

Non-Commercial TV Programs

We have had four weeks now to view, assess, and react to the Public Broadcasting Laboratory (PBL), our country's first national non-commercial television program. People are still "discovering" this program which comes to Durham via WUNC-TV (Channel 4) Sunday evening at 8:30.

As its name implies, PBL is an experiment. It is an attempt to demonstrate what non-commercial television can do as an alternative to commercial programming. Most importantly, it attempts to provide the television audience with quality programs and objective analyses of public issues, unencumbered by the dictates of government or commercial sponsors. It has the opportunity to explore the fullest potentials of television as a medium of expression and communication.

In both England and Canada, non-commercial television is government subsidized. One of the major problems the BBC and CBC have had is maintaining independence of government control, influence and censorship, while depending upon government funds to operate. PBL, however, is a completely independent enterprise, and is free to develop and blossom in its own way, responsive only to the comments, suggestions, and criticisms of its audience. This was made possible by a grant from the Ford Foundation. A critical part of the total experiment will be to see if PBL can sustain itself.

Several assessments of PBL have been published recently. Most of them appear to criticize PBL for offering nothing better than the excellent documentaries, news coverage, and public affairs programs offered by commercial networks. We feel, however, that should PBL only succeed in matching an excellence already to be found elsewhere, we prefer its coming from a source known to be independent of government or sponsor control.

CBS, for example, has an excellent record for quality programs, yet it was when CBS President Fred W. Friendly resigned to become television adviser to the Ford Foundation that the public learned of the commercial pressures that influenced the network's programs.

PBL has some of the most talented and experienced men in the business — most of them flocked from CBC, NBC, CBC, Education TV, The New York Times, and Newsweek—who have pooled their resources to make this experiment a success, and they have a mandate to experiment. It is still much too early really to assess a two-year venture, but our initial impressions are most favorable. All of us have a unique opportunity here, to take part in this effort as an interested and critical audience. We encourage people to watch PBL on Sunday evenings, and to write their comments on programs to Edward B. Morgan, Editor, PBL, 342 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Slaughter on Our Highways

Statistics are usually cold and dry and very uninteresting, and a good figurer can use them to prove just about any point he'd like to make.

Let us pass these statistics by you one time: During 1966—1709 in North Carolina, 53,000 in the nation. Friends take another look. These are not just cold and dry statistics; they are the mangled and crushed bodies of people. People, run aground and killed on the streets and highways of this state and nation.

Be thankful you are not listed among these statistics. Be especially thankful, during the 1967 period of the nation-wide observance of Thanksgiving, for highway accidents are not respecters of race, religion, creed or economic levels. It takes you where it finds you and has been doing so with ever-increasing rapidity during recent years.

Highway accidents and deaths are a plague on our times, and no one has as yet found the cure for what ails us. The experts say highway safety is divided generally into three parts: engineering, education and enforcement.

McNamara's Resignation

The Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara has resigned. We not only regret this, we are frightened by it. With McNamara gone, there is almost certainly to be a change in the Administration's policy of "restraint" in fighting the war in Vietnam. It will shift in the direction of a no-holds-barred escalation of the war.

It is common knowledge that the Secretary of Defense started out as a "hawk", and in the course of time became a "dove". As a man of tremendous strength, he controlled the Department of Defense as no other Secretary has done. He was able to curb the tendencies of the military to escalate the Vietnam war to the point of all-out war. Whatever the

Five Million Lost Americans

THE POPULATION of the United States officially reached 200 million at 11 a. m. Monday, Nov. 20, according to the census "clock" in the Commerce Department building. PRESIDENT JOHNSON was on hand for the ceremony. But even the government census experts admit that the clock may be a little slow.

