

EDITORIALS & COMMENT

AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL

"Old Glory" has seen many changes in her lifetime. As she rippled majestically above the American landscape, she watched Thirteen Colonies grow to mature adulthood; she suffered the hell of war and the joy of a surging economy; she has heard cries of doubt and despair turn to a voice of confidence as her people made their way into the uncertain arena of global affairs. Now the U. S. prepares for its Bicentennial celebration in 1976, and there are thousands of ways for each of us to show pride in our heritage and hope for the future.

Robert O'Brien, in his article entitled "A Chance for Rediscovery", appearing in the September issue of The Reader's Digest, calls for a rededication to the principles of America and a new appreciation of all she has stood for in the world. All 50 states have plunged into preparations for the event, with efforts ranging from reconstruction to historic forts

and trails and the building of exhibits costing millions-- to clean-up campaigns in every city, town and village. The executive director of the Arkansas Bicentennial Commission, Mrs. Glennis J. Parker, captured the essence of the nation's 200th birthday celebration when she said, "We're not a wealthy state, and we can't do big things. But that's not what it's all about. The Bicentennial is a spirit, a demonstration of love for our country..."

These are troubled times, when the very fiber of American life is being tested and challenged. Yet, as we survived the turmoil of the past, so shall we conquer the unknown that lies ahead. Everyone who is proud to be an American should dedicate themselves to making our 200th birthday one never to be forgotten, while at the same time seeing to it that our sacred Constitutional rights and freedoms remain inviolate.

THE LOST GENERATION

Many people in the U. S. under 45 have never ridden a train in their lives. The railroads generally have recognized this "lost generation" problem for a long time. The problem is not necessarily one of coaxing people back onto trains if they prefer to fly or drive, but rather one of how to prevent them from losing touch with the railroads that play a crucial transportation role wholly aside from carrying passengers. Even today, when rail transportation is more vital than ever before, a great many people consider the utility of a railroad primarily in terms of passengers carried. This is a fallacy that must be corrected because public policies under which the rails must operate eventually hinge upon public understanding of where railroads fit into the overall transportation network.

The statistics tell the story more dramatically than words. Some of these statistics, buttressed by other elements in the case for the railroad

industry, have been presented in a leaflet issued by the Association of American Railroads and entitled, "America's Railroads-- 'Who needs them?'" To begin with, 75 percent of the nation's coal, including most of that used for generating electric power, is moved by the rails. The same is true of 76 percent of all new autos and auto parts; 74 per cent of all frozen and canned goods; 60 percent of all manufactured products; 71 percent of all household appliances; 86 percent of all pulp and paper; 78 percent of all lumber and wood and 68 percent of all concrete, gypsum and plaster.

Add to these statistics the further fact that railroad locomotives pull their load with a smaller expenditure of energy than other vehicles, occupy less land and contribute a minimum of pollution to the environment, and it is easy to see why it is important for the "lost generation" to rediscover the railroads.

DURHAM'S PROGRAM FOR PROGRESS

The 2 to 1 Bond package as voted by Durham's citizenry pointed up that those who did vote wanted the city to catch up and keep up as the area looks towards its future progress and expansion development.

The passage of the first bond proposals in 8 years was a very positive sign that Durham's citizens do wish to pull ahead for growth and future progress in all needed phases conducive to the best interests of all persons. Even though only a fraction of the registered voters turned out, the overwhelming majority of those voting cast the "yes" vote.

Durham's Committee on Negro Affairs (DCNA) supported all issues represented in the package, despite a few dissidents, which is only natural in any group. Among the majority voters, several "so-called middleclass or working class citizens did not support the bond issues in their precincts based on the theory that it did not offer them anything and taxes would have to be raised.

With the many miles of unpaved

streets, shortage of fire and needed water and sewer facilities, recreation and parks improvements or expansions, it is difficult to see this position if progress is to be made.

However, the results of the bond referendum package will now allow Durham county to put its revenue sharing funds and bonds to work for the benefit of all its citizens.

A Citizen's Advisory Committee will now be appointed from all sectors of the community to set priorities for the bond expenditures. The Committee when appointed, should move rapidly in the direction of what is best for the overall progress of the total community. Their priorities should be geared to the most urgent needs of such items as sidewalks on streets that are heavily traveled by school children.

All citizens must recognize that there can be unity in diversity of opinion and that, this very unity in diversity, can work towards a better and greater society for the continued development of all persons.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The presentation of the Distinguished Achievement Award of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce to Dr. LeRoy T. Walker in a special ceremony cities one who has contributed greatly to the on-going high public image of Durham.

Walker, Chairman of the Department of Physical Education and Recreation at North Carolina Central University has made outstanding contribution in the world of Track and Field Events. He was the director of the most successful Pan-Africa-USA International Field meet held at Duke University in 1971, and was most instrumental in the planning and implementing of the

Martin Luther King International Freedom Games held in Durham last spring. In addition he has served in numerous capacities of Collegiate Sports Councils and in other capacities throughout his long tenure as a member of NCCU's faculty.

