

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

WE HAVE SPENT ^{MOST} ~~THE MAJORITY~~ OF THIS EVENING LISTENING TO THE WORDS OF BLACK ADVOCATES OF THE PAST AND HONORING BLACK ADVOCATES OF THE PRESENT.

IT HAS BEEN A LONG EVENING---YOU'VE BEEN TOLD TO LIFT YOUR VOICES, GENUFLECT TO ALL OF US, AND BE ADVOCATES OF THE HIGH PLACE. YOU'VE HAD THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA SUMMED UP FOR YOU IN ONE WORD---ADVOCATE.

WE'VE BEEN ADVOCATING FOR A LONG TIME. WE ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE AND STILL INJUSTICE PREVAILS. WE ADVOCATE FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT AND STILL UNEMPLOYMENT EXISTS. WE ADVOCATE FOR FULL EQUALITY AND STILL BLACK MEN AND WOMEN ARE DENIED THEIR RIGHTS.

YOU WOULD THINK IT SIMPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE REASONABLENESS OF WHAT WE ADVOCATE. YET TODAY SOME

PEOPLE FIND SOMETHING WRONG WITH THESE CONCEPTS. *Some pretend NOT TO UNDERSTAND OUR UNCOMPLICATED PETITIONS. WE ARE TOLD TO BE YOU DON'T AND I DON'T, BUT THEY STILL DO. STRANGE PHENOMENON OF PRESIDENTS, GOVERNORS AND SENATORS WHO CAN'T BELIEVE*
MAYBE OUR APPROACH IS WRONG. MAYBE WE SHOULD *Simple words like Justice, Freedom and Equality.*
TRY TO GET OUR MESSAGE ACROSS IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

Perhaps

'God Bless America';

unscramble their confusion by singing

WE COULD TRY TO ~~ATTRACT THEIR ATTENTION BY~~

The Republicans

~~SINGING PATRIOTIC SONGS.~~ THAT IS WHAT THEY DID IN

KANSAS CITY. MAYBE IF WE ALL STAND UP AND SING,
" GOD BLESS AMERICA" SEVERAL TIMES THEY WILL
UNDERSTAND THAT OUR MESSAGE REALLY ISN'T SO BAD.
THAT EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND FULL EMPLOYMENT ARE
THINGS THAT MIGHT BE GOOD FOR AMERICA.

MAYBE WE SHOULD PUT UP BILLBOARDS ALL ACROSS
THE COUNTRY THAT READ, " JUSTICE, TRY IT YOU'LL
LIKE IT" OR " EQUALITY, ITS THE REAL THING". OR
MAYBE WE SHOULD HIRE SKYWRITERS TO FILL OUR SKIES
WITH THE MESSAGE, " FULL EMPLOYMENT---THE BETTER
WAY".

I THINK WE COULD TRY THESE APPROACHES. MAYBE
THEY MIGHT JUST WORK. BUT IN THE END, I THINK
WE WILL HAVE TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE ~~ONLY~~ APPROACH
THAT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL FOR US SO FAR---THE VOTE.

WE FOUGHT FOR IT SO WHY DON'T WE USE IT. WE
HAVE IT NOW. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS MAKE IT WORK FOR
US. *The vote* ~~IT~~ HAS HELPED US TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER STANDARD
OF LIVING, GIVEN OUR CHILDREN THE RIGHT TO A
DECENT EDUCATION, AND GIVEN US THE MEANS BY

WHICH WE CAN WIPE AWAY THE BLIGHT OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION THAT STILL EXISTS IN THIS COUNTRY.
ABOVE ALL ^{the vote} ~~IT~~ HAS GIVEN US A PUBLIC VOICE, A
PUBLIC VOICE THAT WE CAN USE TO PERSUADE OTHERS
THAT OUR CAUSE IS JUST.

