

COMMENTARY

Patriot Act's enabling more racial profiling

By Louie Overstreet
Special to Sentinel-Voice

How many of you caught any of the news reports dealing with the release of the results of a year long study dealing with traffic stops in Nevada as a function of the motorist's race?

The results were as suspicious in that race is a factor in traffic stops. In my lifetime, America's two greatest unresolved problems are domestic race issues and foreign imperialism. Given the current state of affairs, these problems are likely to plague the next generation as well.

If you haven't had a chance to read all 184 pages of the Patriot Act of 2001, then at least find a synopsis to read. By doing so, you will come to learn racial profiling is at best a stepson of many of the provisions contained in the Patriot Act.

The Act was passed as a knee jerk response to the September 11th acts of terrorism. Capitalizing on the fear of many American citizens, the act undermines many of the Constitutional guarantees of everyday citizens' civil liberties.

The U.S. Constitution under Amendment IV of the Bill of Rights protects citizens from unreasonable search and seizure. Under the Patriot Act the police can delay giving notice when conducting searches in any criminal case. Thus, allowing the police to search homes and offices of citizens



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when they are not there and telling them about it after the fact.

The Act also authorizes "roving wiretaps" so that law enforcement officials can get court orders to wiretap any phone by merely labeling someone as a suspected terrorist. Advocates for this invasion of privacy said it is necessary because of the advent of cellular and disposable phones. I say it gives "Big Brother" another excuse to listen in on your conversations. My advice is to stop "badmouthing" your neighbors and so-called friends, because your conversations may well become part of a legal proceeding someday—I'm just kidding, by engaging in a little paranoid humor. Then again, maybe I'm not, for even paranoids have real enemies.

On top of the government being able to listen in while you are gossiping, greater subpoena power has been granted to search your computer email records. Again, it's no use running to your computer after reading this column to delete all those personal e-mails you have sent out or received, the government has experts who can retrieve the information regardless of how many times you press the delete key, the delete key, the delete key, and the delete key.

And for those of you blessed with enough money to hide some of it in some offshore account in the Caribbean, you can forget (See Overstreet, Page 12)

Real sad state of the Union: U.S. hurting

By George E. Curry
Special to Sentinel-Voice

George W. Bush's recent speech on Capitol Hill was billed as "The State of the Union." As everyone knows by now, it was more like "The State of the World According to Bush."

To learn what's happening at home, take a look at a new report by the Democratic National Committee titled, "Bush's Midterm: The Real State of the Union," which can be found on the web at www.democrats.org. References cited below are from that report.

Unemployment, which stood at 4.2 percent when Bush assumed office, has since increased by 43 percent, representing an additional 2.7 million Americans out of work. The official unemployment rate is now 6 percent, reports the Bureau of Labor Statistics. As usual, the Black unemployment rate of 11.5 percent is nearly twice that.

Long-term employment, defined as lasting 27 weeks or more, increased by 186 percent under Bush.

Every president for the past six decades, both Democrats and Republicans, has seen jobs increase under his administration each month by 135,000. Under Bush, however, jobs have decreased an average of 73,000 each month, according to House Appropriations Committee statistics. The Bureau of Labor Statistics report that 2,365,000 jobs have been lost in the private sector since Bush has been in office.

And there was bad news for those who were able to avoid layoffs.

In 2001, real income declined for the first time in a decade. The real median family household income slipped from \$43,162 to \$42,228, the Census Bureau reports. That decrease was felt by everyone except those with annual income of more than \$150,000.

The Bush administration says its tax cuts will cost \$670 billion over the next 10 years. Most of that amount—\$670 billion—will be in the form of tax reductions. However, when interest on the national debt and added interest fees are included, that number may jump to \$925 billion, according to the Washington-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Another group, Citizens for Tax Justice, concludes that nearly two-thirds of Bush's tax cuts would go to the top 10 percent of wage earners, defined as those earning more than \$104,000 per year.

The elimination of federal taxes on dividends would mostly benefit the wealthy because they hold the largest share of stocks. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities observes, "Nearly two-thirds of the benefits of exempting corporate dividends from the individual income tax would flow to the top five percent of the population...."

Because most states tie their state income taxes to federal taxes, the National Governors Association reports that states are facing "the most dire fiscal situation (See Curry, Page 12)

Remembering when the black man ruled the world

By Legrand H. Clegg II
Special to Sentinel-Voice

As we enter February, Black History Month, we find that the world is bracing for war. It seems that each day President George W. Bush issues a new ultimatum to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, and world leaders in the United Nations voice support or opposition to the latest American demands.

