

Candidate list a lot of 'mumbo jumbo'

Q— Oh, Rev. Buncumbe, before we begin this press conference, would you explain what all these men in white suits are doing sticking these big paper buckets under our noses?

A— Why, they're some of my "Mumbo Jumbo Morality" messengers, selling salvation, er, I mean, asking you for offerings so that we may continue our holy work. Surely liberals like yourselves who are condemned to eternal damnation could use a little salvation. Just make your checks payable to "Mumbo Jumbo Morality, Inc."

michael kilian

Q— Inc.?

A— Like many in the True Faith, we are a corporation. I'm the reverend chairman and chief executive officer. My brother, Eucre, here is . . .

Q— Rev. Buncumbe, will you please get these guys with buckets out of here? This is a press conference! We are political reporters! You're raising this money for the campaign!

A— Well, if you don't want to give to the campaign, holy crusade that is, just make your checks out to the Reverend Buncumbe Devotional Center and Squash Courts.

Q— Reverend, you called this press conference to make an important political announcement. What is it?

A— As part of our never-ending strug-

gle against the sin and evil that is eating away at the roots of our sacred republic, I come unto you today to announce "Mumbo Jumbo Morality's" list of approved candidates. While my messengers pass out copies of the list to you, our "Mumbo Jumbo Morality" Melodiers will hum a hymn and I shall pray for the souls of those who were not approved, knowing they are condemned to hellfire forever.

Q— Reverend, they've got those buckets out again!

A— Put the buckets away, boys. Rest up your finger muscles for tonight's big revival meeting. Hallelujah!

Q— Un, Rev. Buncumbe, I note you have not only Ronald Reagan but also John Anderson on your approved list. Isn't that a mistake?

A— No. Both are fine Christians right-wing men who believe in a fine Christian right-wing country. Brother Anderson even introduced a constitutional amendment to have this declared a Christian country.

Q— But, Reverend, Anderson is a liberal now. He's repudiated that amendment. He said he made a mistake. In fact, he's said it's wrong for you people to be involved in politics.

A— Well, then. We must strike non-Brother Anderson from our approved list and pray for his accursed soul.

Q— I note that President Carter is not on your approved list. Reverend, but his brother, Billy, is. What's that all about? Billy's not even a candidate.

A— No, but, Hallelujah, he ought to be.

We like his keen grasp of foreign affairs, such as when he said "there's more Arabs than there is Jews."

Q— Which reminds me, Reverend, at least one fundamentalist minister of your political persuasion has said that God doesn't answer the prayers of Jews. Doesn't that smack a little of anti-semitism?

A— I resent that charge! We think as much of Jews as we do of Catholics, black people, Orientals, gypsies, Indians, atheists, foreigners, liberals, college graduates, women and ballet dancers. And we pray for their souls.

Q— Reverend, I note here that you have failed to approve all congressmen who voted for the Department of Education because you consider that vote a moral sin. Can that be true?

A— As sure as Satan. It's the public schools that are poisoning the minds of our children with dangerous theories like evolution and heretical books that don't contain a word of the gospel.

Q— Reverend, just what are you guys after?

A— All we seek is to restore traditional American values . . . home, family, flag, ignorance, VFW clubs, big cars, ethnic purity and slavish devotion to evangelical

ministers. Also we'd like to see a much healthier climate for big business.

Q— Why are you interested in helping big business?

A— Are you kidding? I'm taking in a million a week. Hallelujah!

Q— You brought up ballet dancers a moment ago, Reverend. Does this have something to do with your group's intense fascination with homosexuals?

A— What are you getting at, sinner?

Q— Did you know, Reverend, that there are a lot of ballet dancers who aren't homosexuals? Ronald Reagan's son, for example. Did you know he is a ballet dancer?

A— You blaspheme! But if it's true, we shall strike Brother Reagan from our approved list, and pray for his soul.

Q— But won't that leave "Mumbo Jumbo Morality" without a presidential candidate this year?

A— This year, maybe. But not in 1984. Most of these campaign funds we've been raising for our holy mission are actually for a brand new candidate.

Q— Who?

A— Me. I'm tired of having to deal with middle men. All right, boys. Break out the buckets again.

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letters to the editor

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To continue, Mr. Essex, through some haphazard manner of reasoning, has concluded that those of us who oppose ERA, gay rights and abortion are, "latter-day versions of those who opposed desegregation, or at an extreme, the abolition of slavery."

In any case I don't think opposition to the ERA or gay rights inherently denotes racism in a person and it is particularly irresponsible to pin the label of racist on the anti-abortion factions in this country when in fact I suspect the inverse is generally true.

In closing, Essex suggests that any church that crosses some sort of mystical line between religion and politics, "be

stripped . . . of its official recognition as a church." As a Catholic I find this suggestion laughable on two counts.

First, I have never felt recognition by the United States government to be essential to the continuation of Catholicism and second, while Essex and others have called for a re-examination of the tax-exempt status of various churches, I wonder if they have ever considered the tremendous tax burdens they would have to shoulder due to mass closings of parochial schools that could follow hard on the heels of the removal of such exemptions.

Jeremiah M. Murphy
Junior
Political Science

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