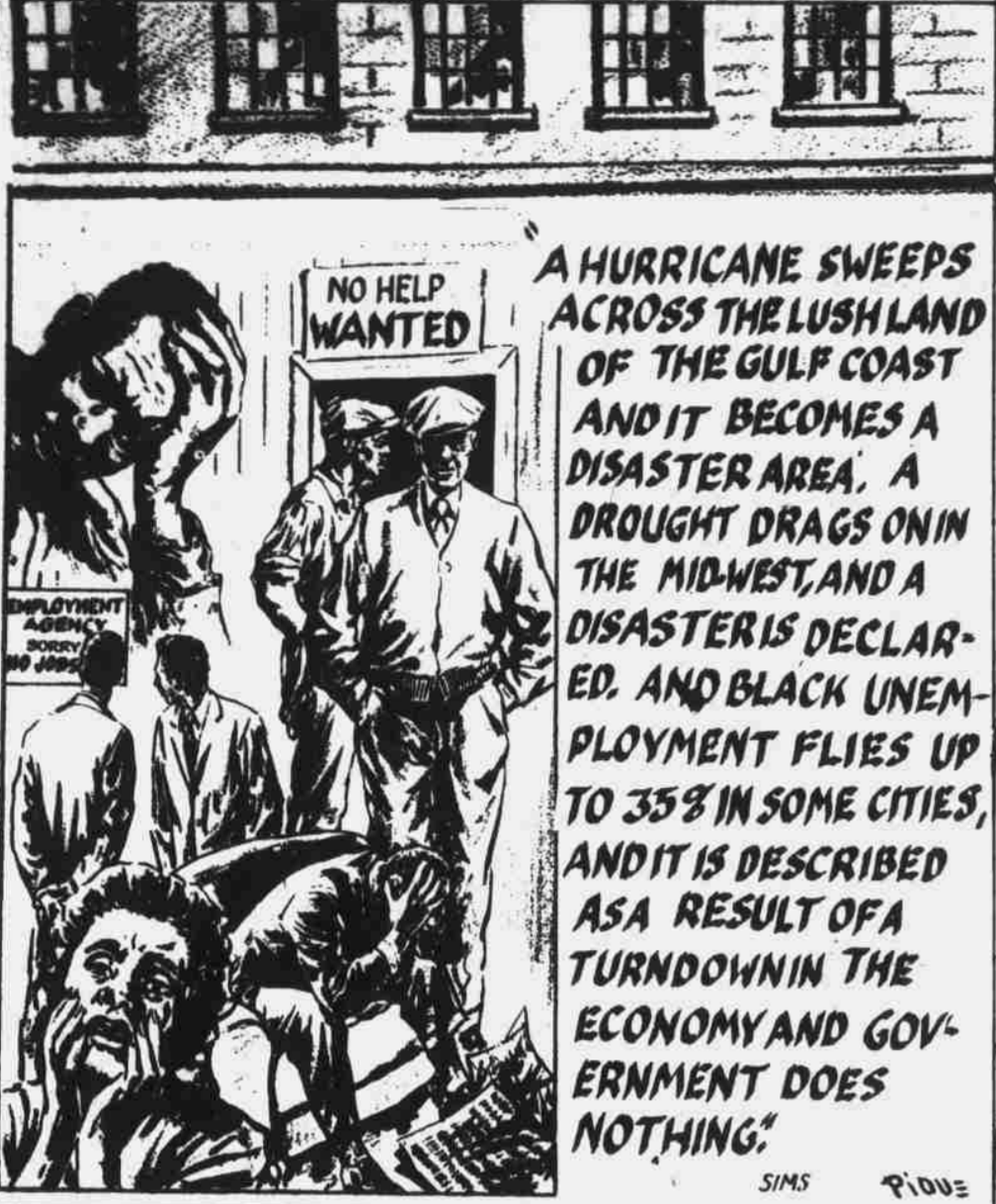


Time for Action . . . Mr. President



A SERIOUS DECISION

The Durham City Schools Board of Education voted this week not to renew the contract of Superintendent Ben Brooks.

