

Correspondence

Buchanan Post-Mortem

How can you equate "America First" with protectionism ("Buchanan Post-Mortem," *CPR*, Spring 1992)? Pat Buchanan's statement that there are more important things than economics does not imply he is anti-free trade. It means he is not a Libertarian. Since when are Republicans ideological libertarians anyway? I am in no way connected with Buchanan's campaign. I am merely a sympathizer and former "Crossfire" fan.

Kirk Ireland
San Francisco

Apparently President Bush and Governor Wilson are not the only Republicans abandoning the Reagan legacy. Even so-called conservatives have forgotten the lessons of the '80s. For Mr. Buchanan to represent "America First" as conservative can only mean that conservatives are moving to the left. Could this be his version of Republican *moderation* (just as higher taxes and increased spending have become acceptable to Bush, Wilson, *et al.*)?

Protectionism is nothing but government interference in the marketplace no matter its goal. Basic Economics tells us that "fair trade" is an agreement between two parties for the mutual benefit of both. If indeed we are being treated unfairly by the Japanese or any other nation then we as consumers can make the decision not to trade. Would Mr. Buchanan (and his followers) have government deciding what is fair for me? This is not conservatism.

According to a Treasury Department study (cited in *American Economic Review* 72, No. 3) trade barriers (America First?) routinely cost American consumers 8 to 10 times as much as they benefit American producers. If Mr. Buchanan's goal is to benefit producers, then he can do so by putting his energies into getting government the hell out of the way. If his goal is to benefit the American consumer, then he should be dropping his bad idea.

Perhaps conservatives supporting this leftist idea should reconsider their position and think *Freedom First*.

Thank you for keeping the forum for true conservatism open and I look forward to each issue of *California Political Review*.

Gene Rusco
San Jose

Your commentary provided an insightful assessment of the reasons why both George Bush and Pat Buchanan have failed to inspire. You are correct in observing that George Bush's "ratings plummet because people believe he stands for nothing (except re-election)."

Buchanan was masterful in his ability to take a piece out of George Bush's hide. No one has been able to make Bush feel the heat for repudiating his "no new taxes" pledge like Buchanan. But, as you recognize, Buchanan chose to embrace protectionism, sending an inconsistent message that undermined his appeal. Gephardt and other Democrats who reject free trade have been unable to convert protectionism into political capital; Buchanan's efforts to do so were even more costly, because they were unprincipled — and made Bush look less unattractive than Buchanan's upstart candidacy, even after Bush's embarrassing visit to Japan with Lee Iacocca.

As president, Reagan may not have delivered as effectively as he spoke, but he at least was able to use the rhetoric of liberty to motivate the electorate. Given his effectiveness as a stump speaker and Bush's political disarray, Buchanan was positioned to galvanize many voters. Instead, his campaign bogged down when he chose the populist route rather than articulating a consistent vision of liberty.

Your post-mortem was timely and refreshing. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me Marrou in '92!

Manuel S. Klausner
Los Angeles

Any journal denigrating the estimable Patrick J. Buchanan is not welcome in my home.

James F. Brady
Bonita

We didn't denigrate Mr. Buchanan, we disagreed with him. But we agree with Mr. Brady to this extent: anyplace thoughtful disagreement between honorable men is unwelcome is no place for CPR.
Editor

An English Professor Who Can Write

This is to tell you how much I enjoyed your Spring 1992 issue, especially "Down Home in California." Not many English

professors write as well as Mr. Tennyson; and his subject in this piece was fun for me because I've driven that road many times over the years and recognized the shops and eating places he mentions. I hope he'll be contributing again soon.

Jack Edwards
Los Angeles

Ultimate Blurring

I generally enjoy *CPR* but it was something of a jar to find Dennis Prager's jour-

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California Political Review

A publication of the California Public Policy Foundation

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California Political Review, published quarterly by the California Public Policy Foundation, 4520 Van Nuys Blvd., Ste. 662, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Signed articles express their authors' opinions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or the California Public Policy Foundation. Unsigned editorials express the editors' opinions and not necessarily the views of the California Public Policy Foundation. Rates: \$20 yearly (four issues); students: \$10 yearly. *California Political Review* is copyrighted by the California Public Policy Foundation. Send address changes, manuscripts, and Correspondence to: Editor, *California Political Review*, 4520 Van Nuys Blvd., Ste. 662, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Unsolicited manuscripts should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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CALIFORNIA CHRONICLES

Anne McFadden, editor



South Africa Education Fund, Inc.

Lessons for LA

SAEF is sponsoring a series of visits to major American cities by Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, founder and president of South Africa's Inkatha Freedom Party. Buthelezi spoke June 6 to a group of young people at the Hollenbeck Center in East Los Angeles. Chief of the Zulus, Buthelezi is chief minister of KwaZulu, an area comprising what now remains of the once vast dominion of the Zulu nation. He is a veteran of more than four decades of fighting apartheid. The Inkatha Party is the largest membership-based black liberation movement in South Africa's history. It is dedicated to establishing democracy and peace in that country.

Hollenbeck is a youth center founded by a coalition of local businesses and police at the L.A.P.D.'s Hollenbeck division (headquartered adjacent to the Center).

Titling his speech "Bridging the Grand Canyon," Buthelezi addressed many of his country's problems, including its vicious political violence, and how they especially affect young people. He drew parallels with the recent rioting in Los Angeles. He said the young South Africans who've been deprived by the fighting of opportunities to

learn and grow normally are a "lost generation" in his country, a fate he said young people share anywhere that educational and economic opportunities are limited. We each have the power to choose right or wrong, he said, to build or to destroy — a power no situation or degradation can take from us.

He spoke tellingly about the effects of the sanctions upon the people they were supposed to assist. "The economy which fed whites also fed blacks. The sanctions which made rich whites a little poorer, also made blacks a lot poorer. We blacks knew we were going to inherit South Africa, and we who lived here knew more than the sanctioners abroad that we would need a sound economy to support our fragile democracy." Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York City, and some states, including California, still impose anti-South African sanctions, though federal sanctions have been removed.

Buthelezi said that "the lesson to learn is that destroying the property of another reduces the resources available to yourself." He said his Inkatha Freedom Party "knew that democracy was possible only with capitalism and that capitalism was possible only with democracy. But it was opposed by socialists who wanted to put the economy in the hands of the state socialists who

thought of the liberation of blacks only in terms of the dictatorship of the proletariat, [who] hoped to damage the market economy and to imperil capitalism so that socialism would succeed apartheid. Thus the lost generation in South Africa has the double disadvantage of being both lost themselves and being led by losers. But of course, socialism is a loser's philosophy and is certainly a lost cause." Buthelezi's next speech should be at Stanford.

He was well received, although the crowd was sparse and the dearth of media coverage evident. Surely his perspicacious words deserved a wider audience. Contact: T. L. "Thom" Holmes, director, South Africa Education Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 19340, Los Angeles, CA 90019-0340; 202/429-6566.

Criminal Justice Legal Foundation

Equal Justice for All?

CJLF was on the winning side in the recently-decided *Georgia v. McCollum* case, in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that criminal defendants may not seek to exclude potential jurors on racial grounds. The case is particularly interesting in the wake of the controversy over jury selection in the Rodney King case. CJLF joined the prosecutors in arguing that the precedent established in 1991's *Powers v. Ohio*,