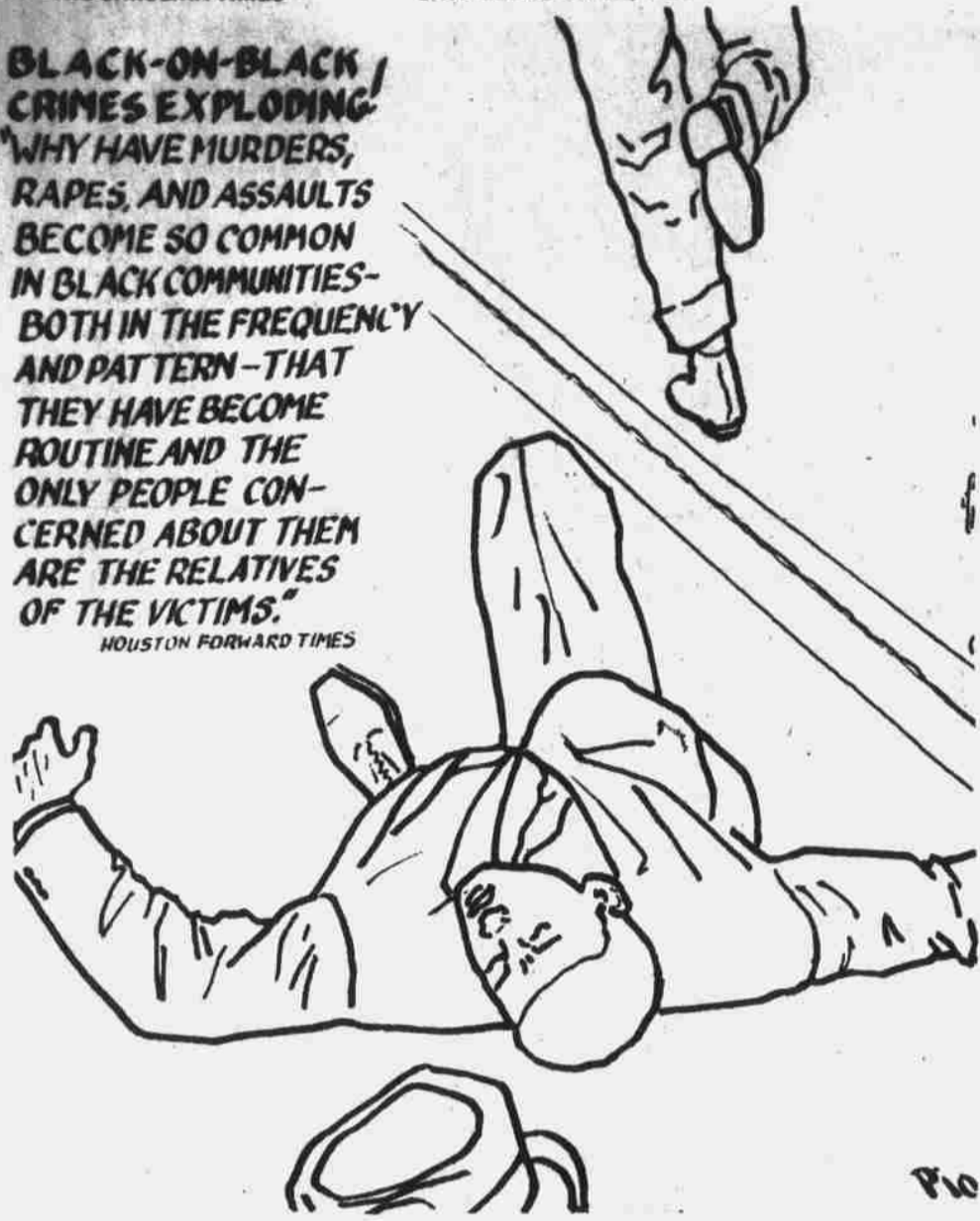


BLACK-ON-BLACK CRIMES EXPLODING! WHY HAVE MURDERS, RAPES, AND ASSAULTS BECOME SO COMMON IN BLACK COMMUNITIES— BOTH IN THE FREQUENCY AND PATTERN— THAT THEY HAVE BECOME ROUTINE AND THE ONLY PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT THEM ARE THE RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS.

HOUSTON FORWARD TIMES



To Be Equal

Social Programs Under Attack

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Federal social programs are under heavy attack. They are widely believed to have failed in their objectives, to be designed to help only blacks, and to cost more than the economy can afford.

