

**NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION**

**THOUGHTS ON THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION**

By Charlene Mitchell  
Executive Director NAARPR

In the aftermath of the Republican convention, chills are trickling down spines across the country as people are scared of what they heard all week long from that podium starting with Patrick Buchanan's speech.

From "cultural values" to "us versus them" to justifying an all-out assault on democratic rights as being in the interests of "God's country," the Republicans ter-

rorized a nation. With a racist thread - that's become all too familiar - running throughout the convention, the GOP revealed the fascist politics behind their hoopla of family values as the country sinks deeper into its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Included among his offensive remarks, Buchanan said, "The agenda Clinton & Clinton would impose on America - abortion on demand, a litmus

test for the Supreme Court, homosexual rights, discrimination against religious schools, women in combat units - that's change all right. But it is not the kind of change America needs. It is not the kind of change America wants. And it is not the kind of change we can tolerate in a nation we still call God's country."

How could one react, except with horror when Buchanan advocated using brute military force in our inner cities as the priority, rather than enacting solutions to unemployment, underemployment, homelessness and hunger. His speech gave a green light to police officers to continue brutalizing people, like what was done to Rodney King in Los Angeles.

Even Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), who has sided with Bush the lion's share of the time, said,

"I don't think any party has a corner on family values, and I don't think any party should claim that it has one."

The fact is that what we heard coming off that GOP convention podium was the call for ethnic cleaning in the U.S. similar to events unfolding in Bosnia.

That should come as no surprise to African Americans. Even Alan Keyes, himself an African American, who served in the Reagan administration as a deputy U.S. delegate to the United Nations, was shunned by the GOP.

Keyes didn't get a speakers' spot at the convention until after a news report appeared about the cold shoulder he was receiving. Commenting about the GOP shunning him, Keyes said, "It's the residue of racism."

Keyes, who was also the GOP's candidate for the U.S.

Senate from Maryland, added, "It's people who when they speak of a color-blind society mean that when a colored person comes into the room they go blind."

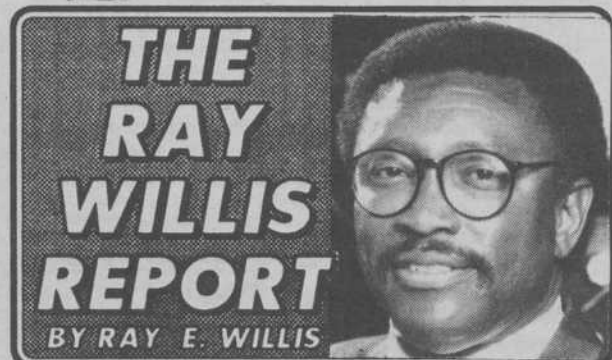
All people who cherish democracy, including those of us who are activists against repression, can make an invaluable contribution toward building united movements to defeat the ultra-right and help our people secure social and economic justice.

Among the issues we need to press candidates to address are labor's right to organize, racist and anti-Semitic violence, police crimes, political prisoners, a democratic South Africa and the death penalty.

On the national level there is too much at stake to sit out the presidential elections. The next president will most likely appoint

one or two Supreme Court Justices. Do we want more justices in Buchanan's mold? I think not. To give the ultra-right complete control over the federal judiciary for the first half of the next century is one of the most basic questions confronting us this November.

While the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression is not an electoral organization and has not supported candidates, it is an organization with a program for action and a platform of ideals. As such we call on people to vote out of office - at each level - any and all candidates who even tacitly support Buchanan-GOP convention policies. For these are policies that the NAARPR has always opposed because they push the nation down the road of gloom and doom and toward fascism.



**READ!!!**

Reading is a basic educational skill that is essential to learning and acquiring knowledge. Unless you are illiterate, you shouldn't have an excuse not to read. Everyone in civilized society should read. People should read consistently and daily. For enjoyment and for information.

Not only is reading fundamental, but it is crucial to survival in today's complex world.

It's O.K. to watch TV in moderation. But it's not the same as being able to read and to select books, newspapers, pamphlets and other periodic reading material that keeps you in the know.

My good friend, Washington D.C. Black psychiatrist Dr. Frances Cress Welsing considers reading is a crucial part of her solution for Black people's survival in a racist society. "Read, read, read, read, read," Welsing stresses whenever she gives one of her famous afrocentric group presentations.

When I visited her hotel room while she was on the road, Dr. Welsing had at least five different newspapers that she was poring through on the coffee table. "I constantly have to have a variety of reading material so I can keep up with what's happening in the world. Ultimately, you come across something buried way back in paper somewhere that is extremely significant relative to the survival of Black folk," she said.

Unfortunately though, reading is not a high priority for some Blacks, especially those in the Black underclass. Because they are preoccupied with everyday survival. If you don't know where your next meal is coming from it's ridiculous to expect you to read five newspapers daily.

That is the obvious dilemma for many African-Americans - basic survival from day-to-day, as opposed to higher-level survival as a race.

With those considerations in mind, if you have the time or can make the time, I appeal to you to get involved with a new reading group that's forming right now in Las Vegas. It's called Appreciating Books in our Community, or ABC. This Afrocentric literary group is sponsored by the Las Vegas Alliance of Black School Educators (LVABSE), under the direction of Dr. Linda Young, president of the organization.

At the beginning of each month, ABC will assign its members a Black-oriented book to read. Near the end of the month the group will get together to review and discuss the book-of-the-month. Young people and children are also encouraged to participate. "It's a great way for us to forge a positive literary alliance among fellow African-Americans," Dr. Young said.

If you are interested in being a part of ABC, call the LVABSE office at 734-0019.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

**N.L.V. ... THE WESTSIDE STORY**

**THE FACTS DON'T LIE**

By R.K. Brown

As we all could have guessed, the four officers who were the reason for the riots after the King verdict, are given the opportunity to roam the streets with full pay. After causing the greatest national unrest in 30 years, they are given a leave of absence with all of their benefits in tact. As an ironic bonus they are given the right to sell their twisted stories to book publishers, guaranteeing even more money for their already fat pockets!

This is Oliver North all over again. When whites decide to break the laws of the U.S. government, they can not only get off, they are given the O.K. to explain how and why they did it. Finally they may create a seller, or begin a lucrative lecture circuit, of the major universities! Hey...the facts don't lie!

Going back to the ghetto children who were accused of beating the truck driver, they haven't seen the light of day since they were apprehended! As the real starters of the riot cool back in quite vacation communities, these youngsters have been accused of every crime that is legally possible. It is strange that only the black rioters had to serve as the public example to warn the masses. We know they have always lynched black men to regain order and respect.

We recently found out that the black judge who "wanted" to hear the trial of the four youngsters was "removed" from his

post. This has upset many blacks, but I find it to be the norm. Finally, as usual the facts don't lie. From 1980 to 1990 crime rose in America has reached unprecedented levels.

Ironically, this report was supposed to show how black youths are a major contributor of crime in our country. The disturbing facts found however that, "all groups were effected by this negative development. The

report reflected all races, social classes, and life styles."

As we have established in the past, the facts speak for themselves. In one decade, we have gone from a world leader in trade, to owing the most money of any country. We have gone from a nation moving toward harmony of the races to one which exploded on the streets of our cities with racial violence. Drugs have infiltrated the very

fiber of our society, with crime being the great after effect.

All of this has occurred with the group of leaders who have demonstrated "family values" of our country to see. If the largest decline in American prosperity is what we have to look forward to with these "out of touch" administrators, it is time for a definite change! Don't be one of the uncouncted on election day.

Peace...



**JOSH ELLIOTT**

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