arrest any Black without being held accountable for reasons, to search Black homes without warrants, and to limit the number of Blacks who can attend funerals. These acts are occurring under the president's "constructive engagement" policy.

The Administration boasts of changes made during his reign — interracial marriages are now allowed and Black trade unions have been organized — even though Black union leaders are being jailed for protesting for fairness.

Both Houses of Congress have passed a sanctions bill by an overwhelming majority. Even though Mr. Reagan remains adamant on sanctions, it now appears that he will have to accept some type of sanction against the South African apartheid system.

The House-Senate conferees met for several hours to work out their differences in the two bills. Senator Lugar, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired the

conference, which at times had very stiff arguments. Representative Howard Wolpe, Chairman of the House African Affairs Committee, led passage of the House bill.

Senator Lugar stated that Congress should speak. However, he recognized the Administration's foreign policy position — that the majority of the senators would want to discuss human rights policy around the world, that Soviet human rights policy is even worse, and that he felt that South African rights would be lost if discussed along with others. So he said that the conferees must think carefully about how they should proceed.

Wolpe stressed that France, Japan, Sweden and the international community have all responded to the South African crisis of martial law, state of emergency, present killings and imprisonment of Blacks. Thus, it should now be mandatory that the United States respond.

Representative Siljander emphasized that economic sanctions would hurt Blacks because they work in those industries. Only about 500,000 out of 22 million Blacks have jobs in industries. Congressman

Parren Mitchell responded, "Mr. Siljander, you didn't hear my statement about Black children in Baltimore's action for integration of schools. They were willing to suffer for equality and rights. This is due to your youth. You were not around at that time. People love freedom so much that they will bear suffering."

Representative Stephen Solarz stated that "constructive engagement is dead. Failure of Congress to pass a sanctions bill will signal the South African government that they are victorious."

The Senate bill called for some sanctions after 18 months, if the president determines that South Africa is not making progress towards the elimination of apartheid. Solarz said, "if it makes sense after 18 months to have sanctions, it makes sense now. People are being killed and imprisoned now. If we impose sanctions against Nicaragua, then why not even modest sanctions against South Africa?"

Representative Mervyn Dymally stated that "we have waited far too long to take a strong position against apartheid." He denounced the paternalistic view of those who speak of protecting Blacks by preventing economic sanctions.

Senator Kennedy made a motion to prevent the sale of the Krugerrand immediately. In 1984, he said, the South African sale of those gold coins in this country was \$600,000,000. After much discussion, the Kennedy motion was passed.

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*"It comes to the individual, the race, the nation, once in a lifetime to decide upon the course to be pursued as a career. The hour is now struck for the individual Negro as well as the entire race to decide the course that will be pursued in the interest of our own liberty."*

Marcus Garvey

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