
THE CITIZEN

for Social Responsibility, a non-profit Corp.

SPECIAL ISSUE: Mayoral Election May 2002

WHOSE Choice for Mayor ?

by: Victor Saraiva,

It is an often quoted popular dictum that voting in some elections essentially comes down to the "choice for the lesser evil". Certainly you have heard these words spoken by friends or even you, yourself, have thought this to be pretty close to the unavoidable truth.

Which is the *better deal* ? Or the *real deal* ?

Are we playing cards, that the concept of dealing comes into play ? Are we buying something on special at a local supermarket ? What deal are we talking about here ? Perhaps what is at stake is no more than a proverbial play on words--a shell game. *'Where is the ball ? Watch carefully ! What's faster my hand or your eye ?'* What's the deal for Mayor in the State's largest City ? Are either of the candidates who they appear to be, based on what they say, and on who they say they are ? Who's really who ?

Sharpe James and Cory Booker are not babes in the, political power broker, woods. Each maintains their own following of allies and supporters. But lately alliances have changed, and it may be a different race than what it was just two months ago.

Voters will be faced Tuesday May 14th with a decision to make. Mayor James has been in power for sixteen years, relying on the old familiar political machine, of back room politics and back slapping 'good old boys' who are local businessmen, real estate developers and others touting very special definite interests. Many of the city's "street-wise businessmen" and prior cronies of the James camp are backing him publicly and have made the contributions to the campaign, but something else lurks in the shadows. Ever since the Treffinger probe burst onto the scene a few weeks ago, things have begun to change. James Treffinger, the current Essex County Executive, who had been running for the GOP nomination for Senator is under a cloud and has since renounced his attempt to face Senator Torricelli in the upcoming election for U.S. Senator representing NJ. Treffinger is faced with a Federal probe, alleging illegal activity which may bring to bear a criminal indictment.

Since the FEDS came calling in late April, support for Mayor James' campaign has been slipping—quite noticeably. In fact many of James' cronies are still

publicly stating support, although not as noticeably, but privately are telling their 'rank and file' to switch support to Cory Booker. It appears that those who have something to fear, are switching to the 'safe' candidate with no prior 'questionable baggage'.

After sixteen years in power the James administration has accumulated years of suspicion fraught with allegations of dubious deals and corruption. The FEDS have come calling several times and one of Mayor James' closest 'advisors' has since gone off to jail, along with two councilmen and a police director.

'Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely'; does it apply to Sharpe James ? Only Mayor James or a select few close to him, can tell us for sure. However some things strike a chord of dissonance. How can one individual hold two elected offices simultaneously— Mayor and State Senator ? What does that say to you about this City and this State ? What does that say about the local and state political machinery that condones dual office holders ?

With a part time mayor, whose voice is really heard at City Hall ? The numbers tell part of the story; James' salary and perks have risen, and so have the number of homeless-- in one of the poorest cities of America. Over \$1,000,000 has been spent to demolish housing, and real estate developers in this city have cashed in 'big time', on cheap land and real estate deals. Have only a select few profited ? **Perhaps it should be mandated that the City, regularly provide public disclosures on which companies, or individuals, do business with the city.** Recurrent names should say something, indeed long before investigative probes become a necessity. After all, graft does not bode well in the light of public scrutiny.

Cory Booker is the self professed reform candidate. He has said that he is against exorbitant expense accounts, and the use of perks like those permitting use of a city car. Is he for real or does he just hope to convince Newark voters -- who are fed up with the unending corruption of past administrations-- that a Booker administration would finally bring honesty back to city government ?

Booker says that he is out to be the voice of the people. He campaigns in shirt sleeves, in tough neighborhoods, at church bingo he has spoken to

everyone who is willing to listen to his message, against crime, drugs and corruption. Booker says what many people in this city have long known to be true about this city and this county. But is he really out to change those things, or is he simply paying lip service to the serious issues of this city, so that he can 'cash in' on the votes for the promised change ?

Booker says the right things, but there are other things about him that don't ring true. For instance, as a newcomer— both politically and otherwise, he arrives with baggage that does not equate with what a reform progressive candidate would stand for. And as an African American supposedly representing the disenfranchised— speaking for 'the people'-- on closer examination, he certainly does not fit the bill.

Indeed Al Sharpton, the activist, and Amiri Baraka, the poet, have both voiced support for James not Booker. Whatever Sharpton may be accused of being, he *is* concerned with the status of the most disenfranchised and the chronic poor. And much of Newark's population falls in that category.

Cory Booker after only one mandate as councilman has had his election coffers filled by contributions from extremely conservative interests. Whose interests ? Far right Republican, white, mid west, and Wall Street, interests. He was invited to visit the Heritage Foundation, as was Joseph Santiago before he was appointed state superintendent of the NJ State Police.

