

EDITORIALS & COMMENT

Will the Poor Be With Us Always?

More and more statistics and studies done on economic progress show that apparently the POOR will always be with us. And especially for the Black poor, the situation grows more and more critical each day.

The economic progress of Americans are usually brought up to date by the Census Bureau. There may be some good news coming out and bad or truly disturbing things as well. Disturbing because, for the last decade, it did appear that progress was being made as efforts were made to provide job training and other essentials to uplift the millions of low-income and working poor individuals. And now it does appear that no efforts are being made to continue such employment opportunities for the millions of Americans who are in dire need of employment to aid their families, whether black or white.

Even though the number of poor people began to decline, the number of blacks going back below the poverty level increased. The figure of 24.5 million people with incomes below the government's officially prescribed poverty level of \$4,275 for a family of four takes on added significance with the varying guidelines set forth in relation to foods, rents, and other basic necessities, coupled with the rising and never ending inflation.

This is quite a disturbingly large number of individuals for it represents one out of nine Americans. Further it includes one third of all blacks and one fifth of the elderly. One of every seven children in our nation was living in poverty in 1972. The elderly poor takes on added meaning as we note that more and more citizens do reach the elderly status in even greater numbers. Longevity, of course, is to be admired, but to see so many of them in utter poverty causes one to wonder what such an affluent nation can and should do to alleviate their plight.

But never the less, the working poor will seemingly stay in the low poverty levels. For how can they rise or move up when subsidy bounties and inflationary tactics prove an advantage only to the very affluent and the rich.

Black families, especially those headed by females, do not seem to move up the economic ladder, despite the general thought of so many persons that often say women household heads have it easy. Perhaps they mean affluent female household heads.

Recently the work ethic of a large urban area was studied and the results appear to turn the work ethic upside down. The real issue here was not so much those who avoid work as those

who seek it and cannot find it—that is, those husbandless mothers in particular, who for the lack of day care centers, cannot go to a job even when one is available.

This study of welfare recipients has concluded that the problem is even deeper. It has been found that the working poor are indeed just as impoverished as those who are on the dole, and further, have little prospect of improving their lot through work.

Indeed, poor working women are in the worst condition of all. Their wages and opportunities are even more limited than men.

It is strange that even now some of those countries that good old United States provided for so abundantly through its Marshall Plan are already, now that they have reached some degree of economic security, have remarked that we, in the United States, are just not good, business-wise. Whether they refer to the dollar situation or the problems affecting so great a majority of its population, we do not know.

But the most essential issue now is for the administration and government to start immediately providing some public service work programs for the thousands of unemployed, black and white, who now are watching Watergate with mixed emotions as they see and hear, even with a degree of arrogance, how some affluent individuals toss money around carelessly and without apparent shame of the tactics.

Power has been, and without a doubt, flaunted so that all who may watch Watergate have no illusions as to what some men can and will do with power.

Moral leadership is also at stake and the domestic problems of our country cannot be shunted aside and become lost in the shuffles of the Watergate testimony. We say the time is at hand and has been for some time for those governmental leaders, if we have them, to set up needed programs for the alleviation of the rising ugly plight of the poor, blacks, the working poor and the elderly immediately.

Just as Congress this past Saturday, set in motion, procedures for recall to eliminate pocket vetoes by the Administration, of needed programs, surely Congress can accept its responsibility and possibly use the same procedures for the alleviation of the growing human needs that are encompassing all areas of the nation.

We cannot and must not let Watergate color the pressing needs such as unemployment, housing, educational progress and other needed domestic programs that will benefit ALL AMERICANS, whether white or black.

BRENNAN HELD THAT EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH A LAW, IT IS ONLY COMMON SENSE TO CONCLUDE THAT A DUAL SYSTEM DOES EXIST WHEN DESEGREGATION FORCES PROVE THAT THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES HAVE CARRIED OUT A SYSTEMATIC PROGRAM OF SEGREGATION AFFECTING A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE STUDENTS, SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, AND FACILITIES.

JEFFREY ANTEVIL N.Y. DAILY NEWS



Roy Wilkins Speaks

Executive Secretary of NAACP



ROY WILKINS

THE 'HARD MACHINES'

No one can call the characters in the Watergate drama beautiful. But Negro Americans, while having no part in the tossing around of tens of millions of dollars, have less to cheer about than some others. What might be termed "the Watergate mind," not connected by any hard evidence (as yet) with the so-called Watergate conspiracy, has included Negroes racially in the persecutions incident to the all-demanding task of getting the President re-elected in 1972.

