Blacks continue to make gains

The number of black elected officials in the United States rose by 6.1 percent last year, reports the Joint Center for Political Studies, which has conducted an annual census of blacks elected to public office since 1970.

Between January 1985 and January 1986, the total number of black officials increased from 6,056 to 6,424. The previous year's increase was 6.2 percent.

The growth in the number of blacks elected to office occurred in every region of the country and in every category of office for which elections were held in 1985. In addition, 102 blacks were elected in jurisdictions where no black American had ever held elective office.

The number of black women elected to office has more than doubled since 1976, rising from 684 then to 1,483 in 1986. Twenty-three percent of all black elected officials are women, and approximately one-third, or 124, of last year's newly-elected black elected officials were women.

Of all the elective offices held by black women, 50 percent are municipal positions, including 40 mayoralties. The largest contingents of female black elected officials are in Washington, D.C. (113), Illinois (109), Michigan (98), Mississippi (95), California (94), and New York (91).

At the federal level, the number of blacks elected to the U.S. House of Representatives remains the same: 19 voting members and 1 non-voting member.

States with the largest number of black elected officials include Mississippi (521), Louisiana (488), Illinois (426), Georgia (417), Alabama (403), California (287), and Texas (281). These states also have three characteristics in common:

— Women compose more than 12 percent of the state's total number of black elected officials and, except in Texas, are represented at both the state legislative and the mayoral level;

— Blacks constitute at least 7 percent of the state's voting-age population; and

— During the past year, at least one officeholder with "first black elected" status was elected within the state.

In three cities (Boston, MA; Birmingham, AL; and Mitchell, SD), blacks were elected to the office of city council president for the first time. Voters in New York City (Manhattan) elected a black borough president, and incumbent black mayors returned to office in Atlanta, GA; Charlotte, NC; Detroit, MI; Hartford, CT; and Los Angeles, CA.

At the county level, 70 additional black elected officials were sworn into office, most of them in Georgia and Mississippi. The catalyst for many of these victories was the shift from at-large to district election systems.

The largest single group of black elected officials is composed of those in municipal offices. Since 1985, the number of black officeholders at this level has increased by 214, for a total of 3,112. The largest municipal subgroup is councilmembers (2,396), followed by mayors (289).

Fifteen judicial and law enforcement officials were added to last year's total, bringing the number of black officials in this category to 676. Of the 676, eight were judges of state courts of last resort, and 366 were judges of other courts. The greatest increase in the number of judicial and law enforcement officials came in the South.

The number of education officials increased by 66, bringing the total to 1,504, most of whom are local school board members.

The distribution of black elected officials roughly parallels the distribution of the black population. The South has 53 percent of the U.S. population and 63.8 percent of all black elected officials. The North Central region has 19.8 percent of the nation's black population and 19.6 percent of all black elected officials. The Northeast, with 18.5 percent of the black population, has 10.9 percent of the black elected officials; and the West, with 8.9 percent of the black population, has 5.7 percent of the black elected officials.

Although the data in the Roster conclusively demonstrate that electoral politics remain an arena in which black Americans continue to advance, blacks still hold fewer than 1.5 percent of all elective offices in the United States, while constituting almost 11 percent of the total voting-age population. Moreover, the rate of growth in the number of black elected officials has slowed dramatically since 1976. Between 1970 and 1976, the average rate of growth was 18.2 percent, but since 1976, it has been only 4.9 percent.

According to Eddie N. Williams, president of the Joint Center for Political Studies, "Further growth in the number of black elected officials is needed and will depend on the ability of black candidates to appeal to nonblack electorates."

The Joint Center for Political Studies is a national nonprofit institution that conducts research on public policy issues of special concern to black Americans and promotes informed and effective involvement of blacks in the political process. Founded in 1970, the Joint Center provides independent and nonpartisan analyses through research, publication, and outreach programs.

Nina R. Harper

I feel I should be elected to the House of Delegates because I believe that I can make a difference in the East Baltimore Political process, I feel that I can bring new vision and commitment to our community.

I am very concerned about the drug trafficking in our streets, the high rate of unemployment, the poor housing conditions and lack of programs for our youth.

I will support any and all legislaton concerning the above areas but my number one priority "will be the educational system in the state and particularly in the City of Baltimore.

I believe that additional funds can be provided to improve our systems as well as attract additional qualified teachers by increasing salaries.

