

"Simple" Sam Ervin on Another Rampage

The entire nation, as well as citizens of North Carolina, were given another opportunity last week to witness first hand the designing but futile attempt of Democratic Senator "Simple" Sam J. Ervin, Jr., of North Carolina to defeat an administration-backed civil rights bill under consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee, which Ervin heads.

After being out maneuvered by President Johnson who, with masterful strategy turned to a Republican member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, and had him flown from England in a military transport plane, to furnish the margin needed to get the bill out of committee with a favorable vote, 8-7, "Simple" Sam has brazenly announced he intends to oppose the legislation backed by his party, when it comes up on the floor of the Senate.

Let there be no mistake about it there is one and only one reason Ervin is against the civil rights bill

and that is because it is intended to provide a greater share of democracy for Negroes in this country. Thus, the citizens of North Carolina, especially those in the Democratic Party, are treated to the spectacle of viewing a Democratic president forced to turn to a Republican to get favorable action in behalf of administration-backed bill.

We think "Simple" Sam's violent opposition, in the instance of the civil rights bill, backed by his own party, proves once again that he is totally unqualified as a member of the Democratic Party, if not as a United States Senator. It is, therefore, time for the intelligent voters of North Carolina to begin looking around for some person to fill the post now held by Ervin in a manner that will not be embarrassing to every loyal member of the Democratic Party if not to every intelligent citizen of North Carolina.

The Non-Discrimination Policy of NAACP

We endorse without reservations the emphasis placed on the "traditional non-discrimination policy" of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as expressed in the telegram which Gloucester B. Current, the Association's director of branches, dispatched to Blythe Andrews, Jr., editor of the Florida Sentinel Bulletin of Tampa, last week. For sure it will be a dark day for the Negro people of this country when any civil rights organization, whether the NAACP or some other, closes its doors in the faces of the thousands of white people, especially in the South, who have often endured a veritable hell from many of their own people to take up the cudgel in behalf of Negroes.

In taking our stand beside that of the NAACP we are not unmindful of the many prevalent reasons why Mr. Andrews might feel disposed to limit the membership of a branch of the

NAACP in Tampa to Negroes only. In spite of such, however, we are of the opinion that it would be a tragedy for Negroes in NAACP branches, in any section of the country to turn their backs on their many upstanding and courageous white members because of their race. Such a policy of discrimination is exactly what the NAACP has consistently opposed among whites since its founding in 1909, as expressed in its telegram to Mr. Andrews on October 25.

As brought out in the telegram the non-discriminatory policy of the NAACP opposes any "background" membership for whites and implies that its membership of them is absolutely the same as that for Negroes. We think that is the way it should be and the way it should remain. As far as this newspaper is concerned it is the only policy it can and will support in any civil rights organization.

A New Voice is Heard in the Nation

While many of the major and smaller newspapers of the nation, both North and South, are still wallowing in the muck and mire of racism it is refreshing to detect the sound of a new voice among them such as the Plain Dealer of Cleveland that has come out unalterably in support of a Negro candidate, Carl B. Stokes, for mayor of that city, not simply because he is a Negro, but because it considers him the best qualified candidate now running for the office.

Whether Stokes wins or loses the good people of Cleveland will have

the satisfaction of knowing that they have in their city a newspaper that has the courage of its conviction and will speak out for what it believes is right irrespective of race, creed or color. Because of such an outstanding example of journalistic courage and statesmanship the Plain Dealer has set we are publishing below the editorial in its entirety with the hope that it will give a modicum of comfort to those of our country who are desirous of seeing the time arrive when true democracy will obtain throughout the nation.

Stokes for Mayor

The Plain Dealer is endorsing Carl B. Stokes, Democrat, for mayor of Cleveland.

We are endorsing him because — He has the determination, imagination, desire and drive to find solutions to the many problems of this city.

A Negro and a Democrat, he has appealed in his campaign to Clevelanders as a whole and has made clear that if elected he would serve all his fellow Clevelanders fairly.

A NATIVE CLEVELANDER, Stokes shares, through a lifetime of personal experience, the city's problems because he has grown up with and lived with them at home and at work. He is a participant, not an outsider.

Stokes has ample experience in working directly for the public, as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, assistant police prosecutor, state liquor control agent and probation officer. He has made public service his career.

Voters in Cuyahoga County first showed their confidence in Stokes when he won election to the Ohio House from the county at large. Later, when the county was subdivided, he won election from a district.

