

# Point of View

The views on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one depicted as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication

## CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

# A NEW SOUTH AFRICA

By Bernice Powell Jackson

Imagine never having the opportunity to choose who your elected officials are going to be, never being able to voice your preference on important issues. Imagine never being able to vote out those who you disagree with or being able to vote in those whose opinions correspond with your own. Then imagine fighting for three generations for the right to vote — being arrested, tortured and imprisoned; marching and boycotting, losing loved ones who either were killed in the struggle or were forced to leave the country or face arrest.

If you can imagine all this, then you can probably imagine how exciting the upcoming elections in South Africa are to the millions of blacks who have been

denied the right to vote for all these years. It's been called the "liberation election" and the people are anxiously awaiting the April 27 date it is scheduled to occur. On that date the first free, totally open, multiracial elections in South African history will be held.

But amid the excitement is much danger. Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress (ANC), himself has said, "But, like a ship passing through rough waters, we are not guaranteed a safe harbor. It is not inevitable that we will be successful in navigating this course to finally secure a democratic, non-racial South Africa in whose governance all can participate."

There are many de-stabiliz-

ing forces at work. Only two weeks ago, while I was visiting that country, ANC officials a Johannesburg township torn by violence, were shot at and a reporter and a woman and child were killed. Several others were wounded. The first week of my trip several young people socializing in a popular Capetown bar were killed by gunmen. Indeed, everyday there is a great deal of violence in townships across South Africa. There is much speculation that this violence is sponsored by those forces on the far right and far left, who are opposing the New South Africa. But as Archbishop Tutu recently said, "Isn't it the miracle of this country that this violence is not engulfing the entire country and, even more incredible, that it is by

and large not racial?"

Meanwhile, the current government and the ANC are negotiating with other groups in the country to ensure the success of the elections. It is still uncertain whether the right wing, other liberation movements and Chief Buthelezi will participate in the elections.

The United States will be sending 1,800 observers to South Africa to help monitor the elections. Other groups, including anti-apartheid and church groups like the World Council of Churches-supported Ecumenical Monitoring Programme, are sending monitors as well. Many will be involved in voter education, helping the people to understand how to vote, where to go, and what papers they will need

to bring. Of the estimated 21 million voters, 18 million will never have voted before and many cannot read or write. It is a big task to get ready for democracy.

A New South Africa will bring about enormous changes for the people. Already the ANC has published a 61-page document outlining its plan to build 300,000 subsidized houses each year as a part of a massive investment in health, education, electrification and other services. This contrasts sharply with the 50,000 houses built in 1992 by the cur-

rent government. Also included in the ANC's plan is free, compulsory education for ten years and clean water and toilets for all homes in two years.

As the people of South Africa look forward to a new day and a new life, we here in the United States must find new ways of supporting our brothers and sisters. Many of us have fought against apartheid for two decades. Now we are challenged to support free elections and provide assistance as new courses are chartered, a new day is dawning.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reference the Sentinel-Voice, 1-20-94, eloquent article by the esteemed Dr. James S. Tate. Though an ordinary person who lacks much and at the risk of being one of the "demonized" (his terminology), I find this philosophy mind-boggling, illogical and a sure-fire recipe for, continual bad Black leaders and a worsening of the African/diaspora peoples tradition. In my humble opinion, Dr. Tate's reasoning is a form of insanity!

To wit: In paragraph 3, he states, "...We don't really want to know if our leader womanizes...smokes pot...chases men...cheats on their spouse - that is not what we are evaluating the person to a leadership role for.

Ex presidential candidate Gary Hart, D.C., ex mayor Marion Barry and other leaders involved in sex/drug scandals who had to quit, resign or were jailed, found out different. In short, it does matter to many people. Further, that leader who would

break their sworn oath to God (the marriage vow) and drug laws is likely to break other laws and promises to we the people; to our detriment.

Elementary, and contrary to what Dr. Tate says: leaders must show moral fiber and set the moral example. This the Rev.'s Swaggert, Baker and others have most ruefully found out. Who can deny this?

Dr. Tate further states in paragraph 3, "We need to talk to the demon, this particular one who works for the Chicago Tribune, and make him understand that that's not appropriate activity to be engaged in..." I wonder if Dr. Tate realizes how dogmatic, authoritarian, judgemental and "I decided what's appropriate to ask our leaders" he sounds?

