The Struggle Continues

Movie “Selma” Shines Light on MLK and the Civil Rights Struggle

The Soul of New Orleans

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The Struggle Continues
MLK Day and the Movie “Selma” Shines Light on the Civil Rights Movement

By Edwin Buggage

MLK Holiday: A Day of Reflection
As we approach the MLK Holiday, a day where people reflect on a time in our history where ordinary people stood together to make extraordinary strides for a people towards greater freedom for all in a nation founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all. Today we still ask this question over a half century later is the dream he spoke of at the historic March On Washington closer to becoming a reality?

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Historic March from Selma to Montgomery Alabama in 1965. Earlier this month the critically acclaimed film “Selma” was released by Paramount Pictures and was produced by Oprah Winfrey’s Harpo Films. The film chronicles this time in American history that led a nation to widen the lanes of democracy for more of its citizens with the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.
50 Years Later the Movie “Selma” Bringing the Movement to the Big Screen

Actor and New Orleans native Wendell Pierce plays Hosea Williams, one of the chief lieutenants to Dr. King in the film. “I already knew a great deal of the story of Selma and the movement, but as I got into the role I gained further admiration for the courage of all the people of the Civil Rights era. It was important to be part of a film that is so historically valuable,” says Pierce of the movie Selma. He says of the Civil Rights Movement that it was not just important in the U.S. but it inspired and raised the social consciousness of people worldwide, “What happened in Selma did not just impact protest movements in this country, but across the globe, nothing was ever the same after it.”

Speaking of the film and its impact he says, “The film created a piece of the past, but many of the issues raised in the film are still relevant today. As we see the things that are going on, that this work is still being done and people’s rights are being denied out there all over the world from Ferguson, to New York to Wendell Allen here in New Orleans.” Continuing speaking about the role of art giving voice to the voiceless he says, “All those souls have been lost and they are saying tell our story. And I feel the role of art is not simply to entertain but to make people aware of issues and inspire them into action; that’s what we tried to do with this film.”

The Selma March’s primary goal was to get people registered to vote. Because at that time in Selma there were nearly 33,000 African-Americans and only 335 were registered. During these tumultuous times when one of man’s greatest crimes against man was taking place, African-Americans knew that voting was an important step towards full citizenship. Recalling that time in history Civil Rights veteran and businessman Don Hubbard says, “The March in Selma was for the right to the ballot box, because we understood that it was one of the things that controlled out destiny. It was an opportunity to put people in office who cared about us mainly ourselves.”

Profiles in Courage: Voices from the Movement Speak on the Civil Rights Struggles of Yesterday and Today

Hubbard has his own place etched in history, for him as a young man and a member of CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) drove the car from New York to Mississippi that would be the same vehicle that James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman were driving when they were murdered during Freedom Summer in June of 1964. Speaking of the drive he says, “We were at a convention and the late Dr. Rudy Lombard was one of the...
New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce Announces 2015 Officers and New Directors

The New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (NORBCC) announces new officers and directors effective January 1, 2015. Chairperson Elect is Mrs. Michelle G. Gobert, President of Signs Now. Mrs. Gobert has served on the Board of Directors since 2011 and the Executive Committee as Secretary/Treasurer in 2014. Vice Chairman Elect is Mr. David St. Etienne, President of Ultimate Technical Solutions; Secretary Elect is Mr. Troy C. Carter, Principal of Policy & Planning Partners and Treasurer Elect is Mrs. Patricia Hightower, President of Bayou Equity Mortgage Company. New directors joining the board include: Attorney Terrel Broussard of HGI, Inc., Mrs. Ann Duplessis of Liberty Bank & Trust Company, Ms. Kelisha Garrett of Harrah’s New Orleans, Mr. Roy Glapion of The Beta Group, Dr. Margaret Montgomery-Richard of DMM & Associates and Mr. Roderic Teamer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana.

The mission of the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce is to empower & sustain the African-American business community through entrepreneurship and economic activity within the Greater New Orleans region & global economy as a whole.