He has been endorsed by Mayor Ralph S. Locher and by most of the rest of the city's leading Democrats. He is to be endorsed by the Democratic county organization this week.

IF STOKES BECOMES the first member of his race to be elected mayor of a great city, he will bear a deep responsibility. He cannot afford to fail and he knows it. To govern well he cannot favor any special group and he knows it.

These are our major reasons for hoping that on Nov. 7 the voters of this city will elect Carl B. Stokes mayor.

There are other reasons. We find Stokes is a personable, articulate man who is well suited by temperament for a job that has become one of the most

difficult and exacting in government. He has shown good judgment and balance.

Carl Stokes is opposed by the Republican nominee, Seth Taft, a well-meaning suburbanite who has headed several non-political civic organizations.

Taft, who moved in from Pepper Pike only to run for mayor, has served Cleveland in an advisory capacity but never as a public official.

THE PLAIN DEALER'S editors interviewed both candidates at length. It's reporters have followed the careers of both men and in particular their campaigns for office. To us there is no comparison. Stokes is a skilled professional. Taft is merely a pleasant amateur.

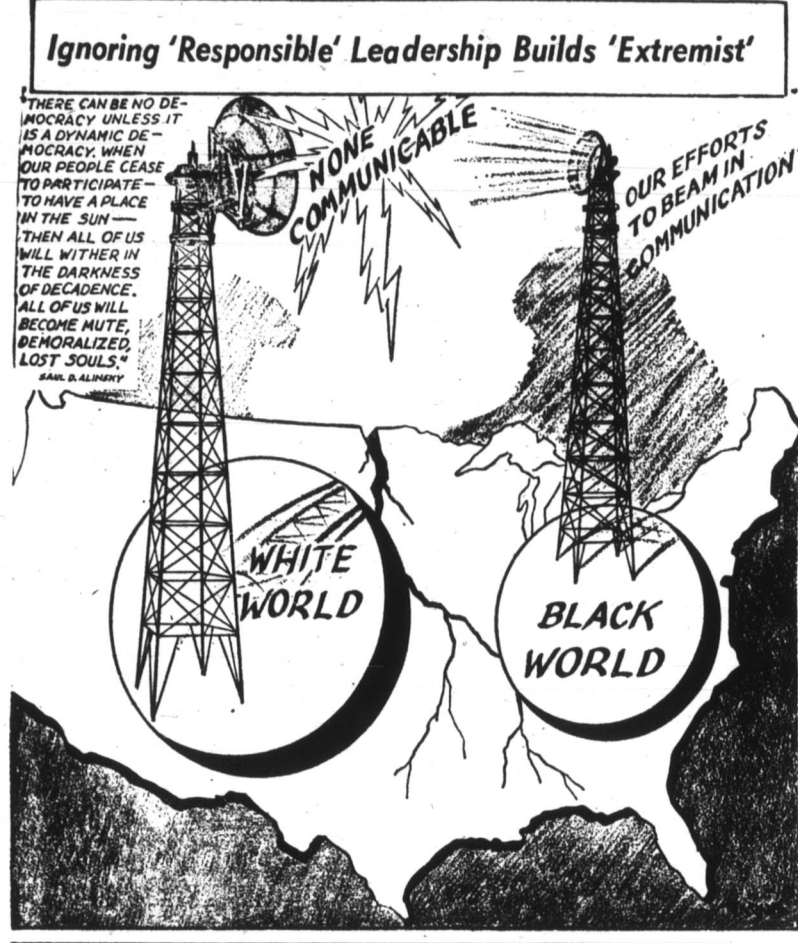
The election is a little more than two weeks away. The Plain Dealer has waited until this late date to make its determination because we believe this election is the most important in Cleveland's history.

An era ended at City Hall with the defeat of Mayor Locher. Great new horizons and a new civic life are possible for our marvelous city — with the right man as mayor.

Luckily, remarkably, we have the man capable to do the job. The Plain Dealer endorses Carl B. Stokes for mayor of Cleveland.

Barring Smith

Some years back the State Department succeeded in preventing Moise Tshombe from paying a visit to the United States where he was scheduled to give his views on the situation in the Congo. Tshombe's policies were considered colonialist by the Department, which used its visa authority to prevent his visit. Recently the Department moved to block a proposed visit by another African leader, Ian Smith, Prime Minister of Rhodesia.



