

The Carolina Times
EDITORIALS

Food For Thought

When one looks at the history of the separation of races in America and considers the mutual misunderstanding and fears that have accompanied such separation, it is not surprising that the large distortions of the past are carried into the present even by some of those who claim to be committed to racial justice and reconciliation.

The updating of old racial myths have taken the form of cults of one sort or another. There appears to always be some "new" angle to the race problem or some new gimmick that people latch on to in hope of finding a short-cut solution. Easy answers always indulge in racial mythology because they must — if they are to be easy — obscure the real depth of the race problem.

One of the new cults is "black English." At a recent conference, some 250 linguistics experts, teachers and students (most of them white), met to discuss *Black English: Mythology or Reality*. According to a New York Times report, the "experts" seemed convinced that "black English" is very much a reality ("black English," according to these "experts" is saying "where Charlie?" instead of "where is Charlie?"). "Experts" the report noted, "now say that black English has an identity independent of white dialects of English." They also feel that it might be best to teach black children in their "negative tongue" rather than force them into the difficult situation of using English.

There is already a course in "black English" being taught at a Brooklyn College by a woman who heads a "language Curriculum research project: that is financed by a \$65,000 Ford Foundation grant. Perhaps the motives of some of these new "black linguistics experts" are sincere. They want to see black children learn, but do they want to prepare them for

life outside the ghetto? Do they want to see them become first-class citizens? "Black English," after all, has nothing to do with blackness but derives from the conditions of lower-class life in the South and northern ghetto, poor southern whites also speak "black English" as well as new immigrants from European shores. This writer well recalls this type of English as witnessing it while living in a predominantly-foreign-born and other ethnic type community.

Reinforcing this consequence of poverty will only perpetuate poverty since it will prevent black children from mastering the means of communication in an advanced technological society with a highly educated population. Adult education programs in language proficiency in many large communities support the need for good communication skills as well as to enable one to better present himself for job opportunities that may become available with a good command of the English language.

The new coalition of liberals who romanticize the characteristics of black poverty and foundation executives, who are looking for a cheap solution to racial injustice, is just one more obstacle that we will have to fight.

The Crisis, publication of the NAACP, in a recent editorial, spoke forcefully and to the point about the cult of "black English."

"Black parents, throughout this nation should rise up in unanimous condemnation of this insidious conspiracy to cripple their children permanently? . . . Let the black voice of protest resound loud and clear throughout our land."

Black parents, let us start immediately to clean up this language of ours. We must have and need good leadership skill of communication if we are to have proficient leaders for developing our role in this highly technological and educated society.

A Positive Step for DHA Problems

The importance of the Senate action on June 19, 1971 is that it marks a positive step towards alleviating many of the problems that have plagued public housing in this city for many months.

The Senate signed into law, on June 19, a measure that would increase the membership of the Durham Housing Authority from five members to seven members. It also provided that the members shall be appointed by the city council instead of the mayor. This is a small positive step forward. With the power of appointment entrusted to the Council, at least, an appointee must have some consensus of the representatives of the citizenry before assuming a position of power.

It has long been considered a monstrous proposition that a public official need only to carry the favor of a single public officer to assume a position of power over the lives of a substantial segment of its citizenry. It is even more monstrous when the official, so appointed, is unanswerable only to God and his conscience, if any.

Many studies have been conducted which touched upon the problems of public housing in Durham. Yet the conditions in public housing has been the major source of generating boycotts, protests and demonstrations which have only produced greater tensions. The recent public hearing on public housing illuminates the monstrous nature of such a circumstance.

Statistics reveal that approximately 61 per cent of the heads of households in public housing are women and the majority of them are black. It is hoped that the City Council in exercising its newly granted power will give serious consideration to the adequate representation of these two minorities on the new Durham Housing Authority. If the City Council will give its most serious consideration to this major issue, then Durham will be the beneficiary of lessened tensions that accompany non-polarize, non-arbitrary housing policy.

The City Council must meet this task in a forward looking, constructive way.

Things You Should Know

Adam PERRY...

... A SLAVE WHO, IN 1834

WAS HIRED OUT TO THE SOUTH

CAROLINA RAILROAD / IN 1852 HE

BECAME FIREMAN FOR ENGINEER HENRY

G. RAWORTH & SERVED FOR NINETEEN

YEARS / AS LATE AS FEBRUARY, 1856, CONTRACTORS SOLD

GANGS OF FORTY SLAVES TO RAILROADS AS SKILLED, AS

WELL AS UNSKILLED WORKERS!



