

THE BLACK COMMUNITY CAN AND MUST DO THE JOB

ARE WE GOING TO SIT ON OUR HANDS AND LET BLACK COMMUNITIES CRUMBLE AROUND US? GRASS ROOTS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS MUST EMERGE TO FORGE A UNITED EFFORT AGAINST CRIME, NARCOTICS TRAFFICK



EDUCATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY

The top student among North Carolina A & T's graduating class of 950 last week in Greensboro was Sebastian Sarwatt, a native of Tanzania (Africa). Sarwatt compiled a 3.967 grade point average on a 4.000 scale.

The top graduate in Benedict (Columbia, S.C.) College's 1979 class is Glen Duncan of Grenada, West Indies, a chemistry major who earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

While we do not begrudge these honors going to foreign students, the increasing incidence of more disadvantaged foreign students being able to overcome their handicaps than American blacks makes us wonder if our post-desegregation generations of blacks have lost, or never known, the meaning of the word "opportunity." Education is a privilege and an opportunity — an opportunity to lift one's self out of whatever doldrums fate may have decreed.

Entirely too many young American blacks believe that

education is a right and that opportunity is a right. How wrong they are! They both have to be earned. They cannot be earned by majoring in pot-smoking, card playing and illicit sex — all of which have entirely too many enrollees in our schools, both secondary and collegiate.

These foreign students came to college with a purpose in mind — not only to succeed, but to excel, and they use their opportunity to the utmost.

We beg and urge and plead and cajole young American blacks who get an opportunity for education to use it to the utmost. These foreign students can teach a lesson that used to be taught in black schools every single day — make whatever sacrifice is necessary to "be the best!" That door of opportunity that swung so wide open in the sixties has already closed to all but "the best" in the seventies. The rest surrender to the forces that will destroy us.

"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

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

TOUSSAINT L'Ouverture 1743-1803

SLAVE-BORN, UNSCHOOLED AND UNKNOWN FOR 48 YEARS; HE ROSE TO BECOME DICTATOR OF HAITI! MADE FURIOUS BY THE ATROCITIES AND INJUSTICES OF THE WHITE "COLONIALISTS," AND INSPIRED BY THE SUCCESSES OF THE REVOLUTION IN FRANCE, THE OPPRESSED BLACKS PUT TOGETHER AN ARMY LED BY TOUSSAINT AND DROVE THE OUTSIDERS AWAY! AS RULER HE MADE MANY IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOLS, ROADS, ETC. NAPOLEON GREW JEALOUS, AND WHEN HIS BEST TROOPS FAILED TO TAKE HIM BY FAIR MEANS, (60,000 TO 20,000), VILE TREACHERY SUCCEEDED!



As a slave-boy tending cattle, he had educated himself with books of great men's lives...

CLAUDE NEWKIRK CONTINENTAL FEATURES

TO BE EQUAL

HOW MANY DOCTORS DO WE NEED?

By Vernon Jordan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL URBAN
LEAGUE



One of the most curious concepts to come along in quite a while is the growing notion that America has too many doctors. Just try telling that to minorities and the poor, who frequently live in rural areas or urban neighborhoods that have no doctors at all.

It's the old story of looking at gross figures. The annual output of new doctors has doubled in the past two decades. But that doesn't mean they practice where the people who need their skills live. Nor does it mean they are in specialties most needed by the average health consumer.

Still, the so-called doctor shortage is an excuse for support for cutting federal aid to medical schools. It's even being used as a rationale for opposing a national health insurance plan.

It is argued that the more doctors there are, the more people will use them, and the more inflationary will health costs become.

Stronge, At the same time, we're told that the new law of supply and demand has not been repealed. The more there is available of a good or service, the lower its price is likely to become.

But that doesn't hold true for health care. Why? The answer is that organized medicine operates like an internal OPEC monopoly, freed from the normal constraints of the marketplace. Fee-for-service medicine keeps health care costs high, as does the cost-plus insurance system.

It's hard to understand the argument that it's bad if people use physician's services

more often. If more people use more doctors, that obviously means they need those doctors and the health care they provide.

Whenever sales of some consumer item increase we never say that's bad. We recognize that people want more of that item and business takes steps to supply it. But why then to we say that items in human services, like health care, should be carefully rationed and kept limited?

Those limits are today imposed by excessive costs. If you can afford to pay a doctor you use his services, if you can't, you don't. Poor people covered by Medicare and Medicaid programs have some access to health care since the government will pay for it. And there's been a rise in health services utilization since those programs were started.

That's good, it means more people are getting better health care. But millions of others are not. They don't have access to doctors. The financial structure of medical professions is such that esoteric specialties drain of many who in former years might have been general practitioners and family physicians.

The result is that some areas and people aren't served at all, some are underserved, and relatively few have full access to the health care they need. So long as the nation's ghettos and barrios are virtually without health practitioners, so long as many public

hospitals would stop dead in their tracks without foreign trained physicians, and long as medical professionals maldistributed, America doesn't have many doctors.

It's troubling that calls for limiting number of doctors come just as blacks and other minorities are gaining a tenuous foothold in medical schools.

Even with the rise in minority medical school enrollments, blacks are only about per cent of America's doctors. And while total number of places in medical school increasing, the number of blacks admitted is shrinking.

So in this post-Bakke era, calling for doctor freeze is tantamount to calling for permanent minority underrepresentation in the medical professions.

The numbers of doctors should be increased. Incentives should be given to encourage them to practice in poverty neighborhoods and to prefer general practice to the kind of specialties society needs less. Massive programs to increase the numbers of qualified minority health professionals should be a priority, so that the most underserved and underrepresented communities get their share of health care.

