

EDITORIALS & COMMENT

Nix On Nixonism

The unfair equating of the protests for social and legal justice as well as needed economic opportunities for all Americans and for Black Americans in particular by President Nixon in his message to the Nation on Wednesday, August 15 to the most sordid illegal acts characterized by extortion, pay off monies, burglary and theft, wire-tapping, and who knows what else by his Gestapo-minded subordinates brings shame and dishonor to those who have long fought, and died, to preserve this so-called democracy of ours.

It has always appeared to many that since this Administration took office the growth, development and progress of the Blacks and other ethnic minorities had been geared to advance only the interests of the powerful and the rich. Nixon, by his own statements on nation-wide TV in the message of August 15, by his tactics of equating the illegal actions

of his aides, appointees and his administration in the Watergate Horrors in the legitimate activities by the protestors in the 1960's is deplorable at the least and disgraceful at the most and should cause unequivocal alarm to all Americans.

The Congress of United States must truly rise to its duties and certainly make this Number One citizen, the President, observe the same rules of justice that is forced upon others.

For if we are to survive, Nixon and other alleged guilty ones among his subordinates must be taken to task and not be granted the immunity from prosecution that many appear to be seeking. To do otherwise would be a miscarriage of justice and is certainly an outrageous insult to the intelligence of the American people.

Let the Watergate Investigations continue so that the American people may be apprised of all the facts. For in the final analysis the sovereign right lies in the American people.

Loss Of A Welfare Rights Champion

The freak accidental drowning death of Dr. George A. Wiley, founder of the National Welfare Rights Organization, leaves another empty vacuum in the ranks of our civil rights leaders that have met death by accidents or assassination.

Dr. Wiley, PH.D. Chemist, intellectual and outstanding leader, who through his zealous role as organizer and leader of the National Welfare Rights Organization, called much needed attention to the legitimate interests and needs of the poor, the working poor, and especially the plight of female headed families, both black and white.

His most recent organized movement of Economic Justice, whose focal point was to bring

together poor and lower middle income persons of all races, ages and circumstances offered a coalition of common interests — improved economic advancement for those who have problems making it in America.

It is certainly hoped that the dynamic approach of the fallen leader, Dr. Wiley, to set up this Movement for Economic Justice through a coalition of interests will take on new incentive and motivation as it forges ahead with greater cooperative efforts by all.

With his tragic and untimely death the nation and particularly our great mass of poor people and minorities have lost a militant leader who sought throughout his own life to help make America's cherished ideals become a reality for all persons.

The Nation's Business and Watergate

That slap against Congress, our duly elected officials, by President Nixon in his message on August 15 about members of Congress not accomplishing anything during Watergate Hearings between May 17 when the Hearings began and August 3, when the Hearings recessed, reveals this interesting note concerning the Nation's business. Seven Senators were on the Committee and the other 93 Senators and 435 Representatives were hard at work.

During the period there were 226 roll call votes in the Senate and 216 in the House. More than 50 Bills were sent to the White House and signed into public law. We, the viewers, recall that most often station-breaks occurred when roll-call votes were taken on the Senate floor.

The Congressional Record shows that the rest of the Congress was busy. In the five days of John W. Dean's, III testifying, the Record reported 156 meetings of the Senate, House or Joint Committees and Sub-Committees. One hundred fourteen (114) such meetings were held during the 3 days of John Mitchell, former Atty. General's testimony in July. At the climax of the Hearings, the seven days devoted to John Ehrlichman and W. R. Haldeman, the rest of Congress was engaged in a pre-recess rush of activity. In addition to 292 committee and subcommittee sessions, the Senate met all day on each one of those seven days, while the House of Representatives sat for a total of 49 hours on six days, including two 12 hour marathon sessions which even kept the Representatives from going home to watch the evening re-runs.