CONTINENTAL FEATURES

Re-Registration . . . Deluting Black Voting Power

THE NAMES OF 35,000 PEOPLE WERE ON THE FORMER JONES COUNTY, MISS. VOTING LIST, CONGRESSMAN EDWARDS SAID, BUT ONLY 15,000 HAVE REGISTERED SO FAR, SO THAT 19,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN APPARENTLY DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE WITH THE TACIT APPROVAL OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.



Tightening Of Job Market Pinch

The veteran returning from the war in Vietnam shares a common economic concern with the college graduate who received his diploma in this spring's commencement exercises. Both are the victims of a job market pinch, and both are in keen competition with many other Americans who are looking for work. And for all of those in the same boat, the May report on unemployment released the other day did not carry an encouraging note for the foreseeable future.

It showed that total employment was up and total unemployment was down. However, neither the May increase in employment nor the decrease in unemployment was as large as normally would be expected in that month of greater business and construction activities. Also, there was a sizeable increase in the labor force — and so the net result was a fractional rise in the unemployment rate on an adjusted basis to match a nine-year high.

In short, the job pinch has tightened somewhat at a time of normal expansion. That does not augur well for the summer months ahead, when many more thousands of Vietnam war veterans will be released into a civilian economy already unable to take care of the several million people seeking work.

Veterans who held full-time jobs before entering the service will be in a better position than many young people in this spring's crop of college graduates and others looking for jobs. Under federal law, they can reclaim their old jobs. But many will not be in that category, as is indicated in a Labor Department report that an

average of 375,000 Vietnam veterans were unemployed during the first quarter of this year.

The May unemployment report is not encouraging to veterans and others who are job seekers. But it does emphasize once again that this nation has been on a limited war economy for nearly 10 years, and now that it is moving away from it there is evidence of a woeful lack of adequate preparations for the transition to a peacetime economy.

The Nixon administration has seemed to adopt the attitude that things will work themselves out in time, an attitude somewhat reminiscent of that in the Hoover years of the depression. For the benefit of the nation and its 4.4 million unemployed, it is evident that a more aggressive and realistic approach to economic problems of the times is needed.

Inconsistent

The most striking inconsistency in the 1971 General Assembly is that the legislature rejected a bill to allow the people in all the counties and municipalities with an alcoholic beverage control system to vote on whether or not liquor could be served by the drink, but has subsequently enacted legislation to allow the people in Moore and Mecklenburg counties the opportunity to do so.

If a liquor-by-the-drink referendum is bad for the state as a whole, why isn't it bad for Moore and Mecklenburg? And if it is good for Moore and Mecklenburg, why isn't it good for the rest of the state?

The Sky's the Limit

FOR those who have often wondered about the hidden costs of political campaigns, a recent book published by the Citizens' Research Foundation of Princeton, N.J. should be instructive.

The book, entitled *Financing the 1968 Election*, summarizes information gathered from many sources on campaign spending in 1968. Although some of the information has been published before, the new analysis provides fresh examples of large private donations.

For example, a New York ad agency, working for the Republican ticket, spent \$1.1 million on campaign balloons, posters, placards, straw skimmers, and paper dresses, which were purchased and stored in a warehouse until they were needed. This expenditure was not recorded in the formal accounting of campaign expenses.

Neither, for that matter, was the money spent by Humphrey forces in wooing delegates to the 1968 Democratic Convention. Hundreds of these delegates were flown to Washington and wine and dined in the former vice president's successful campaign for the Democratic nomination.

The foundation's estimate of the "total political bill" for 1968 was \$300 million — a 50 per cent increase over 1964.

About \$100 million was spent electing a president, of which \$45 million of this was spent by both parties prior to the nominations. General election expenses ranged up to \$46 million for both major parties and George Wallace's American party; and about 20,000 Americans contributed \$500 or more to the campaigns.

The man later named by President Nixon as ambassador to France, for example, gave the GOP \$54,875. The ambassadorship in Denmark cost the present occupant about \$51,000. Jamaica cost about \$44,500; and the ambassadorship in Vienna — a nice place where nothing much happens — cost the present occupant about \$43,000

in personal donations to Nixon-for-President committees.

The estimates above are based on known donations. They don't include unrecorded cash donations of post-election contributions intended to wipe out certain political debts. If these items were included, total spending in 1968 would come closer to \$500 million.

