

# black perspective inc.

134 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y., 10016 Tel. (212) 532-0894

Hon. John Conyers  
2444 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Conyers:

April 23, 1976

In a recent article in The Black Scholar, you quoted the following passage, " In the broadest sense our crisis is not fundamentally economic but political. It is rooted in a gross disproportion between our politics and our power. It is a simple fact that our economy is no longer controllable by our politics. The history of the last ten years reveals a consistent pattern of political failure. The reason was not lack of power but the development of modes of power, abstract and impersonal, that destroyed the possibilities of human politics."

In that regard, the enclosed materials have been sent to the Caucus membership et al., including the various news and print media. Todate, I have received only a postcard from the Caucus office. Dispite the assurances given me by Congressman Rangel on March 17, 1976, he has done nothing. On April 16, 1976, after repeated telephone calls, Mr. Rangel left a message on my answering service that,"he couldn't do anything concerning either my specific case or my request for Congressional hearings."

I would venture to suggest that the late Adam Clayton Powell, remember that's how Rangel got to Congress in the first place, would not have dummed-up and remained silent on the issues presented. Mr. Rangel's predecessor was a vocal champion of Black people's struggle against injustice and exploitation. In addition, Basil Paterson, whose law firm I retained to handle my case against BBDO et al, refuses to become involved in a case being handled by his own firm. On April 12, 1976 I personally inquired of Mr. Paterson the reason for his lack of input concerning the issues. He gave me some response which was not germane.

Now it is not in the best interest of Black people for me to have to read folks in public. However, it is most certainly not in our interest for our Black Federal representatives to be comin' from where they are comin' from, either. It may be in the best interest of some of our Black politicians and their elite constituency in and outside the Black community, but it ain't doin' nothin' for Black folks.

It is time that the Black politicians, Vernon Jordan and Jesse Jackson quit givin' up Black people to the multi-national corporations, monopoly capitalism and monopoly labor for chump change. So before everyone runs on out and jumps on Mr. Carter's bandwagon, why don't somebody ask him, ". . . how come there ain't no large Black peanut farms and/or farmers in Georgia, in his county. Or is we still supposed to be goin' for the okey-doke.

Remember, while you're walking through all those hallowed halls, that it may be the Bi-centennial for white folks; America has indeed been good to the uprooted masses of European immigrants. But for Black folks and the "Souls of Black Folks," it marks some four hundred years of meetin' that mule every monday mornin'. Cause in 1776, most Black people in America were slaves. Remember the 3/5 Amendment? And how many white people you know named Jefferson and Washington?

One hundred years later, during the election of 1876-77, only ten short years after we had been "emancipated;" the Democratic leadership abandoned the cause of the popularly elected Democratic candidate, Samuel Tilden. This was done in return for an end to "Federal Reconstruction" and "nigra" participation in the affairs of state. It also marked the end of the brief sojourn of the first Congressional Black Caucus.

In return for the Democrats making a deal which ensured the peaceful possession of the Presidency, the Republican Party, the Party of Lincoln, abandoned the newly gained social, political and economic rights of the ex-slaves. The "Compromise of 1877" effectively ended "Reconstruction" and ushered in a era of neo-slavery for our people called political and economic peonage.

So as you can see, it's time to get down. Black folks cannot afford another hundred years or four more years of "malignant manipulation." Maybe the Black politicians can because they have "good payin' gigs;" but Black people can't afford to wait for the next Depression, or ain't you seen Harlem lately.

What will future historians have to say about the role of the Second Congressional Black Caucus? Must our people be beaten down again after so short a period since the upheavals and disillusionment of the 1960's and the "Second Reconstruction."

In conclusion, it is stated in the same article that, "The potential of alignment with the Republican Party is virtually nil. Who among us are willing to step forward and volunteer to become insurgents within the Republican ranks?" I would suggest to some of our brethern that they call to mind the old folk wisdom, ". . . don't woke him, let him slept." Cause you got to be kiddin'.

Sincerely,

*Sanford W. Moore*

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