

EDITORIALS & COMMENT

"If you will protest courageously and yet with dignity and Christian Love, when the history books are written in future generations, the historians will have to pause and say, 'There lived a great people—a black people who injected new meaning and dignity into the veins of civilization.' This is our challenge and our overwhelming responsibility." — Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Blacks and So-Called Middle Class Status

The new approach used by Wattenberg and Scammon towards black middle-classness presents a rather dangerous and distorted picture of the position of black Americans. Further, such distorted survey results only provide ammunition to those who believe blacks have come far enough and it is now time to call a halt to any further progress.

It is noted that in the new approach toward middleclassness the survey does not take into account how many people have to produce that income, how many have to share it, whether the employment situation is stable, and many other important factors that contribute to the income data.

Using money as the determinant of what constitutes middle class, Wattenberg-Scammon sets \$8,000 as the entry level into this select group outside the South. Within the South, the figure is arbitrarily set at \$6,000. No percentage was given for the any or number of whites who would qualify under this criteria, but it has to be considerably above the black figures.

Such a definition of the black

middle class is even less valid because the authors have included all factory workers. The average earnings of such workers, is only \$4,500 a year. With many cutbacks and other production crises, the salary or income figure becomes even less.

The efforts of Wattenberg and Scammon to convince readers that the majority of blacks are now middleclass obscures the fact that there are two middle-income levels in America—\$6,440 for black families and \$10,672 for white families. In plain talk, the black middle income level is 40% lower than the white middle income level, so that the term "middle class" does not mean the same for both.

Such distorted pictures of the millions of black Americans who are seeking to improve their economic development must not become a source of ammunition to those who seek to say and infer that Blacks have come far enough and it is time to call a halt to any further progress.

Census Bureau 1970 Undercount

The report by the Bureau of the Census reports is that an estimated 5.3 millions persons were not counted in the 1970 Decennial Census.

It does appear that changing life styles, attitudes and other factors tend to now make Census taking more difficult. Obstacles such as resistance on the part of the population to be interviewed, more "alienation" and "distrust" of government and "authority" in general, more organized attempts to protest the Census... and other facets had its impact.

The under-count of white persons in 1970 was 3.45 million persons or a rate of 1.9 per cent. Comparable 1960 figures were 3.25 million persons, a rate of 2.0 percent.

Black undercount in 1970 was estimated at 1.88 million persons or 7.7 percent. Comparable figures for 1960 were 1.63 million persons, a rate of 8.0 percent.

Correct counting is most necessary since congressional apportionment, redistricting, and allocated funds for areas, are based on the count. This is especially important in large urban areas with its multiplicity of inner city problems.

It is hoped that, even more attempts will be made to correct any of the Census inequities since so many facets revolving around governmental allocations will depend on the number of individuals living within a certain geographic area.

Youth and Financial Planning

Members of the younger generation are becoming much more enlightened and aware of the value of sophisticated financial planning.

As one of the more than 25.9 million Americans in the 18 to 24 age bracket, they are increasingly becoming aware of "what it's all about" in money matters.

Young people vote, participate, motivate and think for themselves. Many of them are looking for earlier retirement from their higher-paying jobs than their elders did. In order to reach such goals, improved investment-savings and insurance programs—tied into overall budgets need to be developed. Financial services industry must listen to the young and try to meet their needs.

The philosophy of saving and budgets are already apparent to many of them and thus the need to increase their know how in important aspects of decision making since

many of them are earning their own money and many spend it as they see fit.

It has been shown that education about planned equity savings needs some additional "know how." This means if they want early retirement, they must plan now for it. No matter how oriented they are to buying, or buying on credit, they must be convinced that saving for the future is an imperative task. It is not an impossible task.

Young people today are most receptive to ideas and programs which will guarantee their future financial needs. So it is now important they be informed about the fundamentals of saving, of insurance and investing.

Such economic "know how" becomes imperative as more and more young people move into the mainstream of America.

Blacks Can Close Down Construction Too, Mr. Brennan



● Congressman
● Hawkins'
● Column

By REP. AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS



Troubled Economy

In recent months, the questionable options exercised by the executive leadership has had a curiously negative effect on our country. Fears and annoyances created by the rapidly rising prices, renewed inflation and increasing unemployment are but a few of the major concerns troubling our citizenry.