The report is that Charles W. Colson, former special counsel to President Nixon, used his influence improperly. In his zeal to re-elect the President, Mr. Colson felt that if black people blocked the main goal, they were to be brushed aside. If their feelings were hurt, if their racial ambitions were blotted out and if their mere presence offended powerful supporters of the President, then they must be ousted.

It is alleged that Mr. Colson asked the Labor Department (1) not to appoint a black man as regional director in New York, and (2) to "harm" all-black unions of construction workers to keep them from competing with white unions. The nominee for regional director, Clayton J. Cotrell, was appointed by the White House only because Laurence H. Silberman, Under Secretary of Labor, threatened to resign if Cotrell was not named.

When Peter J. Brennan was confirmed as Secretary of Labor, one of his first tasks was the demotion of Mr. Cotrell by two grades and removal from the post. The teamsters' union was supporting the re-election of Mr. Nixon and hence the pressure on the Labor Department. Mr. Colson resigned his White House job early in 1973 and his Washington firm reportedly has been retained by the teamsters at a six-figure fee.

Mr. Colson's reported language on the appointment of Mr. Cotrell was blunt. His office was said to have observed: "You can't have this black regional director in New York because the building trades won't stand for it."

Silberman, the under secretary, was said to be "furious" at this effort. He became so firm that the then Attorney General, John N. Mitchell, who had objected to the black director, was quoted as complaining: "Who does he think is running for President of the United States, Richard Nixon or Larry Silberman?" But though Silberman refused to back down and Cotrell's appointment was made, Peter Brennan, the "hard hat" man, removed him.

Donald F. Rodgers, an assistant to Mr. Colson, is said to have been equally blunt about all-black unions. "He wanted the department to bring enough action against them so they could put the unions out of business, because they were competing with white unions for construction jobs," was the way one source put it.

Mr. Colson has said he didn't have close control over Rodgers. Rodgers is also alleged to have told some unions that the White House would relax its non-discrimination efforts after the election.

Race and color, as in all of U.S. history, appear to have been factors in the holy crusade to re-elect President Nixon in 1972. The language, according to reports, was nakedly racial and the action was abrupt and definite, in line with the traditions of teamsters and construction workers. The necessity for Negroes to fight this monolithic opposition is apparent.

For black Americans the deadly contest is for bread, for shelter, for schools, for life's little successes and happiness. For all Americans the struggle against "the Watergate mind" will determine the kind of country we have. We can have cold and ruthless policies, sweeping away the obstructive do-gooders, the Larry Silbermans, if you will, leaving only the hard machines to fight the hard machines — to the death.

Things You Should Know



Andrew CARNEGIE

1835 - 1919

BORN IN DUNFERMLINE, SCOTLAND — IN 1848 HE SETTLED IN ALLEGHANY CITY, PA. AS A BOY, HE WAS AN UNDERPAID BOBBIN BOY IN A COTTON FACTORY — IN 1901 ALL HIS BUSINESS HOLDINGS WERE INCORPORATED INTO THE U.S. STEEL COMPANY!

HE WAS THE FIRST PHILANTHROPIST TO GIVE LARGE SUMS FOR NEGRO EDUCATION / HE GAVE \$ 600,000 TO TUSKEGEE!

CONTINENTAL FEATURES

Blacks outnumber whites 21 to one in Rhodesia, yet the European minority government there has almost convinced Africans that white power should remain for the time being.

Meeting for the first time officially, July 17, Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith and Methodist Bishop Abel Muzorewa, one of the most respected leaders of the country's 5.4 million Africans, are reported to have discussed terms under which blacks would give their approval for a settlement to the constitutional crisis hanging over British-Rhodesian relations for the past eight years.

THE PRIME Minister was responding to an invitation from the Bishop made more than a week before to explore areas of agreement. According to Bishop Muzorewa, Mr. Smith misunderstood the terms under which Africans would agree to a settlement.

Britain consistently maintains it will not grant independence to Rhodesia until a constitution agreeable to both whites and blacks is ironed out. Under Mr. Smith, the white-minority government declared independence unilaterally in 1965. Rhodesia has been under diplomatic and economic sanctions since that time.