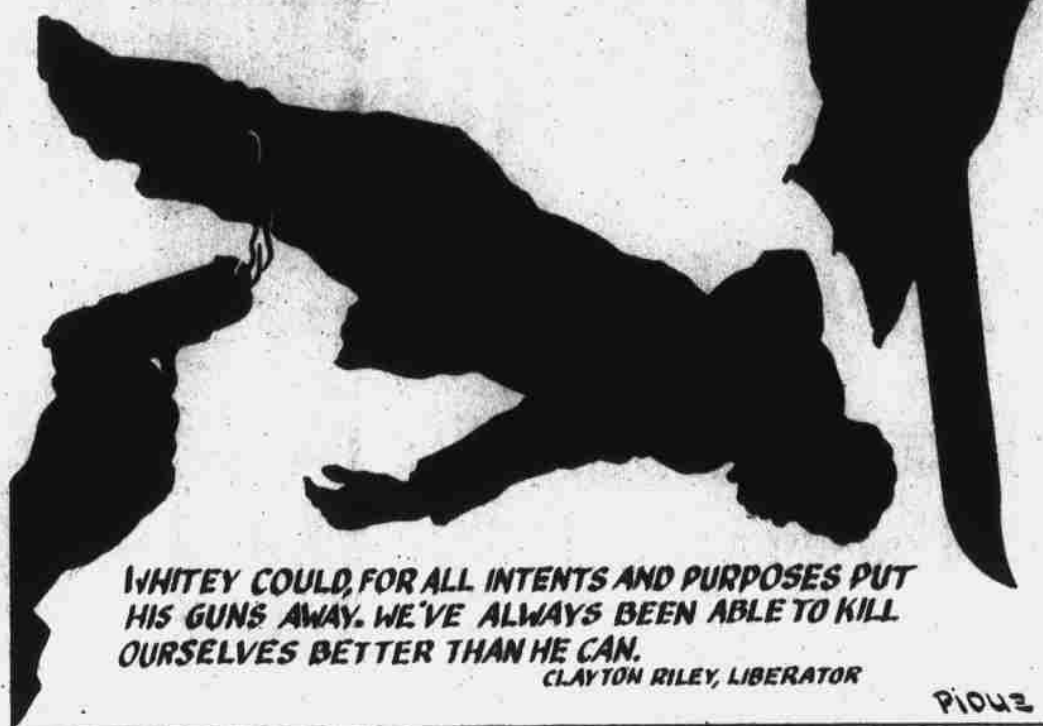
The presentation of the Distinguished Citizen Award will indicate to Dr. Walker as well as to many other citizens of the Durham Community that his diligent services in area of promoting Durham as a city of international goodwill is most appreciated and certainly will establish Durham as a prime site for the 1974-USA-USSR International Track and Field competition.

BLACK COMMUNITIES MOST DANGEROUS

MURDER RATES FOR BLACKS IN CITY 8 TIMES THAT FOR WHITES.

66% OF MURDERS IN 17 CITIES COMMITTED BY BLACKS KILLING BLACKS.

FROM A STUDY BY THE N.Y. TIMES



WHITEY COULD, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES PUT HIS GUNS AWAY. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO KILL OURSELVES BETTER THAN HE CAN.

CLAYTON RILEY, LIBERATOR

PIDUE

Roy Wilkins Speaks

Executive Secretary of NAACP



ROY WILKINS

LABOR AIDS MINORITIES

Celebration of the Labor Day weekend offers an opportunity to point out that the leadership of the labor movement has made progress in the difficult area of minority employment.

The Negro worker has come a long way and painfully too in the last hundred years. He started as a slave artisan, a threat to free labor which itself struggling to establish its right to organize and bargain on wages and working conditions. It was easy to dislike him, not only because his skills threatened the guild system where trade was a family mystery and workers were kept in scarce supply, but he was black.

It was not strange, then, that the strife between the unions and the Negroes formed a compromise. Sometimes, in some areas, the policy was one of absolute exclusion. In others, it was a grudging admission that the mere presence of the black worker was a danger to the progress of the white workers. Thus, there was some effort to crack some of the doors to trade union membership for blacks. This was the era of what might be called the time of "meaningless membership." It was a period when some of them were corralled, but had no representation or little of that.

All that is in a process of change today. Most, if not all, trade unions have stricken the word "white" from their constitutions as a requirement for membership. Long before it was fashionable the late John L. Lewis had three elections in the United Mine Workers, with some unions, predominantly white, electing Negro officers. Free elections are now common. Blacks are now on committees, are delegates to conventions and some hold high elective offices in unions.

However, all is not well but the direction is correct. There are still some white members and officers who confuse color with class. They forget that the representatives of the company or corporation sit across the bargaining table, not the black workers. The ones who hold this

belief are in a shrinking minority, but one, nevertheless, that still wields influence.

And there are powerful labor men in strategic posts like the Secretary of Labor, Peter J. Brennan, who may or may not be opponents of the aspirations of black workers. However, they toss many obstacles into the path of a larger pay check for blacks.

Secretary Brennan has announced that federal funds will go only to construction projects in those states "where there is a viable and effective plan in operation."

