

Why Blacks, GOP Don't Party – A Rebuttal

Your column, “Why Blacks, GOP Don't Party,” by Leonard Pitts, Jr. should not go unchallenged. Mr. Pitts suggests the reason Blacks are wed to the Democratic Party is because 1) “Democrats and the GOP essentially exchanged ideologies” on race and 2) Conservatives were never there for the Black community. Wrong and wrong again. The suggestion that there were wholesale voting changes following the Civil Rights era is patently absurd. Segregationists like Al Gore, Sr., a Democrat who voted against the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts kept his registration and his seat, ultimately bequeathing both to his son.

The only Southern State that has become somewhat Republican is “swing state” Florida with a Republican Governor, Cabinet, House and Senate. That happened rapidly in the 90's. The issue was crime, not race. Louisiana elected its first Republican Governor ever two months ago, Conservative Republican Bobby Jindal, a brilliant 36 year old of Indian descent. The South remains very Democratic 40 years plus after Democrat Bull Connor manned the fire hoses.

As for Conservatives not being there for the Black Community, that's also absurd. From Lincoln winning the Civil War to Eisenhower sending troops into (Democratic) Arkansas and integrating the military to Newt Gingrich fighting unsuccessfully for reform of the Washington D.C. schools that Chelsea Clinton so famously avoided to Jeb Bush securing vouchers so students may escape NEA controlled “dropout factories,” Republicans have done the heavy lifting because it was morally right even though politically unrewarding.

No, the reason “Blacks and Republicans don't party together” is because the Democratic and Republican Parties have stayed the SAME. For over 150 years the Democratic Party has made its judgments and given its patronage based on one's race or gender. First you had to be White and male, but not necessarily qualified. Now you have to be a woman or Black, or a member of some other “victim” group, but not necessarily qualified. (Indeed, what other explanation could there be for Hillary Clinton or Barak Obama to be considered “qualified” to be President?) The Republican Party, since its birth on July 6, 1854, has been the Opportunity Party. We fought the Civil War, amended the Constitution to give women the vote and voted in greater percentages for the passage of the Civil Rights and Voting rights Acts than

did the Democrats. What we Republicans don't do is Quotas, jobs for the unqualified, passing grades for the unprepared or soft sentences for the criminally antisocial. We will never compete to abort Black babies (15 million since Roe), break up families, make dependency intergenerational, disarm inner city law abiding citizens or tolerate functional illiteracy. The Democrats are the "color of his skin" party. We are the "content of his character" party. Or as Dr. Phil might ask the large Black Democratic community: "So how's that working out for you?"

I am not optimistic about large numbers of Blacks returning to the Party of Lincoln; not because we changed but because we remained the same. The one glimmer of very recent light is the Clintons' treatment of Mr. Obama. Mr. Pitts may be the last remaining Black man who has not seen the cynicism of Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party.

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