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Emerge Magazine Article

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January 30, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO: Alexis Herman
Steve Hilton
Ben Johnson
Mike Lux

FROM: Flo McAfee

RE: Emerge Article

Attached is an advanced copy of an Emerge magazine article entitled: "Civil Rights Report Card." It might be of use because it grades all members of Congress from w districts ith 20 percent or more African American representation. The list of members from districts ith 20 percent plus is very interesting.

This article ill appear in the March issue on an annual basis.

Attachment

JAN 31 1995

CIVIL RIGHTS REPORT CARD

This is the first of what will become *Emerge's* annual compilation of votes in Congress on key issues affecting African-Americans.

BY BETSY PEOPLES

CIVIL RIGHTS issues will face increased scrutiny, now that conservative Republicans have taken over the House and Senate for the first time in four decades. The 103rd United States Congress (1993-94) fared well on civil rights issues but civil rights leaders are apprehensive about what could come next.

"You need to measure people by deeds, not words," say Laura Murphy Lee, director of the Washington, D. C., office of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

When civil rights were threatened by the Reagan and Bush administrations, activists knew they could turn to Congress. Now, they aren't too sure.

"People have to make certain that we lose no ground in the protection of our right to vote," says Wade Henderson, director of the Washington bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). "Most importantly, Black people have to register to vote. There has to be an ongoing aggressive campaign for voter participation."

Many activists feared Ronald Reagan's efforts to dismantle civil rights.

"When that happened 15 years ago, people in the civil rights community had to

CRITICAL ISSUES

Here is the NAACP's position on selected issues for members of the Senate and for those in the House elected from districts that have at least 20 percent Black voters.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT — provides unpaid, job-protected leave and continuation of benefits to federal civil and congressional workers and some in the private sector; had NAACP support; passed.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT — requires states to allow voter registration at the time of driver's license application or renewal, by mail and other public sites; had NAACP support; passed.

STRIKER REPLACEMENT (HOUSE ONLY) — bars employers from hiring permanent replacements for those striking over economic issues, offering incentives to workers to cross picket lines; had NAACP support; passed.

OMNIBUS BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT — implements the president's proposed 5-year economic program through revenue increases and spending cuts; creates empowerment zones and communities; expands some tax, food stamp, child immunization programs that benefit low-income residents; had NAACP support; passed.

BRADY HANDGUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT — mandates a 3-day wait and criminal background check to buy handguns; had NAACP support; passed.

NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA) — opens free trade with Canada and Mexico by eliminating or reducing tariffs for good and services; did not have NAACP support; passed.

D.C. STATEHOOD (HOUSE ONLY) — admits the District of Columbia into the Union as the State of New Columbia; had NAACP support; failed.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT — reapproves the 1965 act through 1999 and approves spending \$12.1 billion in 1995 for disadvantaged students; had NAACP support; passed.

OMNIBUS AMENDMENT ON RACIAL JUSTICE ACT — deletes provisions that allow the use of statistics and other evidence to make a claim of race discrimination by inmates seeking to overturn death sentences; did not have NAACP support; failed.

OMNIBUS CRIME BILL—CONFERENCE REPORT — approves spending \$30.2 billion over six years on crime prevention, community policing, new law enforcers and building state and local prisons, among other provisions; did not have NAACP support; passed.

NATIONAL SERVICE UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY (SENATE ONLY) — kills an amendment to extend for 14 years the design patent for the United Daughters of the Confederacy; had NAACP support; passed.

SCHOOL-TO-WORK OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1993 (SENATE ONLY) — reapproves \$300 million from 1995-2003 for programs to help young people move from school to the workplace; had NAACP support; passed.

regroup and create bipartisan strategies," says Ralph G. Nease, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, a coalition of 180 national organizations representing women, persons with disabilities, labor, religious groups and older Americans. Over the objection of the White House, Congress passed the Civil Rights

Act of 1991, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Civil Rights Restoration Act, the 1982 Voting Rights Act Extension, Japanese-American Redress Bill, South African sanctions legislation, and the Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988.

"In looking over the last 30 years, all of the civil rights laws add up to a second

[illegible]

NOTES: CONFIDENTIAL RECORD, U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

			ALCO POTTER	PARTY AND POLITICAL LEADERS	VOTER REGISTRATION	BUDGET/REVENUE/INCOME TAX	MANAGEMENT OF CONSTITUENCY	EDUCATION	WATER POLLUTION	WASTE MANAGEMENT	LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE	STATE INFRASTRUCTURE	POPULATION DISTRIBUTION	COUNTY
MINNESOTA														
Durenberger D (R)	2%		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y				
Wellstone P (D)			Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y			
MISSISSIPPI														
Cochran T (R)	32%		N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N			
Lott T (R)			N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N			
MISSOURI														
Danforth J (R)	8.5%		Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N			
Bond C (R)			Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N			
MONTANA														
Saucus M (D)	<1%		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Burns C (R)			Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y			
NEBRASKA														
Eron J (D)	3%		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Kerrey R (L)			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y			
NEVADA														
Reld H (D)	5%		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Bryan R (D)			Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y			
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Smith R (R)	<1%		N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N			
Gregg I (R)			N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y		
NEW JERSEY														
Bradley B (D)	13%		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y		
Lautenberg F (D)			Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y			
NEW MEXICO														
Domenici P (R)	2%		N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y		
Bingaman J (D)			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
NEW YORK														
Moynihan D (D)	15%		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y		
U'Amato A (R)			Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y		
NORTH CAROLINA														
Helms J (R)	22%		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		
Faircloth L (R)			N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		
NORTH DAKOTA														
Conrad K (D)	<1%		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Dorgan B (D)			Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y		
OHIO														
Glenn J (D)	10%		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y		
Metzenbaum H (D)			Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y		
OKLAHOMA														
Boren D (D)	6.2%		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y		
Nickles D (R)			N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N		
OREGON														
Hatfield M (R)	1.6%		Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y		C
Packwood B (R)			Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y		C
PENNSYLVANIA														
Specter A (R)	8.3%		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y			F

than they came out of the 1970s, that's a tragedy," says Ncaa.

"I would hope with every passing day, month and year, the concerns in Congress, the civil rights community and across the nation is to address the economic opportunity issues and not reopen these civil rights issues that have been settled for a long time."

NAAACP officials consider those senators and representatives with grades of 70

percent or better as "special friends" of the organization. Those with the worst record, less than 60 percent, include 40 senators and 206 representatives from both political parties.

What can people expect from the 104th congress?

"Subtle racism in the form of dismantling existing civil rights laws," says Lee.

"They're too smart to say this is an anti-

civil rights proposal."

"This isn't about a balanced federal budget or cutting back on entitlement spending," says Lee.

"This is about continued disenfranchisement of groups of people based on their class, race and gender. We are not dealing with police dogs and fire hoses," Lee explains. "We're dealing with much more subtle exclusionary practices." ■