

DON'T BLAME H. CARL MCCALL

By Hon. Randolph Jackson

Personal & Unofficial

There are 151 elite elected positions that define power in this country: President, Governor of a State and United States Senator. There are 100 United States Senators (2 for each of the 50 states); 50 Governors (1 for each state) and 1 President (for us all).

Not one of these elite elected positions is currently occupied by a Black person. One hundred thirty-nine years after the end of slavery in this country (1863) and 48 years after segregation was declared illegal (1954), the halls of power in this country remain lily-white. In fact, in the entire 20th century (the 100 years from 1900 to 2000), only three (3) Blacks served in any of these elite elected positions: Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts; Senator Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois and Governor Douglas Wilder of Virginia.

During those one hundred years (1900 to 2000), there were approximately 3,000 elite elections (1,650 Senatorial elections; 1,250 Gubernatorial elections and 25 Presidential elections = 2,925 elite elections) in the United States.

These include:

One election for President every 4 years = 25 Presidential elections in 100 years;

One election for Governor every 4 years = 25 Gubernatorial elections in 100 years x 50 states = 1,250 Gubernatorial elections;

One election for U.S. Senator every 6 years x 50 states x 2 Senators for each state = 1,650 Senatorial elections in 100 years.

Special elections to replace someone who died, resigned or was removed from office increase this number to 3000, notwithstanding the fact the Arizona, Alaska & Hawaii were states for less than the entire 100 years of the 20th century.

Three (3) Black winners in 3000 elections means a Black candidate had one chance in a thousand of being successful in an elite election during the 20th century.

Among those elected to elite offices in the USA during the 20th century are dozens of crooks, drunks, fools, incompetents, knaves, mediocrities, stumblebums and thieves.

But only three Blacks were elected to any of those 151 elite positions in 3,000 elections held in the United States during the 100 years of the 20th century!

So, don't blame Carl McCall. He was facing some very steep odds, more formidable ones than having Governor George Pataki as an opponent. Let us hope that as we advance further into the 21st century, we come closer to the realization of Dr. King's dream of being judged by the content of our character rather than by the color of our skin.

Randolph Jackson is a Justice of the Supreme Court and author of Black People in the Bible and How to Get a Fair Trial by Jury. A version of this essay appeared in Afro Times, November 23, 2002, Page 6.

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