



Whose "Improvement"?

Durham's city fathers are at it again.

It appears that they are hell bent on destroying another black neighborhood. This time it's the St. Theresa area to be "improved" with the straightening of South Roxboro from Piedmont to Umstead Street as it curves around the former school building.

Lets give credit to City Councilmen Adrienne Fox and Ralph Hunt who voted against the plan Monday night. At least some on that council don't go along with the city continuing to walk roughshod over the people least able to protect their property.

With all of the so-called "renewal" and "improvement" that Durham has done over the past twenty years, one has but to look at the weed fields which have been "renewed" in what were once thriving black neighborhoods and business areas to realize that the totality of the secret master plan has not yet

been revealed to the masses.

Durham has found ways to use Community Development funds to do everything but improve conditions of those who need it most. There appear to be no intentions in this city to right what have been some grievous wrongs perpetrated against hundreds of minority and poor citizens.

Who is to benefit from the widening of South Roxboro? Probably the road builders, city planners and/or somebody whose got his eyes on some long range money-making scheme for the area. Certainly not the people who live and work in the area. Who is the one who would dictate the straightening and widening of the South Roxboro? Its not there. Is the insistence on this "improvement" necessary to some fat cat's plans? Only time will tell.

Oh, how refreshing a little "live and let live" and mutual respect by and for everybody would be in Durham.

Let Us Learn

All freedom loving people everywhere shared a feeling of relief, thankfulness and happiness as the 52 American hostages held in Iran for the past 444 days were freed on Tuesday.

It is our hope that Americans will not gloat or become indignant and punitive as a result of this experience. It could have, quite justifiably, turned out negatively. We must not forget that America perpetrated the first

wrong in this scenario some 26 years ago by interfering in Iran's internal affairs when we overthrew the Iranians' duly elected government and installed one of our choosing, the despised Shah.

Let us pray that all Americans have recognized that might is not always right and have learned the lesson — that even the big boys can't mistreat the little people and expect to get away with it unmarked forever.

Charles WOOD

1870—

Born in Tennessee, he rose from a bootblack to a renowned scholar — a Shakespeare expert! A graduate of the Saper School of Oratory, he held an A. B. from Beloit College, a B.D. from Chicago University, an M.A. from Columbia University! After a successful stage career, he was a minister; later his term as instructor and publicity director for Tuskegee was cut short — the government called him for public information work in World War II



—Continental Features

To Be Equal

Civil Rights Issues Coming Up

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

A new Administration and a new Congress face a lot of unfinished business in the weeks ahead. Several civil rights-related measures will be on the agenda.

One issue left unresolved by the last Congress was the long-overdue amendments to the Fair Housing Law that would give the government the enforcement powers needed to make the law work.

We've had a fair housing law on the books for over ten years, but discrimination in the sale and rental of housing is still rampant. That has been proved time and again by large-scale research programs and by simple anecdotes that can be related by every black person who has ever tried to move out of a ghetto.

Part of the reason discrimination in housing is so powerful is that the law has no teeth. Discriminators need not fear fines or license suspensions. Under the present law the Department of Housing and Urban Development can only mediate disputes, while the Justice Department can only sue in situations where a pattern of discrimination is evident.

The House of Representatives and the Senate Judiciary Committee both backed bills that would let HUD bring lawsuits against those charged with discrimination in housing. But it died in Congress' rush to adjourn, even though supporters made important compromises.

Fair housing supporters will bring it up

again. But we will start out with two strikes against us. Some of the Bill's Congressional supporters were defeated last November and their replacements may be less sympathetic to civil rights. And the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose chairman Senator Edward Kennedy led the fight for the bill, will now be chaired by Senator Strom Thurmond, a virulent foe of civil rights.

But that does not mean the effort to enforce the law is doomed. President Reagan can use this as an opportunity to send signals to the nation that he finds housing discrimination as abhorrent as do its victims. He can get behind the effort to work out a fair housing enforcement bill that puts the government squarely on the side of ending discrimination.

Another issue Mr. Reagan can capitalize on is one that he muffed last month. Then, he said he supported restrictions on busing. At the time the Congress had passed a rider to an appropriations bill that would have prevented the Justice Department from taking part in school desegregation cases involving busing.

President Carter was able to kill that blatant attempt to restrict the executive branch's duty to enforce the Constitution by vetoing the bill. But the anti-busing crowd has promised to come back with it in the new Congress, hopeful the new President will sign it.

Mr. Reagan can disabuse them of that notion. Even if he's not a fan of busing, and even if he doesn't understand the need for busing in some cases, he should understand the threat to the powers of the presidency posed by such a restriction on a federal Department to enforce laws and constitutional rights it is sworn to uphold.

Another endangered piece of civil rights legislation is the Voting Rights Act. Senator Thurmond, the former Dixiecrat, wants to kill it either directly or by making it applicable to all fifty states instead of those that have a proven history of restricting the right to vote.

Making the Act apply to all the states would effectively doom it. Even if such a move passed the Congress it would mean a statute almost impossible to enforce. It's a back-door way to steal the vote away from many blacks.

Other issues too, are on the horizon. The new President will have to decide early on whether he will aid and abet vicious attempts to deprive black people of their constitutional rights in issues of key importance, or whether he will fulfill his promise to be president of all of the people.

The President swears to uphold the laws of the land, of which none are higher than the Constitution that protects our rights. I hope he will be true to that oath and demonstrate his support for civil rights.

Affirmative Action:

Black Conservatives And Black Reality

By Gerald C. Horne, Esquire

Like flies chasing a garbage truck opportunists of all stripes (and colors) are scrambling to align themselves with the new Reagan Administration. They perceive some sort of conservative drift, as they proclaim solemnly, "The 60's are over."