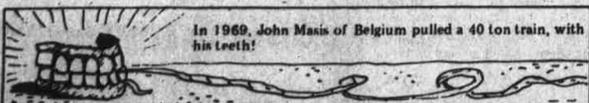
We know that some of this legislative work was very trivial or may have fallen into second class rate. None the less, while the Hearings went on, the Congress managed to finish such matters as the bombing cut-off, the minimum wage bill, the farm bill, the highway mass transit bill, the public broadcasting authorization, the law enforcement assistance bill, and a reasonable number of appropriations bills.

The House of Representatives dealt with legal services, foreign aid and military procurement. The Senate passed the land use and campaign finance bills. The Ways and Means Committee has been working hard on the President's trade bill, and the housing committees await the administrations' housing proposals, which are due next month.

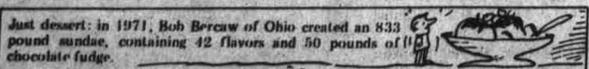
We recognize that both the legislation and some of the leadership in Congress do have serious deficiencies, but that is not the point.

The real point, it seems, is that Watergate Hearings, far from slowing the Congress down, has actually spurred it into greater activity and even independence. It may not be of any great comfort to the President, but it seems to be welcome news for our nation... which BEFORE WATERGATE... probably had much more reason to worry about the weaknesses and apparent inertia of Congress in carrying out the Nation's business.

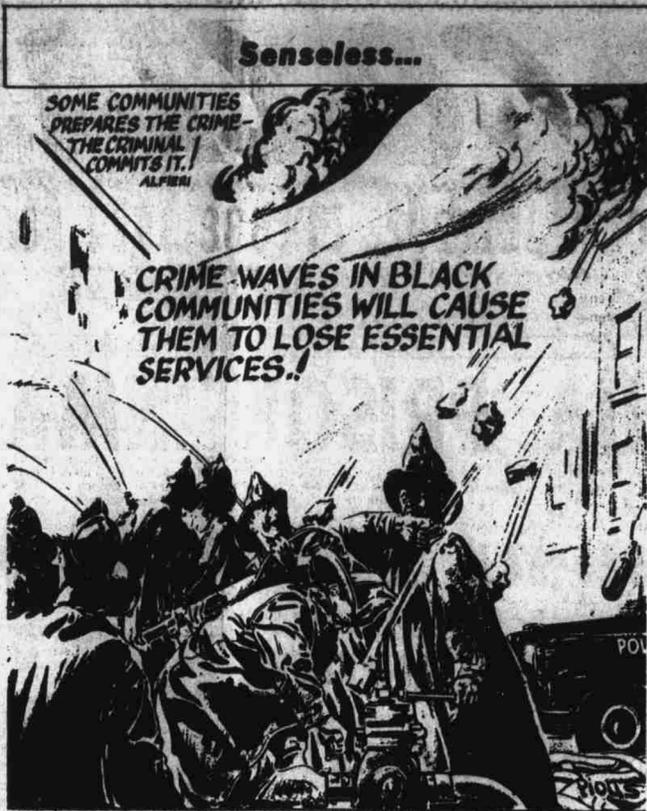
Another real point also for consideration is that Congress will continue to go about with even more independence in carrying out the Nation's business as desired by its electorate.



In 1969, John Masis of Belgium pulled a 40 ton train, with his teeth!



Just dessert: in 1971, Bob Bercaw of Ohio created an 833 pound sundae, containing 42 flavors and 50 pounds of chocolate fudge.



Roy Wilkins Speaks

Executive Secretary of NAACP



ROY WILKINS

NEGROES HURT THEMSELVES

Are the personal habits and racial philosophy of Negro Americans pricing the race out of the market for jobs and general advancement in many fields? Most serious of all, are blacks losing the psychological and moral arguments that give them their only real edge in fighting on many fronts for interracial justice? Do they want uncolored opportunity or do they want their own way, regardless of the damage their own racial standards may do to the whole society?