THE PRIME Minister told parliament recently that proposals by the African National Council (ANC), the group which Bishop Muzorewa heads, were "absolutely unacceptable" because they called for equal black-white representation in Parliament and a quick approach to majority rule.

In extending his invitation for a direct personal meeting, the Bishop denied that ANC's position was so inflexible.

Until now, Bishop Muzorewa has not revealed how far Africans are willing to compromise, since ANC expects to bargain with the Smith government on behalf of the black masses.

TALKS AT A lower level had taken place last November without results. They were resumed earlier this year after Britain made it clear the two races would have to get together to work out a solution.

A London-assigned, opinion-gathering commission last year found black sentiment resoundingly opposed to a settlement along lines hammered out by Rhodesian and British negotiators. Terms of that proposal would have left power in white hands. The white hands would have been committed to unimpeded progress toward majority rule.

THE TALKS July 7 getting approval for continued white rule.

If the Smith-Muzorewa talks and subsequent meetings are successful, blacks will be agreeing to social, economic, and political conditions roughly similar to those for Alabama Negroes in the early 1960's.

SEGREGATED toilets, restricted residential areas, high voter qualifications which substantially exclude black franchise, separate but unequal schools — all of these situations and more would

This Week In NEGRO HISTORY

One hundred and seven years ago (1866) of Wednesday of this week the Negro explorer who accompanied Peary at the North Pole was born. He was Mathew A. Henson.

Other history events this week are as follows:

AUGUST 6 — John Wesley Work (1873-1926), musician and author best known as the founder of the movement for the restoration of Negro folk song, was born.

AUGUST 7 — Dr. Ralph J. Bunche (1904-1971), social scientist, diplomat, and UN Undersecretary, was born. Dr. Bunche was once professor at Howard University, and he was winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

AUGUST 8 — Dr. William S. Scarborough (1884-1964), scholar and educator and the first Negro to write a textbook for the study of Greek, died.

AUGUST 10 — Clarence Cameron White, noted Negro violinist-composer, was born in 1880.

AUGUST 11 — Robert Brown Elliott (1843-1894), one of the most brilliant Negroes to serve in the United States House of Representatives from South Carolina, was born. He served two terms in office.

AUGUST 12 — The home of Frederick Douglass was dedicated as a racial shrine in 1922.

Re-Living the Post-Reconstruction Period

Blacks and other minorities are beginning to see how the post-Reconstruction Period between 1870 and 1900 lead to pervasiveness and final adoption of the infamous Black Codes.

These were Codes to return Blacks to their "so-called place" after a period of great development and leadership.

We see the continuing whittling away or watering down of many laws that have benefitted not only blacks and other minorities, but also the poor people in general under the guise of returning our country and the economy to normal.

From all reports, there is the still rapidly rising unemployment of Blacks and other minorities. We must not allow the Watergate Mess to overshadow the continued need for programs that will help the masses of people, white or black. The continued rising of inflationary prices will hurt

those who are least able to stem the tide, the working poor. And there are millions of Americans who fall in this category.

All persons must join in the much needed battle to fight against the seeping and pervasive changes in our society. We must not be guilty of sleeping and wasting our time while the Code words are being rewritten and pushed upon the blacks and minorities.

The constitutional crises of our times, rising inflation, utter disregard for the rights of others, as illustrated by the Watergate Mess, what some men and yes, women, will do for money and power as well as the illegality of law enforcement officers, --the surreptitious bugging, wiretapping, tape recording, who knows what else, must somehow take on new zeal for the rights of all persons to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as we move into the future.

Little Known Facts About Black Public Colleges

DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE in contrast to many of the traditionally black public colleges, was specifically established as a land-grant institution on May 15, 1891, by the Fifty-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Delaware.

That Assembly passed "An Act of Establish and Maintain a College for the Education of Colored Students in Agriculture and the Mechanical Arts." Since its founding, Delaware State College has expanded into many diverse and interesting areas of study.

CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY, located in Wilberforce, Ohio originally existed as the "Combined Normal and Industrial Department of Wilberforce University, under the auspices of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It became an independent institution many years later by action of the Ohio General Assembly in 1941.

When known as Wilberforce University in conjunction with the above name, it was and still is the site for the residency of one of the outstanding bishops of African Methodist, Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom.

Tan Topics by NEWKIRK



'BEFORE WE MARRIED YOU DIDN'T HAVE A RAG ON YOUR BACK -- NOW YOU'VE GOT RAGS!'

CONTINENTAL FEATURES

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