

Point of View

United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

BY Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
POLITICS OF RACISM IN LOUISIANA

Dangerous political signals are now emerging from the state of Louisiana. Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke appears to be gaining in recent polls taken concerning the upcoming election for the United States Senate in Louisiana.

Duke who has already been elected as a Republican in the Louisiana State Legislature as a Representative, is now the leading Republican candidate for the seat currently held by United States Senator J. Bennett Johnston, a Democrat. The issue is not to question Duke's right to run for political office. We question the character and integrity of the Republican Party in Louisiana as well as the racist motives of the thousands of persons who are now rallying to support Duke's racist political platform.

At the beginning of the last decade of this century, the civil rights movement and the church community at both the national and local levels cannot afford not to respond to these distressing signals. In particular, the African-American community which represents nearly 40 percent of the population of the State of Louisiana, should be mobilizing now to ensure a massive voting turnout for the primary election to be held on October 6, 1990.

In a survey conducted by the SHREVEPORT JOURNAL, Johnston received 32 percent of voters support while Duke received 26 percent, but another Republican State Senator Ben Bagert received 17 percent and 25 percent were undecided. Yet many of the undecided shared their preference for Duke but did not want to publicly acknowledge their sup-

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Why Japanese Get Away With Racism in U.S.

By Tony Brown

In a *Newsweek* magazine cover story called "What Japan Thinks of Us," the Japanese cited America's most serious problems: drugs and alcohol (93%); lazy workers (66%); and too many racial and ethnic groups (57%).

The latter means too many African-Americans and Hispanics. This poll goes beyond last year's statement by a ranking Japanese official that African-Americans and Hispanics brought down America's productivity with their underdeveloped status and low intelligence.

In the minds of the Japanese, Americans overall are nothing to write home about. And increasingly, what Japanese think matters to Americans, since the U.S. became an economic junkie to annual German and Japanese loans. Last week, the Japanese were buying the Southland chain; last year, it was Rockefeller Cen-



Tony Brown

ter and a major Hollywood studio.

Overall, Americans don't save, live beyond their means and consume more than they produce. In order to continue this charade, the U.S. borrows and borrows and borrows to keep the standard of living where it is. We are trying to do with the national economy what no human has ever done: Beat compound interest.

Eventually, Japan and Germany will stop loaning us

POLITICAL POINTS

By

Assemblyman
Wendell P. Williams

Back on February 11th of this year, there were celebrations going on throughout the world, recognizing the importance of the release of world human rights leader Nelson Mandela. Mandela, who has spent the past 27 years in a South African jail on charges of sabotage and plotting to overthrow the government, emerged from prison as an even more committed and focused leader of the anti-apartheid movement. Clearly, Mandela's strength has provided encouragement and faith to many individuals throughout the world. Moreover, Mandela's release has brought new attention and awareness to many people who were unaware of not only Nelson Mandela, but the South African struggle and its relationship and affect on the politics of America as well as the world.

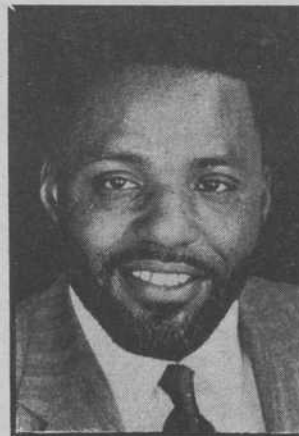
The wearing of Mandela T-shirts and the wearing of black, green and yellow colors of the African National Congress is simply not enough. Without a doubt, Nelson's release was a victory, but just a small one. The war is far from over.

Twenty-seven years ago, Mandela went to prison with no vote and no rights; today he and other non-white South Africans still have no vote and basically no rights. Hundreds and hundreds of our brothers and sisters were imprisoned over 27 years ago and are still imprisoned today.

At the same time, many people, even in our own state, would rather see things remain the same for South Africa and for all people of African decent. They are using Mandela's release as a way to try and justify the easing of

money (\$150 billion this year) because the more we borrow the greater risk we become. Also, they will eventually run out of money to loan. Our government has decided to run the country on

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Assemblyman Williams

economic sanctions against that racist country. Even our own local press here in Las Vegas is pressing hard to cloud the goals of Mandela and the African National Congress.

Yes, Mandela's release was a reason to rejoice, but let's use his release as an instrument to win the real victory, true freedom and equality for all people.

From the very beginning the United States has been shaky in its stand on imposing sanctions on South Africa. From the very beginning the United States has been in bed with South Africa and smiling every minute, and they are still romancing each other today.

From the very beginning Nevada has been in bed with South Africa, and Nevada is still there today. We still are using taxpayers' money in Nevada and investing there. Why is it that UNLV can run everyone off the basketball court, but can't even crawl out of South Africa with our money?

Mandela is free from jail, but still not free. You and I may be free from jail, but we are still not free. The party is over; it's time for the real dance!

POINTS IN HISTORY: On April 20th, 137 years ago, Harriet Tubman started the Underground Railroad.

On April 21st, 435 years ago, African-American explorers founded St. Augustine, Fla.

On April 22nd, 464 years ago, the first slave revolt occurred in South Carolina.

POINT OF VIEW: The Labor of yesterday gets twice the protection and twice the pay that the labor of today gets. Capital gets twice the protection and twice the pay.

Wendell Phillips

To Be Equal

U.S. ROLE IN AFRICA

By John E. Jacob

The very different role the U.S. is playing in eastern Europe and in Africa makes it hard to avoid the impression of a racial double standard in our foreign policy.

As country after country in eastern Europe freed itself from communist domination, the U.S. took a highly visible, supportive role.



John E. Jacob

American businesses flocked to eastern European capitals to scout investment opportunities and our government is prepared to pump large amounts of economic development aid funds to those countries, to supplementing even larger sums promised by western nations.

There is even talk about a new Marshall Plan to help those countries develop their economies and a new international investment bank, funded by the West.

But Africa, the world's poorest continent and an area which is also undergoing far-reaching reform, is virtually ignored although its needs are far greater.

This year, for example, total U.S. economic aid to Black Africa comes to about \$575 million, or only eleven percent of total U.S. foreign economic assistance. On a per capita basis, that comes to only \$1 for every African.

The argument has been advanced that a major goal of our foreign policy was freeing eastern European nations from Soviet domination and therefore we have to assure that they will become self-sufficient now

that our goal has been reached.

That's a good argument. It makes sense, since our former advocacy entailed responsibilities for the outcome of our policy. But that same argument also holds for Africa.

For many years we expended diplomatic energy and resources to get South Africa to end its illegal occupation of Namibia. Now, Namibia is a free, independent state.

But while we therefore have an obligation to assist

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the new nation in its transition to democracy, our current aid amounts to an insignificant \$500,000.

And despite Namibia's great needs for development assistance, next year's package is slated to come to only about \$8 million.

Africa's needs are great. Its poverty is deep, its population growing, and its international debt burden is crushing for countries living at the knife-edge of survival.

On a purely humanitarian basis, it should be getting a much larger share, not only of U.S. aid, but also of assistance from other wealthy countries such as Japan, Germany, and the former colonial powers that once ruled large parts of the continent.

Aid is also in our own self-interest. The more we help those countries develop, the more they'll buy from us, creating jobs here at home and expanding our trade.

Some point to past misuse of aid funds to justify present policies, and it is true that many African nations suffered from misrule and wasted scarce resources.

But many nations have learned from their mistakes. They have instituted economic and political reforms, cut back uneconomic spending plans, rein-

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