Also, I would like Dr. Tate to explain how an ordinary person as myself; obviously no gifted with his erudite mind-set, can trust and follow a leader who's a

(See Letters, Page 5)



## POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams



## ANOTHER OKEE-DOKE

Reaching the ripe old age of eighteen can be a very challenging time for most. It's a time that often helps one realize the reality of real adulthood is close around the corner, if not already upon you. You start to get the feeling that low and behold, "boy you're on your own now." I guess it's even more challenging because it's hard to understand some of the things that are occurring around you at such a crucial time. For me, it was hard to understand how the military draft call that year was over 300,000 men, but only my friends and those who looked like my friends, were the men always placed on the front lines in South Vietnam. While at the same time their astronauts on Apollo 8 were spending millions orbiting around the moon. Seven months earlier Martin Luther King Jr., at age 39, was killed in Memphis. Followed by more than 100 riots throughout the U.S. In fact it was even harder for me to

understand why the mayor of Chicago, Richard Daley, instructed his police officers to shoot and kill any arsonists and shoot to maim looters. Hard to understand. Yes, welcome to the real world.

Now, after 18 years of living in Madison Terrace the roaches will now face the reality that all of the sudden it's time for them to face the real world. They must face the question as to why after all this time living in one place, that without word or warning, city officials would condemn their cribs. Especially after everyone knew that the environment existed for some time long before last week. It's hard for the roaches to understand how quickly after one look, the mayor and council determined that the complex should be condemned. Even without considering the Housing Act of 1949 and the provision that dealt with "Equivalent elimination."

The public housing program is the cornerstone of federal housing assistance, the oldest and most widely used subsidy

tool. Under this program, rental units are developed, owned and operated by over 2,500 local authorities with subsidies from the federal government permitting rents to be reduced and low-income families to be served.

The major form of subsidy is an annual contribution to the local authority covering up to the capital costs of its public housing "projects." The local authority usually finances these projects itself, selling long-term tax-free bonds in the private market, though HUD often provides short-term loans to cover construction costs and sometimes long-term loans for permanent financing. Whatever the source of capital, annual federal contributions are calculated to permit the amortization of development costs over a forty-year period, covering both debt retirement and interest expenses.

It must be remembered that the declared purpose of public housing is to help those who would be otherwise ill-housed. It's subsidies are directed to families "who are in the lowest



Assemblyman  
Wendell P. Williams

income group and who cannot afford to pay enough to cause private enterprise in their locality to build an adequate supply of decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings for their use. To assume that only such families will be served, income eligibility limits are set and enforced locally, and approved by HUD.

Just like everyone else, the roaches will have to adjust. Even they are saying if they can remove prostitutes off the strip and place people on the moon, why can't the issues be solved? I guess maybe it's like one cockroach said as he strolled down "J" Street the other day, "They don't want us or tenants at Madison Terrace anymore because we are just too close to Magic Johnson Plaza." He went on to say, "Let's not be stupid here, why do you think they were all shuffling and beginning to place them-

(See Political Points, Pg 4)

## Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice

Nevada's only African-American community newspaper.  
Published every Thursday by Brown Publishing Co., Inc.  
1201 South Eastern Avenue • Las Vegas, Nevada 89104  
Telephone (702) 383-4030 • Fax (702) 383-3114

Betty Brown, President/CEO  
Lee Brown, Publisher / Editor  
Ramon Savoy, Advertising & Marketing Dir.  
Lourdes Cordero-Brown, Office Mgr.  
William G. Ramirez, Sports Editor  
Willis Brown, Production Manager  
Thomas Hill, Distribution  
Don Snook, Graphics

Contributing Writers:  
Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams  
Ray E. Willis (CCSD)  
Rev. Jesse Scott (NAACP)  
James S. Tate, Jr., M.D. (NAAPR)  
R. K. Brown  
Gwen Walker  
Diana Aird

Members:  
National Newspaper Publishers Assoc.  
West Coast Black Publishers Assoc.  
This newspaper is audited by:  
Community Papers Verification Service,  
6225 University Ave., Madison, WI 53705  
(608) 238-7550

Subscriptions payable in advance  
Six months \$15.00  
Twelve months \$25.00  
The rates apply to  
Continental United States only