

The BLACK C o M M e n t a t o r

An independent weekly internet magazine
dedicated to the movement for economic justice,
social justice and peace - Providing commentary,
analysis and investigations on issues affecting
African Americans and the African world.

www.BlackCommentator.com

January 15, 2009 - Issue 307

[Contents of Issue Menu](#)

[Click Here](#)

[Home](#)

The Best of Times, Yet the Worst of Times **By The Reverend D. D. Prather** **BlackCommentator.com Guest Commentator**

Click on the back button of your browser to return to non printer friendly page of this article

[Click here](#) to get helpful hints for viewing and printing this printer friendly plain text page

As we stand at the apex of a new day in American History, perhaps in a description of extremes, Charles Dickens captured it best when he wrote "it is the best of times yet it is the worst of times." As the world looks on with intent excitement and anticipation, we will witness a president-elect that rose from the lower ranks of society to the highest position in our land, almost overnight, inheriting a union in a state of disrepair. President-elect Obama has a Herculean task before him in placing our country back on course. It is "the best of times, yet the worst of times."

While he stands taking the presidential oath of office, countless issues across the nation will be given a renewed sense of hope and promise. The astounding citizens that are affected by homelessness have a sense that we will now be fed. Those who have traversed the globe in the name of democracy and freedom can now declare that there will be peace. I am convinced that the helpless will now have a sense of help, the hopeless will have a since of hope and the lost will now have a new sense of direction under an administration and election season of promise.

It is my hope and prayer however, that a new-found sense of hope does not translate into a sense of naivety. The reality is that after inauguration Tuesday there will be January 21st and thereafter. Following the pomp and circumstance and after all the lights have dimmed there remains the reality of the day after. The amazing thing about

it all is that if the Obama administration is going to be successful he is going to need the help of both his supporters and non-supporters alike, to continue to perpetuate the momentum of change.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to rage under clearly false pretense; tension in the Middle East and internationally continues to be volatile; the socio-economic gap continues to widen throughout the country; race relations remain an evident part of the fabric of America. As I will rejoice watching a man that looks like me take the oath of office, I will likewise weep, thinking of a man that also looked like me who was shoot in cold blood in the Bay Area of California by trigger happy police. In short, our domestic and international issues are a laundry list of that which is broken and in need of fixing. In all the excitement, it is the "best of times, yet the worst of times."

It is wonderous that President-Elect Obama will stand, using the bible Lincoln used for the same purpose. In closing, I am reminded of the poem written by James Weldon Johnson for the celebration of the 100th birthday of Lincoln that would later become the Negro National Anthem:

***"Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea,
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won."***

[Click [here](#) for a link to Lift Every Voice, part of Dave Pearson's 2002 NPR series, Present at the Creation. The site has links to four distinct performances.]

[Click here to comment on any article
in this issue or see what others are saying in the
The BlackCommentator Readers' Corner Blog](#)


BlackCommentator.com Guest Commentator, The Reverend D. D. Prather, is a noted Civil/Social Justice Activist, and a native of Atlanta, GA. Click [here](#) to contact the Reverend Prather.

[Contents of Issue Menu](#)

Click Here

[Home](#)

Click Here To

CONTRIBUTE TO  NOW

Click Here To

CONTACT 

Your comments are always welcome.

e-Mail re-print notice

If you send us an e-Mail message we may publish all or part of it, unless you tell us it is not for publication. You may also request that we withhold your name.

Thank you very much for your readership.

Website Design and Hosting provided by



Copyright © 2002 - 2008
www.BlackCommentator.com
All Rights Reserved