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Paramount Pictures and Oprah Winfrey Harpo Films Presents “Selma” that takes a look at the historic 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama.

Think about the importance of voting as a recent example you see how it can have an impact when you look at the things that happened in Missouri or New York with the Grand Jury, that it is attached to voting, because to serve on a jury you must be a registered voter.

Jerome Smith who during the 1960’s was a member of CORE is someone who has become synonymous with the fight for freedom and justice. Throughout his life he has been on the frontlines in the struggle for equal rights. He says the release of the film “Selma” is important because it can serve as education and may be the spark that can get people civically engaged. “The movie is important in several ways, it is important to spotlight that time in history with voting rights and the fight against injustice and discrimination. Also you can see history as it is seen through our eyes which I feel is good thing. That today there are opportunities for African-Americans to tell our own story and help write our own history from our perspective with an African-American Director Ava DuVernay and Oprah Winfrey producing the film.”

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Smith feels that like the move-
Cover Story, Continued from page 4.

ment of the 50's and 60's the struggle of to-
day needs to be tied to a tangible objectives,
“The MLK holiday in my view is empty in
many ways because what it’s become for
some is just time to just take the day off, but
it should be a day of service, or centered on
registering someone to vote. This is a proj-
et we are going to advance.” Continuing he
says, “On MLK Day for that week, we involve
ourselves in some service project as a way of
saying thanks and by educating and register-
ing someone to vote it would help to undercut
apathy.”

Julia Aaron Humbles is a woman steeped
in the history of the freedom movement. As a
young woman she was a freedom rider taking
part in Freedom Summer and throughout her
life taken up various causes. Today she sees
the movement’s objectives still unfinished,
“It is amazing how this has come full-circle.
The things we were fighting for 50 years ago
we are still fighting for today. I don’t think it
speaks much for progress in America. But
admittedly, we have made great strides and
there are people who are on jobs we didn’t

These people who worked with the Con-
gress of Racial Equality in the 1960s pho-
tographed in December 2008. In the top
row are Claude Reese, Robert F. Collins
and Don Hubbard, and in the lower row
are Alice Thompson, Jean Denton-Thomp-
son, Sandra Nixon Thomas and Doratha
“Dodie” Smith-Simmons (Times Picayune)

have before, and we have made strides in ed-
ucation, but segregation and discrimination is
still something that is very real today.”

During her time as a Freedom Rider she
had the opportunity to meet Dr. King, recall-
ing this time she says, “I had the highest re-
gard for him as a leader. I was 18 at the time
and we wanted him to take part in the Free-
dom Rides. But he couldn’t take part in the
rides, and I remember him hugging me and
telling me not to give up on what I thought
was right. It is something I will always re-
member and I know if he were alive today he
would be somewhere leading us to some kind
of solutions to the problems we face not just
in this country but around the world.”

Rev. Samson “Skip” Alexander is a Civil
Rights Veteran who today is a radio and
television host and is well versed on the
history of the Civil Rights Movement in
New Orleans. He thinks the need for con-
tinued pressure and protests are necessary,
“Marching is what brought the issues to
the forefront of people’s minds and helped
change the way we were treated in this
country. Today marching is just as impor-

Cover Story, Continued on page 10.
Julius Kimbrough, Owner of The Prime Example Jazz & Blues Club, celebrated his 74th Birthday at the club on Saturday, January 10th 2015. It was a good crowd including family, good friends and regular attendees of the club with good food and of course the drinks were flowing. We had a great time. Congratulations Julius. Still looking good!!!

Photos by Jerry Lavigne
Planning your 2015 Garden

By Calla Victoria

Along with all of your other New Year’s resolutions, you should resolve to have an amazing garden in 2015. Winter is the best time to survey the bones of your garden, with many of the leaves gone you can really see all of your garden.

