

**HATCHER**

From Page 5

electoral politics of America. Thousands of Black Americans came to Gary as everyday citizens of this nation, but they left determined to return to their home communities and to run for political office. Many were successful and as a consequence the foundation was laid at the local level for a quiet revolution of political progress by Black Americans at all levels. The time has come to meet again and plan our next great leap forward in the body politic of the United States.

Our people are still disproportionately poor, disproportionately ill and disproportionately unemployed. These, among other concerns, including the growing racism in America must be collectively addressed by the Black community. Over the next two months, I intend to contact as many Black leaders around the country as I am able to reach in order to discuss with them the idea of convening such a convention.

Some will ask by whose authority do I act. The answer is simple. As one of the three convenors of the 1972 convention, I feel an obligation not to stand by silently and watch the economic and political resegregation of America. There is a moral imperative to make clear to this nation that Black America will neither accept nor tolerate the repressive treatment which it has received at the hands of the Reagan Admin-

**CHURCH**

From Page 12

diseases, Sunday, Dec. 12 at 5:00 p.m. in their education building. It is free to the public and please be prompt. The Victory Baptist Church is pastored by Rev. D.L. Horn.

Join the Dr. Martin Luther King Committee in saluting: Our 1989 Grand Marshals Mrs. Rosie Smith, first lady of the Tri-Stone Baptist Church and Dr. James McMillan, long time local dentist in the Las Vegas area, Friday, Dec. 9, at the Moulin Rouge, 900 West Bonanza. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and last until . . . Free food and entertainment.

The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., Board of Evangelism will meet at the Second Baptist Church located at 500 West Madison Avenue from Monday, Nov. 12 through Thursday, Nov. 15. Day services will be held

from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon, and evening services will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Second Baptist Church is also sponsoring a trip to Tijuana, Mexico Friday, Dec. 10. This is a "turn-around" trip leaving Las Vegas at 3:00 a.m. and departing from Tijuana at 6:00 p.m. For more information contact Bro. Warren. Don't forget the Fellowship for the Deacons, Deaconess, and Minister's wives, Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:00 p.m., if you are not going to Tijuana. The Eta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Delta Epsilon Chapter's Fifth Candlelight Vesper Services will be held at Second Baptist on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 7:00 p.m. The Second Baptist Church is pastored by Rev. Willie Davis and the information telephone number is 648-6155.

President Bush can be a good President for Black America, but only if he understands clearly that we will accept nothing less.

Whether this convention takes place or not will of course, depend upon the will and desires of the leadership of Black America. Further announcements regarding our progress in this matter, or lack thereof, will be made from time to time over the next several months.

**HIGGINS**

From Page 2

Blacks "three fourths" citizenship per person for census purposes. For a real incisive look at this historic time see Justice Thurgood Marshall's observations. A call to the U.S. Supreme Court's public information office will secure you a copy of these cogent remarks.

The insidious "Black laws" passed during the Reconstruction period and afterwards stripped the newly-freed slave of most of his rights. From the turn of the century, till 1954 Brown v Topeka, KS School Board, a succession of laws — feder-

al, state, local were passed —designed to keep the Black in his place. In the South the Democratic Party with the White Rooster symbol, effectively remained lily-white and helped keep Blacks from the franchise through such stratagems as the poll tax, force and intimidation. It was the party of the Bilbos, the Rankins, the Talmadges, the Byrds, the Eastlands, the Perezes. Ardent racists, one and all. Lynch law reigned. Almost every worthwhile area in civilized human life was proscribed for Blacks: education, housing, jobs, health care, public accommodation. You name it.

Blacks voted, when they could, as Republicans—the party of Lincoln. My grandfather who was born a slave (he was 11 years old when freed) would turn in his grave if he knew I voted for a Democrat.

But the Republicans don't want the Black vote, nor do the Democrats—that is neither do except on terms that are becoming increasingly unacceptable to me, and most of us.


What then is left for us in a two-party dominated system? Is a third party a viable option? In a poll by the Joint Center on Political Studies, 42 per cent of the Blacks said they would join a Third Party.

Lenora Fulani, a Black woman, is an interesting possibility for Third Party leadership. She's birght, resourceful, concerned, well trained, and did a remarkable job in getting on the ballots of all 50 states in the past election. But she is, for all of that, an unknown quantity. Blacks simply will not flock to the banners of relative unknowns. If she should decide to involve herself in the day-to-day issues that touch the lives of Blacks and others of the left-out genre, she may become better

We are happy to report that Sister Leslie Randolph has received her new heart and is progressing nicely. However, the family is yet requesting donations and most of all your prayers.

Remember, a strong Sunday School makes a strong church. See you there next Sunday.

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**ROLE**

From Page 12

sinian involved in any particular projects?

**Rev. Butts:** We've been working on several things. We are presently working with the New York City Partnership (a group of business and civic leaders who direct resources to support youth employment, housing and economic development), and we've discovered a way that we can become co-developers with a black firm out in Brooklyn to build housing units in Harlem.

**Issues & Views:** So, you're saying that this is now in the works with Abyssinian and this other firm?

**Rev. Butts:** Yes, this has already been announced. Just this morning, I was in a meeting with some of the major developers in New York City and several CEOs of leading corporations. We discussed how the public and private sectors can get together with government organizations to build housing in communities like Harlem.

Now, what these developers are saying is, we're not going to do anything for you. We realize there's a need and if you've got skill and expertise and time, we're willing to sit down and bring

known, there will be fewer suspicions in terms of her sponsors (who were they?), or if she has a hidden agenda and, well, who knows?

In the meantime, there is Jesse Jackson. He is a known and acceptable quantity. But will he stick with the Democrats who made it clear they would rather have the "Bubba" (Southern White male Reagan Democrats) whose perceived interests are opposed to those of Black folks? Will he be our Third Party Moses?

whatever we have to the table. The only thing that would stop blacks from doing that, it seems to me, is self-pity or lack of knowledge. If you don't know how, that's reason enough. But there are enough of us who know how. And those of us who know how, and still don't take action, I think we're just wallowing in self-pity. I don't know why we can't do it.

Right here on 7th Ave., between 137th and 138th Streets, on the west side, there is what we call the Renaissance Ballroom complex. That's been lying vacant and dormant for many years. And so I'm now talking to a few people about what we can do to bring it back to life. And I think it's going to work.

**Issues & Views:** Are you getting any negative reaction to your church's involvement in these projects?

**Rev. Butts:** Yes, there are many people who say that this is not the church's business. Some claim that we're in the business of preaching the gospel, bringing souls to God through Christ. I agree. That's our primary function. But that is not the traditional history totally of our black church. The work done by E. Franklin Frazier points out that the church in our community is the bedrock, not only of social and political activity, but of economic activity as well.

Yes, this is a commercial development. And why shouldn't the church be involved?

Continued next week

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