And all of this should be in the framework of a national health policy that provides universal, comprehensive access to quality health care for all.



Congressman Hawkins' Column

GOODBYE TO THE FAMILY CAR

By Augustus F. Hawkins

It's been said often enough that Americans have a love affair with the automobile. Of course they've been ably assisted by the giant auto industry, which has given us the ultimate in unnecessary style, wasteful decor, gas guzzling engines, and other gadgets that have made enormous contributions to the energy crisis.

In the wake of these things, have come a variety of industries, all designed to feed our need to ride to the corner grocer instead of walking for that pound of butter.

So we have automobile insurance companies; auto repair shops; auto supply stores; drive-in hotels; motels; banks, theaters; auto accessory stores; used car businesses; automobile service associations; and so forth.

We also have been strangled, not only by auto pollution, but by eight-lane highways; beltways, freeways, thru-ways and other forms of gigantic cement roadways.

We've helped to create an auto repair industry, which according to the U.S. Department of Transportation gives us lousy service and then overcharges us 53 cents for every dollar we spend on auto repairs.

Then let's not forget the great auto insurance industry, which has developed rate

formulas and insuring practices only they understand. And who used to charge their black customers higher insurance than their non-black customers.

With all of this activity to keep us driving, we have woefully neglected the major alternative to the one-car, one-man (or woman) sickness; rapid, mass transit.

Even though most major urban areas have some form of public transportation, it is painfully inadequate for the impending energy crisis we face. (That is, the crisis manufactured by the oil industry, to force oil decontrol on the nation, without an excess profits tax.)

What we needed to parallel the growth of the auto industry, was an effective, fast, mass transit system, its citizens might have opted to use it, instead of the auto.

So through a combination of factors, orchestrated by all the industries dedicated to the one-car, one man (or woman) sickness, we allowed through our short-sightedness, the prevention of the building of fixed-rail, mass rapid transit systems throughout the country.

(Fortunately, amendments to the Highway Act in 1973, allowed the federal government to provide assistance to urban areas in finan-

cing mass transit projects.)

In my district, for example, there is such animal as rapid transit, although we have a so-called "rapid transit" authority you need to get any place in my district if you don't have a car, walking is the ultimate solution. It may not be pleasant but it will probably be less frustrating waiting for buses that show up when you want to, or may not show up at all.

We criss-cross this country with a highway system, using for the most part federal taxes. Until 1973 none of these were allowed to be used for fixed-rail, rapid transit systems, because the total industry was influential enough to prevent such usage.

Obviously local municipalities such as Los Angeles need a fixed-rail, rapid transit system now, in order to prevent the kind of chaos that came in the wake of the gasoline shortage in California.

Whatever the cause of the oil shortage, automobile as now manufactured, does not have the capability of addressing the country's mass transit needs.

Either we face this fact, or else we'd get used to walking.

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

U.S. Budget Built for Bullets Not Butter

By CHARLES E. BELLE

Since the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Russia, has been said to have recently bought 280,000 tons of U.S. sugar, not all American hate Russia or at least communist coins. This being about a \$45 million contract.

Excessive rain in Cuba had delayed cane cutting. Cuba supplied the U.S.S.R. with almost four million tons of sugar in 1978. Clearly the U.S. is interested in trade with Russia whatever its relationship with other countries.

Commerce is the course enjoyed by American businessmen. But the U.S. budget is built for bullets not butter. The defense budget overshadows all others and gets white House O.K. for getting bigger.

Black America suffers when social programs are placed behind the priorities of the Defense Department in the balanced budget atmosphere of today. Especially when there is little evidence that the defense budget could not be cut to the size of its job.

Just providing military might may well have already been paid for by U.S. Poseidon submarines. Presidential aides are put in an awkward position of hacking needed health, education and welfare projects out of the 1980 fiscal budget.

Buying more military hardware than the current 31 Poseidon submarines is suspect to sophisticated budget watchers. These nuclear submarines are capable of sustaining damage to more than 200 Soviet cities. Experts point out that each of the nation's Poseidon submarines carries sixteen missiles and each missile can carry up to fourteen war-heads, everyone of them twice as powerful as the kiloton bomb (equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT) that devastated Hiroshima.

General Alexander M. Haig, Jr., supreme allied commander, Europe, speaking to a capacity crowd at the Shearson Palace Hotel luncheon of the Commonwealth Club of

California, stated that the U.S. is "till vastly superior in military and economic assets" over the Soviet Union."

General Haig is concerned, as is President Carter, in maintaining this position, while the present occupant of the White House, got a three per cent real growth in the Defense budget this fiscal year, General Haig wants to get a three per cent increase for the next six years. Such devotion to duty seems to be done only in the case of Defense.

Deploying more of the nation's resources for Defense does precious little for the poor and unemployed people. Black American unemployment continues to climb without White House notice. General Haig, having officially resigned his position, is having a good time practicing being President of the podium.

Presidents who put bullets before people are bound to wake up one day and find the foundation of their country has collapsed. The total cost of U.S. weapons programs leaped by nearly \$22.5 million late last year. The addition of one more nuclear powered attack submarine alone was responsible for almost \$1.2 billion boost in the U.S. Navy program.

President Carter's new CETA programs put only one-third this amount over a period of four years to look for jobs in industry for those Americans who are very poor and long-term unemployed. People must become a priority with the President and those who would be President, from the white or black American perspective.

Poseidon submarines are augmented with 39 other submarines, 376 bombers and 1054 land based missiles carrying a total of 9200 warheads. When we have decided to place the same overkill instincts on integrating all of our citizens into our business and social life, then we will far surpass the Soviets in defense of this or any other country.



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