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INLAND EMPIRE DAILY
CALIFORNIAN

An Independent Newspaper

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The policy of the Daily Californian is to report impartially the news of the day so our readers can intelligently follow the course of events that affect their lives. On this page the editors of the Daily Californian offer their comments and opinions, endeavoring to be fair and constructive in the pursuit of sound community development. A NEWSPAPER IS A CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY.

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Forum

Using the Lash

Editor:

I would like to congratulate Congressman Lionel Van Deerlin and the editor of the Daily Californian for their clever and stinging use of the "white backlash."

Who can condemn them for laying on the lash in the name of political honesty? And, of course, we whites can share their thinly masked relish in giving the lash that extra searing twist of white supremacy.

Their timing was perfect: In the November election the whites had told the blacks whose country this was and who had better keep in who's place.

Their victim was a natural: Adam Clayton Powell, though just a pilferer now, was smart in learning the white man's ways and would soon get in on the grand larceny, e.g., the payoff for the tax exemption for oil depletion, or the million dollar racket of pocketing campaign contributions (extortions) a la Senator Dodd or President Johnson's boy, Bobby Baker.

But sharp-eyed Congressman Van Deerlin, after getting his orders from the plantation masters, easily caught the little nigger-boy with watermelon all over his face. From there on it was almost as much fun as a lynching party.

It was a neat little whipping with almost a guarantee of impunity for the whippers. How can the editor of the Daily Californian get hurt? There aren't enough Negroes in La Mesa and El Cajon to even show up, as Malcolm X put it, like flies in the buttermilk.

Van Deerlin endeared himself to the whites and reckons that the Negroes have been too poorly educated to even know that it was he who was assigned to whip one of their uppity boys out of the Congress. Best of all, when men like Randolph and Wilkins and Rowan and King object to singling out Powell for Congressional unseating, these otherwise irreproachable Negroes can be splattered with Powell's sins.

Just a word of warning: Somebody better remind Van Deerlin to lay off as soon as Powell gets his whipping. It wouldn't do at all for Congressional investigations of honesty to cross over the color line.

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