If you have been gardening for a couple of years now you should know which parts of your garden have the driest soil, which plants are thirsty, which ones are drought tolerant, etc. Use that knowledge and plan your garden accordingly. In areas of your garden where the ground stays very dry plant your cacti, roses, Wandering Jews, and other plant material that do not require much water. As opposed to irrigating those dry places, let the dry spaces stay dry, save on your water bill, and put drought tolerant plants in dry places. If you have a pond or low-lying areas in your garden where water collects place your bog pond or low-lying areas in your garden and will keep your garden looking great when the perennials have all died back/without you having to water them every day. A few points to consider:

- Have a plan for your garden design drawn out on paper-Layout your gardening plans on paper including pathways, and plant selections and locations.
- Prepare the soil and beds-Turn the soil, aerate the soil, and amend the soil with organic matter and compost.
- Plant selection-Do some online research on plants you wish to add to your landscape. Make sure the desired location where you want to place the plant offers exactly what that plant needs. If the plant requires full sun then make sure you are placing that plant in a full sun area of your garden. Also pay attention to the plant height and spread so that you are spacing properly and you are not placing the plant in an area where you will constantly have to trim it because it is too tall or wide for the space.
- Curb appeal-Along with your back yard, do not forget about the front of your home. The curb appeal is what people see as they approach your home from the street. It should look inviting and be complimentary to the front of your home.
- Year round beautiful garden-Include some evergreen shrubs to anchor your garden and will keep your garden looking great when the perennials have all died back.
- Statuary-Garden statues add additional charm and texture to your garden but do be careful not overdo it. In this case less is best.
- Family friendly areas-If you have small kids it is important to include some kid-friendly areas with open spaces, lawn, sandbox, etc.
- Containers for constraint-Select containers that complement your home décor and use them to expand your planting area to control those aggressive plants that we love like mint and bamboo.
- Cutting grass at 3 inches height-If you do have lawn have your yard guy keep his mower at the 3 inch level when mowing. At the three-inch height the blades of grass are long enough to photosynthesize which will allow your lawn to stay lush and green.
- Weekly maintenance-Set up a schedule of maintenance for your garden. Pull weeds on a specific day weekly, treat your garden with organic pesticides on a weekly basis.
- Vertical accents-Add interest and additional growing space by including vertical elements in your garden in the way of trellises, vertical planters, and climbing vines.
- Privacy-Create your own little garden paradise by screening out your neighbors. Jamie Durie, garden designer extraordinaire, says that you should be able to walk naked in your garden.
- Lighting-Illuminate your horticultural treasures so that even when the sun goes down your garden looks fabulous! Solar outdoor lighting is the most economical way to go.

Check out my “Gardening Tip of the Week” at www.thegardeningdiva.com. Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!
The Education of Dr. King

Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

As he labored for social, civil and economic justice, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was extremely concerned both about the educational inequities that were a function of segregation, and about the purpose and quality of education. As early as 1947, as a Morehouse College student, he wrote an article, “The purpose of education,” for the Macon Telegraph. butterfield

King was critical of the results of specific aspects of education when he wrote, “education must also train one for quick, resolute and effective thinking. To think, incisively and to think for one’s self is very difficult. We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half-truths, prejudices, and propaganda. A great majority of the so-called educated people does not think logically and scientifically. Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit in many instances do not give us objective and unbiased truths.”

True in 1947, but even more so today with 3-minute commentary passing for news, and some classroom sites of propaganda delivered. Some Southerners still believe that the South won the Civil War, and they fly the confederate flags to honor it, and teach this falsity in their classrooms. A friend who lives in Georgia said nearly half of her junior high school-age daughter’s U.S. history curriculum covered aspects of the Civil War.

From that perspective, young King was quite critical of segregationist, their intelligence, ad their prejudice. “The late Eugene Tal- madge, in my opinion, possessed one of the better minds in Georgia, or even America. Moreover, he wore the Phi Beta Kappa key. By all measuring rods, Mr. Talmadge could think critically and intensively yet he contends that I am an inferior being. Are these the types of men we call educated?”

King said that intelligence is not enough. He said, “Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education.”

