

# EDITORIALS

## ENERGY CRISIS BRING NEW FOCUS

With the growing demand for conservation of fuel and energy saving tactics at all levels some important points come to mind for many of our communities.

The fuel shortage will now place new emphases on where one lives; how far or how near one lives to his or her place of work; local stores for shopping, recreation facilities for relaxation, whether far or near to one's home and many more facets of our daily living that will be affected. Suburbia especially must take a new look at itself as gas limitations prevent high speeds to and from city jobs.

We have talked a lot about economic development of the communities; now will come serious thought as fuel conservation and

energy saving takes on new meaning for all families and communities.

With all the problems that will come face to face with individuals much more thought will be geared to taking a closer look at available resources close at hand and seeking to put them to better and greater use for the communities.

Most Americans will survive through the winter, just as we came through the summer with various food shortages.

Remember, most Americans have an uncanny ability to adapt and meet the new challenges, regardless of the tasks required once we realize that the energy crisis is not just hot air, but a cold reality of life.

## STILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

As more and more blacks move into elective positions within the nation, focus must still be placed on the value of continued registration and especially actual voting by those who may already be registered.

Reports show that many blacks, while registered, did not actually vote in recent elections. Blacks must continue to register and go to the ballot box, not only for those issues of local interest, but for those issues involving national interests as well. We cannot afford to settle for only a few public offices, but must continue the voter registration drives, get out to hear what the issues are and what decisions should be made and then actually vote your convictions.

Locally our citizens are now being asked for suggestions on how and what to spend the various funds that your vote and mine helped to pass. The meetings are being held at several schools and since it involves all Durham's citizenry, everyone should plan to attend at some time and make your voices or wishes heard.

No one can ill afford to say that the issues do not concern them for all the citizens have the responsibility to become informed as much as possible on any and all phases of bond money spending. The real place to effectuate power changes is at the local level. The opportunity is present there for you to be heard and make your decisions known.

## JOHN S. STEWART RETIRES

December 3, 1973 will mark the close of nearly 17 years of dedicated public service by retiring City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem John S. Stewart. However, he will continue to serve in some capacities for the city of Durham as he returns to his business world.

Stewart was first elected to the Durham City Council in 1957 and has worked untiringly for the interests of all the citizens of Durham. He chose not to run for re-election this fall.

We hope that he will continue to share his great wealth of knowledge and expertise with other members of the Council. This becomes increasingly important as governmental authority appears to be shifting to our states and cities or municipalities.

We wish him continued success as he returns to the private world of business and bids adieu to public office.

## To Be Equal

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

National Director of Urban League



## Balloting Shows Hopeful Trends

An encouraging future of the recent election was the defeat of many candidates around the country who campaigned on the old broken record of law 'n order. In New York City's mayoralty election, for example, the two candidates who made crime the focus of their campaign barely polled a quarter of the votes between them.

I think this may be due to two factors. First, people are finally beginning to realize that promises of more cops on the beat — and on the city payrolls — won't stop crime. They fell for the "law 'n order" line before and wound up with still higher crime rates, so now people seem more willing to vote for candidates who recognize that creating more jobs and equal opportunities is a more rational way to tackle the crime problem.

Another reason is the overflow from the Watergate sewer. When you see the nation's number one "law 'n order" supporter plead guilty to a felony and observe other hardliners under indictment or under a swelling cloud of suspicion, it becomes harder to accept the proposition that they have the corner on the issue.

Another encouraging sign in this election was the continued success of black mayoralty candidates. In addition to black mayors of Los Angeles and Atlanta, elected earlier this year, Coleman Young won in Detroit, James McGee in Dayton, Rev. Lyman Parks in Grand Rapids and Clarence Lightner in Raleigh, N.C.

The growing ranks of black mayors are important not only because they are symbolic of black participation in politics and black acceptance of the responsibilities of citizenship, but also because the greater the demonstration of black political muscle the greater the possibilities are for constructive change in our society.

But too many commentators have been carried away by the uncommon spectacle of blacks in the mayor's chair. The reality is that

black political power as reflected in office-holding is still far below what reasonable parity demands. Blacks still make up one percent of the U.S. Senate, three percent of the Congress, two percent of judges, and less than one-half of one percent of all elected officials in the country.

We have come a long way from just a decade ago when few blacks were allowed to vote at all in some parts of the country. Now there are black office-holders, though not enough, and black voters are showing considerable maturity in their voting, including sophisticated ticket-splitting and a good feel for the time-honored "reward your friends and punish your enemies" ballot booth behavior.

But there is a fly in the ointment. When a black candidate is in the race, or when there is a local issue of special interest to blacks, the black vote is high. But when neither of these conditions obtains, it is relatively low — and that spells trouble ahead.

A just-released census report shows that black voting last year was down, with less than 55 percent of eligibles voting. And the participation rate for Hispanic voters was much lower still. A big part of the problem is the structural barriers that keep people from registering and make it harder for low-income and working people to register. Spanish-speaking citizens face vicious discrimination as well, since few areas provide for Spanish ballots.

