

## EDITORIALS & COMMENT

### Black Children and Lead Poisoning

The continuing dangers of lead poisoning to pre-school black children were emphasized again at the recent conference of government, university and industrial scientists at its recent meeting co-sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Environmental Protection Agency.

An estimated 600,000 American children suffer some degree of lead poisoning, including 6,000 with neurological disorders and about 200 or more die annually.

For many years, groups from large urban areas have been pointing up the many cases of lead poisoning among young children as well as the continuing threat of such dangers in crowded housing areas based on non-maintenance of houses due to chipped paints—that is, children eating such chips of paint. Now the problem is found to also exist in rural areas as well. One only need to ride along to look at the disrepair of many houses in most rural areas.

These indices of lead poisoning by black pre-schoolers as shown in the recent survey of 25 urban and rural communities by children who show the symptoms was pointed up by the sampling which showed 9.1 per cent

of black children under the age of 3 had elevated blood levels compared with 3.7 per cent for non blacks including whites, Puerto Ricans, Americans of Mexican descent and American Indians.

Among the effects of low-level lead toxicity cited by the group of scientists, primarily from animal studies, were damaged muscle functions, changes in behavior, eye damage, hyperactivity, hearing loss, slowed or dulled learning and brain damage.

Adequate housing as well as continued maintenance and proper housing code enforcement has been a problem for years for low-income people in general. It has been and is still a special problem for many blacks.

It is most unfortunate that the Administration has seen fit to cut all housing, for at least, some better houses would have been made available for many low-income persons and blacks as well.

At least, the dangers of lead poisoning for pre-school children might be somewhat alleviated with more new housing as well as with better older housing becoming available to many low income persons.

### Political Alliances Built In Coalition

The leaders of the Congressional Black Caucus have said they have a commitment to promote the interests of black Americans even if it means forming coalitions with those that some blacks may have traditionally labeled as their enemies.

This new stance by the Caucus can be seen as progress, recognizing that compromise and accommodation make democratic government more possible. It is most difficult to have unified positions on any one issue. This every diversity of opinion is what helps to move up to a position of

analysis, synthesis and compartmentalization for the best and most effective solution to the issues involved.

Most decisions of necessity must involve compromise and accommodation if fruitful gains are to be made in the broadest perspective.

Politics is education and education is politics played at its best if the great majority of blacks are to continue to move ahead in the 70's by learning and using real political influence after it has been won at all levels of government.

### Happenings that Affect the Future

In response to demand, the U. S. auto industry, long ago, learned to build big, roomy, high-powered, comfortable cars capable of transporting a family and its belongings at high speed over the nation's long distance highways with great dependability and uniformity of performance. American automobiles, because of their size and power, came to be called "Big Yanks" in many western European countries following World War II. Now it appears that the days of the "Big Yanks," like the dinosaur of a bygone age, may be numbered—cut down in their prime by a shortage of gasoline.

During the summer months of 1973, growing numbers of new-car buyers, worried about essential family transportation, turned away from the big cars and began to buy on a basis of gas mileage. People traded big cars with their air conditioning, power steering, power brakes and 400 cubic inch engines for 4 and 6 cylinder economy models of foreign as well as domestic manufacture that they wouldn't even have considered driving a few short months ago. Major U. S. auto manufacturers and their dealers may face serious trouble if this massive swing away from the big car

by the buying public continues in 1974. Many of the big cars have been retyled, some models have even bigger engines than those of 1973. Anti-pollution devices will be even more numerous, and presumably gas mileage will be worse. There could be a great surplus of unsold 1973 big cars and even more of them in 1974. Traditionally, the industry's profits have come from the sale of expensive, large, luxury automobiles. There has been less markup on the economy models. This may have to change.

The Wall Street Journal reports that in one recent month, "...Detroit's sales of compact and subcompact cars rose 28 percent from a year earlier while deliveries of standard-size models fell 13 percent...Foreign economy cars are moving fast, too. Sales last month (June, 1973) rose 14 percent over the year-earlier period after a 24 percent increase in May." The key point is that lighter weight, smaller cars, particularly with 4-cylinder engines, really do get a lot better gas mileage than the traditional, palatial, "Big Yanks." Unless the gasoline supply situation changes dramatically for the better, this is a selling point that really can't be overcome.

### CPAs Aid In Community Planning

Professional evaluations of civic functions are enabling communities of all sizes to improve services and lower costs, according to a leading certified public accountant.

Wallace E. Olson, executive vice president of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, said cities, towns and villages are increasingly using management surveys to raise efficiency of municipal departments, control community expansion, improve transit, and ameliorate urban blight.