Throughout history wars have erupted in societies great and small, and from Stone Age conflicts to the great battles of the 20th century, wars have been etched into the memory of mankind. It should come as no surprise, then, that many wars have been fought on African soil, and that some of the greatest generals in human history have been Black Africans.

As a matter of fact, the first military leaders in history appear to have arisen in northeast Africa, the cradle of the human race and civilization. Along the Nile River, in ancient Nubia and Egypt, Black generals of extraordi-

nary genius devised tactics and strategies that are still taught in military institutions around the world. In other words, modern generals such as Dwight D. Eisenhower, Colin Powell, H. Norman Schwarzkopf and Donald Rumsfeld undoubtedly studied the warcraft of the great Black militarists of antiquity.

Who were the Black generals of yesteryear whose names are now largely lost to history? In Egypt and Nubia they included Narmer, Ahmose I, Thutmose III, Sesostri I, Pianky and Taharqa. Another great general was Hannibal of Carthage. Many of these Black commanders, in their turn, ruled the civilized world of their time, and laid the foundation of modern offensive and defensive military tactics.

A prominent case in point was that of Thutmose III. He was born into Egypt's 18th dynasty (royal family) around 1504 B.C. According to African-American historian William L. Hansberry, this dy-

nasty, consisting of 14 Black kings and queens, was one of the greatest royal families in human history. During this reign, numerous temples, obelisks and civic centers were constructed, Egypt's religion and culture were revitalized and transformed, the first world empire evolved in Egypt and this nation became the most prosperous on earth.

Born to Thutmose II and a Sudanese woman, Aset, Thutmose III was the sixth pharaoh of the 18th dynasty. He was short, muscular and black with a round face and broad features. It appears that his reign was delayed by that of his stepmother/aunt, the great Hatshepsut, who succeeded her husband/brother, Thutmose II, to the throne. Sibling marriages were common in the ancient Egyptian royal family to assure purity of the regal line.

Hatshepsut legally ascended the throne after the death of her husband. By tradition she was obligated to pass the crown to her step-

son/nephew, Thutmose III, upon his reaching adulthood. However, the great queen stubbornly remained "pharaoh" of Egypt long beyond the appointed time, in defiance of protocol and the protests of young Thutmose, high priests and others.

After Hatshepsut died, young Thutmose III, angry at having been denied for so long his right to the throne, lashed out with a vengeance against her entire regime. Some even speculate that he may have played a part in arranging the great queen's death.

At any rate, Thutmose III stripped the queen's officials of their rank, expunged her name from royal records and obliterated her statues and monuments.

Once having established himself as the true ruler of Egypt, he became a great king in his own right.

Although Thutmose III proved to be a wise, just and compassionate sovereign, most authorities have focused on his extraordinary military

genius. For example, African-American historian Lester Brooks has noted that, "Thutmose III turned out, in the [54] years of his actual rule, to be the greatest warrior king ever to direct the destinies of Egypt."

The Pharaoh conducted 17 military campaigns into Western Asia and captured more than 350 cities during an 18-year period. He also fought back Nubian incursions from inner Africa. He was a fearless leader of unmatched military skill.

According to the distinguished scholar, W.E.B. DuBois: "His empire extended from Napata to the Euphrates. The Assyrians and Babylonians sent their daughters to him in marriage, and the descendants of Syrian rulers, conquered by his father and educated in Egypt, ruled as slaves of the Pharaoh. Tribute poured into Egypt."

So impressed was Egyptologist James Breasted with the pharaoh's military genius that he dubbed him

"the Napoleon of Antiquity."

But Thutmose III was not just a warrior-king. He was an upright and just ruler who took great pains to appoint fair and competent judges and administrators. He was also exceedingly compassionate and magnanimous toward the poor, the enslaved and prisoners of war.

A highly spiritual leader, this pharaoh also maintained a strong priesthood. In support of this, he built, enriched and embellished numerous temples throughout Egypt.

Marcus Garvey, one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century, once wrote that "[E]very student of history of impartial mind knows that the Negro once ruled the world." From that era of imperialism and splendor, Thutmose III looms as the epitome of Black majesty, statesmanship and military genius.

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