

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

FIGHTING NEO-FASCIST VIOLENCE

*By Charlene Mitchell
Executive Director, NAARPR*

As I stood with the 350,000 people protesting racist violence in Germany on November 8, the similarities there with the current situation in the United States were illuminated.

The outpouring of anti-fascist sentiments among the German people were similar to the historic turnout on election day in the United States to oust a right-wing administration from the White House. Yet, in both countries there is a long way to go in the battles to torpedo neo-Nazi, Klan and right-wing religious fanatic elements.

The economic crisis in Germany and the United States has provided fertile soil for the ultra-rightists to step up their racist and anti-Semitic actions, including terrorist attacks. In the eastern part of Germany unemployment is at 40 percent. In the United States African Americans continue to experience joblessness at rates twice those for whites. Yet with the depressed economy, the right-wing demagogic appeals to primarily blame people of color, foreign born Jewish people for the plight of white working people, have intensified.

What makes the situation even more serious is that the ultra-right is entrenched in the police departments and armed forces of both countries.

In November in Germany 24 members of the armed forces were indicted for their roles in the racist, anti-immigrant and anti-Semitic violence. But those 24 indictments barely make a scratch on the problem within the German military.

In an atmosphere when governments have become so permissive of dehumanizing behavior one can never assume that once 2 or 24 or even 240 arrests or indictments are made of ultra-rightists in the police and armed forces that the problem

has been solved. Those few who are seen are representative of many more.

A political agenda was set at the Republican National Convention from its podium. That agenda is being sought with the most vigorous campaign.

On November 17 Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice said, "The less we emphasize the Christian religion the further we fall into the abyss of poor character and chaos in the United States of America." That outlandish statement, in a country founded on the principles of separation of church and state as well as religious freedom, is a continuation of the Republican National Convention.

In an unprecedented level of intimidation and disrespect, some Southern military officers have said that President-elect Bill Clinton would not leave their military bases alive if he legalizes gays and lesbians in the military. Not only are blatant death threats, on which President Bush hasn't sufficiently acted, but this is an open discussion of having a coup d'etat in this country!

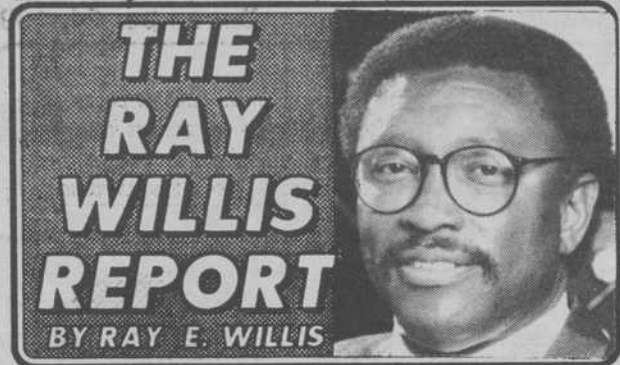
It was a tremendous step to oust President Bush, yet it is only a step towards taking on the ultra-right. During economic crisis there is all the more reason to fight hard to extend and defend democracy. It is a daily fight which has special meaning

in the first 100 days of the incoming Clinton administration. That administration will either set a tone of trying to appease ultra-rightists or repudiating and resisting them depending on what "we the people" do.

Ultra-right politics of division have to be met with multi-racial and multi-national unity from the people as a whole in conjunction with the labor movement organizing working people in struggle. But this unity can not be built on inclusiveness for inclusiveness sake.

There are specific demands which must be made of the Clinton administration and which we must struggle to convince them

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OUR FUTURE LEADERS

Who are some of the up-and-coming young people in our community? Even for those in the know, it's pretty hard to figure out. Why? Because older, more established leaders seek and frequently get most of the media attention and exposure.

In fact, one of my biggest complaints in general about our established African-American elder leadership is that they hold on to power far longer than their ability to use it constructively to benefit us all. And they seldom take young people under their wings to groom for future leadership. Nor, in many cases do they share their power bases with anyone except their peers. The result is that most of the decisions made by Black people affecting Black people come from older minds, absent of youthful input or perspective.

Out of deference and respect for those who fit into this category, I will not name names. As an option, I've chosen to go the other way by profiling some of the names of up-and-coming young people who I suspect will become, or in some cases already are, our future leaders.

-John Rhodes - Forget his narrow defeat by Dr. McMillan for the recently vacated school board seat. This young man, only 27, has unlimited potential. I predict he will resurface politically in a big way.

-Yvonne Atkinson Gates - This young woman has come a long way since finishing Clark High School, earning two degrees from UNLV, having a successful stint as a school board member, and wrestling the County Commission seat away from incumbent "Doc" Pearson.