One of the major results of such studies is to help community leaders determine the best allocation of funds.

An inevitable opposition exists, Mr. Olson said, between the objectives of department heads to provide the highest level of services and the objective of a village board or a city council to operate within a tolerable budget.

The goal of conscientious municipal department heads is to achieve perfection, and this leads them to ask continually for more personnel and equipment, he said.

At some point, however, the cost of such increases becomes greater than the value of the margin of improvement, and

in some cities and villages it will be found that the number of personnel exceeds optimum staffing from a cost-benefit standpoint.



Wallace E. Olson

Periodic management studies enable the chief executives in a city or village government to reach a balance in distributing resources so as to achieve the highest level of service consistent with cost, he explained.

A midwestern village, he noted, avoided a tax increase and at the same time improved its services for residents by

having an accounting firm do a comprehensive evaluation of its police, fire and other departments, resulting in recommendations for improved efficiency.

Olson referred to an engagement in which another accounting firm developed an information system for a rapidly expanding corporate "new town" so it could plan and control its services to residents, including central town air conditioning, sidewalk snow removal and lawn care.

He cited an instance in which a CPA firm worked on a program to establish tax incentives to encourage property owners to renovate slum neighborhoods in a number of cities.

Olson pointed out that counties and states also are using services of certified public accountants in areas such as improving welfare services while reducing costs and expediting the trial of criminal cases in municipal and superior courts.

Noting that an increasing number of CPA firms are carrying out such evaluations for population centers of various sizes, Olson said these types of studies, professionally carried out, are becoming a routine part of the civic planning process.

Brothers, Sisters and Friends:

Presently we are preparing another attempt to republish our newspaper the Burning Spear. The first Burning Spear, in newspaper form, was printed in December of 1969. For two years the Burning Spear had a rocky existence as a bi-weekly publication (which actually means it was printed as often as possible, which was on an average of every three weeks).

The problem with the Burning Spear in the past was the absence of a division of labor and all the problems associated with that absence. As you may know, the Burning Spear was originally an organ of the Junta of Militant Organizations (JOMO). However, JOMO has become a unit of the African People's Socialist Party and publication of the Burning Spear will now become the task of the Party.

#### CHAIN

(Continued from front page)

increase the interest and concern of the black youth in entering business, and to determine NBL's role in developing official youth affiliation with the League and other elements of the black business community; was able to provide an awareness of the types of resources available within the local community as part of the OMBE business development systems to assist black businessmen and to demonstrate how these resources can be utilized; was able to provide a general background on some of the major problems and solutions that are faced in the management of a business or construction firm; and was able to impress upon local NBL chapter officials and LBDO staff members, the urgency and necessity of formulating the most effective techniques for coalescing all segments of the black business community.

This only lists some of the end results of the 1973 convention, there were many more interesting and necessary points brought forth during the convention.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson, President, Operation PUSH, was the keynote speaker for the Welcome Luncheon held on Tuesday. Jackson began his speech to the delegation by saying, "I want to challenge your minds today." He said that it is often stated that a person has too much ego. He didn't think one could have too much ego because ego was one of the fundamentals necessary for success. In other words, with the right attitude there is no limiting the attitude one could rise. A case in point—if you give a man with a sergeant's mind, an army, he will reduce it to a platoon and by the same token give a man with a general's mind a platoon, he will turn it into an army.

Lerone Bennett, Senior Editor, Ebony Magazine, Johnson Publishing Company was the Keynote Speaker for the Black Business Heritage Luncheon held on Wednesday. The Honorable, Parren J. Mitchell, (D-Md) United States Congress delivered the main address at the Annual Awards Banquet.

All of the sessions and speakers were very informative and inspirational to the convention participants. A tour of the Johnson's Publishing Company and reception was provided by the Publisher, John H. Johnson, on Tuesday evening. Realizing his meager beginnings, those who toured the multi-million dollar complex were inspired by the great accomplishments of Mr. Johnson.

The delegation from Durham included the following: Ralph A. Hunt, Executive Vice President, Durham Business and Professional Chain, Mrs. Carolyn H. Allen, Durham Business and Professional Chain, Ms. Doretha E. Harris, Durham Business and Professional Chain, Mrs. Mary T. Horton, Durham Business and Professional Chain, David L. Harrison, Mechanics and Farmers Bank, Mrs. David L. Harrison, R. Kelly Bryant, N. C. Mutual Life Ins. Co., Waymond L. Burton, Commerce and Industry, Raleigh, N. C., F. V. Allison, Vice President, Mutual Savings & Loan Association, N. B. White, President, Service Printing Company, T. R. Speight, President, Speights Auto Service, Reginald H. Gray, President, Durham Business and Professional Chain, James Tyson, International Business Machines, and J. Preston Johnson, Owner, Durham Wholesale Grocery.

same people who were responsible for organizing the community. Hopefully, we have overcome that problem and will be able to keep to schedule and produce a better paper by having a professional staff, whose main preoccupation will be the Burning Spear publication.