All of those beliefs are false. Federal social programs have worked. Some are among the most successful endeavors of government. Despite an enormous budget the Pentagon demonstrated it cannot land helicopters in the Iranian desert; but despite pinched funds, social programs have alleviated hunger, improved the education of the poor, and trained many young people for productive jobs.

The food stamp program is an example of how a federal program can make a direct attack on malnutrition and hunger. Before it was instituted a Congressional investigation found widespread hunger in parts of the country. Recently, a followup study found that thanks to the food stamp program extreme hunger has largely been eliminated.

Sure, the program isn't cheap. But its rising costs are directly due to the rise in food prices, an inflationary development that makes food stamps even more necessary for the poorest among us.

Head Start is another success. It got a bad press in its first few years. But a recent study that followed children from Head Start through adulthood found they performed

better in school, were more interested in going to college, and less likely to get into trouble than children with similar backgrounds who did not have the benefit of the program.

The lesson of Head Start is that social programs should be seen as investments — by spending on pre-school education the government saved later and larger expenditures on remedial classes, law enforcement, and training costs.

The Job Corps is another Great Society program that gets little credit. But it is a success — seventy per cent of the Corps' graduates land jobs in the private sector and most of the rest go into the military or continue their education. Not bad, since most of their peers are still pounding the streets looking for work.

There are plenty of other successes, ranging from social security and medicare programs that have boosted most of the elderly out of poverty, to housing subsidy programs that help millions of people improve their living standards.

And the big secret is that most of the beneficiaries of federal social programs are white. The big lie that these are "black" programs is defeated by the statistics.

The majority of people on welfare are white. Half of food stamp recipients are white. Four out of five recipients of social and nutritional services for the aged are

white. Ninety-two per cent of social security funds go to white recipients. Four out of five medicare participants are white.

The majority of CETA jobs are held by whites. Whites are two-thirds of the beneficiaries of the Section 8 housing subsidy program, the program that accounts for nearly all of current housing subsidies.

That list can be extended further. The plain fact of the matter is that not only are many federal social programs successful in that they accomplish what they set out to do, but they also often serve many more whites than blacks.

The third leg of the stool of falsehood is that those programs are bankrupting the country. Again that's not true.

Social programs may account for a large share of the federal budget, but so do other government functions. No one is proposing to disband the military because it will cost some \$200 billion next year.

It is wrong to see social program solely as costs, without assessing their considerable benefits. They constitute an investment in America's human resources.

Programs that develop skills, provide basic life supports, and bring hope are indispensable to a civilized society. And anyone who says these functions can be performed without government intervention is, at best, just plain wrong.

John Avery Boys' Club

Durham's John Avery Boys' Club marked forty years of service to the community this January. This is an accomplishment of which all of Durham should be proud and for which we should be grateful.

We should also be grateful for the contributions of its leader of 35 years. Quiet and reserved in manner, much of the credit for this achievement must go to Lee W. Smith, Jr., the executive director of our Boys' Club. Through good times and bad, he has given of himself beyond the call of duty for a cause in which he deeply believes. He continues to be a positive role model for countless minority youth who would have no such contact were

it not for him.

He has set a wholesome, relaxed tone for the Club but one which bespeaks order, self-discipline, and responsibility. A profound feeling of pride and belonging is perceived from the boys who use the Club's facilities.

One can only guess how many productive men there are today whose lives were affected in some positive way by the John Avery Boys' Club. The list indeed must be extensive.

As John Avery Boys' Club begins its next forty years, those who have benefitted directly from its existence, particularly and others can make a pledge now to do something to support and further enhance this most deserving institution.

Black History Month

Someone once said "if you don't know where you came from, then you certainly don't know where you are going." There is a lot of truth in that statement — particularly for Afro-Americans whose heritage suffers from a long slave period of deprivation of names, customs, traditions, mores.

February has been designated Black History Month — a time

for learning of the past of a mighty people, a time for appreciating the seed from which we sprang and learning something of the multifarious contributions to civilization by people of color.

If every man, woman and child puts forth the effort to learn one something new this month he/she never knew about the Afro-American heritage, the entire country will reap the benefit.

Minorities and the Technological World of the 1980's

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

Most people will agree that the 1970's were not this nation's best years, especially in terms of our economic performance. We experienced decreases in economic growth and productivity, drastic increases in unemployment, and galloping rises in inflation.

These things are still with us. They look like they may be with us for some time, in spite of nonsensical statements being made by some persons in the new Administration.

But what of the 1980's? Can we increase opportunities and establish sound policies for economic growth? What must we do to produce more goods and services, and thereby raise our productivity? How can we move this nation closer to a full employment economy?