Speculation as to the selection of a successor to Brooks has been vigorous, to put it mildly.

Some elements in our community seem to be on a collision course to create undue concern over the possible board choice of a black superintendent. These elements should be reminded that the school board has four black members and one white member, representing a school population that reflects about the same ratio, and that the probability of the board hiring a black superintendent is far greater than that of a white.

Elements in the community that agitate racial animosity and use appointment of a school superintendent as fuel, could serve the city

and its children much better if they focus on qualifications of the office rather than on race.

We expect that the board will very carefully and deliberately weigh the academic preparation and experience of all potential candidates, as it should. As important as these criteria are, we hope, in the final analysis, they will choose someone who can bring distinction to the job rather than one on whom the job bestows distinction. This is no time for petty politics. This is no time to pick some power hungry puppet who will jump this way and that trying to satisfy the strongest string pullers. Our children are the harvest of the future and they need strong, well-prepared, compassionate leadership — with common sense — at the helm if they are to be provided the opportunities for the kind of education necessary to survive in the world which awaits them.

Are Fleets And Cannons Enough?

BY LAURA PARKS

Proposals to construct multi-billion, U.S. Indian Ocean fleet, to compensate for strategic losses suffered in Iran, gaining ground in Washington with solid approval from the British. Japanese government remain non-committal about U.S. plans at the official spokesman level.

Japanese sources told me that Japan's primary concern is for guaranteed supplies of oil from Persian Gulf nations. Yet they expressed anxiety that proposed U.S. fleet may at some future time be used to halt flow of oil to Japan. Privately, Japanese fear that U.S. may use fleet as weapon against Japan's gigantic export trade, by threatening that nations primary source of energy.

In discussing implications of proposed fleet many non-Japanese were also of the opinion that there was a strong anti-Japanese element involved in the plans for an additional U.S. naval presence in Asia. Diplomats who were at one time stationed in Brazil reported to me that the Japanese are making extraordinary headway in that country, the largest in Latin America.

Morover Japanese products were of universally high quality and more often than not were beating most of the international contenders for the Brazilian market. These observers, many who served as their nation's commercial attaches to Brazil, said that a Japanese economic victory in Brazil would virtually eliminate U.S. influence in Latin America.

Consequences flowing from this possibility would give rise to increasing anti-

Americanism and the quick development of Castro-like political movements coming to power. These new Latin American forces would then rely on Japanese money and technology to advance their own internal economic development. In this they would be taking advantage of Japan's great distance from the South American shores to take all that Japan had to offer without fearing their possible military intervention.

Hard-nosed look at the much applauded Egyptian-Israeli peace agreements have left observers at the United Nations saddened. Primary cause for this is the recognition that the Palestinian issue has for all practical purposes been calculatedly ignored in all of its essential aspects. The pact virtually denies the Palestinians the right to an independent homeland.

Further the dynamics of the proposed pact are designed to destroy the effective power of the Palestinians over a period of time, during which Egypt and Israel will engage in an assorted array of conference allegedly called to consider the fate of the Palestinian Arabs. These diplomatic stalling tactics, built into the fine print of the pact, will undoubtedly anger the Arab world, eventually including the Saudi Arabians.

Cost of this plan to the U.S. taxpayer, for starters, will reach \$15 billion and may in fact triple to \$45 billion during the next three to seven years.

Chief beneficiaries of proposed pact are Israel and the United States, Israel, with its developed industrial base and educated working population will be entrusted with the least and the best in U.S. military hardware. The Egyptians will always be second best because of this and will be forced to acknowledge the economic and military superiority of the Israelis this time with the active blessing of the United States.

In effect the U.S. will have established herself as a major force in the Middle East on land using Israel as her major base and Egypt as her strategic land reserve, with additional reserves of population, soldiers and various intangibles such as political influence and international connections.

It is enough to report here that the Arab leaders have anticipated recent developments. They expect that the provisions of the pact will include the true costs of the U.S. aid package.

