

EDITORIALS & COMMENT

New Twists In Consumerism

We Americans are a proud, independent people, and history has proven that we will not tolerate very much government interference in our lives. This helps explain why projects run on a private, local level, such as the Better Business Bureaus, find a special place in the hearts of the people.

To watch the Better Business Bureaus in action is to better understand the American mind, for the BBB's are an excellent example of the spirit of voluntarism which we hold so dear. Ever since their inception six decades ago, the BBB's have sought to upgrade the performance of the American marketplace without government help and now, with the Council of Better Business Bureaus as a head coordinating agency, the BBB's are stronger and more effective than ever before. This cohesive group of businessmen, citizens and professionals, operating in 137 U.S. cities, has come up with some

important new twists in the consumer movement, called Consumer Councils. Nearly 2,000 consumers have eagerly joined these Councils, working in such diversified activities as investigative shopping, mediating and conducting consumer educational programs for senior citizens and the poor. Each local Consumer Council is under the guidance of a consumer specialist who has been trained by experts. The Bureaus that have tried such a program report community understanding of BBB goals and methods has grown through public involvement.

So it is that we have been able to keep the free enterprise system on its toes, without "Big Brother." The Better Business Bureaus can state, "We have validated our basic premises that once consumers know that business cares and that business offers viable alternatives of solving the problems of buyer and seller, consumers respond positively to voluntary regulation."

Consumers Benefit

Anything that has a bearing on the cost of living in this period of record inflation is of immediate concern to consumers. For instance, there has been much discussion of promotion and advertising—whether they should be disallowed as a needless cost to consumers. Any such action would be a crippling blow to the mass distribution principle and would not cut costs of the consumer. On the contrary, costs and prices would inevitably rise.

An interesting statement on the future of trading stamps, which are one of the oldest forms of promotion, has appeared in an advertising supplement prepared by a leading trading stamp company*. Starting with the point that 70 percent of all U. S. households—some 47 million—save trading stamps, it goes on to discuss the future of trading stamps as a part of the American marketing system. Judging by the facts, trading stamps are expected to remain a vital factor in the system for the foreseeable future. The statement demolishes the allegation that

dropping a promotion such as trading stamps is reflected in lasting price reductions. Studies have shown, as the statement observes, "Stores that dropped stamps disappeared entirely within a nine-month period."

What happens is that when a store drops an effective promotion and looks for a sale increase via the attraction of price cuts, the consequence is a drop in sales, which necessitates higher prices and so the vicious circle of a promotionless market begins to appear—less free choice for consumers, fewer goods and higher prices. The longer the process continues, the more rapidly austerity becomes the rule in the place of abundance.

For these reasons, the U. S. business system will continue to stress promotion and advertising, and consumers will accept them as part of a way of life that has produced more for more people than any other social, economic or political organization in history.

*The Sperry & Hutchinson Company

Warning To Big Spenders

The people of the United States are beginning to learn that creeping inflation is but the prelude of galloping inflation and that government spending beyond income is the forerunner of rising prices and devalued dollars. A nationwide, independent survey sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation and involving 1,123 personal interviews in 24 metropolitan areas and 11 nonmetro counties reveals that 86 percent of the people favor cutting government spending to combat rising food prices. If the findings of the survey mean anything at all, politicians are going to find it increasingly difficult to spend and

spend without regard to the taxpayer's ability to pay. As the consequences of their acts are felt in terms of more inflation, they are likely to find it harder to pass along the blame to businesses, industries, retailers, farmers and workers for what happens to prices.

No matter how many billions are poured into social programs, to buy votes, their effect will be crushed along with the hopes of beneficiaries by the roaring express train of inflation. In the end, the groups of people that free-spending politicians have counted on the most to keep them in office will become the most venomous in demanding retribution.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

James McCune SMITH...

OF WHITE AND NEGRO PARENTAGE,

THIS PHYSICIAN, SCIENTIST, ORATOR, SCHOLAR AND ABOLITIONIST WRITER GAINED NATIONAL FAME AROUND 1840, A GRADUATE OF THE UNIV.

