

Point of View

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MINORITY REPORT

COLIN POWELL TO REPLACE QUAYLE? FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT IN 1996? HOW ABOUT BLACK PROBLEMS NOW?

By James E. Alsbrook

For which national political ticket should Black people vote if George Bush were to "dump" Dan Quayle and replace him with Gen. Colin Powell?

Many Blacks would be in a quandary, for they would have to consider many conflicting factors.

The Powell issue is "hot" because Dan Quayle is under fire from many quarters despite Bush's statement that Quayle will be his 1992 running mate. George Will, the conservative mouthpiece who has opposed civil rights laws and attacked Blacks repeatedly, proposed on national television that the Re-

publicans shift from Quayle to Powell because of Powell's popularity among bigwigs, his competence, diplomacy and personality.

The Chicago Tribune suggested editorially that Quayle be replaced and some Republicans are calling for Quayle to resign from the GOP ticket. They said

he has become the laughing stock of the nation. With Bush's popularity low and Quayle's image so poor, Republican bigwigs are wondering how best to replace Quayle.

However, if Bush were to dump Quayle and get Powell to join him, the GOP Convention almost certainly would approve

Powell. Conservatives and gung-ho patriots adore military heroes as evidence by the popularity of Presidents George Washington, U.S. Grant, Teddy Roosevelt, and Dwight Eisenhower.

But what should Black voters do? They would see avowed advocates of civil rights and affirmative action heading the Democratic ticket while on the Republican ticket would be a highly competent Black man who if elected would be one heart beat away from the presidency.

Several factors must be considered:

1. Bush would continue his anti-civil rights and anti-affirmative action policies and Powell would simply preside over the Senate and be a well-liked figurehead and lure for Black people to rejoin the Republicans.

2. At the end of the four-year Bush term, Powell would be a strong contender for the GOP nomination if his political savy were as effective as his military and administrative savy were while with Reagan and Bush.

3. Powell is compared to Eisenhower. He and Ike are notable for their engaging personalities, knowledge of military tactics, mental flexibility, readiness for new ideas, leadership for new ideas, leadership qualities and ability to get things done. Powell is the author of military writings used now in the services.

4. If Powell is on the GOP



JAMES E. ALSBROOK, Ph.D.

ticket, Clinton and Gore would do one or two things. They would emphasize more strongly their appeals to Black voters, so as to offset the appeal of Powell; or they could become more conservative, reverse the present Democratic trend and thereby try to appeal to the same voters that liked Nixon, Reagan and Bush.

If Clinton and Gore won, would they know how to help Blacks? If Bush and Powell won, nothing meaningful would be done to aid the cities and their people unless another Los Angeles-type riot occurred.

Then, the costs in racial discord, billions of dollars, international embarrassment and the world prestige might persuade conservatives and White supremacists (including some blacks) that the national interest required a type of "Marshall Plan" Whitney Young advocated long ago.

The Planners must understand (A) that we cannot reclaim the cities until we reclaim the people living in the cities, and (B) that the doctor cannot cure the patient until the illness is diagnosed and a good remedy is found.

The sickness of the inner cities is the same that afflicts me (See Minority Report, Page 9)



POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams



DEAR DR. TATE

"Any real change in the status quo depends on continued creative action to sharpen the conscience of the nation and establish a climate in which even the most recalcitrant elements are forced to admit that change is necessary". Those words spoken by the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. over twenty-five years ago will, in some small way, serve as an encouragement to your efforts to bring fairness to the issue of police and community relations.

Allow me to share with you a newspaper article that was written in April of 1970:

COMMUNITY CONTROL OF POLICE

Berkeley NCCF has collected enough signatures to put the issue of community control of police before the voters.

To do this, we needed a number of signatures equal to 15% of the total number of registered voters in the city.

That number is about 9600. We have validated 10,000 Berkeley addresses.

Actually, we had collected more than 11,500 signatures but about 1500 were invalid. We now plan to collect another 3,000 just in case we have more invalids. The

people of this city of this country want a different kind of police force, one that is responsive to their needs rather than to the financial interests of the community. There is no problem in getting people to sign the petition to them. We need registered voters to get the petition circulated.

Community control of police needs workers. We know that in Berkeley, as everywhere else, the mayor, the city manager and the rest of the political imposters will not agree to our taking their bodyguards away from them without putting up a fight.

We need many people to bring this issue to the communities in order to build up the powerful base necessary to counter the attacks from City Hall. Our campaign has proven that the people of Berkeley are receptive and anxious to move on this issue.

This will intensify the contradictions and educate the people to the inherent antagonisms between the oppressed and their oppressors.

There is another vital aspect of this program—we are on the offensive and educating are people. To build a revolution we have to be where the people are. In taking our petition we are talking to hundreds of people

every week. People want to talk and listen, particularly to those who offer basic solutions to the problem that drain them of the vitality of living.

We suggest that those of you that wish to get to know the people, spend a few hours a week working with your local NCCF on their community control projects. It is inevitable that you will be gifted with a new insight into the lives and thought of the people in this country who will make the revolution that will bring socialism to the world.

All Power To The People is a glorious slogan, but will become a reality only when the people know that the power to govern their own lives belongs to them, and it is theirs for the taking. The spreading of that knowledge is our job.

Community control of police attacks the basic tool of oppression wielded by capitalists against the oppressed and the base upon which capitalism builds the fascist state, the mercenary police force.

Fascism comes when capitalism finds itself so crippled that it has to implement a police state in order to prolong its survival. We can all see that the super-cops of this country are moving systematically and as rapidly as possible (though increased re-



Assemblyman
Wendell P. Williams

pression and the passage of more anti-people laws) to implement their movement. They need puppet departments at their disposal in order to do this. By moving on police control, we are moving on the most fundamental level possible to obstruct the implementation of that fascist state, thereby giving us more time to work with the people in building a revolutionary consciousness among them. It is not mere rhetoric to say that the community control of police petition is a program that will take the power to control the police departments out of the hands of the private property and corporate interest, and put it directly into the hands of the people of the community.

All Power To The People
Seize The Time
Berkeley NCCF

Dr., its good to know when times are tough, that others appreciate your courage and drive. From the above article that was taken from the April 25, 1970, **THE BLACK PANTHER**, we know that your actions are part of a long struggle that only a few have courage to confront. Right On Brother.

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