

Bush

(Continued from Page 1)

what's on his mind. He's also a results-oriented person. I'm pleased — I'm pleased to say that I have — I'm an admirer of Bruce Gordon, and we've got a good working relationship. I don't know if that helps you or hurts you, but it's the truth. I admire the man."

And some African-Americans admire at least some of the things Bush has done as president.

"We constantly maintain an open dialogue about U.S. policies in Africa. I give them very high marks for that," said Mel Foote, executive director of Constituency for Africa. "By far, they've done more than anything that Bill Clinton ever did."

Bush received a standing ovation after expressing strong support for renewing key sections of the Voting Rights Act.

"I thank the members of the House of Representatives for reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act. Soon the Senate will take up the legislation. I look forward to the Senate passing this bill promptly — without amendment — so I can sign it into law," he said.

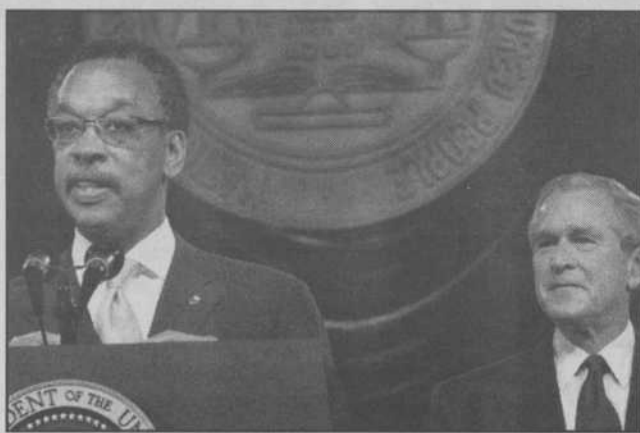
There are some who question whether the NAACP's determination — some say obsession — to have Bush address convention delegates for the first time in more than five years has come at too high a price.

In years past, former NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume said Bush treated Blacks like "a prostitute" and Chairman Julian Bond compared Bush's policies to "snake oil" and described his administration as "the Taliban wing of the Republican Party."

This year, Bond was critical of Bush in his opening speech, but not with the same caustic language that delegates have come to expect.

"The war has as much to do with terrorism as the administration has to do with compassion," Bond said in his speech. "This war isn't just about torture; it's tortured lies. The problem isn't that we cannot prosecute a war in the Persian Gulf and protect our citizens on the Gulf Coast here at home. The problem is that we cannot do either one. They know all about 'cut and run'. That's what they do — cut taxes for the rich and run the country into the ground."

On the following day, Gordon said that while Bush should be held accountable for his actions, he shouldn't



President Bush listens to NAACP President Bruce Gordon.

be blamed for everything that's wrong in Black America.

"In Georgia, the Georgia Voter ID Law was not passed by the president. It was passed by the state legislators in the state of Georgia. They are the problem," Gordon said. "And by the way, it was a Republican-driven move, okay, but I would tell you this: In the state of Louisiana, we could not persuade the state of Louisiana, the governor or the secretary of state, to set up satellite voting locations in Texas and Georgia and other places, and that was driven by the Democratic power machine. The president had nothing to do with that."

"Keith Brannan was killed by his landlord in Stillwood, Okla., and [he was] acquitted by an all-White jury. The president wasn't involved in that. He wasn't on the jury. Martin Lee Anderson was killed in Panama City in a boot camp by guards. The president wasn't in the yard killing Mark Lee Anderson. He had nothing to do with that. It's Ken Blackwell who's running for governor. Right? Is Bush running in Ohio or is Blackwell running? Let's pay attention to who's running."

"It is Arnold Schwarzenegger who killed Stan Tookie Williams. It was the governor. It's the governor of Pennsylvania who has the opportunity to give clemency to Mamia Abu Jamal. Let's pay attention to the fact that the people governing our lives are operating across this country, at the state level, at the local level — and we need to deal at all of those levels and effect what they are doing. Our issues are in national, state and local. This conversation is about us. It is not about the president. And if we want to be relevant and powerful, it's up to us to make it so. He can't do that for us."

What Bush has done is to demonstrate that he has the capability to express sensitivity — at least, in words.

"For nearly 200 years, our nation failed the test of extending the blessings of liberty to African-Americans," the president said to applause. "Slavery was legal for nearly a hundred years, and discrimination legal in many places for nearly a hundred years more. Taken together, the record placed a stain on America's founding, a stain that we have not yet wiped clean."

A new report by People for the American Way, titled, "Bush Administration's

Abysmal Civil Rights Record," questions the administration seriousness about wanting to remove the stain of racism in the U.S.

"While advocating publicly for reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, this administration and its agents at the Justice Department have been actively working to undermine the Act through weak enforcement and partisan manipulations," the report charges.

The report outlines a string of actions by the Bush administration that appeared to undermine civil rights. They include:

- When the Justice Department investigated the disparate treatment of Black and White voters in Ohio in 2004, the administration took the side of those who would impede poor, elderly and minority voters.

