

## EDITORIALS & COMMENT

### Abolishing The Death Penalty

The recent decision by the Supreme Court of the United States declaring that the death penalty for the crimes of murder and rape is interdicted (restrained) by the mandates of the 8th Amendment as cruel and unusual punishment is most significant.

The real importance of all this is that the 8th Amendment was one of the first 10 Amendments added to the Constitution before its ratification. In fact, the Constitution itself would not have been ratified without it. So the 8th Amendment was and is one of the fundamental human rights upon which our entire government was founded.

It is shocking, indeed, that some 290 years later the Nixon's Justices would cast a bloc vote in favor of the Rack and the Screw. For President Nixon, on several occasions since he has become the Chief Executive, has announced, in his executive capacity, that he would not nominate anyone for the Court that did not have his personal view of the Constitution.

At his news conference via television on Thursday, June 29, 1972, in reply to a question concerning this decision, handed down earlier the same day, it was repeated by Nixon that he had a good idea of how they would vote before he nominated them.

Fortunately, the remaining Su-

preme Court Justices faced up to their historical duty in looking at the Constitution, as well as the history out of which our Constitution grew. In the 1972 Decision, they were able to see cruel and inhuman treatment in this type of punishment.

The Rack and the Screw of the Middle Ages were tortuous and frequently maimed persons; but the enlightened bloc vote of Nixon's Justices perpetuates a permanency that is beyond recall.

One should never forget that President Nixon, unless another Amendment of recent vintage is "strictly construed", can at most look forward to only four (4) additional years, but Nixon's Justices can contaminate generations yet unborn. Perhaps America would do well to declare a twelve month period of prayer for the health and long lives of the remaining Supreme Court Justices—for one additional Nixon Justice—and we may all be undone.

In fact, when Rip Van Winkle went to sleep, King George was on the throne. When Rip awakened some 20 years later, George Washington was President of the United States and the 8th (Eighth) Amendment was in the Constitution.

Sad though it will be, another Nixon Justice and George III, at long last, may still be victorious.

### Work For Ethics Or Workfare

Workfare for a large percentage of public assistance recipients began on July 1. This program under the Department of Social Services and the Employment Securities Commission provides that women in the AFDC category, after proper eligibility screening, would have to either take jobs or job training programs which would provide only 1 year of training or such assistance would be withdrawn.

This is indeed grand for uplifting a people. However, in both the private and public sector—the work ethic—the belief in the dignity of honest toil, the feeling of accomplishment at having helped produce something worthwhile clearly has fallen on "hard times. We often worry that the greatest effect of this is on the character of a people.

Work is not always enjoyable and loafing certainly has been known throughout all times and at all ages. Yet work is necessary to progress and if progress can be made by lifting up people by training and then making jobs available, it is well and good.

However, when one looks at the "under utilization of employee time" or what is commonly known as "goofing off at taxpayers' expense by those in the blue collar, white collar and other public and private sectors—what will the end results be? Will the minorities and the poor still have a work ethic code only for them? Will jobs be available as the training is completed and competition for any job becomes even more acute? Will low productivity become the hue and cry of the day as these individuals with limited skills attempt to follow guidelines in order to survive these perilous times?

Statistics steadily point to rising unemployment among all sectors—public and private. Even among high school grads and college graduates with highest degrees, work or some type of job is being denied them. The workfare ethics may be good in logic, but unsound in practice. Perhaps at least—some change in character of people—will be realized and hopefully, some work incentive may be gained from the workfare era.

### INTERESTING OVERTONES OF THE PRESIDENTS 'S NEWS CONFERENCE

The President's televised news conference of June 29, 1972 has some interesting overtones and has spawned some amusing riddles. Two of these riddles may be listed as Question I—"When is a crime not a crime?—Answer: When it occurs in the Suites.

The President's news conference covered a very wide range of foreign and domestic issues. The overtones were quite obvious. He was greatly concerned about retaining the Death Penalty for kidnapping. Nixon vividly recalled his pre-law days and the Lindbergh kidnapping as an example of why the Death Penalty should be retained on the Federal level. What he did not relate was that at the time of the Lindbergh case kidnapping was a misdemeanor and the person accused, and later convicted, was a poor German immigrant; the kidnapped victim was a son of the national hero "the Lone Eagle."

