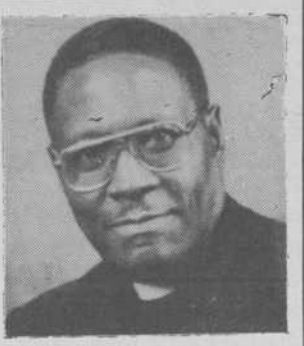


THE NAACP AND YOU



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President Emeritus
Las Vegas, NAACP



**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
GOING...GOING...GONE!**

First it was slavery for Blacks in America, then there was Reconstruction, the plantation system, share-cropping system, segregation, discrimination, and now the cycle is complete because we are, once again, back to political and economic slavery in America.

Affirmative Action programs are an effort to right the wrongs done in the lack of equal employment opportunities. They suggest looking at your present workforce composition and if there are no Blacks, other minorities or women, then include them.

Affirmative Action programs are not quotas, but instead are goals and time tables to accomplish and rectify past practices of racial discrimination.

Affirmative Action programs are voluntary efforts to include rather than exclude people on a racial or ethnic basis from the workforce.

After the Republican Party won control of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on November 8, 1994, there has been an avalanche and cry from the Religious Radical Right to do away with every effort there

has been made to right the wrongs of racism in America over the last 40 years.

This same group of "fat cats" for these many years have been hiding behind their religious platitudes of fair play and eating at the trough of the U.S. Treasury in the form of Federal subsidies such as agriculture, airlines, railroads, HUD, the Pentagon, failed banks and savings & loan companies.

The noise you hear in Washington, D.C. is not really about welfare, abortion or the balance budget, but instead is about who is going to control the U.S. Treasury, making \$200,000 or more.

The "fat cats" don't want to pay any capitol gain taxes or any other kind of taxes. As a diversionary tactic, they draw the voters' attention from their greed and stealing, amounting to billions of dollars, and place emphasis on such token issues such as affirmative action, welfare, and balancing the budget, which represents less than 10% of the total budget.

America does not have or want full employment (a job for everyone who wants to work)

because she needs somebody to blame for not balancing or absorbing a 3 trillion dollar deficit.

Nevertheless, these tormenting voices of gloom and doom are saying to the disposed Blacks and other minorities of America, "get off welfare and go to work," when in fact there are few or no jobs to go to, and if there is a job, it only pays a minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour. Pray tell, who could possibly live on such a low income? Most assuredly, not those who are proposing it.

Just maybe, the way to keep politicians from enacting such punitive legislation that Blacks, the poor, and minorities have to live under, is that they, themselves, would have to live under them personally. Minimum wage will not pay for day care for your children, and for transportation to and from work at the same time?

And now, this same group of heartless and uncompassionate individuals want to abolish or reduce affirmative action initiatives to zero levels.

Our newest revelation is that such leading candidates for the Republican nomination for president, Governor Pete Wilson of California, U.S. Senator Phil Gramm of Texas and Lamar Alexander, are now saying that affirmative action programs are unfair. The real answer for this political nonsense may be found in a great outpouring of the little people in America of all racial groups and backgrounds who would go to the polls on the second Tuesday in November 1996 after much prayer and political activism, and vote out of office all racial and political bigots, no matter if they are Democrats or Republicans.

The concept of affirmative action was begun under the presidencies of John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, but was

developed and expanded under President Richard Nixon. The original Philadelphia Plan served as the proto-type for the affirmative action program and the reasons for its existence.

Arthur Fletcher, who served in President Nixon's Labor department, was a staunch advocate of affirmative action as a vehicle to catapult Blacks and other minorities of America into its workforce. Securing gainful employment, and empowerment through entrepreneurship was one of the principle reasons why Blacks fought, bled and died during the civil rights struggle of the 1960s. Now, to have their hopes suddenly dashed might be more than what the Black youth of America can bear.

RAY WILLIS REPORT

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were actually written by slaves who lived to tell their story. Some even wrote their own chronicles after learning to read or write.

The term used to describe African slaves being transported to America for sale was "Black Gold." Our free labor meant wealth to our captors.

I mean absolutely no disrespect to the Jews who suffered terribly at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. Six million of them succumbed during that tragic period. But the number of dead lost in the Holocaust pales by comparison to what happened to Africans bound for the Americas during the slave era.

It is estimated that a combined total of between 80 million and 300 million of our people died on the way over and in captivity as a result of mistreatment. We'll never know for certain. People didn't have birth certificates in those days.

In spite of the current rhetoric which stereotypes and mislabels Black people in so many mean-

President Bill Clinton has decided to order a re-examination of all affirmative action programs in the Federal government to see if they have been effective or ineffective in terms of what they were set out to do.

This appears to be a positive approach to make a fair and impartial conclusion to turn back the clock and repeal all affirmative action programs, especially where they have been effective in the enhancement of Blacks and other minorities into the mainstream of American employment. This would be the wrong thing to do. Anything less will be viewed as a tragic betrayal of the American dream.

This is a very sad day in

America, when one thinks how short-sighted a few greedy politicians must be in the dawning years of the 29th century, who evidently don't realize that if they are successful in repealing affirmative action, they might do more harm than good to America.