Presently, our organization is not without problems, and the decision to publish the Burning Spear came only after intense inter-party debate. However, it was finally decided that the Spear should begin publication as a monthly, and work toward creating and maintaining its own resources, enhancing its ability to publish more regularly. We plan to resume Burning Spear publication in October or November (probably November).

At this juncture in our preparations we are making a special appeal to other publications which might be friendly and aware of the need for an many progressive publications as possible in the struggle to liberate the people from corrupt and illegitimate government.

Yours in the Struggle,

Burning Spear Staff

publications which might be friendly and aware of the need for an many progressive publications as possible in the struggle to liberate the people from corrupt and illegitimate government.

To this extent we are requesting that any and all resources you are able to share be made available to us. We are expressly in need of the following:

1. Complimentary and/or exchange subscriptions;
2. Address of Black and radical news services;
3. Sheets of any para-type (head-line rub offs);
4. Funds
5. Advice

We are convinced of the need for a publication such as the Burning Spear, especially in the South. Please advise us immediately if you are able to lend us assistance in any of the above-mentioned areas.

Yours in the Struggle,

Burning Spear Staff

Mrs. Eula Harris, secretary; Mrs. Charles Roe, assistant secretary; Mrs. Charles T. Wilson, treasurer; Mrs. Bessie McLaurin, assistant treasurer; and Mesdames Abe Greenberg, James H. Semans, Ruth Poole, Peggy Johnson, and Maceo Sloan.

The other trustees are Mesdames George D. Belscher, Dorothy Brock, William A. Clement, James E. Davis, D. K. Edwards, Durward R. Everett, Jr., R. O. Everett, Norris Hodgkins, W. J. Kennedy, III, Dr. Juanita Kreps, Robert T. Lewis, Jr., H. M. Michaux, Jr., Kenan Rand, Jr., Kenneth C. Royall, Terry Sanford, John S. Stewart, Dillard Teer, Charles D. Watts, John H. Wheeler, and Albert Whiting.

#### CENTRAL

(Continued from front page)

colleges and universities represented in the law school student body are Appalachian State, 1; Barber-Scotia, 1; Belmont Abbey, 1; Bennett, 1; Campbell, 5; Catawba, 1; Duke, 3; East Carolina, 7; Elizabeth City, 2; Elon, 1; Fayetteville State, 4; Guilford, 2; High Point, 2; Johnson C. Smith, 11; Livingstone, 4; Meredith, 2; North Carolina A & T State, 22; North Carolina State, 10; Pembroke State, 3; Queens, 2; Shaw, 3; St. Andrews, 1; St. Augustine's, 6; UNC-Chapel Hill, 32; UNC-Charlotte, 2; UNC-Greensboro, 2; UNC-Wilmington, 1; Wake Forest, 4; Western Carolina, 2; Winston-Salem State, 1.

#### LAWYER

(Continued from front page)

Firm, Warrenton and Chief Counsel for Floyd B. McKissick Enterprises, Inc. A past State vice-president and life member of the NAACP, Clayton twice ran unsuccessfully for the North Carolina House of Representatives. He is a member of the National Bar Association, the Association of Black Lawyers of North Carolina and Secretary.

## POLITICAL INCITEMENT ...? IN HIS SECOND MESSAGE TO CONGRESS HE PLEDGED TO

WORK WITH THE CONGRESS IN AN EFFORT TO ENACT LEGISLATION WHICH WILL END IN—VOLUNTARY BUSING FOR THE PURPOSES OF RACIAL BALANCE.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



## To Be Equal

BY VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

MINIMUM WAGE VETO HURTS POOR

The veto of a bill raising the minimum wage and the House of Representative's vote to sustain that veto amounts to a powerful one-two punch against poor people.

The bill would have raised the minimum wage from the ridiculously low \$1.60 per hour to \$2 now and \$2.20 next year. It would have broadened coverage to include millions of people now excluded from federal minimum wage protection including domestic workers, government employees and wholesale and retail workers. The most abused sector of the labor force, farm workers, would also have gained added protection.