The hue and cry was for blood. So the accused was charged with Felony-Murder, so that the Death Penalty would be applicable. . . the felony was grand larceny—based on the value of the pajamas in which the baby was sleeping. The Death Penalty in this case did not deter kidnapping, its effect on stealing baby pajamas is unknown.

The Federal Lindbergh Kidnapping Act, passed subsequent to the Lindbergh case, has already been reviewed by the Supreme Court of the United States.

A third thing that he did not mention is that presently the population of the District of Columbia—the seat of the Federal Government—is more than 50% Black. Thus the District of Columbia comes under Federal jurisdiction, and as such Federal Law would be applied.

Nixon did smilingly say that he had a good idea of how his four nominees would vote on the death penalty before he nominated them. If Congress re-enacts the Federal Act including the Death Penalty—a possible count vote of 4-1-4 is not totally unexpected.

The news conference also covered the area of crime. Again, great concern was expressed about Drug traffic in the streets of our cities. No mention was made of any illegal pharmaceutical laboratory being established on the "streets" nor has any one on the "streets", in spite of raid after raid, been found to have ownership of any transportation system, land, sea or air, capable of transplanting the hard drugs from the far east to the "Streets".

The President was also concerned about laws controlling handguns, but only those of the variety which the President classified as "Saturday Night Specials". Interesting overtone Number II is that the "Saturday Night Special" may well replace the proverbial knife, often found in the hands of a corpse that has been shot in the back, the heels or in the soles of the feet, or while in bed asleep.

Such classification by the President draws an apparent distinction between the so-called "Saturday Night Special" and the "Six and Half-Day Classic", such as those used in the suburbs, and even recently in North Hills Shopping Center and more recently along Interstate 85 on June 30, 1972.

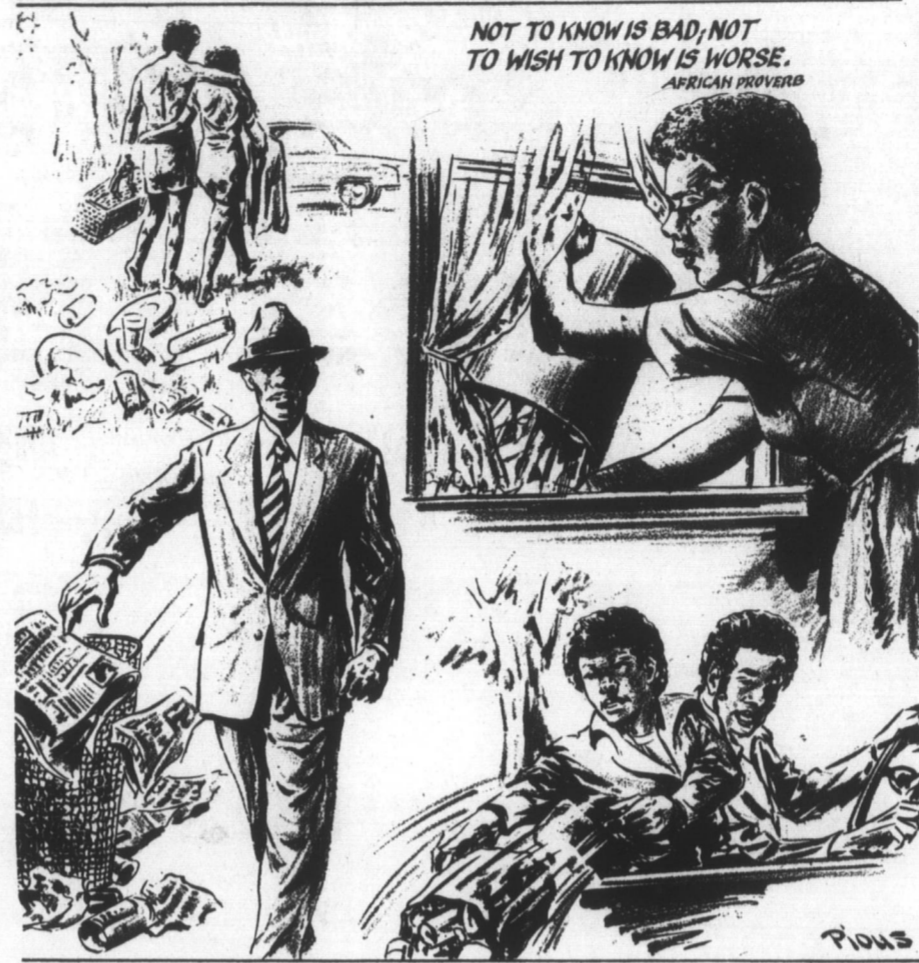
His remarks on crime did not recall his pre-law experiences in connection with the "Teapot Dome" nor did he recall the most recent ITT affair.