Why would a freshman city councilman, who says he is interested in the plight of the common man, as found on the streets of Newark, be visiting the halls of ultra right wing conservative 'think tanks' ? And then months later receive the support and backing from such special interests ? Mayor James quoted in the Star Ledger (4-14-02 *'Mr. Mayor Speaks Out'*) had this to say: *"It would be totally irresponsible to suggest that an individual can receive \$3 million from Arkansas, Colorado, Wall Street and reknowned Republicans— People who don't know Mr. Cory Booker personally, and don't know the City of Newark— without expecting something in return. Clearly they want control of the City of Newark, they want contracts. They want business. They want favors."*

Earlier this year Cory Booker held a fund raiser for his campaign, in *Washington D.C.* -- and republican money came pouring in. Who will, Cory Booker truly represent if elected Mayor ? And why would an ultra conservative think tank like the Heritage Foundation, located in Washington D.C., be interested in the city of Newark, and in a freshman councilman ? Who will Cory

Booker represent if elected ? And what is the Heritage Foundation ?

The Heritage Foundation

The Heritage Foundation was founded in 1973, during the Republicans' most turbulent era, the Nixon Administration's Watergate scandal. It is an activist organization with a very focused purpose— to remake American society. Over sixty percent of its operating budget comes from private individual donations (very rich individuals) ! Its Board of Trustees is constituted by the following prominent people;

- **Dr. David Brown**, Chairman (Orthopedic Surgeon, from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who has been active in medical research and public policy research).
- **Richard Scaife** (Publisher and owner of Tribune-Review Publishing Co., Greensburg Pennsylvania,-- during the Reagan, and Bush administrations he was appointed to a special advisory committee on public policy).
- **J.F. Rench** (Racine, Wisconsin— advocates local level activism to advance the Heritage 'agenda', serves on the Boards of St. John's Military Academy and on the Export-Import Bank of the U.S).
- **J. Beall** (Houston, Texas, founded Triton Engineering- a company that performs services for the oil and natural gas industry).
- **Belden Bell** (Alexandria Virginia, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State under Ronald Reagan).
- **Holland Coors** (Golden, Colorado, part owner of the Coors bottling company, appointed Honorary Ambassador during the Reagan years).
- **Midge Decter** (New York City, NY, -- former editor at Basic Books, former Executive Director of the Committee for a Free World (a self avowed anti- communist organization).

- **Steven Forbes** (New York City, NY— owner of Fortune Publishing Co., one of the wealthiest men in the world, affiliated with Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty from 1985-1993,-- radio stations which were operated by the CIA, to promulgate dissent in countries with communist governments).
- **Frank Shakespeare**, (LaJolla California— appointed to oversee Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty during the Reagan Years, served as U.S. Ambassador to Portugal and the Vatican, a past President of RKO General and CBS Television).
- **Jay Van Andel** (Ada, Michigan— Chairman of Amway Corp., former Special U.S. Ambassador to Italy).

The Heritage Foundation employs hundreds and regularly conducts colloquia where conservative ideas are presented and discussed. The aim is to change America according to the Heritage Foundation agenda, which is very close in thought to the Moral Majority of the Reagan years. Among their activist agenda, is Job Bank Project, whose mission is to “further conservative principles and policies by assisting those individuals and organizations who support Heritage’s vision for America” (find each other). “Job Bank matches (pre-screened) conservative candidates with open positions in congressional offices, public policy organizations, trade associations, polling, and faith based organizations.”

Here are some of the discussions which have been held at the Heritage Foundation, and some of what has been said:

Ten Good Reasons to Eliminate Funding for the National Endowment for the Arts: Laurence Jarvik, Ph.D., April 29 1997.

Storm Clouds in South America: John Sweeney, May 19, 1999.

Four Points of the Compass: Restoring America’s Sense of Direction: Balint Vazsonyi, Feb. 13, 1997

(“...**Social Justice is unacceptable as the basis for a stable society...** The rule of law and a world according to ‘social justice’ are mutually exclusive... **for thirty years we have acquiesced in a steady erosion of America’s founding principles. The time has come to reverse the movement.**”)

Breaking Down Intel Barriers for Homeland Security: Dana Dillon, Senior Policy Analyst Heritage Foundation, April 10, 2002— “ *The United States should create an all source intelligence fusion center... (for) domestic intelligence... the President should require governors to create intelligence offices on the state level to gather, analyze and disseminate intelligence... U.S. law restricts agencies... including the CIA ... from collecting intelligence on American citizens. This is a serious problem...*”).

