

A CLEANER NEIGHBORHOOD IS UP TO YOU...



The Atlanta Children

The continuing disappearance and subsequent strange deaths of children in Atlanta, Georgia must be stopped.

A country which can put men on the moon with enough money behind them should certainly be able to put a halt to the repetition of such heinous crimes in Atlanta with enough money behind the investigators.

The Atlanta situation is tragic enough, as it stands, but, unfortunately, it will not be long before some other misguided individuals decide to repeat the scenario elsewhere if it isn't halted.

Atlanta black parents must be developing paranoia about their own children by now. It's been a year since the current count of disappearances began mounting.

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.

—Frederick Douglass

Affirmative Action:

It has become fashionable in certain circles to frown upon the word "racism". The underlying idea is that the mere use of this term is inflammatory and constitutes some form of "baiting."

Yet it would take a peculiar ostrich with head buried quite deep in the sand to ignore the disproportionate number of blacks on death row or higher infant mortality rates or lower life expectancy or higher rates of unemployment in the black community.

All this serves as a backdrop to an examination of the question of blacks and prisons, for this lamentable situation serves as a microcosm for the entire community.

The strike began last September 15 when inmates refused to report to job assignments in the prison print shop and furniture factory.

Some might argue that this is only a just way of inmates "repaying their debt to society" but when one considers not only the fact that many of the inmates — especially the black ones — are incarcerated principally because they couldn't afford a lawyer...

It was this recognition that fueled the bitter struggle at the turn of the century to abolish the notorious "convict-lease" system which allowed inmates to work in the mines, on the farms, etc., and drove the labor movement to virtual starvation.

Some have decided at this point that the solution for burgeoning youth unemployment...

Racism, The Struggle Continues...

By Gerald C. Horne, Esquire

abolish the notorious "convict-lease" system which allowed inmates to work in the mines, on the farms, etc., and drove the labor movement to virtual starvation.

Apartheid South Africa, whose history is so similar to that of the United States, also offers instructive parallels. Blacks there must carry a "passbook", i.e. and ID card at all times and the slightest violation leads straight to prison.

In these steaming cauldrons that are this nation's prisons, it should come as no surprise that violence has become a way of life. The prison at Marion, which was built in 1963 to replace Alcatraz and now holds 549 inmates serving the longest sentences in the federal system, has been the scene of numerous blood-lettings.

The question of prisons should be on the minds of all not just because inmates' cheap labor undermines the overall wage structure; and not only because some of the most electrifying and politically significant struggles are occurring in prisons from Lewisburg to Folsom to Stillwater.

All these elements are important but equally compelling is the fact that since the post-World War II Nuremberg trials, it has been a firmly established principle of international law that it is no longer sufficient to claim "I was following orders" or "I didn't know what was happening".

And perhaps the situation where all eyes should collectively turn now is the Pontiac State Prison in Illinois. Here on July 22, 1978 a rebellion occurred leaving three white prison guards dead, two others wounded and ten blacks charged.

According to Gary Thomas, a staffer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, "Not since the famed Scottsboro case of the 1930's have so many blacks been on trial for their lives in the same legal proceeding".

It is evident at this point that the state is taking this case quite seriously. The cost for launching this trial has exceeded already over \$1 million. Since the trial began in Springfield, more than 245 persons have been called forward as possible jurors but only four have been seated.

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ment and unrest is not jobs but jails. And when inmates rebel against intolerable conditions and peanut wages, the solution is capital punishment. This is why the whole world is watching Pontiac and why Pontiac 10 Defense Committees have sprung up across the nation to raise funds and mobilize support.

The Pontiac case is a microcosm of the perilous relationship of blacks to the criminal justice system generally. The National Minority Advisory Council on Criminal Justice, established by the Justice Department in 1976, has been surprisingly candid in blasting what they've termed the "white racist ideology" that permeates the system.

A chapter on police brutality points out of 6,000 persons killed by police gunfire between 1950 and 1973, over 45% were black — though the black community is estimated to be 12% of the national population.

Those who feel that prisoners are receiving the "just desserts" should note that this Justice Department sponsored report scores the use of "plea bargaining" to extract "confessions" and sentencing millions to long prison terms without parole.

But throughout the report is the basic acknowledgement that racism is the reason for so many black faces staring out from behind bars; that racism is the reason why so few black defendants stand before black judges or are defended by black lawyers or, ultimately, attended by so few black prison guards.

What needs to be done is no mystery but what must be reinforced is that this is no time to disappear into the bunker in fear of a right-wing tidal wave. Indeed, such misguided thinking helps to account for the present deteriorating situation. In fact, what is needed is even more pressure, more agitation, more education.