Because of these reasons and as a life long resident of East Baltimore, I am committed to the quality of life in our community.

ELEANOR
CAREY
for Attorney General

Experience. Commitment. Courage. These are the ingredients of a great Attorney General. On Tuesday, September 9th, elect the one candidate who has the qualities we need to protect Maryland from crime, drugs, handguns and pollution.

— PULL LEVER 3B —

Service and Accomplishment

ELEANOR CAREY didn't just decide she wanted to be Attorney General. She's spent the last seven years learning the job and how to do it right.

As Senior Deputy Attorney General, Carey has supervised the work of more than 200 lawyers, reviewed thousands of cases and managed the day-to-day work of Maryland's largest law firm.

As Attorney General, Eleanor Carey's fight for Maryland won't require on-the-job training. She can start from day one in an all-out fight against crime, drugs, handgun traffic and consumer fraud.

Protecting Maryland

Drugs. Eleanor Carey has a plan to fight drugs. She wants to seize the profits of drug dealers and use the money to hire more police and provide better drug education for our children.

Handguns. Eleanor Carey has opposed the powerful gun lobby by calling for legislation to ban "Saturday night specials" and outlaw "cop killer" bullets.

Substandard Housing. Eleanor Carey will not be afraid to use the Office of Attorney General to enforce housing standards and improve living conditions for low income Marylanders.

Vote Eleanor Carey For Attorney General.

Maryland's Protector.

Auth.: Donald N. Rothman, Treasurer

—Black LaRouchites

(Continued from page 16)

We could even understand why a black like Eldridge Cleaver, a former Black Panther leader calling for the revolutionary overthrow of the American government, would seek to become a Mormon priest. (Remember that Mormons have always stringently opposed having black leaders in their rank.) We are aware that Cleaver has been in a great state of confusion ever since his return from exile. A revolutionary-turned-born-again-Christian-turned-designer-of macho-pants-turned-advocate-of-beating-women-mormon-priest clearly represents a man who is badly in search of himself.

Now we have learned that there are black followers of Lyndon Larouche; and as our grandmothers would say, "that really takes the cake!"

Who is Lyndon Larouche? Larouche is a slick, anti-Semitic, wealthy fascist who has hundreds of his followers running for political office nationwide by posing as legitimate political candidates and as concerned patriotic citizens. Larouche's political ideology is a quagmire of eccentricity of the dangerous, unpredictable sort. It ranges from linking the Queen of England to international drug trafficking to accusing Henry Kissinger of being a spy for the Kremlin; and from seeking a quarantine of all AIDS victims to blaming Jews for practically all the ills confronting humankind.

(A word of caution: Beware of white groups who hate Jews because these groups hate black people even more. If a person like Lyndon Larouche gains real power in America, black folks will no doubt be to him what the Jews were to Adolph Hitler. This is why it is so incredible that a black person would come near his group let alone run as a political candidate under his banner).

The real goal of the Larouche followers is to make Lyndon Larouche president of the United States and to give him dictatorial power. Their objective in Maryland, as in other states, is to seize control of the Democratic Party by running hundreds of candidates for political office and hoping a few of them will sneak past the vigilant eye of the voters.

Larouchites have filed for more than 100 elective offices in Maryland this year with many of the same candidates running for two or more offices. Along with the hard-core Larouchites they have recruited dozens of people off the streets to run for political office. This seems to be the case with their black candidates for political office. They have actively sought to recruit any black who would turn an ear to them so they can use blacks as expendables for the political expediency of Lyndon Larouche. And lo and behold they have found at least two either shameless or unwitting blacks right here in Baltimore.

One black Larouchite candidate is Hazel Judd who is running in the Seventh District Congressional race. The other one is Lillian Procter Myers who is running against State Sen. Clarence Blount for a state senate seat in the 41st district.

Running for political office was probably the farthest thing from either of these two women's minds before the aggressive power in Maryland. Perhaps the appeal was to self-esteem or to the idea that if the voters are asleep, these political nonentities may sleaze their way to public office. Perhaps these blacks really did fall for the typical, empty Larouchite anti-drug and anti-unemployment spiel that is skillfully designed to mask the real intent of this aberrant political group.