YET, WE FIND OURSELVES IN A PRECULIAR SITUATION.
JUST WHEN WE ARE BEGINNING TO FULFILL GEORGE
WHITE'S PROPHECY THAT WE ARE A , " RISING PEOPLE
FULL OF POTENTIAL FORCE" WE HAVE STOPPED RISING.
IN A RECENT NATIONAL POLL OF NON-VOTERS, 18% OF
ALL THOSE INTERVIEWED, WHO STATED THAT THEY WOULD
NOT VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION WERE BLACK.
MILLIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS HAVE VOLUNTARILY ^{left their seats} ~~GOTTEN~~
~~UP~~ ^{BACK} AND GONE^A TO THE BACK OF THE BUS. I DON'T
^{Know why} ~~UNDERSTAND THAT~~. AS FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER, THE SEATS
IN THE BACK OF THE BUS WERE UNCOMFORTABLE, THE VIEW
WAS TERRIBLE, AND ~~YOU~~ ^{The driver} NEVER ~~WERE~~ ^{us} LET^A OFF QUITE WHERE
~~you~~ ^{we} WANTED TO BE. YET MANY BLACK AMERICANS HAVE
SIMPLY GIVEN UP. THEY HAVE LOWERED THEIR EXPECTATIONS
AND LOST THEIR SENSE OF THE POSSIBLE. IN DOING SO,
THEY HAVE PLAYED RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO
SAY THAT WE CAN NOT AFFORD FULL EMPLOYMENT, JUSTICE,
AND EQUALITY.

^{of these strange}
We are treated to the spectacle of some^A Black Americans
Advocating a 90 slow' policy in removing the barriers to
Human achievement.

THEY HAVE ACQUIESCED TO A NEW NEGATIVISM THAT IS SPREADING ACROSS THIS LAND, A NEGATIVISM THAT BELITTLES THE ~~POSITIVE~~ GOOD THAT ~~THE~~ GOVERNMENT CAN ACCOMPLISH.

WE CAN NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN. WE CAN NOT ALLOW THE PUBLIC VOICE THAT ADVOCATES FOR EQUALITY, JUSTICE AND FULL EMPLOYMENT TO BECOME ~~WEAKER AND WEAKER~~ ^{WEAK.} WE CAN NOT WALK OUT OF THIS BALLROOM TONIGHT JUST TALKING ABOUT ~~THE~~ ^{THE} FINE MUSIC AND THE GOOD TIME WE HAD.

TOTAL Citizen Participation... For voting.
IS A ~~3rd century~~ ^{3rd century} ~~Black Advocate.~~ ^{Black Advocate.}
WE MUST BECOME ADVOCATES FOR ~~VOTING~~. EACH ONE OF USA WE DO NOT NEED ~~SONGS~~ SONGS, BILLBOARDS, OR SKYWRITERS TO GET OUR MESSAGE ACROSS. WE JUST NEED ENOUGH GOOD PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELVES, WHO ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING AMERICA. WE CAN NOT PROMISE THOSE WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED A NEW CAMELOT. WE CAN ONLY PROMISE THAT IF OUR PUBLIC VOICE IS STRONG ENOUGH PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND THE ~~RIGHTNESS~~ ^{Rightness} OF OUR CAUSE.

GEORGE WHITE SUMMED UP WHAT OUR CAUSE IS ALL ABOUT IN HIS FARWELL ADDRESS IN 1901: " HE ~~THE BLACK~~ ^{of the Black American, He said} ~~AMERICAN~~ ASKS NO SPECIAL FAVORS, BUT SIMPLY DEMANDS THAT HE BE GIVEN THE SAME CHANCE FOR EXISTENCE, FOR

EARNING A LIVELIHOOD, FOR RAISING HIMSELF IN THE
SCALES OF MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD THAT ARE ACCORDED
TO KINDERED NATIONALITIES."

WE ARE STILL ADVOCATING THAT IDEA. ~~LET US~~
~~CONTINUE~~ *Advocates - Produce or Perish*

~~The problem with our advocacy is that millions of~~
~~Black Americans have no public voice. Two reasons~~
~~keep them from there they have chosen to remain~~
~~mute by not registering and not voting. We cannot~~
~~diffuse our voices if everyone does not have a~~
~~voice. We must be determined to implant a voice~~
~~box in this indifferent society~~

We leave this place with renewed confidence
But before we leave we have a message for America
IN OUR CASE. ~~AND~~ WE INSIST THAT BEFORE
WE GO HOME TO OUR LORD ... WE SHALL BE FREE.