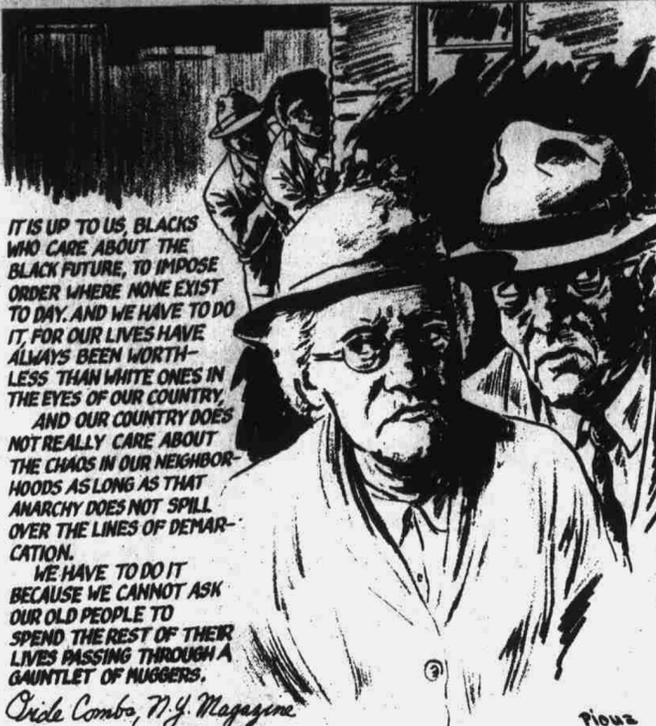
OF GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, HE IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS WORK WITH CHAS. RAY HELPING GERRITT SMITH

OF PETERSBURG, N.Y., (ORGANIZER OF THE LIBERTY PARTY), SET UP A PLAN TO COLONIZE FREE NEGROES ON N.Y.

STATE FARMLAND & TRAIN THEM IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY



AFRAID TO WALK IN BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS?



IT IS UP TO US, BLACKS WHO CARE ABOUT THE BLACK FUTURE, TO IMPOSE ORDER WHERE NONE EXISTS TO DAY, AND WE HAVE TO DO IT, FOR OUR LIVES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WORTH-LESS THAN WHITE ONES IN THE EYES OF OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR COUNTRY DOES NOT REALLY CARE ABOUT THE CHAOS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AS LONG AS THAT ANARCHY DOES NOT SPILL OVER THE LINES OF DEMAR-CATION.

WE HAVE TO DO IT BECAUSE WE CANNOT ASK OUR OLD PEOPLE TO SPUR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES PASSING THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF MUGGERS.

Slide Combo, N.Y. Magazine

The Legacy of Dred Scott

Harold R. Washington

In 1857, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, speaking for the United States Supreme Court held that, "... they (Negroes) had no rights which the white man was bound to respect." Scott v. Sandford, 60 U.S. (19 How. 393 at 407 (1857). The decision ended equitable protection by the various states concerning the rights of slaves to claim freedom upon entering non-slave-holding territory. This unequivocal pronouncement broke Anglo-Saxon precedent of 85 years as enunciated by Lord Mansfield (Somerset v. Stewart, 98 Eng. Rep. 499 (1772)) and established an iniquitous precedent that made it relatively easy to circumscribe the rights of "African descendants" who were an "inferior and subject class."

Scott v. Sandford was the touchstone for sanctioning all post-Thirteenth Amendment stigmata. Discrimination in public accommodations (Civil Rights Cases, 109 U.S., 3 (1883)), common carriers (Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 U.S. 537 (1896)), public school education (Cumming v. Richmond County Board of Education, 175 U.S. 528 (1899)), and voting rights (Grovey v. Townsend, 295 U.S. 45 (1925)) were all bottomed on the reasoning of Taney's semantical gymnastics.

Although probably illegally decided because of the questionable jurisdiction of the Supreme Court (See Freund, *On Understanding The Supreme Court* (1951)), Scott v. Sandford marks a point of departure for Blacks that has dual significance. It is, at one and the same time, both a reference point for indicating how far the legal rights of Blacks have moved and a sardonic reminder that lest Blacks be watchful as a people, vestiges of the "no rights which a white man was bound to respect" concept will continually arise. It cannot be gainsaid that the legal rights of Blacks qua Blacks in this country stands on the most favorable footing since the good ship *Jesus* first entered upon the African slave trade. It also cannot be denied that whatever rights have been won have come as a result of fairly bitter struggles against a background of Scott. Even perceived victories have been tinged with the vestigial echoes of Taney's edict. As the late Judge Loren Miller pointed out, one of the more curious issues in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) was that the U. S. Supreme Court felt that it could delay the personal and present constitutional rights of Black children to a more propitious time. (Miller, *The Petitioners*, p. 346 (1967)). The decision in *Moose Lodge v. Irvis*, -U.S.-, 92 S.Ct. 1965 (1972) most certainly can be traced directly to its precursor, Scott v. Sandford. As the dissenters in *Moose Lodge* point out, the "private" club that was permitted to discriminate on the basis of race could not have existed without the State Liquor Authority.