It will probably include agreements on the delivery of the latest military technology to Israel and Egypt. It will certainly include measures to establish various military, political and intelligence installations, especially in Egypt.

One thing is certainly no secret. The Palestinians will not agree to become the play things of political nomads doing the bidding of Trans-Atlantic Sheiks.

TO BE EQUAL

Foreign Policy Tests Leadership

By Vernon Jordan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL URBAN
LEAGUE



I had the honor of being present at the ceremonies surrounding the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, and it would be hard to describe the extraordinary mood of accomplishment and pride that permeated those events.

The treaty provided the President with a badly-needed boost, especially in the area of foreign policy. Before his flying peace mission to Cairo and Jerusalem, the Administration had been hammered by criticisms of its policies.

It was accused of projecting an image of weakness. It was charged that we "lost" Iran, sold out Taiwan, and were buckling under to the Russians. The leadership role America played in bringing about the Mideast peace treaty has stilled those criticisms, but not for long.

Other challenges to foreign policy leadership are in the offing. The Panama Canal Treaty has to be implemented with enabling legislation, a new trade agreement will go to the Senate for approval, and the SALT agreement limiting strategic weapons will soon bring another controversial treaty to the Senate floor.

And that's just in addition to the ongoing foreign policy decisions that have to be made — on China, on Southern Africa, on relations with the rest of the world.

Lurking behind all of these decisions is the continuing cool war with Russia, a conflict

that influences all of our relationships abroad.

All of this boils down to the fact that foreign policy, once a matter of national consensus and bipartisanship, is quickly becoming a partisan affair. That could be both healthy and dangerous. Healthy, because policies always ought to be faced with challenges and alternatives. Dangerous, because protracted disagreements could lead to an inability to act in our own best interests.

Given the complexities of foreign policy development, I'd suggest some guidelines for the coming debate. The first of these is the need to avoid aggressive military behavior.

The projection of a great power's influence depends on more than just military strength, although that is a good part of it. Those who charge America "lost" Iran are wrong because Iran never was ours to win or lose. No nation can impose an unwanted government on another country that's far away and determined to overthrow a corrupt and brutal dictatorship. American policy had few realistic alternatives.

Ask anyone who grumbles about the Shah's loss of power what America should have done, and you don't get a coherent answer. The reason is that the only available alternative — military invasion — is unthinkable and unworkable. Or don't we remember Vietnam?

A second guideline ought to be the pursuit of detente. That has been the mark of both Republican and Democratic administrations for the past decade or more. And there's no reason not to hew firmly to it. That

doesn't mean we've got to let the Russians do whatever they want in areas of major concern to us. But it does mean we should avoid linking issues that shouldn't be linked, and avoid locking ourselves into a situation in which we're always reacting to the Russians.

A reactive policy is self-defeating. I don't give the Russians the credit so many people give them. I don't think we should tremble in fear over the pretensions of a country that can't produce wheat from the richest grainlands in the world or make a pair of shoes that don't fall apart.

Realistic assessment of a potential enemy makes sense. But let's not become afraid of that potential enemy, or we'll risk defeating ourselves. That means we should have the strength to negotiate and confirm a new SALT agreement, since slowing down the arms race is in our own best interests.

Finally, a sound foreign policy has to be based solidly on a nation's moral and economic strength. America is a world leader not because there's a CIA man under every dictator's bed, or because our Marines are poised to invade anyone who disagrees with us, but because we've got the most productive economy in the world, along with the most skilled people.

Continued racial friction, high unemployment, and urban deterioration are what will hurt us most in foreign policy. The stronger, more equal our society becomes at home, the stronger and more influential it will be abroad. That's a truism that should be the cornerstone of American policy.



'Congressman Hawkins' Column

"Gasoline Prices Too High"

By Augustus F. Hawkins

One of my constituents called my Washington office the other day from Los Angeles. She was intelligent, articulate, politically-aware, and plenty mad.

It seems that her need to drive to work and gasoline price inflation, was pyitting an increasingly large dent in her living costs.

No amount of budgeting, she claimed, was effectively able to stem the tide of the price inflation.