Those who've organized to secure a national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — that very symbol of anti-racism — have illuminated the way.

Though ignored by much of the nation's press, the nation's rulers cannot ignore 200,000 protestors in the streets; just like 250,000 demonstrators at the 'March on Washington' of 1963 could not be ignored when the Civil Rights Act was voted upon in 1964.

More actions of this type will have to occur if that vile pollutant — racism — is to be extinguished finally from the body politic.

Things You Should Know



ADAM CLAYTON POWELL WE MUST GIVE OUR CHILDREN A SENSE OF PRIDE IN BEING BLACK. THE GLORY OF OUR PAST AND THE DIGNITY OF OUR PRESENT MUST LEAD THE WAY TO THE POWER OF OUR FUTURE.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING HE DID NOT EMBRACE NON-VIOLENCE OUT OF FEAR OR COWARDICE, HE CHALLENGED INJUSTICE WITHOUT A GUN. DR. BENJAMIN MAYS



1817-1895 FREDERICK DOUGLASS EX-SLAVE WHO BECAME A GREAT ABOLITIONIST ORATOR, ADVISER TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN.



1856-1915 BOOKER T. WASHINGTON WHAT IS THE ANSWER, WHITE ACCOMMODATION ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY.



MARCUS GARVEY BLACK NATIONALIST A RACE WITHOUT AUTHORITY AND POWER IS A RACE WITHOUT RESPECT.



W.E.B. DUBOIS 1868 PHILOSOPHER EDUCATOR PUBLISHER ORGANIZER.

To Be Equal

Human Rights An Important Policy Factor

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

A nation's foreign policy amounts to more than military and economic moves. It has to reflect what that country is all about—its strategy for maintaining its proper place in the world and its strategy for maintaining the values and ideals it lives by.

America's strong identification with democratic ideals, however imperfectly they may be practiced, ought therefore, to be a fundamental part of its foreign policy.

Our national ideals are at least part of the reason why we respond so strongly to Russian imperialism, and why we have so often been uncomfortable with "friends" who trample on basic human rights in their own countries.

The Carter Administration embraced the concept of a strong human rights plank in its international policies. It shocked many by publicly condemning acts by some long-term allies, leading to strained relations with those countries. And it was charged with helping bring down some regimes that had been close to the U.S.

But that human rights policy won a new respect and admiration for the U.S. from people all over the world. When America cut off aid or military assistance to an oppressive, deeply unpopular regime, it was able to deal with the successor government with clean hands.

While some authoritarian leaders grumbled about the policy and even publicly denounced the U.S., many also quietly released political prisoners, stopped abhorrent forms of persecution, and restored some personal freedoms.

Educational Testing: Cause For Community Concern

By Congressman Augustus Hawkins

There are substantial indications that this nation is experiencing a changing mood in its attitudes towards helping those least able to help themselves.

It is a mood led by ultra conservatives that threatens dire consequences for the still tenuous political, economical and social hold that black Americans, now have in many areas of this society.

Attacks are being made on affirmative action and equal opportunity, on government's role (and programs) in assisting the economically deprived, on voting rights and civil rights, and on the need to complete

of persecution, and restored some personal freedoms.

Our strong human rights stand impelled us to successfully work for majority rule in Zimbabwe and to apply pressure on South Africa.

A viable human rights policy clarifies the rivalry with Russia. In the eyes of most of the world, it separates us from being just another superpower out to dominate far-off places. Instead, people everywhere can respond to and admire our vision of freedom.

Ditching human rights as part of our foreign policy would be negative. It would again tie us to dictators who are doomed to fall victims to their people, and their unpopularity is bound to rub off on us.

Because such explosions are inevitable, dictatorships are unstable allies. The services they provide us are unequal to the energy and resources it takes to prop them up.

That does not mean we should break with every government that violates human rights, or even with every ally that is undemocratic. Unfortunately, the world being what it is, that would leave few countries we could talk to.

But it does mean keeping our distance from extreme human-rights violators, refusing to become too closely identified with oppressive dictatorships, and pressuring for change to make them less repressive. That would help give moderates a chance in countries otherwise polarized between the anti-democratic extremes of left and right.

school desegregation efforts mandated by the 1954 Supreme Court decision.

A prime and continuing target of these attacks has been leveled against the attempt to equalize educational opportunity for black and poor youngsters.

These attempts have come in one form as a demand for tuition tax credits and educational vouchers. Those that espouse these proposals are mostly the affluent. They see these vouchers as a way of avoiding school desegregation and school integration by getting

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