This sounds good. However, Secretary Brennan added "additional and/or supplementary state of local (Economic Employment Opportunity) requirements may not be applied to federally assisted construction projects."

This means if it is carried out, that a state or local locality may not strengthen its agreements on minority employment and still receive federal funds. Under this Brennan interpretation, federal funds would go only to support the weakest, not the strongest, law on minority employment. New York City alone has one and one-half billion dollars in construction, now threatened by the Brennan policy.

But, however the Brennan and similar obstacles delay the full participation of the black workers, the march is forward. After all, the Negro worker needs a home, insurance, education for his children, health care and leisure activities for his family if he is to be a significant part of the American economy. In making access to the good life easier for him, the trade union movement in making things better for itself.

In a recent message, President George Meany of the AFL-CIO, cited the growth this year of better than 50 per cent in minority enrollment in apprenticeship programs, from 14,216 in 1971 to 22,363 in 1972. This is small but it is the way to go.

Things You Should Know

John BROWN...
... UNDER THE NAME OF ISAAC SMITH
HE RENTED A MARYLAND FARMHOUSE
IN JULY, 1859 TO SET UP AN ARSENAL /
WHILE TRAINING HIS MEN, HE MET WITH
FREDERICK DOUGLASS WHO DISCOURAGED VIOLENCE, BUT A FEW
STUDENTS & RUNAWAY SLAVES JOINED HIS BAND / THE AIM OF HIS
FAMED RAID ON HARPER'S FERRY, OCT 16, 1859, WAS TO DISTRIBUTE
ARMS TO SLAVES & SPREAD THE REVOLT ACROSS THE SOUTH!

CONTINENTAL #217-254-2

To Be Equal

BY VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

CENSUS MEANS LOST \$'S

You might be one of the 5.3 million people the U. S. Census Bureau admits did not count in the 1970 Census. If so, that means that your neighborhood loses federal aid apportioned on a per-capita basis, including revenue sharing money, and shares less than it ought to in other federal and state programs.

Over five million people not counted may not seem much on a national basis in a total population of over 200 million, but is impact on localities, especially on hard-pressed cities and towns with substantial minority populations, is important.

The bulk of the "missing persons" are minorities: almost eight percent are black, as against less than a two percent undercount for whites. Spanish-speaking people were probably undercounted more than any other group, since the Census forms were in English only.

How much have key cities lost because of the undercount? It's hard to say exactly, but a good estimate, based on the Census Bureau's own figures of the undercount indicates that New York State lost about \$15.1 million in revenue sharing funds alone, while California lost almost as much.

Major cities lost large amounts that could be used to help relieve the crushing problems they face. New York City lost about \$6.7 million; Chicago, \$2.5 million; Washington, D.C., \$1.5 million, and other cities similar amounts depending on their size and their minority populations.

What ought to be done to rectify a mistake the Census Bureau admits occurred? After all, the census is no academic head-counting exercise: it is the basis not only for allocation of federal and state funds, but also for political representation and the drawing of political districts at all levels of government.

The Census Bureau itself wants another census in 1975, instead of waiting until 1980 as mandated by the Constitution. There is a lot to be said for cutting the census interval from ten to five years in our highly mobile nation. There is an agricultural census every five years counting every farm animal and tractor in rural America. If we can count chickens every five years why not people?

But Congress refused a mid-decade Census so we must deal with these figures for the next ten years. I have already suggested an across-the-board increase in official population figures to account for the estimated undercount, but such suggestions have met with a defeatist response that simply says that the national figures can't be adjusted on a local basis.

Now the National Urban League's Research Department has come up with a formula it says can be applied to correct the undercount. The researchers went to the Census Bureau's own estimated national undercounts of different sub-groups of the population and devised a system of adjusting local figures.

They make clear that this is an interim device to be used in the current emergency. Eventually, population researchers and the Bureau may come up with a fool-proof method of compensating for national undercounts, but until then, it makes sense to put the League's method to immediate use in all population-based formulas on federal and state aid.

After all, this wouldn't be the first time the government used nation-wide figures to deal with localities. The famous poverty index, for example, applies a national definition of poverty regardless of the significant cost of living variations in different regions. The national poverty index is used as a national standard for allocating funds to localities: so too, the suggested revisions in population figures would be used as a standard for disbursement of funds until the next census.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Four Little Girls

Killed In a Birmingham

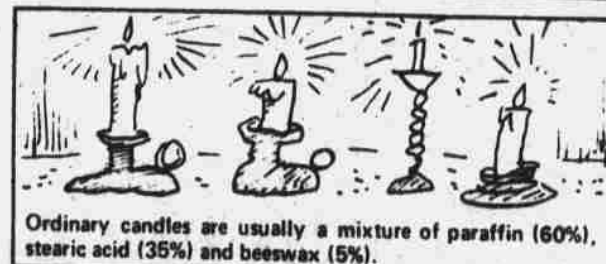
Church in 1963 Would

Have Voted This Year

For The First Time.

They Won't.

What's Your Excuse?



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