We must develop and support young people who are educated in the King tradition – young people with character and discernment. We cannot do this work without a consciousness of people who are committed to breaking down educational barriers, closing the achievement gap, improving the quality of schools and access to education. But while other countries are increasing their commitment to education, the United States is cutting back.

Said King, “The most dangerous criminal may be the man (person) gifted with reason, but no morals.” How moral is it to consign millions to low wages, refusing, even, to increase the minimum wage. How moral is it to cut food stamps and jobs programs in the name of economic growth, although many are still suffering? The art and science of politics is about compromise, but how do we compromise with people’s lives and well-being?

There ought to be a floor under which no citizen is allowed to fall. Wages, health care, education, and access to housing should not be bargained over, but automatically given. Too many of our legislators are educated, but lack morals. It is shameful to watch them celebrate the shredding of the safety net.

Budget cuts have made education less obtainable than ever. While many parents hire coaches to help their children write essays and complete their college applications, working class parents don’t have the money to do this kind of hiring.

The American School Counselors Association recently announced that Black America is in a state of emergency today as it was at the turn of the century!”

The uphill climb, Black lives do matter. All lives matter. Although there has been progress in the United States during the past 50 years towards racial justice, racial injustice and inequality still persist.

As Congressman Butterfield noted when he was sworn in:

• Twenty-five percent of Black households live below the poverty line, compared to 8 percent for White households;

• One out of three Black children lives in poverty;

• African Americans are twice as likely as Whites to be unemployed;

• African Americans earn $13,000 less per year than their White counterparts;

• The unemployment rate of African Americans has consistently been twice as high as for Whites for past 50 years;

• For every $100 in wealth of a White household, the Black household has only $8.

Congressman Butterfield and his colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus cannot change America by themselves. They need and deserve our support. They need our voices and votes to join theirs. We need one another.

America is at another crossroad. Will we revile the U.S. economy and create a more inclusive democracy where race will not be the determining factor that determines the quality of life? We all have an obligation to help determine the answer to that question. May our leadership be blessed with the courage and determination to make a real and lasting difference. And let’s make sure we join them in striving for that goal.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dcbchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: http://dcbchavisjr.wix.com/dcbj
Food Can Burn Calories

by Valecia Weeks

NNPA Newswire - What is that hideous word “DIET”? Well, it’s simply food and drink regularly consumed or as the kind and amount of food prescribed for a person or animal for a special reason; whereas, we divas define the word “DIET” as torturing ourselves and starvation. We’ve been taught that if we just eat our little celery sticks and dry toast, those pounds will just melt away. Well, celery sticks and dry toast, those themselves and starvation. We’ve been a person or animal for a special amount of food prescribed for consumed or as the kind and hideous word “DIET”? Well, it’s almonds may shrink abdominal yogurt. Studies have shown that for example, for breakfast, a good foods.

GET OFF THE DIETS…EAT WITH MORE GROWN THAN PROCESSED SCALE EVERY 5 MINUTES. SO, LADIES, HANG ONTO THOSE EXTRA POUNDS, WILL JUST THINK IT IS STARVING AND UPHILL! THE FACT IS THAT YOUR BODY WILL ACTUALLY HELP YOU loose weight. THE ONLY THING IS THAT I LOADED MINE WITH SUGAR, STIRRED IT INTO THE GRAPEFRUIT, AND ATE A LITTLE GRAPEFRUIT WITH MY SUGAR. WELL, LADIES, CUT THE SUGAR AND EAT HALF A GRAPEFRUIT BEFORE EACH MEAL; AND SHED MORE POUNDS THAN THOSE WHO SKIP THE TART APPETIZER, AND EAT HALF A GRAPEFRUIT before each meal; and shed more pounds than those who skip the tart appetizer. We’re also making sure we have adequate burial teams.

“In a sense, things have improved. The epidemic’s numbers have gone down in Liberia. But cases are increasing slightly in Guinea and markedly in Sierra Leone. We found a new surge in western Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone has surpassed Liberia in terms of numbers. Part of it is that they’re lacking what they need, but people in remote western areas didn’t recognize it had cases. People were hiding cases, rejecting the idea that people had Ebola. We’re working to clean this hot spot.”