My guess is that she's not alone. Gasoline price-inflation eats up what ever good the raise should accomplish.

Cutting down on other living costs were counter-productive, because these savings were being used to augment increases in gasoline and other energy-related products.

There did not seem to be an answer anywhere for her, therefore the irate call to my office in hopes that we could assist her in resolving her dilemma.

I would like to have waved a magic get-rid-of-the-problem wand, thereby ending her frustration, but no such wand exists.

What does exist is a reality that double-digit inflation is once more, almost upon us, with no relief in sight.

That OPEC has seen a necessity to raise prices and hold down production—just like we do to grain and other products to keep their prices up.

That domestic consumption of energy will face some sort of decontrol this year, which also means that prices will rise appreciably inflationary as that may be. (By the time you read this article, the President may have already announced a decontrol policy).

None of these things are going to ease my constituents problem; in fact those who are going to be hurt the most by all of these facts are people just like her who live in my district.

I will of course vote for those things that will most benefit my constituents; but we must remember that we live in a world where the benefits are being repeatedly compromised by all kinds of things.

For example, I have been opposed to decon-

trolling oil. And I believe, along with 68 per cent of those recently polled by Associated Press-NBC that the oil shortage is a manufactured shortage, not a natural one.

Yet the President is going to move to some kind of decontrol reasonably soon; especially because of the pressure of his secretaries of state, treasury and energy and his top economic adviser, Charles Shultz.

Those of us in Congress who are opposed to decontrol, will have to exert great pressure on him to keep him firmly reminded that decontrol means extreme inflation.

In addition to the fact that rapid decontrol will be hurt the most by it: poor people and minorities.

What I want my constituent to realize, however, is that I will fight this one to the end; but if we lose, it will not be because we didn't do battle head-on.

I know this argument won't help. But if your options are limited, as they are in this situation, you can only do the absolute best you can under the circumstances.

THE SEARS SUIT

By Benjamin L. Hooks
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NAACP



Coming in the wake of the Bakke and Weber court Challenges against affirmative action programs to help minorities overcome historical patterns of discrimination in education and employment, the suit filed by Sears, Roebuck against 10 government agencies has the effect of once again retarding our civil rights program.

The suit alleges that federal laws, regulations policies and directives that give these agencies power to seek an end to racial and sex discrimination have created such confusion and conflicts that it is impossible for the giant merchandising concern to comply with their orders.

The NAACP regards the suit as highly unusual, but we feel it is a skillful public relations maneuver aimed at preempting impending action that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) was about to take against Sears. One pertinent fact is that Sears filed the suit the day that EEOC notified the company of its "failure to conciliate" on employees' grievances of discrimination.

No doubt, there is some merit to a number of Sears' complaints. Like Sears, minorities have expressed concern over moves to play off women, who have their own proper lists of grievances, against them in complying with affirmative action mandates. Minorities are also concerned about the impact of the mandatory age retirement law.

By extending the retirement law from 65 to 70, Congress has cleared the number of oppor-

tunities that would have been opened up to more recently hired minorities and women by departing older, white male workers.

The veterans preference system very often also works to the detriment of effective affirmative action programs.

But these problems, however, certainly should not hamper Sears' responsibility for placing its house in order. Many of the rules and regulations about which Sears complaints were created after enactment of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Prior to that, there is no question that Sears, like other private and government employers, were discriminating against blacks. But largely through the efforts of its late Chairman Julius Rosenwald, Sears has in recent years been regarded as a friend of minorities.

The fact, therefore, that progress was made in opening up opportunities to minorities in the last twelve years should be regarded as evidence that, where there are laws, rules, regulations and correct government policy, employers will take steps to end discrimination.

If this is not done, the Association is prepared to challenge the suit either through a direct counter challenge or as a friend of the court.

Clearly the Sears suit is the wrong case because the suit, whatever else may be said about it, is an unwarranted, frontal attack upon the entire apparatus designed to assure equality of opportunity in this land of liberty.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who propose to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the oceans majestic waves without the awful roar of its waters."

— Frederick Douglass

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