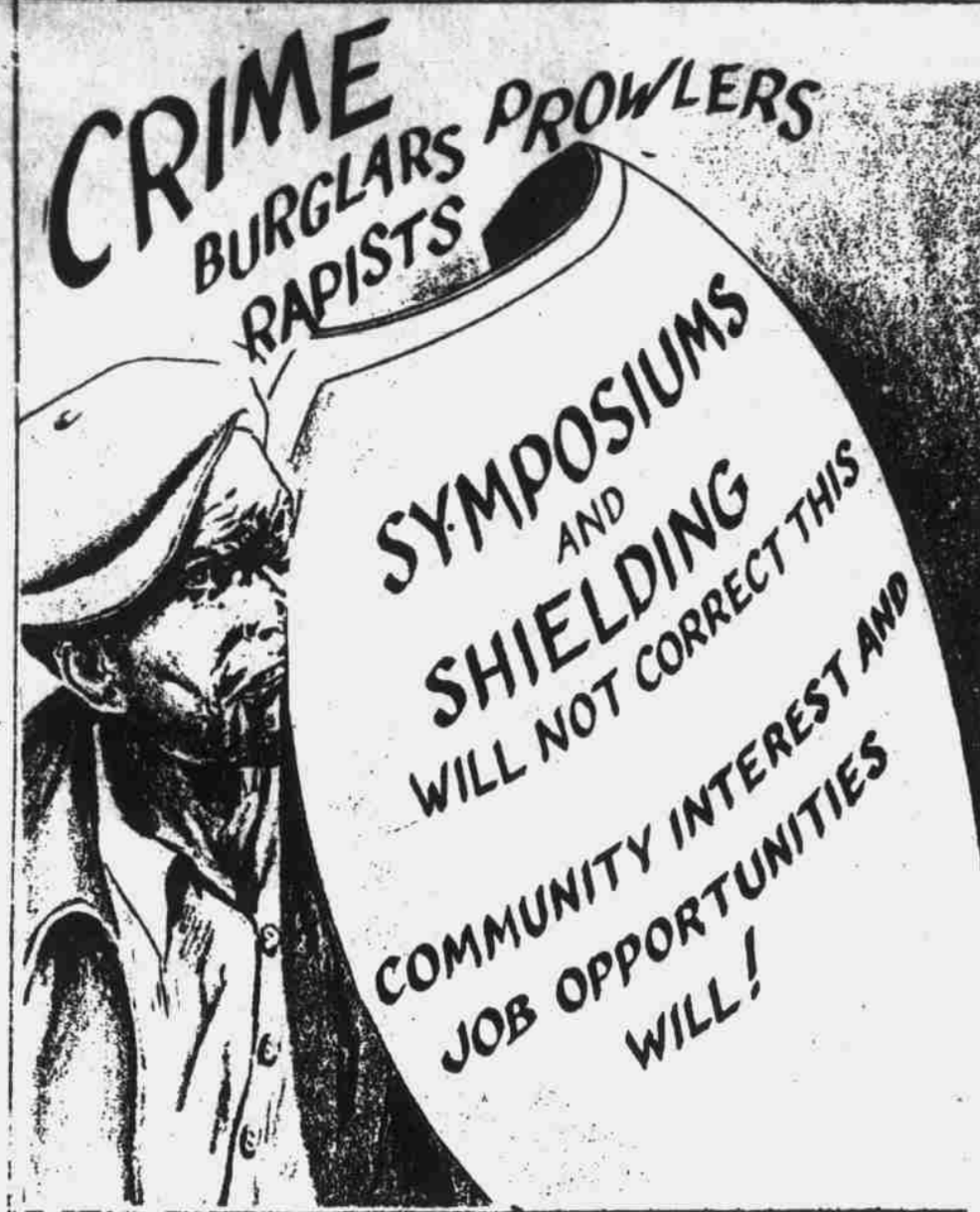


## Blacks Should Help Impose Order



Spectacles: A Closer Look

## Lincoln Should Be Preserved

By Ada M. Fisher

The efforts to improve services and facilities for the Lincoln Community Health Center are to be applauded; however, the decision to tear down the old hospital should be vigorously questioned. Urban renewal (black removal) and "modernization" have almost successfully removed from Durham's map, critical landmarks of black achievement. So now we learn of Lincoln's designation for the ax with little resistance from the black community being offered and with so little understanding of what Lincoln has meant to our being.