These are some of the questions raised by a personal letter sent to the NAACP by a white writer who feels strongly on the black-white question. He writes:

"This letter is not the work of a bigot, but of an individual who was an integrationist when 'integration' was a dirty word. I was a liberal, but like so many others, I now have no sympathy for the plight of the negro. I do feel that I understand why the negroes — pardon me, blacks — do as they do and why they raise so much hell.

But as history has proven, Sir, the oppressed become the oppressors. Consciously or subconsciously your damned NAACP and other black organizations and individuals are vindictive.

"Many of you — not all, I am sure — do not want justice, but only your way. The negro is always right. Black is beautiful. Baloney! You coloreds sound like a crying baby — when you don't get your way you yell 'prejudice'.

"Man, can't you see how your people are really hurting themselves? You will never win your place in society by demanding. You must earn your niche. You must improve in general. There is more to life and society than being a great athlete or musician. The quotas that must be filled by Blacks, oh, it doesn't matter whether they are qualified or not!

This man and thousands of whites like him need to be re-enlisted in the fair play army.

But they will not be re-enlisted through interracial slogans. Everyone knows that racial prejudice does exist.

Why are Irish Protestants suspicious of Irish Catholics and many of both suspicious of the British? Why are two black tribes in East Africa at each others' throats? Why are the Northern Italians prejudiced against the Southern Italians? To come to the home front, why is there a lingering feeling against Dixie whites as well as against non-Dixie whites?

So the answer is not for Negroes to give up yelling "prejudice," but to attempt to narrow the complaints down to a factual basis, not a sweeping accusation covering the waterfront. For racial prejudice has existed since the beginning of time and it surely operates against the Negro American. However, it is not present in every single black-white case. Blacks look childish when they invoke prejudice indiscriminately.

Negroes are hurting themselves in housing, in schools and on the job by the weight they give just blackness as against knowledge and skill. If one thinks one-hundredth of an inch clearance is "near enough" to one-thousandth of an inch, then no amount of blackness or whiteness will fill the gap. And crying discrimination will not do it.

The reality is that prejudice does affect the Negro's ability to shelter his family, educate his children and get and hold a job. It is also true that this is a long pull, not for easily-discouraged whites or spiteful, disgruntled blacks. They both will learn (perhaps the hard way) as they go along.

In the meantime, opportunities must be kept open and judgments made as close to impartiality as personal experience and personal prejudices will permit. We must not sell ability short by slamming the door of race in anyone's face.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Sir:

I have been moved by the events that have transpired on Monday, August 6. Realizing that WAFR-FM, this country's only Black-owned and -operated noncommercial public radio station, has undergone one of its severest blows, I must speak out.

FACT: that WAFR-FM planned to commemorate its Second Annual Marathon with a benefit concert by Brother Stevie Wonder at Motown Records on August 6 at Duke Indoor Stadium. Some quirk (of fate?) prevented this consummation because Brother Stevie was critically injured in a car accident en route to the benefit performance.

FACT: that WAFR-FM needs the support of the local Durham community. By virtue of its charter, WAFR-FM must sustain itself via contributions

from public, noncommercial sources and resources. How sad it is that others, outside of the Durham community, realize the worth of the radio station more so than the local citizenry! How sad it is that WAFR-FM has to even conduct an annual marathon to solicit funds when we, the local citizenry, should be doing whatever is necessary — by any means necessary — to ensure the survival of our own institution.

FACT: that WAFR-FM has survived in spite of seemingly insurmountable odds from all fronts. Brother Robert Sprull, President of Community Radio Workshop, and his colleagues have withstood economic deprivation, malevolent publicity, antagonistic encounters, and yet have stood tall and proud in the manner

fitting the warriors that they are. How much more can we do to these beautiful people before the burden becomes totally unbearable? What does it take to awaken and educate the Durham community to what is going on?