Fact is, the 200-million mark probably was reached over two years ago, according to the Population Reference Bureau. The reason the population clock is behind time is because the 1960 census completely overlooked 5.7 million Americans, most of them Negroes. Complicated census forms are blamed for the goof by people-counters who reported that there were some 20 mil-

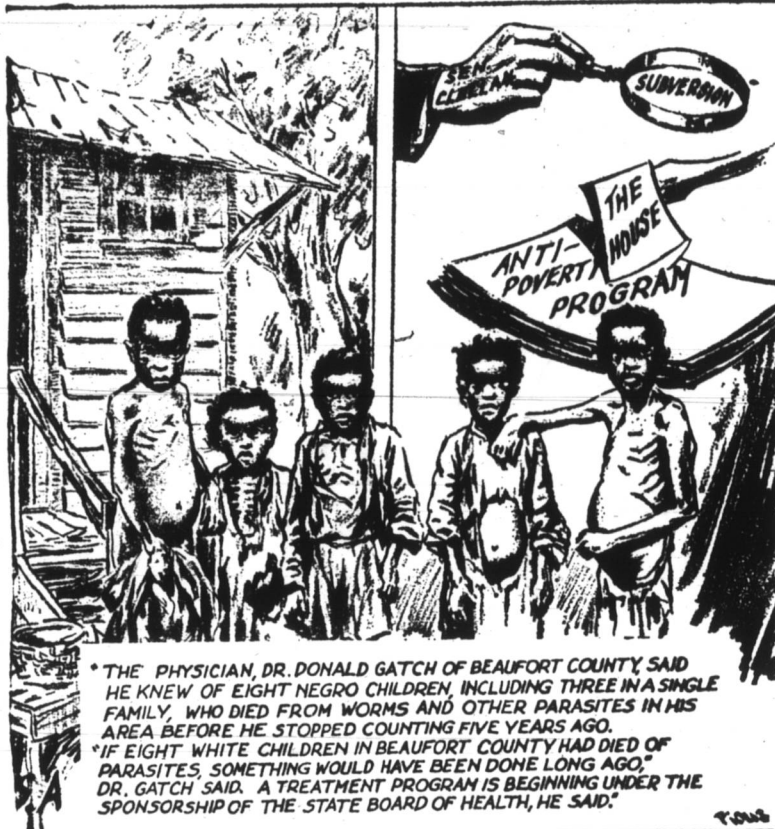
lion citizens of color in America in 1960. It now turns out that the figure is closer to 25 million.

REP. JACKSON E. BETTS, R-Ohio, who has been championing the cause of simple, short census forms, thinks the census bureau computer is going to come up with an even bigger error in 1970 if present plans are followed. The 1970 forms are even longer and more complicated than the ones used to count people a decade before.

There are 17 million Americans over the age of 25 who lack the eighth grade education required to complete the proposed 1970 census form. REP. BETTS contends it would take even a literate person more than a half hour to answer the list of 120 questions.

JOURNAL AND GUIDE

Elimination By Starvation...?



TELL IT LIKE IT IS

By KENT AUTOR

Integrated housing must come before any further progress can be achieved in civil rights, said Donald S. Frey, Chairman of the United Citizens Committee for Freedom of Residence, as he addressed the 7th Annual Urban Housing Conference here Wednesday evening.

There four "grim realities," Frey said, that Americans must face: (1) our society in this day and age demands total integration, (2) we must redesign our living space—rebuild and expand, (3) all civil rights depend upon the achievement of housing integration and (4) until housing integration is achieved, American moral effectiveness in any area will be undermined.

"These are grim but challenging realities," he said, "but we must meet the challenge. Perhaps the most heartening development is an increasing awareness of these facts of life on the part of Americans, and this gives hope that we shall overcome." He added that "the days of the racial bigot are numbered."

When turning to the problem of how to achieve integrated housing in North Carolina, Frey admitted that none anywhere has really achieved it. He suggested steps that might be taken in the direction of reaching our goal.

In an interview later, Frey was asked to assess the alternative public housing plans that are emerging in Durham; The construction of multi-family public housing projects, the construction of single family units concentrated in a given area, and the construction of single family units dispersed throughout the city. He said that he favored the scattered site plan for single family units that could be rented or sold to the people who need them. He went on to suggest that citizens draft a brief to the City Government, urging the scattered-site plan.

"You know," he said, "I am for economic integration as well as racial integration. After all, this so-called race problem is really a social class problem. In the kind of society I think necessary today, we must have class integration."