These were some of the economic questions facing a host of other serious national issues, that the President's Commission For A National Agenda For the Eighties sought to answer upon its establishment by President Jimmy Carter on October 24, 1979.

Their projections for the 80's are highly worth considering. Coming from diverse backgrounds, outside of government, this group of 45 leading, outstanding Americans appointed to this Commission wrestled with the broadest, most important issues that will face us for this next decade.

Nowhere was the urgency of their task more pronounced than that which dealt with the economy. More specifically, their discussion on growth, employment and poverty has very special meaning for those who will live in the ghettos and barrios of this nation for the next ten years.

Of great significance is the fact that the 1980's civilian labor force is expected to considerably slow its growth rate — in comparison to the rapid growth rate it experienced in the 70's.

In part, this is explained by the baby boom generation of the post-war years, who were 16-24 in the 70's, and who will be ten years older in the eighties. By and large, they will

be skilled and experienced in the work world of the 80's. They will no longer be the inexperienced teenagers of the 1970's.

Another factor is the slowing down of the influx of adult women into the labor market in the 1980's. They also will be substantially skilled and experienced. In the opinion of the Commission, these two factors — fewer teenagers and women in the job market — will increase efforts by employers to hire and train inexperienced workers. And since minority groups will continue to grow more rapidly than the population as a whole, it is felt that minorities will benefit greatly by the changes in the composition of the work force.

But progress in this area will be dependent upon strong economic growth, and strong affirmative action efforts. Progress will also mean that a relatively well educated minority population will have to be trained during this decade in order to compete with those who are already out of the starting gate.

Minorities are going to have to insist that the public schools increase their effectiveness in the nation's urban areas.

They are also going to have to insist that a solid foundation involving the teaching of basic skills be improved, that accelerated remediation efforts be offered in junior and

senior high schools, and that job training readiness courses be connected to the real needs of the private sector.

There is also a major role for the federal government, which the Commission clearly articulated;

"now - when the birth rate of the poor will continue to be twice that of the nonpoor, when the number of teenage pregnancies is increasing rapidly, when evidence indicates that compensatory education is effective, and when the minority youth unemployment rate is about three times that of white youth - is the time for federal education policy to reaffirm its central mission of promoting access and opportunity for the disadvantaged."

It may be that the 80's will provide new opportunities for minorities to take advantage of a changing labor market, and a desire by employers to broaden their hiring and training pools. But even more clearly now, I think we must see that these goals are achievable providing we recognize that these objectives can be realized through a full employment policy. Full employment means fully utilizing our inherent skills, talents and energies.

The sooner we act on this realization, the better.

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 ocean's majestic waves without the awful roar of its waters.

—Frederick Douglass

Spectacles: A Closer Look

Mrs. Ada Virginia Foster Fisher An Unparalleled Oracle

By Ada M. Fisher

The pain and sense of loss which accompanied the death of my mother, Mrs. Ada V.F. Fisher, is indescribable for her death symbolized a generation's end which Black History Month begs that we remember and respect. Cited among "The Living Oracles" who have contributed to Richmond, Virginia's history, Mama's unique insights and vivid recollection of historical events led to her "Clay St." neighborhood's — Jackson Ward's designation as a historical preservation district — inclusion on the "Richmond-on-the-James Walking Tours." Her scope of knowledge was not limited to Richmond, for she knew Durham inside and out. From her arrival here in 1933 to her departure forty-eight years later; not much from Durham's past or present history escaped her.

Her appreciation of history was as one who helped make, shape and record that history. Few who wanted to write a paper or dissertation on black Richmond or black Durham missed an opportunity to drop in to "pick her brain." At least five books acknowledge her major contributions to them and many others drew their life's blood from her memory. In the time we had the opportunity to live on Fayetteville Street, I can never recall the doors of our house being locked or any guest being unwelcomed. My mind can't fathom the number of meals cooked, the number of beds made for frequent guests, or the number of people who dropped in to sit and share with us. The uniqueness of mama was in the open atmosphere of her household. Our house was

never too good for children to play within. Our heads were never allowed to swell so large that we couldn't associate with kids or people from all walks of life and sides of town. And our roots as well as our responsibility and duty to serve people were made ever clear.

The things I'll always remember most about mama were her accurate memory, her knowledge of history, and her always being there. In our neighborhood and for the black community, Mama was the girot supreme. She never forgot a face, a date or a kinship. She could tell you who you were, whose child you were, what other kinships you represented, and your lineage's contributions to this city. There was no feat too small to be recollected whether you were the first to be employed at Liggett and Myers, ran the concessions downtown, owned property, or engaged in your own business. The interconnecting relationships among families, churches, schools, and business developments in the black community were perceptively recorded to be recalled in the notes sent at graduation, on birthdays, for weddings, etc. Thoughtfulness was the hallmark of mama's life.

