

4-16-1986

Ethnic Relations

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2015)

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Recommended Citation

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2015), "Ethnic Relations" (2015). The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum: Education, African Americans Repairs Education, African Amer. Racial Inequities (1986). 1985 - 1989. Series 11, Box 149, Folder 9166. Paper 258.
http://digitalscholarship.tsu.edu/mla_satm_85/258

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7 April 1986

AIPAC 27th Annual Policy Conference Luncheon
AIPAC LUNCHEON SPEECH -- COALITION BUILDING
(have cassette tape)

111.

"We can't be responsible for Mr Farrakhan, no more than you can be responsible for Rabbi Kahan.

"Some of us have raised our voices in opposition to Mr Farrakhan, including myself right here in Washington."

later.

"Before that many Black people believed the Jews in Israel were racist. They only cared about other Jews in Russia.

"But now, they have nothing to say because the people of Ethiopia are even Blacker than ourselves."

PRESS CLIPS

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Post
Houston, Texas

APR 12 1986

And blacks reply, 'some of my best friends are Jewish'

Texas quote of the week: "I might be a bit presumptuous, but I don't think there is anyone in this room who loves Israel any more than I do."

— Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Houston, speaking to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's 27th Annual Policy Conference

□ **Speaking frankly** ... At the predominantly Jewish gathering, Leland — who each year raises money to send several Houston minority high school students to Israel where they live in kibbutzim — was warmly welcomed by the audience.

The black Houston congressman, who has close ties with Jewish organizations, got a rousing standing ovation when he finished his remarks, despite the fact that they included some zingers. Among them:

□ "We black people have to get even: I must say that some of my best friends are Jewish."

□ "We (black leaders) can't be responsible for Minister Farrakhan any more than you can be responsible for Rabbi Ka-

hane."

□ **Personal delivery** ... Just in case there is a runoff? Vice President George Bush not only will cast his ballot in the Texas primary in person May 3, but his current calendar also has a Houston stop penciled in for June 7, the date a runoff would be scheduled.

□ **Return engagement** ... Houstonian David Bates is back in the Reagan administration again, returning this time to become a deputy to the chief of staff for Bush. Bates left his job as deputy U.S. treasurer to work in the Washington office of the Houston law firm of Reynolds, Allen and Cook. Before serving in the Treasury Department, he had been a personal aide to Bush.

□ **Triple header** ... So much for the theory that the cheap oil crisis is diminishing the importance of Texas — and Houston in particular — on the national scene. Last Sunday morning, three Houstonians were guests on the talk show circuit: Gov. Mark White was on NBC's *Meet*



the Press (on the oil crisis), superlawyer Joe Jamail was on ABC's *This Week With David Brinkley* (on the liability insurance issue) and Treasury Secretary James Baker was on *John McLaughlin: One on One*.

□ **Hard times I** ... The American Petroleum Institute, a key lobbying arm of the oil industry, recently laid off 35 of its 575-member Washington staff to deal with the austerity efforts brought on by the drop in oil prices. API employees who remain have no pay raises in sight: Like a number of its client companies, the institute has announced a salary freeze.

Also laying off some employees recently was the Independent Petroleum Associa-

tion.

□ **Hard times II** ... Recently Vice President Bush sent Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, a note that he obviously had typed himself. In response, Gramm replied, in part, "Dear George, before Gramm-Rudman, the vice president used to have a secretary."

□ **Hard times III** ... Asked recently if the threat of the Lyndon LaRouche candidates will drain the Democratic Party's financial resources, a realistic Jim Wright replied, "They are going to be drained as they are every election year. They stay drained, and it isn't because of LaRouche."

□ **A tri-state candidate** ... House Majority Leader Jim Wright, D-Fort Worth, recently had some words about Vice President Bush: "I understand he only has two competitors (for the GOP nomination): George Bush of Connecticut and George Bush of Maine."

□ **A touch of honesty** ... Wright was

asked about the possible challenges for the House speakership by Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., and Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Well, Wright replied, either one would make a good speaker. "But, you know," he added, "I'd kind of like to be speaker."

□ **A touch of class?** ... Nary a presidential press conference goes by these days without the subject of attire — not the president's, but reporters'. Ever since women reporters started wearing red — Nancy Reagan's favorite color and one that tends to catch Reagan's eye — the president has commented on the Ladies in Red.

Thus his "How can you write with those mittens on?" comment last Wednesday night to a reporter on the front row. In a variation on the red dress technique, Johanna Neuman, the USA Today White House correspondent, had taken to wearing red gloves. It worked.

Compiled by The Post's
Washington Bureau