They advocate "free enterprise zones" to drag the black community out of the current economic crisis. But with an obtuse blindness that knows no apparent bounds, they ignore the fact that it was "free enterprise" that helped to bring on this crisis. For example, two study groups, one initiated by President Carter and the other by President-elect Reagan, have suggested that rent controls should be dropped so that "private developers" will be encouraged to build low and middle income housing. The latter about thirty to forty years ago from building such housing. Whatever housing such developers have built since then has required many kinds of government support — tax abatement, outright subsidy and the like. In short, "free enterprise" could not make a profit on new housing for low and middle income tenants and left the field to go government — or "public enterprise." This trend in housing can also be seen in other areas that free enterprise has abandoned such as rapid transit and passenger-rail service.

Given these irrefutable facts, it is well to wonder what were so-called "Black Conservatives" doing in San Francisco recently meeting and preaching the new conservative gospel. This conference sponsored by the right-wing Institute for Contemporary Studies was attended by 100 economists, academicians and executives. Not only did these black conservatives (query: What do they have to conserve?) back elimination of rent control so as to unleash private enterprise to re-build the black community but they had the cheek to also advocate a reduction in the minimum wage and out-right gutting of other government programs that are the life-line for millions of black citizens.

For example, Prof. Walter Williams spoke out strongly for lowering the minimum wage from \$3.10 an hour to \$2.00 an hour for those under (age) twenty on the unproven premise that this would curb the spiraling unemployment rates among black youth; he ignored studies to the contrary showing that the more likely result would be the firing of black fathers and the hiring of black sons at the lower rate.

Dr. Thomas Sowell of the notorious Hoover Institute, who has opposed busing, affirmative action and other pro-black civil rights measures, spoke like a latter-day

Booker T. Washington as he called for more "self-reliance" in the black community.

Maria Johnson, an attorney from Washington, D.C. specializing in real estate law, blasted rent control as an impediment to improved housing for blacks.

In a perhaps not unrelated comment, Edwin Meese (the director of Reagan's transition team) promised that these and other like-minded blacks would receive jobs in the new administration "at the highest executive and managerial levels."

This recent love-in at San Francisco was in marked contrast to the meeting recently held with President-elect Reagan in Washington attended by Benjamin Hooks of the NAACP, Vernon Jordan, Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Indiana, and others. At a press conference afterward, Rev. Joseph Lowery of SCLC captured best the feeling of the participants when he complained that Reagan's views were often "out of touch with reality in terms of the black experience."

How "out of touch" this new "conservative" view is can also be gleaned from a recent well-publicized memo submitted to Reagan by two of his chief economic advisors, Congressman Jack Kemp (Rep.-NY) and David Stockman (Rep.-Mich.). Provocatively entitled "Avoiding a GOP Economic Dunkirk," their plan if enacted would be the biggest disaster for the black community since the Fugitive Slave Law. They not only call for tens of billions of dollars in cutbacks in such key programs as food stamps, unemployment compensation, disability insurance, etc., but they also call for wiping out the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), which has spelled the difference between life and death for thousands of black families. They advocate decontrol of oil prices which will inevitably lead to a rise in home heating costs and prices at the gas pump; they score the vital Medicaid program as a "coast-to-coast soup line."

Their views should not be dismissed lightly as Stockman has been named already as head of the crucial Office of Management and Budget while Kemp is given a better than even chance of becoming Governor of New York in 1982 — and a presidential nominee in '84 or '88.

Needless to say, implementation of this billionaire's dream would spell catastrophe for a black community already reeling from one of the most severe economic downturns since the 1930's

But the figures and statistics, no matter how many are cited, cannot even begin to

portray the depressed condition of the black community.

Affirmative action, which during its brief tenure, has been an immense aid for blacks, has been under special attack. One need only return to the *L. L. Case* and medical schools which thrust affirmative action into the national limelight. The Association of American Medical Colleges reports that the ratio of blacks among the nation's 65,189 medical students is 5.7% down from 6.2% in 1975. What these statistics don't reveal are the black students harmed psychologically because they are refused entrance to a profession solely because of their race or the black infant who dies prematurely because of a shortage of skilled medical personnel in his/her community or the black elderly who die before their time is due for the same reason.

Perversely enough, affirmative action is being destroyed for blacks at the same time it is being revived for others. For example, whites in Hawaii have just won a major law suit challenging the dental licensing examination there. They contend that they were discriminated against and Asian-Americans (especially those of Japanese ancestry) were favored. The court accepted their contention and awarded them \$325,000 and is considering awarding \$330,000 more in legal fees! And before it was reversed, Donald R. Waldrip, desegregation administrator of Cleveland's schools had ruled that athletic teams must be at least twenty per cent "integrated" by next year — which would have meant "clodhopping" whites added to the basketball team at some high schools and "smooth as silk" blacks cut. It is doubtful if the framers of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments had this in mind.

This is the reality that these so-called black conservatives and those who are pulling their strings ignore. Milton Friedman, economist and advisor to the fascist Chilean junta and the Israeli regime which has engineered an inflation rate of over 100%, said at the San Francisco meeting that the views of Sowell, Williams, Johnson and others, would "come to represent a majority view in the black community." This is highly dubious, if not impossible, but it will take more organization, agitation and education if Friedman and his ilk are to be proven wrong.

Letter To The President

Dear President Reagan:
I think it is a shame for you and your administration to spend all of those thousands of dollars for your inauguration as President of the United States when so much of it could have been used to help those "WITHOUT" in our country.
I do hope you will implement the words, "If my people, which are called by my name,

shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal the land," that seem to be your choice.
May God bless you in your new administration.

—Clara A. Thompson
Durham, N.C.

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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