- Though the Section 5 pre-clearance clause of the Voting Rights Act requires covered jurisdictions to prove that voting changes

will not harm minority voters, the administration has endorsed redistricting plans in places like Texas, Mississippi and elsewhere, despite major concerns about discrimination against people of color in those plans.

- In the last five years, the Justice Department has filed only two disparate impact cases under Title VII, which prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Over this same period, the administration has filed multiple cases alleging discrimination against Whites.

- The Bush Justice Department opposed the University of Michigan's affirmative action programs for undergraduates and law students. The Supreme Court upheld the law school affirmative action program while rejecting a more numbers-driven undergraduate program at Michigan.

University of Maryland Political Scientist Ron

Walters says the president's message was deceptive.

"The first part of the speech, he seemed to know where he was when he talked about the history and made reference to slavery, the racism and discrimination and when he acknowledged that the relationship was not good between the Republican Party and the Black community," Walters says. "But in the last parts he ran up a fairly stump speech using his usual homeowners and Leave No Child Behind. These are programs that are largely unfunded. Leave No Child Behind is a \$40 billion unfunded mandate."

Sharpton said that if Bush is sincere, he won't rest on a single speech before the NAACP.

"He has to meet with a cross section of Black leadership and answer hard questions about policy," said Sharpton. "I'm pushing for that alongside Rev. Jackson. He's the president and he's got to deal with everybody."

Your Horoscope Says... July 27-Aug. 2

ARIES

Someone in the family is ready to give you something. Open yourself up to it. Home improvement — mental, physical and spiritual — is this week's best theme. Seek the simple pleasures from a neglected hobby this week.

Soul Affirmation: I love charming, positive head games.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 24, 36

TAURUS

How efficient you are this week! Your busy mind is focused on productivity and achievement. Both come easily to you, so take your advantage and press forward. Remember a promise you made a while ago. Now is the time to deliver.

Soul Affirmation: I see myself as a finisher rather than a starter this week.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 12, 53

GEMINI

Entertainment and companionship are high on your list of things to enjoy this week. Use your mental gifts to speed carefully through your work so that you'll have more time for fun this week. Make sure your busy mind doesn't overtax your physical energy.

Soul Affirmation: This week, silence speaks loudest and truest.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 15, 31

CANCER

Your only real caution this week is to watch your budget. Other than that, happiness remains the focus, as relationships happily heat up. Your family is very supportive and loving right now; let them meet your new admirer.

Soul Affirmation: I speak my mind knowing that truth is my best defense this week.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 14, 33

LEO

Happiness with partners remains the order of the week. Relations between partners are exceptionally harmonious right now. You are in synch with loved ones. Much is being accomplished by your attitude. Don't overdo your physical workout.

Soul Affirmation: I master fear by knowing that all is well.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 19, 37

VIRGO

The time has come to forgive and forget. Take the first step in reconciling a friendship. Who is right and who is wrong is not important. You thought no one knew, but you may be romantically attracted to an old pal.

Soul Affirmation: Friendships are treasures I cherish.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 44, 54

LIBRA

Romantic daydreams may distract you from work this week; try to stay focused, but also enjoy your mental trips to romantic sunnier spaces. These images will inspire you to take action regarding a trip or get-together with your honey.

Soul Affirmation: I let my dreams take over my mind to provide enjoyment.

Lucky Numbers: 27, 32, 41

SCORPIO

Partnerships continue to be featured this week. This week is especially favorable for a fresh start or a new beginning for you in love. Avoid distractions at work this week and you'll get much accomplished. Keep on your own path.

Soul Affirmation: There is a funny side to everything I see.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 17, 37

SAGITTARIUS

Friendship remains highlighted; you may be attending a social event with

good friends, or may be planning one. Whichever, it will be a very happy occasion. Be happy! You've got many loving friends. Travel to see someone you love. There's a special treat in store.

Soul Affirmation: Hope is a beautiful jewel. I enjoy owning it.

Lucky Numbers: 22, 26, 31

CAPRICORN

You may find out this week that the project you didn't really want to work on has been scrapped. That leaves you plenty of time to finish up the stuff you want to work on. Money concerns ease up. This week a romantic get-together will remind you of what bliss really is!

Soul Affirmation: He who asks might seem foolish for a while.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 10, 17

AQUARIUS

Keep an eye on your budget this week, but also indulge your creative senses with the visual and the tactile. You might find yourself wanting to "feel" something new in your hands. Just the feeling may be enough; you don't necessarily have to spend money to satisfy your artistic urge this week.

Soul Affirmation: Happiness is my only goal this week.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 15, 22

PISCES

Call early in the week and make a date so you can catch the person that you want to spend time with this week. An old love may turn up in your romantic mix, and romance will be very sweet if you rise above the temptation to remember why you split in the first place.

Soul Affirmation: What I need to be is fully present inside of me.

Lucky Numbers: 21, 36, 43