

THE NAACP AND YOU



Rev. Jesse D. Scott  
President  
Las Vegas, NAACP



**A BROKEN-HEARTED MAN**

Only if you were black could you understand. I am broken-hearted because too many of our black youngsters are being mis-educated by the Clark County School system and will not be able to compete in the highly communication oriented society of the 21st century. The following letter that I received from a young white woman is self explanatory. I sincerely regret that the writer of the response to my editorial refused to sign her name or list her telephone number. It would have my pleasure to enter into an intellectual dialogue with her about racism in Nevada, which is commonly referred to as the "Mississippi of the West." As an old black man, I want this young white woman to realize that I have lived long enough to witness the fact that not many major decisions in America are not determined by race — The Civil War is not over.

July 5, 1994

Rev. Jesse D. Scott  
President  
Las Vegas, NAACP  
1048 W. Owens  
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Dear Rev. Scott:

This is in response to your Editorial in the "Sentinel Voice" on June 16, 1994. As a young "white" professional who grew up in a predominately black community, I feel compelled to address some of the issues raised in your article. In addition, I lived and worked on Capital Hill in Washington D.C. for many years and enjoyed the opportunity of living and interacting with the black citizens of that community.

I must say that I am absolutely appalled at your rhetoric. "No School, No Bond, No Deal?" And then what Mr. Scott? The tone in your article suggests that only black children are going to be required to go to Double Sessions. This is misleading. Your article suggests that all black children are mistreated because of their race and that their parents do not have the ability to think independently and exercise their rights as taxpayers. Your article is, to say the least, insulting to the black citizens of this community and those of us who unconditionally support their progress in our society. Your self-serving, degrading and negative influence on your people is criminal. Dr. Martin Luther King embraced the black race and encouraged personal and racial growth. He promoted black culture and unlike you, created positive forces worldwide.

I suggest that you, and your counterparts (i.e. Rev. Jesse Jackson) put the needs of your people in front of your own. Do what is right for the community and not for your individual political gain. Thank god for those black leaders that have the courage and personal integrity needed to lead their people forward as human beings. You are clearly a promoter of racism that unfortunately, will continue to feed racial inequities. Please, Rev. Scott, find it within yourself to empower and encourage your people in a productive and effective manner, instead of focusing on and reinforcing their life challenges.

Sincerely,

A HEARTBROKEN CITIZEN



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No School Bond, No Deal!, is not rhetoric, it is fact. Why should blacks support a corrupt system that is not benefiting them?

Where are the missing funds that were not used to build the 20 missing schools from the last 600 million dollar bond. Who got the monies and what did they do (See NAACP & You, Pg 24)

**THIS WAY FOR BLACK EMPOWERMENT WHICH COALITION POLITICS?**

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

The three day African American Leadership Summit hosted by the NAACP in Baltimore from June 12-14 was the most diverse, and perhaps the most important, single gathering of Black leaders in 20 years.

The summit, in which I was proud to participate, was an important demonstration of the growing unity of African American leadership during this period of increasing economic disparity and social crisis. It showed that despite our differences, and despite pressure from the white establishment, we can all sit down and talk to each other. Through the summit we were better able to clarify our common ground - and to see where and how our tactics for Black empowerment diverge.

The white corporate press is, of course, trying to opportunistize off of our differences. A few days after the summit, Jack Newfield, a columnist in the New York Post, wrote, "What most observers didn't seem to notice is that NAACP executive director Ben Chavis allied himself with Louis Farrakhan and Lenora Fulani of the crackpot New Alliance Party." On what are we allied? According to Newfield and Joe Conason, another white liberal writing in the New York Observer, we are "hatemongering separatists" opposed to the coalition politics of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, the Rever-

end Al Sharpton and Princeton University professor Cornell West. The charge that Dr. Chavis and I are opposed to working in coalition with white people is, on the face of it, absurd—we are both leaders of multi-racial organizations. And Minister Farrakhan's long history as a principled Black nationalist has not prevented him in recent years from reaching out to other communities - including the Jewish American community - in an effort to build bridges based on respect for the Black community and the Black Agenda.

