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## Selling Out Blacks

In recent years many people have fallen into the trap of referring to black politicians and public figures as "black leaders," the not-so-subtle implication being that if a Thurgood Marshall attacks President Reagan's civil rights record or a Jesse Jackson bashes Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork, well, the black Americans back home can't help but think the same way. It's a racist implication, of course. Blacks are no more chained to the political agendas of the Jacksons and Marshalls than whites are to those of white politicians.

Mr. Reagan and his audience were unexpectedly and pleasantly reminded of that fact by a black Virginia minister following one of the president's recent speeches on behalf of Judge Bork. No sooner had the president finished speaking than the Rev. George J. Lucas Jr., pastor of Race Street Baptist Church in Farmville, rose to his feet in support of both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bork, both of whom have had to endure highly publicized criticism from the likes of Mr. Jackson.

"The Judge Bork nomination is indicative of the times we have, that we as Americans need to

get back to [spiritual] revival and the word of God," said Mr. Lucas to a surprised Mr. Reagan. "We need revival in this country so bad, so that when [there is] a nomination like Judge Bork . . . we can get behind it."

The minister also had some sharp words for "certain black leaders who are not really black leaders. Jesse Jackson is not a leader. He's not my leader — not when black leaders go into a communist country and put their arms around Fidel Castro and the rest of these rascals," referring to Mr. Jackson's trip to Cuba in 1984. In a subsequent interview, Mr. Lucas went on to say there "are many black people who have conservative values," for whom black officials do not speak when they "mouth a couple of platitudes that sell out the black community."

Mr. Lucas' remarks serve as a reminder that blacks are not mere puppets who twist and turn to suit the political whims of prominent black officials. That should come as no surprise or disappointment to anyone, except perhaps to those who have sought to foster that perception and to build careers around it as "black leaders."