Unless black people and other minorities are willing to settle for a few mayoralty offices and accept second-rate status, it is necessary to begin now to organize voter registration drives, to keep minority citizens informed of the candidates and issues, to break down the system that prevents many from voting, and finally, to get out the vote in overwhelming numbers on Election Day. Only in this way will the latent political power of minorities become a force for change and not just symbolic power in some places.

## A PRESSING PROBLEM IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY



## ROY WILKINS SAYS

Executive Secretary of NAACP



## Black Decline Is Worrisome

Just as it appeared that the Negro minority had made some additional breakthroughs in the elections, census figures tell us that the Negro American total vote has declined about 5.5 per cent from the total registered in the Presidential election of 1972.

The black population was ready to celebrate new black mayors in Detroit, Mich., the nation's fifth largest city, and in Raleigh, N.C., an important Southern metropolis, when the census revealed that the Negro totals had declined at a greater rate than those of the whites.

As has been the case for many elections, United States voters showed up badly with only 63 per cent of those of voting age actually voting in 1972. That came to 85,766,000 votes. These included 7,032,000 black votes and 2,103,000 whose background was Hispanic. In those with less than an eighth grade education, blacks and whites came out about equal. Thus it cannot be said that less educated blacks forced their ballot box choices on the whites.

But the black total was about 386,700 less than it was in 1972. Of course, some of the drop should have been expected because fewer people vote in an off-year election. But the decline among blacks was greater than that among whites. There were other factors such as lack of interest in local issues or personalities.

However, black citizens were on their way up, politically. The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which provided for the sending of federal registrars into countries where there has been no attempt to register Negroes since Reconstruction, spurred the black population to new activity. The census figures show that only Southern Negroes held or increased their voting.

A discouragement to Negro voting gained a small following several years ago when the

prophets of "no progress for blacks under the American system" went about preaching largely to younger blacks and to various disappointed ones.

Now, however, is not time to spread hopelessness. A black mayor has been elected in Raleigh where only about 30 per cent of the population is black.

Thomas Bradley is mayor of Los Angeles, where the black population is about 20 per cent. Maynard Jackson is mayor of Atlanta and a black mayor has been chosen in Detroit. Both candidates in Detroit played down the race issue and emphasized the problems facing the city as a whole.

Every election of a member of a minority as mayor of an American city is important. A non-white mayor of San Jose, said to be by its boosters to be the fastest growing city in California, is in a challenging spot.

The election of a black man is doubly important especially where black voters are a minority that never could elect a candidate by themselves (even if every black vote were cast and counted). This is why the Los Angeles and Raleigh votes are significant. There may be, among the 87 black mayors, others where Negroes are in the minority. But the record was handed down by Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts where only 3 per cent of the population is black. It means that the American electoral process is working out.

Negro Americans are beset by many troubles, some of their own making, but mostly those visited unfairly upon them. They can fight their way up and rise in the esteem of their fellow citizens by the caliber of the men they put forward for public office. The pace is slow by impatient standards, but swift as time goes. The system will work for those who take the trouble to study it, prepare themselves and make it work.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Friend:

Our political leadership has been disgraced. Day after day key operatives of our government admit perjury, burglary, theft, electoral fraud and obstruction of justice. Our Bill of Rights is near death. Legal freedom is being sold as a commodity to the highest bidder. Out choice to buy and eat the foods we want and need, and the freedom to purchase fuel is being subverted by shortages and inflation. All of this is occurring in the land of opportunity, supposedly ruled by a government of the people, by the people and for the people. What has gone wrong?

The fight for basic freedoms were too long thought to be the concern of the minorities alone. Because of this, the simple freedoms of all Americans are now at stake. But together we can do something to change the sad state of our affairs.

The Law Students Civil Rights Research Council was founded ten years ago in

response to the critical need for actively involving law students in the problems of law regarding civil liberties constitutional law, racial discrimination, unfair labor practices, environmental protection, prison reform and consumer problems. During the summer of 1973, 415 students were placed in summer internship programs by the Law Students Council: women's rights, Project ACLU, Wounded Knees Defense Offense Committee, Attica Defense, Employment Loss Law Center, Center for Corporate Responsibility, to name some.

LSCRRRC law students are paid subsistence stipends during summer recess to work and assist overburdened practicing lawyers. The Law Students Council has over 100 law school chapters that continue vital work, with labor donated by law students during the school year. The Council established programs to recruit minority students for law

school, coordinated efforts to help students remain in school and complete their legal education, assisted in the defense of most major political trials across the country, organized conferences and seminars to inform, educate and encourage students to enter the practice of law. The Council is a true student organization. Its membership and board of directors are law students. Its staff positions are filled for one or two year terms by recent law graduates, thus insuring the LSCRRRC programs remain responsive to the students and the constituency they serve.