While there may be uncertainty as to whether the federal government's support of sterilization projects in Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia, the Tuskegee

"experiment" which subjected Black farmers to the ravages of syphilis and the California and Mississippi psycho-surgery projects involving Black prisoners can be traced directly to Scott, it is a fact that Associate Justice Rehnquist, in an April 4, 1973 speech at Duke Law School, stated that in his opinion Justice Taney was the greatest Justice to ever sit on the U.S. Supreme Court and it was his (Rehnquist's) desire to emulate him. (Justice Rehnquist was the author of the majority opinion in *Moose Lodge v. Irvis*.)

Continued exploration must be made of both judicial attitudes and official sanction of repressive tactics. The importance of Scott cannot be sloughed off in the face of cases such as *Moose Lodge v. Irvis*; *Jefferson v. Hackney*, -U.S.-, 92 S.Ct. 1724 (1972); and *San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez*, -U.S.-, 93 S.Ct. 1278 (1973). While the latter two decisions are not based upon race alone, as was pointed out by the majority in *Jefferson*, the overwhelming proportion of recipients of Aid to Financially Dependent Children affected by the Texas benefit reduction formula were Black and Mexican-American. And as Justice Marshall indicated in his dissenting opinion in *Rodriguez*, "inequality in the educational facilities may make for discriminatory state action." 93 S.Ct. 1278 at 1323. Justice Marshall recognized the fact that it is minority group children who inhabit the "disadvantaged" school districts.

Wright v. Emporia City Council, -U.S.-, 92 S.Ct. 2196 (1972), set a precedent of sorts. It was the first time since *Brown* that the Supreme Court had rendered a nonunanimous decision concerning school desegregation. The split became most apparent in the northern desegregation case, *Keyes v. School District No. 1, Denver*, -U.S.-, 93 S.Ct. 2686 (1973). Justice Powell, in a well reasoned dissent in the *Colorado* case, objected primarily to the use of busing as a constitutional mandate to achieve desegregation. Justice Rehnquist's dissent, filled with scathing denunciations of the majority's "bald statements," and "jumbled hash of unrelated events," went primarily to opposition to desegregation per se. His statement concerning the inability to determine the intent of a school board in the racial imbalance situation due to "turn overs as a result of frequent periodic elections" (93 S.Ct. 2686 at 2723) echoes his philosophical progenitor's (Taney) question begging statement that "...the public history of every European nation" demonstrated that the Founding Fathers did not intend that, "the class of persons who had been imported as slaves, nor their descendants, whether they had become free or not," were ever intended to be citizens. (60 U.S. 393 at 407).

There is no question of a misperception of the thrust of some recent decisions. Rights of minorities have in fact been circumscribed by these pronouncements from the nation's highest court.

To Be Equal

BY VERNON E. JORDAN III

Picture one of the great cities of the world, with three-quarters of a million people, stadiums, museums, headquarters of national organizations and businesses, a thriving community life, and a national communications center.

Picture such a metropolis whose citizens do not have the right to vote for their local officials, whose every local law has to be approved by people who live elsewhere and whose main interests lie elsewhere. Picture such a city, whose residents pay taxes but cannot elect the officials who formulate those taxes.

It sounds like tyranny, doesn't it? One would expect such a situation to exist in a colony or in some dictatorship.

The city is Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States. This nation, which won its independence nearly 200 years ago under the banner of: "no taxation without representation," follows the same course with regard to its own citizens in its own capital.

This is an intolerable situation, one that demands immediate solution. All it takes is for home rule to be extended to the citizens of Washington, D.C. All they are asking is the right to elect their own mayor, now appointed by the President, and their own city council, also now appointed. All they are asking is what every single city, town and village in this country has.

Home rule for the District of Columbia is something so long overdue and so obvious a right, that nearly everyone is in favor of it. A national poll some years back showed Americans support home rule by a 6 to 1 margin. A recent poll of D.C. residents shows 80 percent want home rule.

The Senate overwhelmingly passed home rule legislation; by a 64-4 in 1971, and 69-17 in 1973. Both major political parties have supported home rule in their national platforms, as has every President since Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Congress serves as the city legislature. Local laws passed by the District's appointed council have to be

passed by the Congress as well. That means that a city ordinance on kite-flying has to pass the local council, and then go through 33 separate legislative steps in the Congress before it can become law. This is not only a grossly inefficient way to run a city, but an unbelievable waste of the time of Congress, which ought to be dealing with matters of national concern.

Apologists say that since the federal role in the city is so pervasive, things ought to stay as they are. But if that logic were to hold, then the 50 states ought to take over and run their 50 state capitals in the same manner.