The maroon colored core original building of Lincoln Hospital was built in the early 1900's by donations from the Durham black community and through the largesse of the B.N. Duke family. As conceived by the genius of Dr. A.M. Moore, this was to be a first-rate facility for servicing the medical needs of the black community. The proximity of the hospital to the largest black concentration in Durham meant precious seconds and minutes could be sliced from emergency cases in a bid to save lives. Many who needed medical, surgical and obstetrical care were spared a premature death by the convenience and availability of this nearby facility.

In the first phase of Durham's new consolidation and building process, service oriented programs conveniently placed in the black community have been absorbed. The library was made a portion of the city's system; the YWCA was merged and then abandoned; the churches were forced into new facilities and higher debts; and the hospitals were closed with a new erection in an inconvenient location with our Lincoln landmark now scheduled to be destroyed. How long will black Durham sleep before its slow castration is appreciated? Our personhood rests upon our history, our birth, our ability to sustain ourselves, and our pride in who we are. The removal of our landmarks and our historical places is akin to invading the shrines of our ancestors.

The buildings erected by our forefathers are sacred and must not be destroyed. Let any think this is sheer sentimentality, look at what the "Sanford Group" is doing to downtown Durham. They are buying and renovating old buildings for they know, as do those with lineages steeped in culture and history, that these edifices have stood the test of time. Moreover, the walls which embrace us convey a sense of history which is not to be found in the rubble erected beyond the ruins. A new building, given the substandard material used in many and the wear and tear which we can inflict upon it, will

have a life-span of maybe ten years, if we're lucky. After that we will be out in the cold without a building, without services, and without the sense of purpose which those old landmarks lent.

Now some may say its too expensive to renovate and operate the old facility. I would argue with that view for all properties designated as historical landmarks are eligible for renovation loans at a rate of three per cent interest and no new facility can be build nowadays for under cost plus twelve per cent interest. Some may think they're saving money in building a new facility, but our landmarks and history are priceless and the expense incurred is one which we must be willing to pay.

If the county's management and the Lincoln Community Health Center turn a deaf ear to renovation of the facility for use as a health center, the black community should petition the county to declare the maroon section of the Lincoln Hospital complex (the original building) a historic landmark to be preserved for generations to come. (While you're at it, please get the Stanford L. Warren Library so designated before its gets too expensive to operate and some not too bright financial genius decides that it should come down as well). If this is done, I will personally pledge \$100 for the preservation of the old building.

My affection for Lincoln Hospital is from my respect for the genius of Dr. Aaron McDuffie Moore whose example of medicine as an instrument for the fulfillment of a social mission is seen — at Lincoln which served us well; in the foundation he laid for North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company; in his concern for our literacy materialized by the Stanford L. Warren Library; in his work with Dr. Shepard on the North Carolina College for Negroes at Durham, and in his other works for the black community. It is interesting that of all men who have contributed to Durham's history, few, in my opinion, have done so much for so many, yet his name alone adorns no building and he died as he had begun, a servant of the people.

Our ancestors beckon that we not forget their contributions, that we remember history and preserve our landmarks, and that we do better. Only fools let their history go unrecorded and unrecognized. Black people wake up! We are being had! If we cannot preserve our landmarks, what will we choose to remember, to save, and to fight for. At the close of another observance of Black History Month, it's about time we cut the rhetoric and fulfill the legacy bequeathed us by our ancestors.



Charles H. TURNER

1867-1923

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, he won his A. S. Degree at Cincinnati University in 1892. After a short experience teaching biology, he resumed studies at University of Chicago, winning his Ph.D. with highest honors! He did extensive research and made many invaluable contributions in a field of biology so advanced and complex that only a few experts could fully appreciate their worth!

Continental Features—

## Reagan "New Economic Plan — A Design For Disaster

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

After a fanfare equal to a Hollywood premiere, the Reagan "budget cuts for the working class and the poor, and tax breaks for the rich" proposal has now gone public.

If Americans think they saw their incomes slipping away in 1980, they "ain't seen nothing yet", that will compare with 1981, when even their jobs will be on the line.

It isn't that Americans don't want to see economy in their government. Elimination of waste, graft, and fraud in all programs is desirable. But, if we want to reduce welfare, food stamps, medicaid, and other social programs, why then, don't we provide decent jobs, at fair wages instead? If we want to reduce wasteful Government spending, why then, are we increasing the Budget by billions of dollars for unneeded military weapons, that are already out of date?