The Administration's decision to move from its Phase II wage-price controls to Phase III voluntary compliance was one of predictable results. In the few weeks following that decision, inflation quickened at a pace, never before witnessed in Modern America. It was obvious from the beginning that Phase III with its nebulous guidelines was too vague, too narrow and too weak.

WHILE IT IS TRUE THERE are a number of contributing factors that helped create this inflation crisis, the inescapable responsibility for the serious current state of our economy rests with the Nixon Administration in that it not only failed to heed critical warning signs but that it has also failed to provide effective options that might have had a lesser impact on our nation.

The dollar position on the world market has been in peril for many months. Two dollar devaluations within the past two years makes imports more expensive particularly as our country increases the amount of items it buys from abroad, such as crude oil.

THE EXPORTING OF GRAIN, meat and other food products in large quantities also creates problems in that it reduces the amount of these items available to the American consumer.

The recent meat boycott by housewives and protesters across the nation in the face of rising food prices not only indicates discontent against inflation but also strong disenchantment for the ineffective leadership that has contributed so heavily toward our economic dilemma.

Protesting groups are not appeased by the President's order of holding prices on beef, pork and lamb. It is apparent that this newly imposed ceiling is both, too little and too late. The ceiling does not include other meats, fish, dairy and vegetable products, so it is indeed too little. The ceiling was imposed well after the prices had already skyrocketed, so this tardy effort by Mr. Nixon offers no real relief to the consumer at all.

MR. NIXON'S EARLIER and seemingly insensitive advice to consumers to "eat more fish and cheese or just eat less" was enough to outrage citizens from coast to coast. The substance of such advice is contradictory to basic laws of economics. The law of supply and demand would in effect also force these other products into a higher price range, thus, creating an across the board escalation of food costs.

In applying the ceiling, a more realistic approach toward total stability would have been to extend the ceiling to include fish, dairy, vegetables and other meat products. And if the ceiling had been made retroactive to a level of several months ago, rather than the recent record prices, such action would serve as a compromise with the consumer and would aid in actually lowering prices.

THE CONSUMER PRICE PROBLEM extends far beyond food. The cost of non-food items have soared recently also. Among these are gasoline, fuel oil, shoes, feminine apparel and rents. This awesome economic burden on the American consumer is probably greater now than at any other time in recent history.

The Administration should not continue to gamble with half measures. Controlling exports of scarce commodities such as, pork, wheat and grain would increase the supply for United States consumption and would in turn help lower prices. Controls of exports coupled with a stronger and broader food policy would be most beneficial for consumers.

Grandchildren On SS

Some children can now get social security payments on a grandparent's earnings record.

Because of a recent change in the social security law, grandchildren who are supported by their grandparent can get monthly social security payments if the grandparent is getting payments or died after working long enough under social security.

Generally, the child's parents must be deceased or disabled at the time the grandparent began getting payments or died. The child must be under 18 and dependent on the grandparent.

IN SOME CASES, grandchildren can get social security payments if they are legally adopted by their grandparent. These new provisions are designed to help children who live with grandparents who take care of them.

For more information about social security for grandchildren or any social security matters, contact the nearest social security office. The Norfolk Social Security Office is located at 220 W. Brambleton Avenue. The telephone number is 441-5391.



TO BE EQUAL

By VERNON JORDAN

Executive Director, National Urban League

It Worked Too Well

The argument made against a number of Federal social service programs—that they do not work—cannot be raised against the Legal Services Program by even its most vocal critic. If anything, Legal Services has worked too well and in so doing, has incurred the enmity of powerful forces that would like to see it either killed or made weak and ineffective.

Should such efforts succeed, and they are already underway, it will be an unmitigated disaster for millions of poor people and for the concept that equality before the law is right of every man.

It was this concept that led to the establishment of the Legal Services Program within the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1965. Without adequate legal counsel, the poor often find themselves trapped in a bewildering array of problems they simply cannot cope with. Unscrupulous landlords take advantage of them, insensitive government agencies violate their rights with impunity, and dishonest merchants rob them of hard-earned dollars.

THROUGH LEGAL SERVICES, the scales of justice have been brought a little more into balance. Full-time lawyers staff some 900 offices in poverty areas across the country providing competent and committed counsel to millions of clients.

Most of the cases involve domestic matters, consumer and job problems, and juvenile offense, and arouse little controversy. However, the Legal Services lawyers have all challenged existing laws and governmental actions.

