

# Point of View

*" We shall prosper in proportion as we learn to dignify and glorify common labor and put brains and skill into the common occupations of life."*

*Booker T. Washington*

## *from capital hill*

*By Alfreda L. Madison*

### **Blacks Require Equality--Not A Congratulatory Democratic Smile!**

Democrats at the meeting of the National Democratic Committee were bubbling over with the thrill of victory after the recent election. Chairman Paul Kirk stepped to the podium and said, "It's a lot of fun to win. We've heard the end of realignment." Mr. Kirk stated that the Democrats fielded better qualified candidates than the Republicans.

Success for the victory was credited a great deal to the State Democratic chairpersons and their workers. Of course, Paul Kirk was given great credit for his efficient leadership in planning and overseeing the entire operation.

Besides the House and Senate victories, it was emphasized that Democrats made major gains in state legislatures. They will have 67 legislative chamber controls out of 99 in both houses of the states. Democratic state losses were limited to the Montana House and Nevada Senate. Many of the seats lost to the GOP in 1984 were recaptured this year with an increase of nearly

2100 Democratic legislative seats.

Emphasis was placed on the real meaning of the Democratic Senate control. Being the Senate Majority Leader and chairing important committees are powerful positions. Vice Chair Lynn Cutler said, "We're on our way and if each of us continues to dedicate time and energy to the Democratic Party and our common goals, we will see the changes we've been striving for become reality."

The Women's Democratic Caucus was jubilant over the election of the first woman Democratic Senator who ran for election in Barbara Mikulski of Maryland. The women stated that at the present rate of electing women to Congress it will take 410 years for it to have equal representation of women and men in that body.

Representative Mary Oakar addressing the women stated that Barbara Mikulski will add a breath of fresh air to the Senate. She spoke of Linda Chavez, the Republican candidate whom

### **To Be Equal**

## **The State of Black America**

by John E. Jacob

Every year, the National Urban League issues its report, The State of Black America -- a collection of scholarly articles on various key issues affecting black citizens.

The report assesses the condition of black American, and this year it concluded that blacks are besieged by the resurgence of raw racism, persistent economic Depression, and the continued erosion of past gains.

Contributions by nationally renowned experts drive that point home. For example, the Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Julius Chambers, writes of the desertion of civil rights enforcement efforts by federal agencies.

Dr. David Swinton of Clark College discusses the plight of the black economy, and how it has been weakened by negative public policies. Dr. Charles V. Willie of Harvard documents that while

school desegregation can work for all students, it has often been implemented in ways detrimental to blacks.

Other papers survey issues affecting black families, the welfare system, health, education, poverty, federal budget and tax policies, and politics.

The report amounts to a powerful indictment of the



John E. Jacob

way policy-makers have ignored black needs and helped foster the desperate conditions affecting the masses of the black poor. It shows that national policies have widened the gap between the races, and have

closed economic opportunities for the poor.

The report suggests that we can no longer talk about a racially neutral society at a time when racism is strong and discrimination rampant. Nor can we talk about an economic recovery when black unemployment is at fifteen percent and over 8 million Americans are out of work.

America is becoming more divided every day by the

Congress needs to take the initiative by implementing an agenda for change that includes closing loopholes in the civil rights laws, a full employment program, expanded job creation and training program, a massive thrust to equalize educational opportunities, and trade policies that stop the export of jobs.

The private sector should renew its commitment to civil right and take the leadership

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growing gap between the rich and the poor; between whites and blacks, and between those who have decent jobs and those who do not.

We've got homeless people in the park across the street from the White House and hungry people asking for handouts on Park Avenue. Those contrasts are too great and too terrible for a democratic society to become comfortable with.

role abandoned by the government by working to create a national climate in which racism and discrimination are no longer tolerated.

And black citizens must continue what we have been doing over the past year -- a year in which black communities all across the country have come involved in voluntary, community-based programs that make our neighborhoods better and our children's futures brighter.

This is the unsung story of our times -- a story ignored by the media. In the face of federal budget cuts and few resources, black individuals and organizations are implementing activities to deal with problems like teenage pregnancy, crime, drug abuse, and inadequate education.

Those efforts are making a real difference in people's lives. They are an important reason for black survival in this hostile climate and for our hopes for the future.

National Committee's meeting, they were not invisible categories. When Paul Kirk was asked about it, he stated that they held certain positions. Whatever their positions, they were far less visible than the Whites. Sharon Dixon, the treasurer is Black; there are other vice, and assistants. This reporter called Mr. Kirk's attention to the fact that Blacks have always supported White candidates, and what he was going to do was to get Whites to support Black candidates. Kirk's response was that he campaigned for Michael Espy and John Lewis. It was noted for him that Espy was from an overwhelming Black district and the Lewis choice was between two Black candidates.

Questioned about not inviting Jesse Jackson to a party for past and prospective presidential candidates, Mr. Kirk stated

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1988 campaign code, the Democratic Party will not take Blacks and minorities for granted but will work harder to maintain their support.

Roland Burris, Vice Chairman read a resolution on the Black voters. He spoke of the loyalty of the Black voters to the Democratic Party, their overwhelming vote given the Party and the margin of victory they provided in the recent election. The resolution spoke of the National Committee's participation in Pleasant Grove, Alabama and Balloting Security litigations. The resolution ended: "Be it resolved, that the Democratic National Committee pledges to put to rest once and for all any perception, real or imagined, that the DNC excludes any of its divergent support base, groups, or individuals from participation fully in the integral deliberations, commissions or fund raising activities of the Democratic National Committee."

While there were a few Blacks in attendance at the

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