Whatever the reason for blacks joining an anti-black group, black Larouchites are a reality and voters, black and white, had better be aware of them. We know that it is difficult to imagine that a right-wing white group that has nothing but contempt for black people could fish around and find a black candidate to run against a black politico such as Sen. Blount, a model black leader with vast political experience, knowledge, and clout and with an enviable record of making the system work and on behalf of the people. Yet out of the blue sky the ubiguitous Larouche gang found a black person that they could use to support an American Hitler against this veteran black deliverer of service.

Of course, a great political warrior like Blount does not need anyone to defend him against the likes of a black Larouchite. It is the idea of the matter that concerns us. We are not talking about the idea of blacks joining a group with clear genocidal plans for black people. We are amazed but nevertheless realistic enough to know that there are blacks who would gladly allow themselves to be exploited by the KKK if the price were right.

The matter that concerns us is that in this day and age, a hate mongering white group has the audacity to think that it can trick us voters into turning our backs on dedicated and proven black political leadership and put into power a white right-wing fanatic hiding unabashedly behind a black face.

—I have earned

(Continued from page 10)

continued financial aid and loans for students wishing to pursue a college education. I will also fight to preserve the traditional Federal role in education.

HUMAN RELATIONS

I have also been concerned with human relations, and in 1981 established my Task Force on Violence and Extremism. Cited nationally, this Task Force has worked at the state level for the prevention and control of extremism motivated by bigotry. Through our efforts, Maryland was the first state in the nation to require such incidents be uniformly reported by the police. I have also worked to foster understanding through schools and community groups, outlawed the display of firearms at public gatherings, increased the penalties for cross-burning and cemetery desecration, and supported passage of anti - harassment legislation.

Because of the need of the national level for similar efforts, in 1984 I created the National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence, which is currently housed in Baltimore and is extending its assistance in the prevention of hate extremism to communities across the country.

Maryland has made progress under my Administration to make our government truly of, by and for all the people. Yet there is still far to go, and her retrenchment at the Federal level in the areas of human and civil rights, equal opportunity, and affirmative action threatens to undo the great strides made in Maryland.

As U.S. Senator, I will continue to fight unflaggingly for the extension of civil, legal, economic and societal Equality for all people. Civil rights also do not guarantee full equality. The battle won in the courtroom for civil rights must now be extended to the living room if America is to be truly a united and democratic nation. I will take my leadership on this issue from the state to the federal level.

Indeed, I want to bring the experience I have in Maryland—and my commitment to minority rights—to Washington. I have made a difference in Maryland; I will make a difference in the United States Senate.

There is a need for stronger economic sanctions against the South African government and its brutal practices of apartheid. Under my leadership as Governor, Maryland was one of four states that imposed sanctions against South Africa. As a member of the U.S. Senate, I will seek to have the United States adopt that same strong support for sanctions.

For all of the reasons I have given here—my 30-year record, my agenda for the Senate, my willingness to continue to fight for civil rights—I believe I have earned the votes of the readers of the AFRO-AMERICAN.

Your support means a great deal to me. I ask for your vote on Sept. 9th.

—Why I want

(Continued from page 13)

for the programs I have proposed, I can't help thinking how much better off the state would be if the state had the $200 million it likely will pay back to affected S&L depositors.

In the 15 years I have been privileged to be your mayor, I have tried — in every possible way — to be the leader of all the people. I have cared about the quality of government services delivered to every community. I have appointed the ablest people among us as department heads, including a number of blacks. The composition of my campaign staff includes a great many able blacks as well.

In past elections, Baltimore's black community has voted for me in large numbers, even when I have been opposed by black candidates. I have been greatly gratified by this. But I would have been the same mayor even if I had not gotten a single black vote.

Now I seek a higher office. I intend to be the governor of all the people, whether they vote for me or not. but make no mistake: I **would** like your vote, and I hereby respectfully ask for it.

Attorney A. DWIGHT PETTIT for Congress

"Leadership is the Courage and Integrity to make the morally correct decisions, not the popular ones."

A. Dwight Pettit

"His trerachant and pragmatic knowledge and understanding of law, strong family cohesion and solidarity, insistence on demonstrable educational excellence, dedication to economic and political empowerment for the dispossessed and excluded and commitment to a more humane, caring and just Baltimore support his election as the next Congressman from Maryland's Seventh Congressional District."

Dr. Samuel L. Banks
Baltimore Afro-American July 26, 1986

Auth: Denise Jones-Dorsey