-Eric Jordan. Jordan, a former pro football player, drug abuse counselor, Las Vegas Planning commissioner, and now the first Black chief administrator in U.S. Senator Harry Reid's Las Vegas office, is definitely on the move.

-Franklin Simpson - The very affable, articulate Simpson, with a razor-sharp mind, is a protege and confidant to City Councilman Frank Hawkins, among his many positive pursuits. Watch him. He's going places.

-Tony Gladney - Gladney was the successor to former UNLV football coach Wayne Nunnely as director of Minority Student Affairs. He now is a sports

administrator at UNLV. Gladney, also a former pro football player, has charm, wit, charisma and intelligence in his favor. If he doesn't leave us, he'll easily rise to a prominent position in the local Black leadership.

-Karen Bennett - The lawyer daughter of Rev. Marion Bennett, Karen has not yet scratched the surface in terms of utilizing her abilities. Aside from having a good legal sense, she has excellent leadership potential if she decides politics is her forte.

-L.C. (Louis Conner, Jr.) - Currently manager of KCEP-FM L.C. is in touch with what's happening throughout the community. His positive management style and instant rapport with people makes him a natural for potential future leadership on a bigger scale.

-Uri Clinton - Clinton, a student at UNLV, is one of the brightest young minds on the Las Vegas scene. He wants to become a lawyer. We wish him well.

-Ken Evens - Evens, an engineer, was recently separated from the Air Force and has an important civil service position in the weapons and testing programs. He is interested in every aspect of the community and is frequently a citizen participant in local government.

And there you have my short list. There are many more potential future African-American leaders out there. If you know of someone who fits the description, please drop me a line or give me a call. Our future is definitely bright given the varied capabilities of our young, up-and-coming Black leaders.

Have a happy new year!

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NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY SWEET LITTLE BABY BOY!

By R.K. Brown

If an alien space ship flew to earth from outer space in December of 1992, it would definitely have a misunderstanding of what Christmas is. This is because its meaning has been distorted at such great proportions, that it would be hard to determine what this whole celebration is supposed to be about.

It is common knowledge that the U.S. government doesn't endorse religion; it is said that matters of state should be separate from religion. Legislation has to be passed for children not to pray in schools because they might offend atheists! What has developed from this demented mentality, is a wicked society. It is strange that the government endorses religion on currency, and in times of crisis like war, but it can't support it on an everyday basis. The result is Christmas 1992; the ultimate payoff for corporate America, specifically the services and retail industry.

In '92' Christmas carols and decorations reflect Christmas trees, Santa Claus, and every unimportant subject one can think of. For every one T.V. special dealing with the baby Jesus, there are FIVE which concentrate on; the Grench That Stole X-mas, Frosty the Snowman, or most commonly Santa Claus. What is going on here?...Oh I almost forgot; this country was built on the ruthless concept of Capitalism; MONEY is the one True God of America!

Why is it they feed and give gifts to the home-

less in this season? Maybe so the homeless won't complain for receiving no assistance for the year, as they starve and die!

The ONLY purpose for December 25th, is to recognize the birth of the SAVIOR OF THE WORLD! I couldn't tell you how America has twisted and corrupted this meaning, but I'm not surprised, they have twisted everything else. It is easy for the U.S. to teach the theory of evolution, and at the same time use Christmas for the annual prostitution of the American public.

America only cares about its poor one month of the year; each December there is a RENEWED "Moral" conscience. When a country doesn't support moral standards like; don't kill, and do unto others as you would have them do unto you; then it will develop into the corruptive, and explosive place we call America.

I don't point this out to degrade the spirit of Christmas and gift giving. I'll admit that as a child I always received all of the toys and gifts I wanted. At the same time however, I was taught the TRUE meaning of this special time. "Peace on earth and good will to men," is a sentiment which would go a long way if it were upheld year-round.

We know that won't happen, however, I'm afraid the meaning of Christmas in '92' is simply, "to make large retail profits, develop Capitalism, and make CHRIST-mas into everything but what it is supposed to be; THE BIRTH OF THE SWEET LITTLE BABY BOY! PEACE...

HARRIS

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COME AND GET YOUR MALCOLM X TOOTHBRUSHES, PAJAMAS, AND AIR X GYMSHOES..... BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!!

LOOK...LOOK MY FRIENDS... MALCOLM X UNDERWEAR, CANDY, WRISTWATCHES AND EVEN MALCOLM X CURL ACTIVATOR!

I DON'T THINK THIS IS WHAT MALCOLM HAD IN MIND!!

LITTLE MALCOLM X WIND-UP DOLLS

WHITE DEVILS 1 CLICK

BLACK POWER 3 CLICKS

X- PLOITATION