The survival instinct on the part of all of us — station personnel included — must be the Rock of Gibraltar. There is no true steel except that gone through the fire. We cannot wait and will not wait for the fire next time. NOW is the time to stand and be counted — and be accountable for our local institutions. WAFR must not die; WAFR will not die; its life will be ensured now and forever, for it is our life.

P.J. Robinson.

To Be Equal

BY VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

AID STARVING AFRICANS

Starvation has come to Africa, and unless major international effort is successful, millions of people may die before this fall.

The affected area is at the lower end of the Sahara, taking in parts of Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger, and Chad. Unfamiliar place-names, most of them, and that may be part of the slowness of the world to respond.

The first warning signs went up more than three years ago, when drought hit the region. It has continued, and is likely to go on for some years yet. Last fall, word was spread by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization that crop failures in the area were due.

So the world knew about it, but little was done until tribesmen started streaming into towns and villages, pleading for food. Where were the members of the vast army of international experts then? Why didn't our State Department start things moving sooner? Was information about the impending disaster filed in neat folders while people died?

Now relief supplies are coming in, too little too late. The UN and individual countries, including our own, are sending food, but it is one thing to get them to the ports and airfields of the region and another to get them into the hands of the people off the hinterlands. Lack of roads and local transportation has been a stumbling block and the improvised nature of the operation results in waste and confusion.

While Africans are starving and a small amount of food is seeping in, American grain is filling the holds of ships bound for Russia, and this cargo bottleneck hampers relief efforts.

Right now, the biggest dangers facing some twenty million Africans in the drought region is not starvation — that's still a few months off. It is disease, for their weakened condition leaves them prey to otherwise controllable illnesses. There have been reports of hundreds of children dying in a measles epidemic, and the very old and very young are dying of other sicknesses.

The whole fabric of many tribal societies has already died. Nomadic cattlebreeders have moved to the cities, abandoning a way of life that goes back over a thousand years. An estimated forty percent of their livestock have died. Farming peoples are eating their seeds, meaning that future crops will not be sown. And the drought-driven desert is pushing relentlessly southward, threatening future progress in the region and upsetting the delicate balance of life and ecology in northwest Africa.

The world has become hardened to pictures of hungry people, even of children with distended stomachs and matchstick limbs. But this current catastrophe in Africa can't depend solely on the goodwill of individuals moved by tragic photos. It requires large-scale international and governmental action.

The United States should take the lead by establishing an African relief "czar" empowered to cut the red tape and deliver the goods. The UN ought to act boldly, for since most people have doubts about its effectiveness as a peacekeeper, its total credibility now lies on its ability to stave off disasters such as that which threatens six African nations.

Beyond the immediate emergency relief that is required, American and international policy ought to be retooled to provide massive aid to rebuild the stricken areas and to launch plans to help develop the region's economy. The inadequate ports and transportation network now proving to be a major stumbling block to relief efforts ought to have been improved long ago. Colonialism's heritage, which now includes starvation, can be erased by an international Marshall Plan that funnels aid to impoverished nations of the Third World. Instead of competing in development of destructive weapons, the super powers should now start competing in humanitarian works.

BUSING ORDERED IN MICHIGAN

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — (NBNS) — A federal judge has ordered that the board of education reinstate a school desegregation plan which involves limited busing of students in Lansing.

The plan, which involves eight of the city's 48 elementary schools and the busing of 900 students, was approved by the board last September.

However, School Board attorney Fred Newman is seeking a stay of the ruling with the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, pending the appeal. He said his chances were less than 50-50 of winning.

U.S. IMPOSES HIRING PLAN ON CAMDEN

WASHINGTON — (NBNS) — The Labor Department has imposed minority hiring plan on the construction industry in Camden, N.J. after efforts for a voluntary one failed.

The plan requires first year goals by contractors who have federal contracts to "make a good faith effort" by raising minority employment by June 30 from 2.1 per cent to 4.2 per cent for plumbers, pipefitters and roofers and 11.2 to 13.4 per cent for bricklayers.

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