★ ★ ★

Obviously, some kind of limitation on campaign spending is needed. The White House doesn't want any limits presently because the GOP has a surplus of cash and, given Mr. Nixon's incumbency, is bound to collect millions more for the 1972 race. The Democrats, with no big surplus and a number of unpaid debts, are inclined to support a spending limit in federal elections.

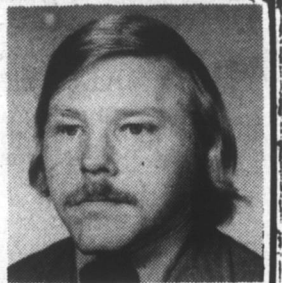
But neither party, deep down, wants the kind of limitations that are needed. Both parties have their big backers. Eleven prominent families, for example, gave the Republicans a listed \$2,500,000; the Rockefeller alone contributing \$1.7 million. Thirty-seven "committees" tied into the labor unions reported expenditures in 1968 of \$7.1 million, most going to the Democrats. One New York donor alone gave the McCarthy campaign \$100,000 during Sen. McCarthy's pre-convention appearance in the city.

Nobody wants these private donors restricted in any way. The parties need them, not only for campaign expenditures but for maintaining — during the off-years — sufficient bank accounts to carry on the party's work.

But until Congress does meet this problem head-on, until some restrictions are placed on private donations, the politicians will continue to be compromised by them.

Candidates may swear all day long that they are never influenced one way or the other by large private gifts. But when we are talking about individual contributions ranging up to \$1 million — money that often spells the difference between a winning campaign and a lost cause — one has to ask: How can any candidate not be compromised by such sums?

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK



By JOHN MYERS

Have you seen the posters, reading Save Our Schools, on the telephone poles of Durham? Have you asked yourselves what they are?

Well, this time its legal, it's above ground, and it's important. Save Our Schools is the name of a ten day Charrette to be held in Durham July 18-28. The doors will be open 24 hours a day for the 10 day period. Any hour of the day or night you will be welcomed at the Charrette headquarters (to be specified at a later date) to state your feelings on our school system. You will be at liberty to comment on any topic, concerning our school system, you may have questions about. You may offer any suggestion for improving our schools.

I will not cry out that this will affect the entire Durham community. Expectantly, a 98-year-old lady or gentleman in a Durham rest home could "give a damn" about next year's school program. But the people it does concern should not hesitate to make their feelings known. If you are in school, if you have children in school, or if you care where your tax dollars are going, you owe it to yourself to ask questions.

If you do not care about Durham's school program, that is your right. I blame no one for not participating in a program which does not affect them. I personally do not like or admire "cause jumpers." The people for whom this Charrette will be beneficial are those who genuinely care, who want to know, and who have a part of their future at stake.

If you are not concerned, forget it. If you care, come. You may regret not doing so. But by the time you realize your mistake, complaints may be too late. If we do not act for ourselves, we may live to see the day our acts are automatically instated for us; Without our consent, without our approval, and without our knowledge. Don't let this happen. Support this cause if you care. If you let this pass the day may come when your, "But I —," may fall to deaf ears.

New Civil Rights Division

President Nixon has recently appointed a black man, Frank Renter, as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Defense, in charge of a newly created Civil Rights Division. While this Division is much needed and late in coming into being, if it is to be relevant then there must be an extensive staff that has the freedom to act when racial discrimination is found in any branch of the service. All command personnel must comply with equal opportunity programs by commitment and by action.

Members of the Black Caucus are currently conducting a review and an investigation of racial discrimination in the armed services, and I have personally conferred with officials of the various branches of the armed services in an effort to bring about early and effective changes in the treatment of black servicemen.

We plan unrelentingly to carry on the fight to end all racial discrimination in the armed services.

Man Topics



'IF I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN BRAINS AND BRAWN, I'D PICK THE MAN WITH THE MOST MONEY!'

CONTINENTAL FEATURES

The Carolina Times
 Published every Saturday at Durham, N. C.
 by United Publishers, Inc.
 L. E. AUSTIN, Publisher-Editor
 CLARENCE BONNETTE Business Manager
 J. ELWOOD CARTER Advertising Manager
 Second Class Postage Paid at Durham, N. C. 27702
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 United States and Canada 1 Year \$6.00
 United States and Canada 2 Years \$11.00
 Foreign Countries 1 Year \$7.50
 Single Copy 20 Cents
 Principal Office Located at 486 East Pettigrew Street,
 Durham, North Carolina 27702