Interesting overtone Number III—there is a vast difference between the "Streets" and the "Suites".

Rudyard Kipling once philosophized that "East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet." But he did not reckon with 20th Century politics.

If one is from the Southeast and one is from the Southwest—they the "Southern Twain" not only meet, but joins the "Minnesota Twins" to cast a bloc vote consistent with the President's philosophy.

### Summer Time Need Not Be Litter Time..



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### PROPHET WITHOUT HONOR

To the Editor:

Why did the majority of North Carolinians vote in favor of an out of state candidate, in preference to their own native-born son? Was it a difference in personalities, accomplishments, or political viewpoints?

Governor Wallace and Pres. Sanford of Duke U. are somewhat alike personality-wise; handsome, distinguished individuals. They have similar patterns of accomplishments: well educated, each has served as governor of his own state. They differ in political view-points: one is a liberal; the other is a conservative.

The liberal believes in Democracy and the Constitution—so does the conservative, but with

reservations. He believes in liberty and justice only, for himself, his own family, and his own ethnic group.

So, Pres. Sanford, having no anti-racial or anti-busing program, but a belief in civil rights, became a "prophet without honor" in his own home state and in his own home town, Durham, where Mr. Nixon, President of the U.S., obtained his law degree at Duke U.

Pres. Nixon cannot be re-elected without the aid of Democrats. In 1968, the splinter Democratic American party, balanced the scales in his favor. So, before taking off for China, while his own blood brothers were dying in Ireland fighting for civil rights, he made his so-

called "Southern strategy anti-racial, anti-busing appeal" or re-election campaign issue.

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### TWENTY-SIX N.C. SCHOOLS MAY HAVE CODES OF RIGHTS

Twenty-six North Carolina schools, both elementary and secondary, may have codes of student rights and responsibilities soon as a result of a workshop which ended Friday at North Carolina Central University.

If the parents and students don't know what such a code entails, neither did most of the principals who attended the workshop when it began last Monday.

Essentially, according to the representatives of the National Program for Educational Leadership who conducted the workshop, a code of rights and responsibilities provides for the involvement of all concerned with a school in its government. That includes the principal, teachers, parents, and students.

The principals didn't know what the code involved when they came to the workshop, but by the end of the workshop each had been involved in the creation of a model

constitution in an environment similar to that of their schools. The workshop brought parents and students in to play their own roles in a simulated school environment.

Four groups produced "four excellent documents," according to Robert W. Norris of the National Program for Educational Leadership's North Carolina office in Raleigh. "We didn't have any group that bombed out," Norris said.

According to Max R. Bohnstedt, also of the Raleigh Office of the NPEL, some of the principals anticipated some resistance to change in the way schools are governed in their communities. Principals thought parents and school boards would resist principals giving up part of their authority.

The almost absolute authority of principals would be reduced under codes like the ones developed. The bills of rights and the constitutional

provisions for self-government would involve students in all phases of school government, including academic planning and discipline.

Bohnstedt said that the community might also fear a loss of confidentiality in disciplinary matters. He said that confidentiality however is largely a myth. "Kids know what's happening in their schools."