The fact is that everyone attending the summit recognizes the political necessity of coalitional politics. We share a common understanding that Black unity is based simultaneously on the Black experience and on living in America. As people of African descent living in America, the issue isn't whether or not we work with white folks. White America is all around us. The issue is which white folks we work with and what the objectives and terms of coalitions with them must be.

What Reverend Jackson advocates is a coalition in which the Black community must accept substantial compromises on the Black Agenda. This coalition, largely presided over by the Democratic Party, has succeeded in getting more Blacks elected to office, but has left most of the African American

and the Central Intelligence Agency and all of the other intelligence agencies are either disbanded or are given another new set of very strict rules to function under, this downwind lion needs to be made an outcast. Because if nothing else, she becomes a distraction and changes us from looking for who we should be looking at - the upwind lion, the one who will do the most damage.

La Lucha Continua! The Struggle Continues!

community stuck in poverty, violence and despair. As Reverend Jackson's two historic presidential campaigns proved beyond a shadow of a doubt, the Democratic Party extracts endless compromises and in the end still dismisses and disrespects Black Voters. In the Democratic Party the white politicians and the rich contributors set the terms. Even many "mainstream" Black leaders are coming to recognize this political reality. That's way former Virginia Governor Doug Wilder is running for the U.S. Senate as an independent.

For the past ten years I have sought to create coalitions between Blacks and whites in which Black people could give expression to our independence and not have to capitulate as a condition of joint work. I have sought to build alliances based on the common interests that ordinary Americans have in the fundamental issues of democracy, empowerment and the transfer of political control to the people.



DR. LENORA FULANI

The Patriot Party, the national independent political party which I helped to found in April, is just such an alliance. It brings together my base in the Black, Latino and gay communities with the "radical" white center that voted for Ross Perot in 1992 on the basis of our shared commitment to transforming this country into a place where economic, political and social development can be a way of life for all Americans. The identification of these two differing approaches to coalition building is, in my opinion, one of the most important things to come out of the Baltimore summit.

**NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY**

I have always maintained that Euro Americans have subtle and not-so-subtle ways of letting the African in America know just how he feels about us. Two weeks ago we got another example of this point. In the July 7 issue of this publication, Sheriff candidate Ralph Lamb was quoted as saying "I need some good, educated Afro American boys to go to work." This was in response to a question posed to him by Victor Ingram on minority hiring.

Now we can be naive and credit Lamb with looking out for the interest of our youth. After all, he is looking for some good educated boys. But I doubt very seriously that in referring to boys he meant our youth.

Once again we have someone in a powerful position or seeking such position who tells us through a Freudian slip what he thinks of the African American male. We are less than men, incapable of achieving the status of manhood and will always be relegated to the position of boys.

Do we want or need a Ralph Lamb running the sheriff's office? Can the African American community endorse a person who philosophically and fundamentally views its men as boys? What we have to understand is that if the black man is seen as anything other than a man than he is subject to grave injustice. America's historical legacy is proof of this.

Some may agree that there are laws on the books designed to protect our rights, but I say that as long as the mentality displayed by Lamb exists, there will be those who find ways to abridge those rights. The average white boy with this mentality is of no consequence because he is not in a position of power or authority. But a top law enforcement officer, as Lamb aspires to be, can have grave affects on the African American community.

If relegating men to boys isn't enough for you, peep this. Lamb has proposed anti-gang measures for malls by making Las Vegas malls off-limits to young gang members and using early morning sweeps to arrest and remove them from the streets. Were these proposals to pass I could see them heavily enforced against Black youth.

Can you tell who gang members are? I certainly can't, but apparently Sheriff candidate Lamb has acquired the ability to discern a gang member from a banker or a college student. I don't think so.

Again I stress the fact that our community can not allow a Ralph Lamb or any other clown with his ideology to be in such a powerful position as sheriff. If this sounds like a political attack against him, it may very well be, but we can not support anyone who fundamentally identifies the Black Man as a boy. Until next time, this has been the Minister of Information!

