

# Middle-class blacks Young's target

WASHINGTON—In one single week just before he was shot out of the saddle as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Andy Young addressed the national conventions of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, the Progressive Baptist Association and the National (black) Bar Association.

The week before that, he was guest speaker for the black dental association.

These contracts, which he has been making for most of his tenure as a national public figure, have left Andy Young convinced of one thing:

**william raspberry**

"There is a base of black middle-class people who are not presently in political-activist role; but they are ready to move."

The black reaction to his ouster as U.N. ambassador has convinced Young of something else: that he is the man to lead that political resurgence.

It is a conclusion he reaches without arrogance. He takes it as a simple matter of fact, that he is the first person since the death of his idol Martin Luther King Jr. with the sophistication and experience and the broad-gauge appeal to be credible as a national black spokesman.

INDEED, THE only problem in his mind is how to create the appropriate vehicle. He, his closest staffers and



some trusted friends have been brainstorming that question for more than a week now.

"We decided we don't want to create an organization, because we don't want to be in competition with the existing organization," Young said in an interview last week.

"What we are looking for is some way of mobilizing ideas within the existing organization. All my life, I've operated on the basis of motivating other people to do things."

What Young really wants to do, if he can figure out precisely how to do it, is to capitalize on his four major assets: his new freedom to speak out on issues without fear of reprisal or political embarrassment; his wide-ranging support among black Americans; and the debt he is owed by President Carter, whose re-election he is pledged to support.

Those assets tie in perfectly, he believes, with what he describes as "a hunger among middle-class blacks to be involved in decision-making, in policy-making in this country."

"LOOK, THERE were 6,000 women at the Delta convention in New Orleans. There are 556 Alpha chapters. There are 4,000 black Shriners in New City. We're talking about people who are sophisticated and educated and who want to be involved, but who have not found the appropriate vehicle."

Whatever the final shape of the vehicle Andy Young will devise, at its center will be four of his closest associates, all of whom served with him in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, in the Congress and at the United Nations. They are Stoney Cooks, his administrative assistant since 1965; Tom Offenburger, public-affairs counsel; Connie Grice, a legislative specialist; and Kay Jackson, his secretary, who came to SCLC during the 1968 Poor People's Campaign.

"There's no question that Andy has one of the broadest platforms of anybody in a long time," Stoney Cooks observed in a separate interview. "What we need to do now is to make sure he can continue as an independent voice for a few years."

Is there a model for how that might be accomplished without involving Young in financial sacrifice?

"No direct model," Cooks acknowledges. "But think of this: Henry Kissinger is free to comment on world events without worrying about feeding his family."

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# Understanding . . .

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If you compare them, the men's magazines all deal with things and women's magazine all deal with feelings. These magazines are our cheerleaders. They shout encouragement when we leave Hopkinton, and they pass water to us over Heartbreak Hill in Newton.

I have another friend who swears that the Understanding Woman is getting exactly what she wants: a chance to be superior in sympathy, to be virtuously martyred. But I think that's too pat and too tough. I think she is struggling to do the right thing, even when it gives her a cramp in the side and shin splints.

There's a moment, and it's hard to locate it, when you can understand too much and ask for too little. Anyway, it occurs to me that the Understanding Woman has logged too many miles in other people's shoes.

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