Just to look at the low amounts the bill would have mandated is to understand the callousness of the decision to kill it. A worker who gets \$1.60 an hour for a year of full-time work winds up with a yearly salary well below the poverty level. The present \$1.60 was set back in 1968 and living costs have gone up to the point where a \$2 minimum would still place the worker in a situation where his new wage would buy less than the old minimum did five years ago. He would still be poor.

I simply cannot understand the reasoning that refuses to bring even this most elementary benefit to the poorest workers in the country. It has been charged that lifting the legal minimum would be inflationary and would throw people out of work. But that argument has been raised every single time the minimum wage has been reconsidered and it hasn't happened yet.

Cries of inflation fall on very cynical ears these days when prices are shooting into the stratosphere and unemployment and poverty are high. With all the phases and controls, this mismanaged economy has been caught in the noose of inflation anyway and helping the poorest segment of the working population isn't going to have much effect on rising prices.

A higher minimum and expanded coverage would have its greatest impact on the South, yet it was primarily southern votes that sustained the veto. Every Congressman from Mississippi and Virginia voted against overriding the veto. Just who do these men represent? They can't be thinking of themselves as representatives of the people of their districts, who rank among the poorest in the country.

A lot of crocodile tears were shed over what would happen to workers if the minimum were raised and coverage expanded. Domestic workers, it was lamented, would be thrown out of work. Actually, what would happen is that domestic workers would no longer be as cruelly exploited as in the past. The same holds for farm workers and others.

A sticking point that killed possible compromises was the Administration's insistence that teenagers get a lower minimum wage than older workers.

Treasurer of the North Carolina Judicial District Bar Association.

He is married to the former Eva McPherson, and is the father of four children.

"I welcome the opportunity to serve on the State Board of Youth Development," Clayton stated, "because I am aware of Governor Holshouser's great concern in this area."

The Board oversees all of the training and industrial schools in the State.

#### RUFFIN

(Continued from front page)

fathers in particular, in local most-competitive society.

Ruffin is a resident of Tuggle Street and is a graduate of Hillside High School. He is retired honorably discharged Veteran with more than 20 years of service in the U. S. Airforce and has served in many sectors of the country and abroad. Married to the former Miss Patricia Daniels, they are the parents of three children. The Ruffins are active in both church and civic affairs of the community. He is the son of Mrs. Katherine Ruffin of Kanewood Drive.

First runner-up, Joseph Henry Bell of Dunbar Street is a long time Real Estate Broker of Durham. He was married to the late Miss Eulalia B. Miller of Asheville and they were the parents of 2 children and three grandchildren. In 1924, he became a shareowner in the former People's Drug Store and later opened the Neighborhood store, located on Fayetteville and Dupress streets. After 1945, he sold the business to the Dillard families and has worked in Real Estate only. Bell remarked that he is still working as Real Estate Broker.

Second runner-up Dr. C. E. Boulware, retired Mathematics professor from NCCU is well known as an activist in politics. He and Mrs. Boulware are the parents of one daughter and two grandchildren.

Boulware has served terms as an at-large Councilman and is active in the Durham Committee for Negro Affairs. He is a member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church and is active in church affairs. Chuck Smith, a former

football great of Florida A&M Univ. who now serves as an assistant to Joe Black, Marketing Specialist for Greyhound Corp. and J. Elwood Carter, Carolina Times projected the program to honor an outstanding father in Durham.

Nominees were chosen from coupon votes published in the Carolina Times over a three week span.

Smith spoke of the role of the member of the National Assn. of Marketing Developers in working together through cooperative efforts of both Greyhound Corp. and the Atlantic Richfield of Los Angeles. Ed Bell, another football great, spearheads the Atlantic Richfield in developing more corporate responsibilities to the black businesses which may include such efforts as the huge reinsuring of policies with N. C. Mutual to possible lump sums of deposits with Mechanics and Farmers Bank.

Special emphasis was placed on the ways to strengthen black families through the black fathers and males. He pointed up that millions of black males and black fathers accepted their responsibilities and supported their families as well, in spite of the fact that most black men had endured at sometime, unreasonable humiliations in order to make it for the ongoing of his family and has stood tall and walked tall throughout.

He chided the approach of some younger men who spoke of the non-relevance of their elders, and reminded them that each generation has the responsibility to make life much better for succeeding generations. The expertise of the elders must be shared for the good of the black experience and continue to make not only Durham, but other communities as well, a better place to live by the promotion of improved and better family life for black families.

Judges were Ralph Hunt, I. Jarvis Martin, Fred McNeil, Jr., R. Kelly Bryant and R.E. Stewart. Ruffin commented that this honor was especially important to him and he would indeed always remember it.

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