Life by the side of a preacher can often be like living in a fish bowl but this woman — Mrs. Ada V.F. Fisher — flourished in that role. The church was not only my father's vocation, it was her mission as well. Daily, I was astounded by her ability to recall biblical verse as if parts of the concordance were stored within. Her skill at the piano and recall of various spirituals, gospels, and

songs were from the best of our heritage and were quite entertaining. She was the consummate hostess for the black religious community who gained from her unending well of kindness. She knew what it was to be a humanitarian, for it was a role that she lived and was yet another hallmark of her life.

A source of delight for me was always having my mother greet me and all of the kids from my classes from her vantage on the 1219 Fayetteville St. porch as we returned home from school whether Pearson Elementary, Whitted Jr. High, or Hillside Sr. High. When French had stumped me or math had got me down, mama could unravel their mysteries. When a word was misspelled or the grammar not quite right, mama made us get it right. As I read of children having to come home to an empty house or prepare their own meals, I feel fortunate in always having had mama there to meet certain basic needs. Her grandchildren often sat at her feet to hear her stories, to learn of their history, and to benefit from her presence in their lives. Even her new neighborhood on Partridge St. which basically has few older citizens, knew mama was special. All the kids there called her "granda" and the neighbors never seemed to tire of the historical stories which she could recall. And then from the bleachers of the University of Wisconsin's stadium, when they asked all of the candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine to rise, I remember standing there misty-eyed for my family had come to watch me, the youngest and the last of her children, obtain this degree. The family as a source of

strength and learning is another lesson my parents taught. The ingenuity and lessons of history learned from my parents helped me open the door for twenty-two other black students and several other faculty members. Graduation was an occasion when they all had the opportunity to meet the woman who made it all possible and the queen of the action, my mother.

Most importantly, my parents taught us that you can be right and everyone else can be wrong, i.e., the majority isn't always right, though they may prevail. If you believe that you're right, stand up for your beliefs. However, be ever mindful in so doing that you may have to pay a price in failed job opportunities, unequal pay for more than equal work, and possible harassments to your being. But we must not be afraid to pay whatever price our beliefs demand, for one day the truths told must come to light. Service, duty and responsibility were three lessons stressed to us by our parents. These lessons are still those that the black community would do well to remember and rededicate itself to in this Black History Month.

In his eulogy, "Tribute to a Great Lady — Ada Virginia Foster Fisher," my Dr. Miles Mark Fisher, IV, mama was portrayed as the unusual wife, an exceptional and loved mother, a dynamic teacher, a magnanimous humanitarian, an insightful historian, a true believer, a believer in family, and the friend that she was. Her name adorns no buildings, no monuments are erected in her memory; yet Durham, N.C. will be indelibly changed through the example she provided, the inspiration she generated, and the life she lived. My mother, Mrs. Ada Virginia Foster Fisher, was the most fascinating person I have ever known. She fought a good fight, she kept the faith, she finished her course, and she gave us a legacy to remember — one firmly planted in the "oral tradition," and one based on service, responsibility and duty to the black community. She and countless other black people, born of parents and ancestors, some of whom were slaves, must make us ever mindful of the struggle for

parity which has not been achieved for all peoples and which can never be realized if we sit back in our complacency failing to act in the name of justice and decency. Black People, Wake Up! Our ancestors beckon us to do more, to do better, and to hold high the torch which their struggle has ignited.

The Carolina Times

(USPS 091-380)

L.E. AUSTIN
Editor-Publisher 1927-1971

Published every Thursday (dated Saturday) at Durham, N.C. by United Publishers, Incorporated. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3825, Durham, N.C. 27702. Office located at 923 Fayetteville Street, Durham, N.C. 27701. Second Class Postage paid at Durham North Carolina 27702. POSTMASTER: Send address change to THE CAROLINA TIMES, P.O. Box 3825, Durham, N.C. 27702.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year, \$12.00 (plus \$0.48 sales tax for North Carolina residents). Single copy \$3.00. Postal regulations REQUIRE advanced payment on subscriptions. Address all communications and make all checks and money orders payable to: THE CAROLINA TIMES.

NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE: Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., 45 West 45th Street, New York, New York 10066.

Member United Press International Photo Service, National Newspaper Publishers Association, North Carolina Black Publishers Association.

Opinions expressed by columnists in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of this newspaper.

This newspaper WILL NOT be responsible for the return of unsolicited pictures.