

Jackson Moves To Washington "To Free" Nation's Capital

by Larry A. Still

Although Jesse Jackson specifically outlined his reason for moving to the nation's capital in an unusual closed door session with representatives of Black-owned media only, the former (Democratic) presidential candidate's action's are still being challenged by apparently outraged reporters and politicians here. Reverend and Mrs. Jackson are moving into an uptown apartment pending renovation of a home purchase near Howard University. By moving into the District in August, he qualifies to run for Mayor or Congress in the 1990 elections.

Emphasizing that he is locating in the District of Columbia to help "free the citizens by working to get complete Home Rule," Jackson declared "I have no plans to run for Mayor... The debate (over whether he should seek to succeed Mayor Marion Barry) is

paralyzing the city", Jackson told all-black journalists in a luncheon session where reporters from daily newspapers and radio-tv stations were barred from entering by D.C. police. "We don't have to be defensive about a closed meeting. I meet with all-white media organizations all the time," he said.

Speaking at the session arranged by Calvin Rolark, the Washington Informer newspaper publisher and WYCB-AM radio commentator, Jackson patiently explained that he is moving his home to D.C. and the National Rainbow Coalition headquarters "back to Washington" because the Capital is the center of activity in the nation and the world. "It is an effective location for me to operate in and meet people" he added.

The decision on whether he should run for mayor is premature and "who is going to be mayor is not the issue now" the Democratic

party's major vote getter said in indicating he is keeping his options open. "We still have the baseball season this year, the National Football League playoffs (this winter) and the National Basketball Association season next year," the potential candidate quipped at one point in referring to the 1990 mayoral campaign beginning in about 13 months.

However, Jackson emphasized that "D.C. is under Congressional occupation... We need to free the city from the plight of being occupied by officials who are not accountable to the people... This is the only Capital among democracies in the world where its citizens do not have the right of self determination."

Noting that Mayor Barry was originally elected on a "Free D.C." campaign, Jackson said he will aid the city's home rule drive to get more elected representatives and senators in the United States Congress. Rep.



Leadership Salute To John H. Johnson -- Wayman F. Smith III (left), vice president of corporate affairs at Anheuser-Busch Companies, joins the Rev. Jesse Jackson, former presidential candidate and founder of Operation PUSH, and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley in presenting the Anheuser-Busch Soaring Eagle to John H. Johnson, chairman and CEO of Johnson Publishing Co. Inc. Johnson, whose successful business empire includes Ebony and Jet magazines, was recently honored for his business accomplishments at the international banquet at Operation PUSH's 18th annual convention in Chicago.

Continued from last week.....

The Riddle Of Jewish/Black Relations

by Earl Raab

Editor's Note: This is the final installment of the second of three articles being printed on the present state of the Black-Jewish relationship. The articles are being reprinted by permission of "Reform Judaism."

For all of these reasons, Jews are afraid of Jesse Jackson. Since he is clearly the foremost black politician of this period, with overwhelming black support, the Jews are afraid of black political dominance. It is that fear, above all, which has probably led about half of

Walter E. Fauntroy (D.C. Delegate), the city's only member of the Congress without a full vote, accompanied Jackson to the media session, but the mayor was not present.

Barry and Jackson reportedly met later after the District of Columbia city council passed legislation viewed as restricting the new resident's ability to raise campaign funds by limiting the amount of speaker's fees for public officials. When barred reporters persisted in asking Jackson about his campaign plans after the meeting, he replied that their questions were "irrelevant".

American Jews, in two different national surveys, to express the belief that "most" or "many" blacks are anti-Semitic.

At the same time, Jews have voted disproportionately to support black candidates in California, Chicago, Philadelphia and elsewhere - the only white group to do so. In attitude surveys, Jews register more favorably than any other white group on a variety of "black issues," such as South Africa, approval of the NAACP, affirmative action without quotas, and general welfare measures.

What is the meaning of this apparently schizoid behavior on the part of the Jews? There are undoubtedly counter-values at play, but even that is partly a mirror reflection to schizoid tendencies on the part of American blacks.

Jesse Jackson is the political leader of American blacks today. But he is not their leader because of his anti-Semitism, because of his attitudes toward Israel, or because of his Third World stance on American foreign policy. He is their political leader because he has been unprecedentedly successful and is therefore the symbolic

importance to them. And it is their leader because he dramatically enunciates the major economic and social concerns of most blacks.

Jews, by and large, have some sympathy for those economic and social concerns, as well they might. While a significant black middle class has emerged as a result of the past several decades, a considerable portion of the black population has been left behind in desperate straits. Put bluntly, this society would have a responsibility for this plight even if it weren't historically responsible for creating that plight -- which it is.

Jackson's domestic political remedies may or may not make sense. Indeed, in his domestic policy rhetoric there has been a disturbing resonance from Jackson's Third World foreign policy stance: an insistent theme of class warfare beyond the usual American boundaries. But Jesse Jackson has articulated the black community's concern about those "left behind" in a way that has not recently been done. For that, the black community has been understandably grateful to him.

See RIDDLE, Page 16

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