The international organization Doctors without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières, the international organization calling for a robust international response to the Ebola crisis. (Courtesy photo)

People are still dying horrible deaths in an outbreak that has already killed thousands,” said Dr. Joanne Liu, president of Doctors without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières, the international organization calling for a robust international response to the Ebola crisis. (Courtesy photo)

by Barrington M. Salmon

Ebola may have fallen off America’s radar, but the virus continues to devastate communities in three affected West African countries. Since March, according to World Health Organization officials, key numbers are going down in some areas, but the epidemic continues to rage in western sections of Sierra Leone, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon led a delegation to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Mali, all countries affected by the hemorrhagic fever. Others on the mission include WHO Secretary-General Dr. Margaret Chan; Dr. David Nabarro, the UN’s Ebola coordinator; and Anthony Banbury, who runs the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, UNMEER.

The Ebola epidemic, which erupted in Guinea in December 2013, has killed more than 7,500 and affected more than 18,000 people in total, WHO officials said.

“The key numbers are going down in some areas. We’re making progress by dealing with the epidemic district-by-district and section-by-section,” said WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein. “Areas have been divided and segmented, and we have dozens of outbreaks being handled by separate teams. We’re also making sure we have adequate burial teams.

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The transitory nature of the epidemic has made it hard to contain, with hot spots flaring up and moving rapidly to different regions of the affected countries. The number of Ebola cases has been stabilizing in Liberia and Guinea but is overwhelming parts of Sierra Leone. Last week, President Ernest Bai Koroma launched what U.N. officials described as “an intensified surge operation” in Freetown, the capital, and areas in the west of the country.

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52 wks./year; 40 hrs./wk. - $13.50 hourly with HS/GED/ $14.50 hourly with AA.

Bilingual (English/Spanish) preferred.

Applications and copies of job descriptions may be obtained by emailing: jobs@orleansphhs.org Applications should be submitted to P.O. Box 8249 New Orleans, LA 70182 by the closing date of January 20, 2015 or until position is filled.

CDI HS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Tax season may just be getting started, but tax scammers have been hard at work. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has gotten thousands of complaints about one kind of scammer in particular — IRS imposters.

Here’s how they work: scammers posing as IRS officials call and say you owe taxes. They threaten to arrest or deport you, revoke your license, or even shut down your business if you don’t pay right away. They may know your Social Security number — or at least the last four digits of it — making you think it really is the IRS calling. They also can rig caller ID to make it look like the call is coming from Washington, DC.

Before you can check out the callers, you’re told to put the money on a prepaid debit card and tell them the number — something no government agency would ask you to do. Once you do it, you find out it was a scam, and the money is gone.

If you owe — or think you owe — federal taxes, call the IRS at 800-829-1040 or go to irs.gov. IRS workers can help you with your payment questions. The IRS doesn’t ask people to pay with prepaid debit cards or wire transfers, and doesn’t ask for credit card numbers over the phone. When the IRS contacts people about unpaid taxes, they usually do it by mail, not by phone.

Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialist Unit at 1-800-908-4490. Learn more at ftc.gov/taxidtheft.

In honor of the Martin Luther King Holiday

I celebrate Our Progress

HON. DALE N. ATKINS
Clerk, Civil District Court

“...and so we shall have to do more than register and more than vote: we shall have to create leaders who embody virtues we can respect, who have moral and ethical principles we can applaud with enthusiasm.” —Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cover Story, Continued on next page.
Elected Black Republicans Not Expected to be a Plus for the Community

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Black Republicans made history during the midterm elections in November by winning in Texas, South Carolina and Texas, but political analysts wonder if the victories will have any long-term impact on the future of the GOP in the Black community.

Traditionally, Black candidates running for elected offices not only need a large Black turnout, but also a majority of the Black vote to win statewide and national races.

Senator Tim Scott made history by becoming the first Black Republican elected to serve in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate. He won with just 10 percent of the Black vote and 82 percent of the White vote, according to exit polls.