Mr. Frey is quite correct when he stresses the importance of "living space" and how people are distributed in it, as the key to social change in our nation. When people live together, they interact with each other; when they interact, they get to know each other as people, fellow human beings who, in spite of their differences, have basic similarities; and as they get to know each other, attitudes toward groups of people (eg. prejudices regarding minority groups) tend to give way to attitudes about people individually. Thus, the integration of housing is crucial. It could begin the democratizing process that this country needs desperately.

Ours is a heterogeneous society, and this presents a problem of achieving national unity and harmony in our diversity. We can no longer allow people to group themselves in voluntary or involuntary ghettos (the intellectual-academic ghetto of Hope Valley, and the Negro ghetto of southeast Durham). It is necessary to devise ways in which people who are specially, socially, economically, culturally, and intellectually separated,

can mix together and blend.

This appears to be the basis of Frey's notion of "economic integration." He seems to have grasped both the ultimate goal, and the immediate one. The integration of housing is the first step.

Yet we can devise other plans for the democratization of America, the achievement of "total social integration." One was suggested by Dr. Jack Preiss of Durham in a public address last year. He was speaking about selective service. He felt that the American citizen has an obligation to serve his country for a specified period of time, but that there should be a system of draft for more than just military service. In presenting ideas, Dr. Preiss stressed the contri-

butation that selective service could make in bringing people of very different backgrounds together so they might discover individual worth that transcends individual difference. Many of us who served in the military, especially in war time, understand what he was driving at. When I was in the army, I met and came to like and admire many men that I would not normally have gotten to know or to work with. In this respect, the experience was an enriching one.

It is quite apparent that many people are seeing more clearly what is needed to make this nation a healthy industrial urban society, and some of them, like Donald Frey, are doing something about it.

There Was A Real St. Nick And He Came From Asia

BARI, ITALY
There really was a Santa Claus.

But he did not have a big white beard and he did not even wear a red suit.

SANTA CLAUS was St. Nicholas and he rests under a solid silver altar in the Bari Cathedral.

He was born in Asia Minor in the year 270 and his body was brought to this southern Italian port city in 1087 when

SAILORS and travelers took back with them to northern Europe tales of "Sanctus Nicolaus" — his name in Latin — and he became Santa Claus, the Saracens overran Asia Minor.

PAINTINGS that have come down to us show St. Nicholas as a clean-shaven figure with bishop's miter and staff.

In his day he won renown for his kindness to children.

Can Topics



CONTINUOUS FEATURES

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 20¢.
PRINCIPAL OFFICE LOCATED AT 436 E. FETTERBUSH STREET, DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27702

THE WAY I SEE IT

By DAVID W. STITH



THE BOND ISSUE

The coming school bond election is of basic significance for the Negro citizens of Durham. As pointed out in last week's article, there are several questions left open which need to be answered.

It can be clearly seen that this bond election is racially motivated. Now that it appears that HEW and the courts will no longer allow the ineffective "freedom-of-choice" school desegregation plans to continue, the Durham city and county school boards are making plans to place schools in such geographic locations that they will continue to be segregated under any procedure short of busing.

The new R. N. Harris Elementary School is a monument to this purpose. So certain was the Durham city school Board that the Bacon Street Project would be established, they went ahead and started construction of the school. Now it sits alone out there facing about half a dozen empty houses and no children.

Another question also arises out of the city-county distribution of funds. Not once, since 1960, has there been such a wide difference among amounts allotted to city and county systems. This proposal shows a \$4,750,000 difference when previously the difference has never even reached \$1,000,000. Why this big need in the county all of a sudden? The only answer we can find is that it is intended to preserve segregation.

It appears to us that \$5,000,000 is quite a lot to spend for segregation when we need money for education so badly. White citizens of Durham city and county need to know that they are going to be losers just as the Negroes will. Once again, as previously, (and really up to the present day) money sorely needed for quality education is being spent to establish and maintain a "separate-but-equal" system. The new funds under the bond proposal will not produce quality education but quantity education. Spread thin in erecting a multitude of unnecessary buildings and wasted in maintaining them, the

bond funds will never reach the needs of the students.