The district once had home rule, but in 1874 Congress "temporarily" established direct control. That "temporary" control became permanent, to the detriment of the capital's citizens.

It has resulted not only in their disenfranchisement, but also in broken promises and inequities. Back in 1874, Congress promised to pay half the costs of running the city, but in the past fifty years, it has been a lot less than that. When you consider the special costs to the city of such events as inaugurations, state visits, etc., costs necessary to the running of a capital but paid for by local citizens, it becomes clear that the District is placed under burdens not shared by any other city in the country. Add to this the many tax-exempt embassies and government buildings, and you see how important it is for the government to pay its fair share of the city's costs.

I wonder what goes on in the minds of foreign visitors to the capital of the nation that proclaims itself a democracy when they learn that the residents of this big city cannot even vote for their own mayor and council. And how do the District schools teach civics lessons to children whose parents are disenfranchised and pay taxes without adequate representation? If there is anything all people can agree upon it is that fairness and equity demand home rule for the District now.

TWO MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

BY CORNELIUS R. STAM, PRES. DEERAN BIBLE SOCIETY CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60633



THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

St. Paul, in his epistle to the Romans, refers to those who receive "the abundance of grace" and "the gift of righteousness" (Romans 5:17) which God in love bestows upon all who trust in His Son for salvation.

The Bible declares that no man can ever stand uncondemned in the sight of God, the Judge of all, unless he receives righteousness as the gift of God's grace.

Quoting from both Psalm 14 and Psalm 53, the apostle says in Romans 3:10: "It is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."

This is why Paul pitied those who continued to go about "to establish their own righteousness" (Romans 10:3). He knew that their struggle was utterly futile — that they needed to be saved (See Verse 1).

Let us thank God that the Lord Jesus Christ took the condemnation and judgment of our sins upon Himself at Calvary so

that righteousness might be bestowed upon us by grace through faith. Regarding Abraham's justification before God, the apostle says: "What saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3).

Abraham's justification, of course, was based on the fact that Christ was to die for sin, but Christ's death is now past; it is an historical fact. Thus righteousness is now proclaimed through Christ and offered to all as a gift. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "God hath made Him to be sin for us...that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

But you must receive this righteousness as a gift, for "to him that worketh not, but believeth in Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5).

TURN THOSE IDEAS INTO CASH

Many ideas that have revolutionized U.S. industry did not come from professional inventors. Some of the greatest ideas were extracted from company suggestion boxes, resulted from accidents, or were by-products of other research projects.

In 1912, for example, an American naturalist was living in Labrador, where the weather was nearly always cold enough so that meat left outside the naturalist's shack would freeze. The man noticed that meat frozen almost instantly in the 40- to 50-degree F. below zero of winter tasted much better than foods frozen in spring and fall.

Back in the states, the naturalist tried quick-freezing a whole variety of foods, launched the frozen food business, and in 1929 Clarence Birdseye sold his company for \$22,000,000!



century and a half after Appert published word of his invention. Americans open up more than 60,000,000 cans daily!

Some inventions happen because some people can see things other people don't see in everyday phenomena. So it was with Bob Yates, who recalls that he "stuck a stick into a pan of oil and water and found that the oil stuck to it, and the water didn't." Yates, for 34 years a Lockheed engineer—and also a home inventor and antique airplane hobbyist—had turned to thinking of the oil spill cleanup problem after reading news accounts of the 1969 oil seepage in the scenic Santa Barbara, California,

channel. That stick dipped in oil and water led to Lockheed's oil-gobbling Clean Sweep, a most effective oil mop-up-opper.

From the oil-coated stick, Yates proceeded to design and build a device that resembles the paddle wheel of an old river boat. Each time a paddle comes out of the water, oil sticks to it, then something like a windshield wiper wipes the oil off the paddle and into a container. Most Clean Sweep units recover up to 45 gallons of oil per minute and store the oil in floating containers. Under ideal conditions, Clean Sweep can do even better. A larger version—designed to recover as much as 800 gallons per minute—is now being tested for the U.S. Coast Guard. Many

refineries are also now using Clean Sweep as a standard part of their processing equipment and are delighted with its efficiency, reliability, low cost. All this and it's an effective pollution-fighter, too!

Do these success stories offer any clues as to how good ideas can be turned into cash? Three lessons seem to emerge.

1. When something makes you

really angry, it may be giving you an opportunity to create that Big Idea. Many other people may be angry at the same thing, and one key to making money is coming up with something that will solve a problem.

2. Don't be discouraged by lack of immediate success. An idea, however brilliant, may never pay off unless it is used to accomplish something.

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