In order to attack inflation, the Reagan proposal says we must have over \$40 billion in budget cuts. This is based on the belief that Federal spending for housing, employment, health, education, transportation, etc., is the cause of our inflation problem. The truth is, this is sheer nonsense, unsupported by a single economist in this country and has always resulted in depressions when tried in the past. Actually, the budget was cut so much in Carter's last year, the Federal deficit was doubled and inflation increased.

So, instead of attacking the real causes of inflation — sky-high interest rates, escalating oil prices, price fixing by monopolies, Government-generated shortages, etc. — we are, instead, told that the real cause of our miseries are the poor, the ordinary wage-earners, welfare recipients, minorities, minimum-wage laws, health and

safety regulations, and of course, the old "New Deal" programs. And therefore, we need a so-called "New Beginning"! (Echoes of Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and Dick Nixon).

Their "New Beginning" we are told, is a promise that taxes will again be cut, (the tenth time since 1954) the assumption being it is our taxes they are talking about decreasing.

Before jumping for joy, lets see just what they really mean. If you are an ordinary family at the median income level of \$20,000 per year (anyone making less will not receive any benefits under the Reagan plan, you may expect to pay well over \$450 more this year in Social Security taxes, higher energy and food costs. Subtracting from that figure, your projected tax cut of less than \$300, you will end up with an initial deficit of \$150.

On the other hand, if you happen to earn \$100,000 this year, you can manipulate over \$2000 in tax breaks.

Under the guise of generating economic activity and creating jobs, the Reagan plan justifies this unnecessary raid on the Federal Treasury, as giving the wealth to the affluent who are "wiser and more enterprising" than we and being more "charitable" will share their new wealth with the less fortunate.

It is at this point, that the plan becomes even more fantastic. Somewhere in the rhetoric, we are informed that 13 million new jobs will be created (as if by magic!). Then, in case our hopes are raised too high, we are immediately warned that if we are unlucky enough to be lost in the shuffle and

our present jobs are wiped out, we should not expect unemployment compensation, unless we are willing to take a minimum wage job, regardless of our qualifications, or previous job experience. This, one supposes, is the American dream of starting from the bottom and working ones way up.

and in all, the worst features of the "New Beginning" are not these examples at all, when compared to what we are doing to those in our society who are already submerged in poverty, discrimination, and the low-wage labor market. . . . before we even consider the new budget cuts and tax give-aways.

Most of all, we had better take a good look at the impact this plan will have on families and on our children, millions of whom can't make ends meet already and for whom these budget cuts are morally devastating.

during the next few weeks, as debate over the Reagan plan intensifies, we must remain steadfast in our support of targeted Budget outlays that stimulate employment and economic growth, and tax reform that will benefit moderate and low-income persons by increasing their purchasing power.

We must counter the blind rush to slash domestic spending for the sake of unfounded theory, but pure political gain, and we must work to see that our alternative programs are enacted in place of this "design for disaster".

Incidentally, if you locate one of those magical 13 million new jobs, let me know. I have a Vietnam veteran son-in-law who may need one badly if the Reagan budget cuts are unwittingly approved by Congress.

## To Be Equal

## Budget Battle Looms

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

The Administration's budget reflects some sensitivity in that it stops far short of the kind of heavy slashes in key social welfare programs originally expected.

But the cuts it proposes still amount to taking far more out of the hides of the poor than is tolerable. And those cuts may wind up being even heavier after a runaway Congress gets at some of those programs.

The Administration said its budget proposals would be equitable, in that all sectors of the nation would have to make some sacrifices. But two things are wrong with that formulation — some sectors will not share in the pain inflicted on others, and it is virtually impossible to make "equitable" cuts in survival programs.

The wide range of federal programs facing cuts ensures that the pain is spread fairly widely. States and cities, energy companies involved in the synfuels program, affluent parents of college kids, and many others will lose some of the programs subsidizing their activities.

But for many, those cuts will be made up for by the proposed tax cuts. And for others, such as the military and the defense establishment, the gravy train will roll on to even higher ground, increasing the inflationary pressures in the economy.

But what about the poor? they will get it in

the neck as food stamp eligibility is tightened, public jobs programs ended, and community development programs phased out.

It is simply not possible to equate the sacrifices asked from the poor with those required of others. They poor have no leeway; they can't make up the lost food stamps, the foregone public service jobs, or the closed health clinic.

Even more worrying than the specific proposals for budget cuts is the paralysis that afflicts many who would be expected to oppose those cuts.

I even detect an unrealistic fatalism in some quarters, as people say the cuts and other plans should not be opposed since the Administration is bound to fail and then a liberal program will have a chance.