Representative-elect Will Hurd, who beat his Democratic challenger Pete Gallego in Texas by a narrow 2.1 percent margin in a predominately Hispanic congressional district (House District 23) to become the first Black Republican from Texas elected to the United States Congress since Reconstruction.

When the next congressional term begins, Mia Love, a Black Mormon and daughter of Haitian immigrants, will represent Utah’s 4th House district in a state where Blacks account for just 1.3 percent of the total population.

Lorenzo Morris, a political science professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C., said that the Black community shouldn’t expect much from the Black Republicans during the next legislative session, because they won largely without Black voters. In addition, he said, their rank as freshmen lawmakers will limit their influence within the party.

“Their collective impact, if they are really outspoken, will just be on the plus side of zero, barely zero,” said Morris. “The obvious impact for Republicans is positive only to the extent that it shows visually, if not substantively, an outreach to minorities.”

Scott earned an “F” on the NAACP’s legislative report card during the first session of the 113th Congress from January 2013 – December 26, 2013.

ThinkProgress.org reported that Scott proposed a bill in 2011 to block families from receiving food stamp benefits if one of the adults in the home joined a strike, and as a state legislator Scott supported cuts to South Carolina’s HIV/AIDS budget.

In a 2012 speech, Love accused President Barack Obama of “pitting us against each other based on our income level, gender, and social status” and said that, “His policies have failed.” Love has also pledged to take the Congressional Black Caucus “apart from the inside out.”

If they continue to express views counter to those held by the Black electorate that overwhelmingly supported President Obama with more than 90 percent of their votes in back-to-back elections, Morris said, that their presence could actually hurt that visual image of minority outreach, because it will further distance the GOP from the politics that are overwhelmingly characteristic of Black voters.

Raynard Jackson, a Republican strategist and the president and CEO of Raynard Jackson & Associates, called Love, “the embodiment of the American Dream” and said that her journey as a first generation Haitian immigrant to become the first Black Republican female ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives is amazing.

“It doesn’t matter what her policies are or what her party affiliation is, if Love’s story doesn’t inspire you, then there is something wrong with you as an American citizen,” said Jackson.

Former congressman Allen West (R-Fla.) said that the Republican Party has to remind Black voters that the conservative principles and values of the GOP are quite consistent with the history of the Black community.

“When you go back and read Booker T. Washington’s writings at the turn of the century, his remedy for the Black community under the stress and strain of segregation and Jim Crow laws were three points: education, entrepreneurship and self-reliance,” said West. “When you look at each one of those individuals Senator Tim Scott, Representative-elect Mia Love and Will Hurd, that’s what they represent, and those are the three things we must have conversations about in the Black community.”

West compared the overwhelming loyalty that Black voters have for the Democratic Party to an investor that puts all of his eggs in one basket. Just like an investor shouldn’t put all of his money in one fund or one venture, West said, Black voters should also diversify their political capital.

“The people in these majority-minority districts are going to have to look up and say, ‘Why are we still in this situation? Why do we continue to elect the same person and nothing is getting any better?’” said West.

Morris said that if a Black Republican wanted to sway Black voters in any significant way, the candidate would have to talk about social policies and programs in ways that are open and address issues such as income inequality similar to the way a moderate Democrat would. In short: the candidate would have to be a liberal Republican.

“It would take a miracle for a Black Republican to win a majority Black district,” said Morris.

Still Raynard Jackson said that the additions of Scott, Hurd and Love will help the party, if they are properly utilized.

Jackson used a basketball analogy to describe how the Republican Party can continue to win with candidates like Tim Scott, Mia Love and Will Hurd.

“You have to understand the strengths and the weaknesses of each player and you have to know when to put them in the game and when to sit them down,” said Jackson. “You have to understand when to bring in a Tim Scott, a Mia Love, a Will Hurd in to speak. You can’t send them everywhere. You have to understand what their message is to best utilize them. That’s what has to be done.”

Jackson added: “Just because they’re Black, doesn’t mean you throw them out there to a Black audience.”

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