Obviously, they don't understand that Blacks, women and other minorities who are beneficiaries of affirmative action are also creators of new and expanding markets of goods and services for everyone in the nation.

Lest we forget in 1995, America's population is composed approximately of 50% women and almost 30% minorities. That's a lot of voting and buying power. Amen!

spirited, negative ways, we continue to improve and better our lot. Just a few hundred years later, as the only race of people who entered this country as slaves, we have begun to make significant progress in a number of areas.

Today, the Black middle class is growing. More of us are graduating from college than ever before. While all is not good with our people, the number of African Americans entering

TO BE EQUAL

(Continued from Page 2)

action now embraces beneficiaries who never experienced the virulent discrimination visited on blacks.

But excesses and abuses can be corrected without endangering the basic principle of affirmative action as a means of spurring racial inclusion in our society.

And they are less worrisome when set alongside the important positive results of affirmative action programs that helped open educational, employment, and contracting opportunities to many who would otherwise have been denied them. It's been a critical factor in the dramatic rise in the numbers of the black middle class.

Therefore, it is not yet time for impatient whites and successful blacks to hoist the gangplank up, leaving behind many who may yet find affirmative action a route to mainstream society.

In next week's column, I'll discuss why affirmative action is as critical to America's future as it is to African Americans.

the professional ranks grows annually. Our successes give new meaning to the term Black Gold.

No matter how successful we become as individuals and as a people, let's not ever forget the ultimate sacrifice made by our ancestors to pave the way for a better day and a brighter tomorrow for all of us. Make every day Black History Day.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

BY GENE REDDEN

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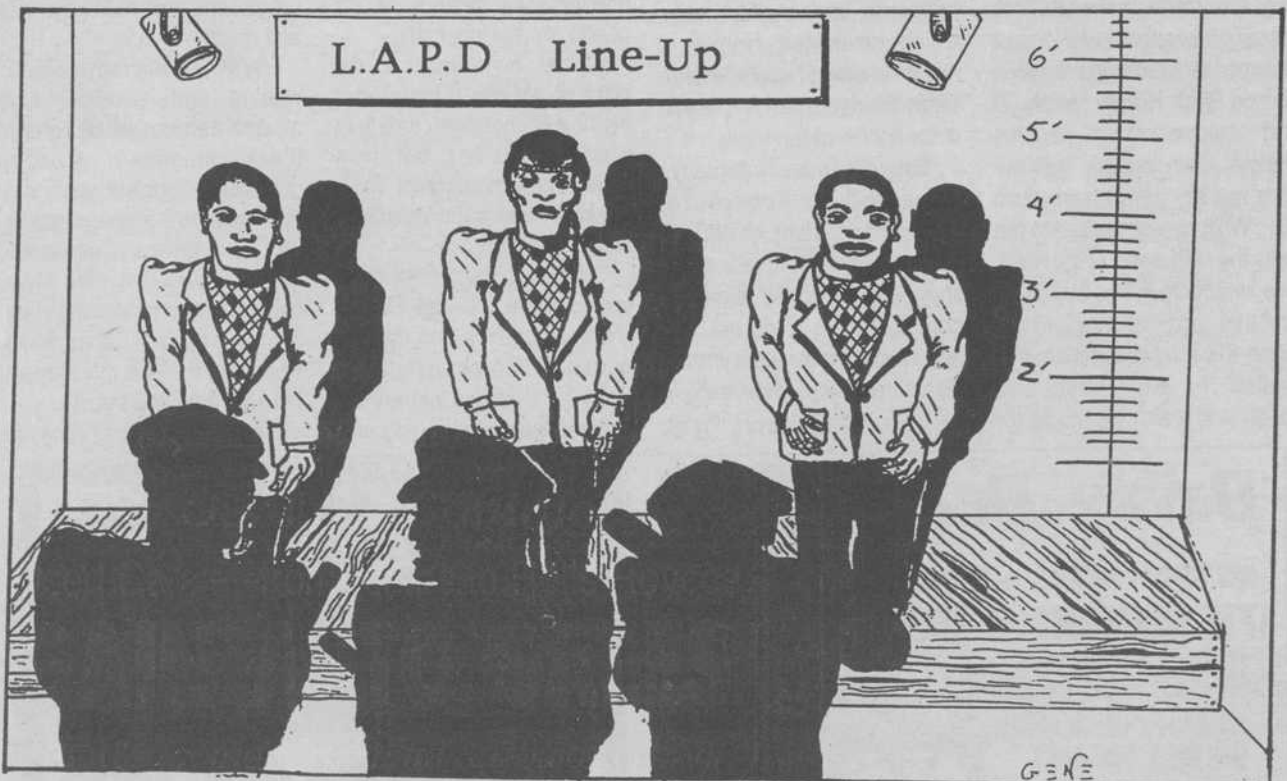
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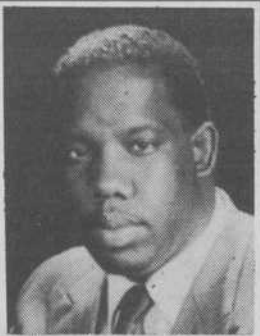
SOME-WHERE, OUT-THERE..



I Said Bring In O.J., Not The O'Jays!!!

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