TELL IT LIKE IT IS

By KENT R. AUTOR

Who is Ben Ruffin? Agitator? Opportunist? Or is he an honest and dedicated man doing a job that needs to be done?

Ben Ruffin, presently Director of the United Organizations for Community Improvement (UOCI), is, in fact, all of these things. As an agitator, he fights for the rights and dignity of the common man. As an opportunist, he has taken every chance that has opened up for him to do this. As a man, he is honest and sincerely dedicated to "helping people," the Negro, the poor, the deprived, the oppressed.

Ruffin was born and raised in Durham, and in his 26 years he has come a fair pace. His father, a Durham laborer, deserted his family when Ben was a boy, leaving his wife — a domestic worker — with five children to support on about \$20 a week. "Man, I lived poverty," he says, "my mother raised all of us. My brother and I took jobs shining shoes, selling papers, and cutting grass. We all had to pull together. We all tried to support the family as much as we could." Today, the young UOCI Director can chuckle as he says: "Yeah, I can remember missing some meals."

School days found Ben at Lyon Park Elementary, Whitted Junior High, Hillside High, and ultimately, North Carolina College where he obtained a Bachelor's degree in physical education and recreation. Having learned something of the tailoring trade in high school, he worked his way through college sewing other people's clothes. "I'm still a pretty good tailor" says Ben with a grain of modesty, but the experience "taught me how a dollar comes."

The thread that led to where he stands today, begins when he was at NCC as a struggling graduate student. "I was doing a little tailoring, and held a part-time job as a counselor at the John Avery Boys Club. I wanted to do a thesis on recreation problems in the ghetto. I got on Operation Breakthrough work-study program, and was paid to develop a tutorial program for the kids at the Club."

It was Howard Fuller, then with Breakthrough, who recognized Ben Ruffin's talents. He persuaded the young Negro to join the staff of the local community action agency. For a couple of years, Ruffin and Fuller were associated in the Community Organization section of Operation Breakthrough. Ben's successes resulted in assignments requiring more and more responsibility. For a time, he was the Program Director of Breakthrough's Target Area "C" in the Bragtown area.

Ben Ruffin became Director of UOCI in May of this year. The organization is one that is of the poor, by the poor, and for the poor. UOCI is the result of efforts to organize existing neighborhood councils in Durham and their larger units, the Area Councils, into one representative organization of the poor. It represents an attempt to "broaden the structure of the various area councils into a single city-wide organization," because it was recognized that the problems faced by the poor — especially the Negro poor residing in the ghetto of the city — were problems of the city as a whole. The attempt was made possible by a grant of \$78,000 from the North Carolina Fund in March of this year. Ruffin was appointed Director and assumed his position the following month.

The young Negro leader had definite ideas regarding Black Power, finite ideas regarding Black Power, leadership, and so-called Negro leaders. "I define Black Power by defining white power. I look at whites

Do's And Don'ts



THIS NATION UNDER GOD

HOW DID IT COME ABOUT? Our Pilgrim Fathers came to this land because they were determined to have religious liberty, and they had discovered that it was impossible to have religious liberty without political liberty. They had no precedent, no blueprint, but they had clear minds. They devised, for the first time on a major scale in all of human history, a system whereby people control government instead of government controlling people. And it worked.

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Out of the longing of hearts
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Out of the memory of ages
and the hopes of the world,
God fashioned a nation in Love,
and called it AMERICA.

THE WAY I SEE IT
By DAVID W. STITH

Such is the plight of the Negro small businessman today that even the massive efforts being made by the Federal Government fall far short of bridging the gap.

For the past twenty years that I have lived, studied and worked in Durham, I have looked with amazement at the Hayti section, the Negro business district. For many years I have marveled at the fact that these small businessmen could make a living under such poor circumstances. I have wondered how they can get and keep their customers when they often occupy sub-standard facilities with equipment and supplies that may not be in the best of condition. And, of course, I have wondered how these men could make enough profit to feed their families.

The only conclusion I have reached is that the Negro small businessman, in Durham and in many other places in these United States, in order to survive, must be a combination of many things — but most of all, something of a financial genius and an itinerant magician.

The small Negro businessman often finds himself in a very difficult position. Many of his potential customers are not willing to do business with him because of some of the conditions mentioned above or because his prices are slightly higher than those of his white competitor. His potential customers either forget or ignore the conditions under which he labors as he attempts to keep his doors open to provide them with goods and services.