Norris said, "We hopefully reinforced in the principals' minds that they have a leadership position" in overcoming the resistance to the codes, which are envisioned as playing a citizenship training role.

In addition to Norris and Bohnstedt the institute staff included Dr. Jerry L. Blake of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and Eugene T. Speller of the Columbus, Ohio, office of the NPEL.

Dr. Charles W. Orr of the N. C. Central faculty served as director of the institute.

### MINORITY WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

It is interesting to note the "new thrust" by the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, in the Department of Commerce, to bring more black and other minority women into the economic mainstream as entrepreneurs.

Such a conference was held recently in Washington to bring in from all across the country more than 500 women to identify and outline the unmet needs of existing minority business women. The age span ran from the young to middle-age. This is good, for young leadership needs old and the old leadership needs the young. The interplay and exchange is most important and aids in the total growth of the individuals.

Basic input from the conference revealed that the women came to the meeting because they have

strong interests in either improving their present businesses or entering new business ventures for the first time.

Technical knowhow and other assistance means improved and better business methods for many black women in such fields as cosmetology, public relations, day care centers, rest homes and many others. Being aware of the many legal and management procedures that must be a part of any business operation makes for improved operations and growth development.

These are good signs for improved economic development for minority women. More power to women and especially minority women as they continue to seek a greater piece of the action at the economic levels by seeking out needed expertise.

## To Be Equal

SOME SIGNS OF CHANGE IN SOUTH

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

While the North seems to be hardening its racial stance, the South is showing some signs of softening its past racism. A recent news item caught my eye because it is an indication of how some change has penetrated even the hard-core segregationist camp.

Back in the early 1960's a powerful Louisiana legislator named Risley Triche led the fight against desegregated schools. He was a leading spokesman for those who sought to defy federal court orders. So when, a week or so ago, he stood before that same legislature that was the scene of his last-ditch stand for segregation and repented, it made news all over the country.

He said he decided to come out of retirement and run for public office again because "I did not want to leave my children with the legacy that their daddy was a bigot and a racist. I want my family and my citizens and my friends and my constituency and the citizenry of this state to grow out of racism and bigotry."

I think this says something about the mood of the South today. Many people who shouted "segregation forever" now realize not only that they were wrong, but that their reputations were sullied by racism. And this only makes it easier for the silent moderates to speak out and become more active.

What is important is not an individual's statement or even the sincerity of people confessing past sins; it is the climate of tolerance and change that has been created through continued activism of concerned citizens, federal actions to combat segregation, and perhaps most important, the growing power of black votes.

An indication of the somewhat changed Southern climate was brought home to me on a recent trip to several southern cities. When I spoke at the meeting of the Little Rock Urban League, the Governor of Arkansas, Dale Bumpers, sat in the rear of the Dunbar Com-

munity Center throughout the entire proceedings—a vivid demonstration of official respect and concern for the black community. Both he and his Republican predecessor deserve a lot of credit for turning that state around.

Other governors in the South have also shown an interest in black people. Florida's Governor Askew spoke out boldly for busing at a time when even northern governors were running to their bomb shelters to duck the issue. Georgia's governor recently proclaimed United Negro College Fund Month, the first time a southern governor associated himself and his state with fund-raising for black institutions. Other governors and mayors throughout the region have consulted with Urban League executives, black community leaders, and have otherwise demonstrated their concern.

A lot of this goodwill still has to be translated into effective accomplishments, and much of it is directly due to political considerations for the powerful black vote, but there is little doubt that change for the better is in the air. Columbus, Georgia, for example, is a typical southern town that never paid much attention to racial harmony, but now has started an Urban League.

But the truest sign of the new South that is yet to come was seen at the Memphis airport, where I was changing planes. There I saw a bus-load of school children spill out onto the deck to watch the take-offs. Black and white kids stood talking away in excitement, hand in hand, as their black and white teachers watched over them. The blood and hatred of the past didn't exist for these kids. Race was of no concern to them, only the planes landing and taking off.

With this kind of spirit in the future, together, blacks and whites can help to guide the whole South to smooth take-offs and so construct a better nation.

### Do's And Don'ts



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