The struggles in which we are involved concern all the people of this nation. Equal justice is not possible unless honest, qualified lawyers are available to everyone. Support us, so that we may continue organizing, educating, litigating, advocating and protecting our precious constitutional and universal freedoms. Freedom Through Law

- Congressman
- Hawkins
- Column

By REP. AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS



## Squeeze On Students

The Nation's colleges and universities are facing a crisis of proportions unique in their collective histories. Key to this crisis is the fact that 633,000 fewer students are thought to have enrolled this fall than previously estimated and the fact that 578,000 fewer students are expected to enroll next fall.

With an enrollment in 1972 of 8,265,000 and an estimate of 8,370,000 students in 1973, and 8,500,000 for 1974, the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education which predicted enormous college growth between 1980 and 2000, now foresees 1.5 million fewer students in 1980 than originally estimated and 3.4 million fewer students in the year 2000 than originally projected.

MEMBERS OF THE Commission, supported by university and government experts in this area, see a combination of things causing this trend in the enrollment decline: high school graduation rates are leveling off, fewer 18 to 21 year olds are going to college, college age white male and female enrollment in higher education is falling, enrollment for degree credits is leveling off and declining, graduate enrollment is leveling off and the United States birth rate is falling.

I believe that a key contribution to the current student enrollment decline is due to cutbacks in federal financial aid programs and to the stringent requirements for loan and grant eligibility which has hit hardest at middle income families. Fellowship assistance and training grant programs have also been drastically affected by the Administration's rigid inflexibility in its budget cutting philosophy.

ACCORDING TO RECENT United States Office of Education figures, the volume of educational loans being granted for 1973-74 has fallen off drastically. Both the number and dollar amounts of federally guaranteed student loans, which are a primary Administration student aid plan, have dropped approximately 40 per cent from the comparable period last year.

The Basic Opportunity Grants program, which is also a cornerstone of the Administration's student aid program, promises to be even greater problem for students, since its average award will be about \$260. The maximum Basic Opportunity grant is \$450, available, however, only to full-time freshmen. This program is totally inadequate, considering the increasing costs of a college education and the needs of students.

IN ADDITION TO ALL of the foregoing, higher education institutions' operational costs have risen tremendously. This means, of course, that universities and colleges need more income from tuition and from government subsidies. In apparent response to this situation, the Carnegie Commission and the Committee for Economic Development have recommended that high and middle income families pay a greater share of the cost of education through higher tuition charges.

Turned off by high (and increasing) college costs, students, not willing to pay an average of \$3,280 annual costs at private four-year schools or \$1,492 at public higher education institutions, have opted to attend cheaper two-year college.

BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE Senate have passed appropriation bills for higher education; they will resolve differences in the bills at their joint conference arrangements.

It presently appears that student loan and grant money will remain tight, and that the present stringent eligibility factors will continue.

My office, of course, will continue to press for liberalization of student aid requirements, and for increased student aid which is realistic and commensurate with increased college costs.

## THROUGH BLACK EYES

By Rhett Tanner

THE ENERGY CRISIS

As people all over the United States are bracing themselves for a cold winter with a critical energy shortage, more and more reports indicate that the crisis is really the result of a smooth public relations job by the Nixon Administration and the big oil companies. According to some observers, "a steal of government riches that makes past political scandals look like peanuts is being carried out by the White House and big oil."

Arguing that the fuel shortage is a fake, consumer advocate Ralph Nader accuses that oil giants "of deliberately creating a short-term oil crisis." "There is an abundant short-term supply of oil around the world," Nader asserts, "indeed, there is some evidence that the oil industry is not leveling with the public about the natural gas supply."

Other critics argue that the administration's PR campaign is designed to trick the people into supporting the turning over to private corporations millions of dollars worth of valuable public lands. These are lands owned by the Federal Government and are supposed to be developed for the benefit of the entire nation.

In his televised speech to the nation last week, Nixon called for public lands to be opened up to the oil companies for production. One such area is a seventy-two square miles piece of land southwest of Bakersfield, California. According to an oil spokesman, the area could produce 350,000 barrels of oil a day in three years.

The spokesman continued that this field has "estimated reserves of 1.3 billion barrels," and "still to be explored are deeper horizons that offer hope for more oil." The oil wealth is valued at "considerably more than \$3 billion." One observer states that the deal being arranged by the "White House will be a give-away."

Nixon's friendship with big oil is a well known fact around the country. His political campaigns have been financed by big oil money. To some, his apparent choice to succeed Him in the White House, former Texas Governor John Connally, represents another example of Nixon's oil ties. Connally has represented the interests of big oil companies since he entered national politics in the 1940's.

One report has it that this is in keeping with Nixon's cash-and-carry government, paying off big campaign donors and friends. In the words of columnist Jack Anderson, Exxon oil has "A tiger in the White House tank."

Wilhelm Joseph to the citizenry, rather than the special interests, and believing in openness and rule of law rather than secrecy and conspiracy.

National Director P.S. Give as much as you can today, so that LSCRRRC may continue creating its generation of people's lawyers—responsive

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