In Mississippi, as an example, communities have been ordered to provide the same facilities for black neighborhoods as for white. Construction of a super highway in the State of Washington was suspended until arrangements had been made for the housing of poor persons displaced by the construction. Pennsylvania was forced to make room in the State's public schools for mentally retarded children.

IT IS ACTIVITIES OF THIS nature, more than anything else, that have earned the wrath of those who believe government-supported lawyers have no business fighting governmental decisions.

This view is not only short-sighted, but in effect, tells the poor that as long as they cannot pay their own lawyers to argue their case in court, unjust and illegal actions that harm them will be allowed to stand.

Could anything be more destructive to efforts to instill respect for the law among those who have little reason to believe that the law can ever be anything but an enemy? I doubt it!

DESPITE THE PROVEN record of Legal Services, it apparently has very few friends at OEO, which still retains control of the program. Programs are being hampered by unreasonable restrictions dictated from Washington, funds for various local offices are being delayed for no apparent reason, and morale among the poverty lawyers has declined to an all-time low.

As disturbing and as unfair as these actions are, they would not appear to be capable of producing more than a short-range effect, if there were any clear indications of the future of Legal Services after OEO goes out of business on June 30th.

AT THIS POINT, THE FUTURE is cloudy. The Administration is on record as favoring the creation of an independent Legal Services Corporation, but the legislation has not been introduced at this session. The possibility has also been raised that when such legislation is introduced, it may call for Legal Services to be funded through revenue sharing on a state-by-state basis. Such an action, I believe, would subject Legal Services to political control and would not be in the best interests of the poor.

Supporters within Congress are reluctant to introduce their own bill, fearing that if such a measure passes, it faces a Presidential veto.

into darkness. "Now what do you see?" he asked.

"I SEE TWO bright headlights winking and blinking," I said. "It's got all the extras, no doubt about that. But where's the motor?"

"That's the beauty of it—there isn't any motor. Therefore, it isn't dependent on gasoline."

"Then how does it run?"

HORSE PULLS IT

"Now we are getting to the engineering breakthrough that made it all possible. A horse pulls it."

I JUST stood there a moment in stunned silence.

"That's so ingenious I'm surprised the Japanese didn't think of it first," I said finally. "What are you going to call it?"

Lighter Side

As We Run Out Of Gas

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON (UPI) — With the predicted summer gasoline shortage already a reality, I decided to pay another visit to The Future Is Yesterday Foundation.

I wanted to find out whether this far-seeing research center and "Think tank," which is dedicated to solving national problems, had come up with any substitutes for gasoline.

"YOU BET your BP we have," said Sam Harkenback, one of the top brains in the foundation, to whom I directed the inquiry.

"Follow me." He led me into a workshop where technicians were swarming around a shiny little vehicle with four yellow wheels and two brown upholstered seats. "There it is," he said proudly. "Our latest breakthrough."

NIFTY-LOOKING RIG I whistled in admiration. "That's a nifty looking rig all right," I said.

"THERE ain't no finer rig I'm a-thinking," crowed Harkenback, who has an Oklahoma accent. "Ducks and geese better scurry when this baby comes down the road."

Stepping up for a closer inspection I said, "Is that dashboard genuine leather?"

"THE FINEST cowhide," Harkenback replied. "And get a load of these isinglass curtains that will roll right down in case there's a change in the weather."

With that, he flipped a wall switch, plunging the room

Tan Topics by CLAUDE HENRIKSON



THE AVERAGE KISS CONTAINS 6,000,000 GERMS, BUT O.K. - YOUR KISSES ARE BELOW AVERAGE -!

The Carolina Times

Editor-Publisher 1927-1971
L. E. AUSTIN

Published every Saturday at Durham, N. C.
by United Publishers, Inc.
MRS. VIVIAN AUSTIN EDMONDS, Publisher

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 436 West Polk Street
Durham, North Carolina 27702

James G.
BIRNEY...

... OF NEW YORK, THE FIRST PRESI-

DENTIAL CANDIDATE ON THE LIBERTY

PARTY TICKET; NOMINATED ON SEPT. 22,

1840 / THE PARTY GREW OUT OF THE TAPPAN WING OF THE AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY IN A CONVENTION AT ALBANY, & HE ONLY WON 2000 VOTES THAT YEAR / THEIR NEXT TRY IN 1844, NETTED ONLY 60,000; IN 1848 THEY MERGED WITH THE "FREE SOIL PARTY," WHICH NOMINATED PRES. VAN BUREN.