The Myth of Widespread American Poverty: Robert Rector, Senior Policy Analyst Heritage Foundation, Sept. 18, 1998— “*As a group, the “poor” are far from being chronically hungry... In fact poor persons are more likely to be overweight than middle class persons...The old maxim that ‘the rich get richer and the poor get poorer’ is simply untrue.*”

Understanding Differences in Black and White Poverty Rates: Robert Rector, Senior Policy Analyst, Heritage Foundation, May 23, 2001— “*...Welfare dependence and single parenthood are the major underlying factors producing child poverty...*”

Renewing a Shaken Culture: Russell Kirk, the Heritage Foundation, Dec. 11, 1992— “*... we must confront the folk whom Arnold Toynbee called the ‘internal proletariat’ as contrasted with the ‘external proletariat’ of alien lands. Otherwise we may end, all of us, as fellow proletarians culturally deprived, in a nation that will permit no one to rise above mediocrity.*”

The Case for and Against Natural Law: Russell Kirk, Heritage Foundation, July 15, 1993— “*...political problems, at bottom, are religious and moral problems.*”

Saving the City: An Agenda for Urban America: Meyerson, Goldsmith and Ramirez Jr., June 29, 1998.

What to do About Cities: Ronald Utt, Ph.D., Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, Sept. 1, 1998

Turning a Dangerous City into a Safe One: Edward Davis III, (invited guest), August 8, 2000.

- “The 1996 elections were a huge success for conservatives. The American electorate is still clearly trending to the right of center, and the 105th Congress will be the most conservative legislative body in the modern American political era. The newly elected Republican senators are decidedly more conservative than the Democrats (and the Republicans) they replaced.” **Steven Forbes**, Jan/Feb 1997, Policy Review, the Heritage Foundation..

The above snippets very briefly outline the Heritage Foundation's agenda for America, at least this is the public side of the equation— what has been openly discussed. The Foundation is staunchly conservative, activist, well connected with the Bush Administration and with the U.S. Intelligence community, as well as with BIG corporate power and money, here and around the world. It is well financed and extremely well organized. And most scary of all- it has plans for all of us, it sees America and Americans defined and structured under a very particular way of life— *their way*.

Since the early 90's the Heritage Foundation has courted the Portuguese-American community in Newark's Ironbound section. Traditionally a very conservative community, whose greatest number immigrated to the U.S. during the 1960 and 70's, coming from a nation under rule by a fascist government. That community is presently poised to deliver the deciding vote in the Mayoral election, according to some pollsters.

Whoever wins the Mayoral election, the vote seems to take on an appearance of simply an exercise in formality, in a pre-determined process.

Who will win, who will be the people's choice? And will the candidate deliver what the people expect? Will the Mayor-elect continue a past pattern of graft and corruption in city government? Or will the Mayor-elect be a messenger for an ideology set to **socially engineer** our society, commencing at the local level one step at a time, following precepts pre-patterned by a ~~few~~ for the many?

Whose choice for Mayor?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- The Northrop Grumman Corp., a major defense contractor, is under negotiations to acquire TRW, a major depository of daily consumer credit transactions and information.
- During the Cuban missile crisis the Department of Defense and the Pentagon suggested to President Kennedy that a U.S. submarine off the coast of Florida could fire several missiles striking U.S. cities along the Florida coast thereby providing the U.S.A. with a reason to accuse Cuba of outward aggression and provide clear and unequivocal reasoning for a U.S. invasion of the island. Kennedy dismissed further consideration of the operation stating that he would never sanction the deaths of innocent American civilians.

- During the 50's, 60's and 70's the FBI conducted extensive surveillance of activist organizations and people including Martin Luther King Jr.

Read More

1. On the Heritage Foundation;

- www.heritagefoundation.org.

From our prior issue

2. On CIA & U.S. Army, Secret Experiments on Civilians;
 - Collins, Anne, In the Sleep Room: The Story of the CIA Brainwashing Experiments in Canada, Lester & Orpen, 1998 (ISBN 088619198x).
 - Welsome, Eileen, The Plutonium Files, Delta/Dell Books, 2000 (ISBN 0385319541).
 - US Army Activity in the US Biological Warfare Program, 1942-1977, Vols 1 and 2, Feb. 24, 1977 (Special Congressional Report).

MISSION STATEMENT

The Citizen for Social Responsibility was created as an educational tool which seeks to examine critical issues in our society which are not being addressed, by motivating public debate and discussion. It is solely an enterprise which does not seek profit as its reason to exist.

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- **THE CITIZEN** is in need of volunteers for community work, related with our mission statement. You should be 18 years or older, have your own means of transportation, and be willing to devote at least 4 hours per week for three months. 1
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