Basic to the plight of the Negro small businessman is his inability to secure financing from either white or Negro lending institutions. This prevents him from being able to own his own building, suited specifically to his type of operation, does not allow him sufficient operating capital to meet his obligations and thereby affects his credit rating, and does not allow him to have the necessary funds, to buy goods in large lots to take advantage of lower wholesale prices which he can pass on to the customer.

In many instances, therefore, in the area of general building contractors, plumbers and bricklayers, Ne-

groes are not able to really get into business for themselves because of a lack of financial backing. They are able to work only by hiring out at jobs contracted by whites.

Most white financial institutions do not have any confidence in the Negro businessman and many, still living in their segregated society, do not want the Negro to have anything of his own.

Negro lending institutions take much of the same course. Except that we suspect that they desire that the small Negro businessman remain dependent on them and not become financially independent.

In addition to this, the local agencies are not adequately advising Negro businessmen of the help available to them through Federal agencies such as the Small Business Administration. Local lending institutions are also unwilling to participate in Federally guaranteed loans to these small businessmen.

This ties in closely with the current problems of most of Durham's Negro small businessmen who are being forced to relocate. Dick Gregory once said that when Negroes become too concentrated in an area on the East coast and begin to influence political and economic life they have slum clearance, and that out in California they do the same thing but call it freeways. Here in Durham they have used both barrels of the gun. What has happened is the removal of the Negro small businesses. Only one structure has been built to relocate a Negro business. Where are the many Negro businesses which have been forced out of Hayti? Many of the professional men have been forced to do business in their homes. Many of the other businesses were either forced out of business or into remote non-productive areas of the city.

Our Negro representatives on city and county boards and commissions must be held responsible for not having advised these men of what was to come and for not assisting them in taking steps to prevent the loss or unfavorable relocation of their businesses. Too many of our representatives forget that they are there — to represent us and to work for our interests.

We see in these events and circumstances a diabolical plan to continue the cycle of absolute control over the Negro small businessman.

This Week In Negro History

One hundred and eighty years ago (1787) on Wednesday of this week the first African Free School in New York was opened by the Manumission Society.

Other events of historical importance this week are as follows:

Nov. 2—National Thanksgiving for Peace was observed in 1965. It recognized the concluding of four years of war to save the Union and free the slaves.

Nov. 3—William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878), liberal minded poet, was born.

Nov. 4—H. A. Rucker began his duties as Collector of Internal Revenue in Georgia in 1897.

Nov. 5—Theodore S. Wright, first Negro to receive a degree from a theological seminary in the United States (Princeton) published "Outrage at Princeton" in the Liberator in 1836.

Medical Group Wants Free Aid Program

WINSTON-SALEM — (UPI) — The Forsyth County Medical Association has voted to encourage a program to provide free medical care and facilities to the county's poor.

The program would be financed by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), and conducted by a local anti-poverty organization—Experiment In Self-Reliance.

--Poisoning

Continued from front page

8, Alice 7, and Susie 6, went back to school following their lunch but soon after arrival began vomiting and foaming at the mouth. They were rushed to the hospital but were pronounced dead upon arrival. The younger children, who were left at home along while their parents were at work were Doreen, 5, Vanessa, 4, Dianne, 3, and James, Jr., 2. Their illness was discovered when a teacher rushed to their home in search of the parents to inform them about those who had taken ill at school.

At the funeral Richardson, accompanied by friends and his mother, Mrs. Margaret Bhens of Jacksonville, Fla., cried and moaned so loudly that the eulogy being delivered by the minister was hardly audible.

Parathion is used as insecticide in the citrus groves of south-west Florida. The powder is so deadly that it can kill even if it is absorbed through the skin or breathed through the nostrils.

The Carolina Times
Published every Saturday at Durham, N. C.
by United Publishers, Inc.
L. E. AUSTIN, Publisher

SAMUEL L. BRIGGS, Managing Editor
J. ELWOOD CARTER, Advertising Manager
Second Class Postage Paid at Durham, N. C. 27702

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$5.00 per year plus (15% tax in N. C.) anywhere in the U.S., and Canada and to Servicemen Overseas; Foreign, \$7.50 per year, Single copy 20c.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE LOCATED AT 438 E. PETTIGREW STREET, DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27702