HOSPITAL SCENE—MORE COMES TO LIGHT

The recent revelation of the sad state of affairs of Watts Hospital brings to light more of the reasons Lincoln Hospital has been given trouble about its debt. Watt's problem, like that at Lincoln, is not something that happened overnight and about which the hospital officials have known for some time. It points out the serious need to do something about our hospitals and shows even more clearly that the thing to do is not consolidation.

Why consolidate these two institutions, both of which are running into the red financially, and one of which has about half of its beds in inadequate buildings? Any consolidation will inherit the debts and poor buildings and will waste much of any new investment simply in correcting and improving these situations. That is an impossible burden with which to saddle any new enterprise such as consolidation.

One of Watt's problems, that of having 24 patients in the halls, could be easily remedied by transferring these 24 patients to Lincoln Hospital. While Watts will be losing some revenue, they will be complying with the licensing standards and will be contributing to making better use of the county's hospital facilities. It will also show the good faith of the Watts Trustees in being willing to have truly integrated facilities if such a thing as consolidation were to become a possibility.

Another lesson to be learned from this entire chain of events is that the pendulum swings both ways. Last week it was Lincoln in the red and going down for the count, this week it is Watts. Now about that blackmail... Maybe now, with the guns pointed at both their heads, both Lincoln and Watts Trustees can put aside personal interests and work towards a solution of the problems of medical care for the county.

To Be Equal

By WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR.

Community Control

THE BRUTAL MISEDUCATION of Negro children is at the root of the drive to decentralize some big city school systems in order to bring them closer to the communities they serve. New York is now debating a far-reaching decentralization plan. It was proposed by a special committee headed by McGeorge Bundy, president of the Ford Foundation.

The plan calls for splitting the city's school system into 30 or more districts, each with its own board, the majority of which would be chosen by the parents. Each of these local school boards would have the power to hire teachers and administrators, select books, and determine policy. The present central school board would have sharply reduced powers.

Other cities are watching New York's actions very closely. This is because they have similar problems. Poor schools are among the biggest reasons for the movement of middle-class whites to the suburbs.

Negroes, locked in by housing segregation and poverty, don't have that option. And they realize that unless their children are given a first-class education, they too, will be trapped in lower-paying jobs. As hopes for school integration dim, they are demanding that their children get the same educational benefits white children enjoy.

Local Control Is One Way

Local control might be one way of achieving this. Urban schools have become captives of a centralized educational bureaucracy which has not been responsive to the needs of the ghetto. Self-survival and resistance to change seems to have become their main concern.

Involving parents in the running of the schools could end many of the present abuses. Parents already have influence over the schools in many areas, but in the ghetto they are ignored. Parents ought to be heard, but that doesn't mean that extremists should be allowed to take over.

It would be a mistake to make the race of a teacher more important than skill. And there is no such thing as "black mathematics." Since the aim of any change is to make the schools more effective in teaching children the skills they will need, a well designed plan should keep extremists and racists (white and black), out of the schools.

Teachers' attitudes are important, and some people say that white teachers won't work for ghetto school systems. But the challenge of teaching underprivileged children under the leadership of sympathetic administrators and with the support of a concerned community will appeal to many of the best teachers. It is an insult to their profession to assume otherwise.

Flexibility Of Local Boards

The flexibility of the local boards is important to assure excellence. One year, for example, the community might decide to pass up a paint job for the schools and put the money into new texts. Or it might choose to contract for special outside experts, or affiliate with a university.

They would be able to choose their own direction, and I would hope that they would choose to become models of excellence, acting as magnets to draw the middle classes back into the city so that real integration could take place.

I'd like to see ghetto schools become as important as teaching hospitals are in medicine. The best hospitals are considered to be those with university affiliation. Interns are drawn to them because of the presence of the best doctors.

Why can't schools in the ghetto take that road? Master teachers working with the most advanced educational tools could be joined by enthusiastic young teaching interns—the very brightest new graduates—to turn these neglected schools into showplaces of excellence.

This may not happen with local control, but it surely isn't going to happen under the present system.