I can't buy that kind of thinking. First, it amounts to making the poor pay for the political and ideological hangups of others.

Second, poor people and the nation have a stake in the success of this Administration. If it beats inflation and unemployment, as it promised, then all Americans gain.

But that also implies an obligation to hold the Administration to the fire, and to refuse to let it impose unfair burdens on the poorest and most defenseless in our society.

There is also an obligation to challenge some of the assumptions behind the budget

cuts. Those cuts are not the only way to go in trying to restore a healthy economy.

For example, it is questionable whether we need those hefty tax cuts the Administration wants to make. Without those tax cuts, there would be little need for drastic slashes in domestic spending programs.

And if the Administration feels the need for higher revenues, it can eliminate some of the enormous tax expenditures that flow to the affluent. Cuts in housing programs for the poor cannot be justified, for example, when the "tax" breaks for high-income homeowners amount to far more than federal housing subsidies for the poor.

And there is no reason why the proposed inflationary increases in defense spending should be a sacred cow. A lot of that new spending will go to buy expensive weapons systems like the MX missile and others that experts claim will be a waste of taxpayers money, even without the inevitable overruns that always affect military weapons procurement.

The coming battle of the budget will be lost unless advocates of the poor can make their voices heard, defending essential programs and helping to educate the Administration and the nation to the needs of the poor.

## Reagan's Attack On The Working Poor

By Norman Hill

A. Philip Randolph Institute

Ronald Reagan's program of cutbacks in social services is an attempt to revitalize America's corporations at the expense of the working poor. While the Reagan program does make some cutbacks in programs for the poor and elderly, the full force of the Administration's budget-slashing axe will be felt by our country's working poor: unskilled and semi-skilled workers, a disproportionate number of whom are black.

The Reagan approach will cut back unemployment insurance benefits from 39 weeks to 26 weeks. To propose this reduction in aid at a time when jobs are scarce and unemployment is well above seven per cent is to drive more out-of-work Americans onto the welfare rolls. But, the Reagan Administration is not content with this measure. It also proposes changing unemployment compensation in a way that would force workers who have been jobless for three months to take minimum-wage jobs or lose their unemployment benefits. The plan suggests precisely the kind of federal coercion President Reagan claimed he opposed. Clearly the Administration is not so much interested in getting the government off the backs of people as it is getting government off the backs of corporations and the rich. Under the plan, for example, a skilled autoworker or steelworker with no job prospects in his area of skill would be forced to take an available job at a fast-food restaurant or as a housekeeper, or risk losing his benefits.

The Reagan program represents a massive effort to take services and benefits from working people and to transfer them to the wealthy. This will be achieved through the elimination of social security benefits for college age students whose parents are dead, retired, or disabled. President Reagan also intends to lower the minimum social security payment of \$122 per month and to drastically reduce the extent of coverage for workers

who are disabled.

In the past two decades, education has been the principal mechanism for black advancement into the middle class. The Reagan proposals will cut \$1 billion in aid to higher education in 1982 and will reduce spending on vocational training programs by \$200 million. The cost of a college education today is prohibitive. Without federal subsidies to the children of middle-and-lower-income workers, higher education would be beyond the means of most young people. Aid to education and support of vocational training is not only a legitimate purpose of government it is one which enjoys a great deal of public support.

The President's obsession with budget cutting will even damage America's foreign relations. While calling for a huge increase in defense spending, the President recommends a two billion dollar cut in foreign aid from the figure recommended by President Carter. Foreign aid is an important instrument in improving America's relations with the developing world. Indeed, what has made America different from the Soviet Union in the eyes of many has been our willingness not only to provide weaponry but legitimate economic aid, as well. The Reagan cutback in foreign aid is short-sighted, will weaken American influence in the third world, and will, in the final analysis, serve to undermine our country's national interest.

The real tragedy of the Reagan spending cuts is not only in the increased suffering that will result for the truly needy. Part of the tragedy of the proposal is that it represents a tremendous gamble. President Reagan is risking the well-being of millions upon millions of people to test a theory of "supply-side economics" that even its originator, Prof. Arthur Laffer, concedes may not work. In fact the Reagan proposal to cut federal taxes by thirty per cent over a three year period will serve to further fuel in-

flation and will primarily benefit those who are in high-income tax brackets. It is therefore not surprising that a February survey undertaken by pollster Louis Harris found that by 67 to 28 per cent, Americans reject making "cuts in both spending and (Continued on Page 15)

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