

Dr. Cobb, Native Durhamite, Sets A Pace

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of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The individual states have not demonstrated their ability to separate racism from what's good for the state. I shudder when I think of the future of those poor blacks in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and even New York when they try to get food stamps or public assistance. I have no reason to believe that the transgressions of the past will change in the future.

Now, more than ever, minority groups must fully, actively mobilize to participate in the political process at the state and local county level. If the President's program is in fact implemented over the next ten years, the political action will be in the states where basic survival will be determined or denied.

I do not want to second guess the President's attempt to secure a faltering economy marked by a record nine million unemployed which for blacks is 17-18 percent. The President's remarks about the State of the Union were noticeably limited in any reference to our present economic woes. But instead had an air of rhetoric rather than reality — particularly as that reality affects blacks and other minorities including middle income white and black.

Notwithstanding Mr. Reagan's fine performance, we are in this projected program, a long way from relieving the hurt and pain being experienced and yet to be experienced.

Profile Of A Man Of Many Talents

Editor's Preface
Back in 1979, after The Carolina Times' building was destroyed by an arsonist, many of our readers will recall that when we thanked those persons and organizations who came to our aid in a terribly dark hour, that the United Church of Christ Commission For Racial Justice headed the list of those we called "Extra Milers". These were organizations and individuals who stood with us financially in one of our most trying times; those who recognized the worth of our independent voice for the oppressed, the voiceless and downtrodden in this affluent society.

It was Dr. Charles Earl Cobb — former Durhamite, humanitarian, practical theologian — who was the force behind the gift of \$1,000 to The Carolina Times from the United Church of Christ. We present this profile of a great American from our home town who has put into practice what he preaches not only as a tribute to the

man, but perhaps more importantly, as a role model for those who would carry forth the 'struggle' of ALL of God's children. Beginning in this issue, we are carrying Dr. Cobb's weekly commentary under the title, "Civil Rights Journal" in our editorial section. The commentary addresses pressing civil rights issues within the minority community. —YAE

Dr. Charles E. Cobb, Executive Director of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice is a native of Durham. He has provided a vital leadership role to the United Church of Christ and brought a visible black presence to the denomination. Prior to assuming executive responsibilities with the Commission for Racial Justice, Dr. Cobb was pastor of St. Johns Congregational Church in Springfield, Massachusetts where he was the first black to run for mayor in 1965. He is the author of "The History of St. John's



DR. CHARLES E. COBB

Islamic Conference

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It is that the "American Establishment" may no longer be an attendant to the aspirations and needs of us blacks here in the United States. Certainly, the Administration of President Ronald Reagan seems bent on depriving us of even our present paltry share of the American pie of economic, social and political participation.

There are extreme poles of wealth and poverty in the membership of the Islamic Conference. I daresay in time the rich states led by Saudi Arabia and other oil producing nations will share their largesse with poorer ones. I am impressed with the Saudi's who have pledged billions to this organization including all of the funds, commissions and centres which I have mentioned earlier. In time black Americans will have to seek out the Conference for survival.

The Secretariat of the Organization for Islamic Conferences is well trained, staffed and dedicated. The Secretary General is Habib Chatti of Tunisia who has bright and capable assistants determined to let the world know of Islamic achievements and goals.

At both the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Conference in Fez, Morocco of September, 1980 and the Islamic Summit Conference led by King Khalid bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia at Mecca in January, 1981 the world watched.

Observers came from Nigeria which has a large Muslim population in its Northern region, Cyprus, Turkish Federated State of Kibris, the United Nations, UNESCO, League of Arab States, The OAU, the U.N. High Commission For Refugees, World Assembly of Arab Youth, World Federation of Islamic Schools, The Islamic Council of Europe, The Arab League, Rabita Al Alam Islami and scores of others.

Millions of dollars were pledged and paid in clear cut resolutions (many mentioned earlier) were adopted and ordered implemented.

King Khalid made one of his greatest economic and political speeches followed by many African and Arab Heads of State, plus their counterparts from Asia.

The culprit was deemed Israel which had just made its most intensive incursions in Lebanon, annexation of all of Jerusalem and insallation of more settlements in Arab territory.

I will not go further into the economic, educational, social and cultural impact of this and previous meetings. The precision and purposes of the Conference are quite evident.

Israel Should Beware

I have said many times that Israel should continue as a State, that it should recognize her Arab neighbors and they should recognize her right to exist. I have also implored Israel to behave by respecting the U.N. Charter and international law as it relates to the Arabs and the Palestinian people. But Israel has not.

When I access the numbers I know there are close to a billion Muslims who are members of the Organization of Islamic Conference. Israel has less than four million souls.

In the Muslim world "Jihad" refers to "Holy War." There is talk of "Jihad" among these Conference members, particularly over Jerusalem supporters of Israel brag she has the nuclear bomb. I shudder about this for the Arabs have the wealth and the brains to acquire such nuclear capacity. Also sheer numbers in time from the Muslim communities could decimate Israel. This is why I urge a settlement of this Middle East fiasco with the U.S. giving some attention to the potential explosiveness of this of this desecret Muslim power.

I would like to see this Conference Ambassador, Dr. Sylla, get to know the black American people better. This man, trained as a medical doctor, is renowned in diplomacy. He helped to negotiate Senegal's independence from France. He has served as Senegal's Ambassador to Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the United Kingdom, Ethiopia and to the OAU. While a student in France he led the African Students' Organization. He is former Foreign Secretary of Senegal. He has several honors and medals from France to which he served as advisor on African affairs before Senegal's independence. He is a great swimmer.

There is so much more about this Organization of Islamic Conference. We will follow its meetings and progress.

Most of all we will plead for black America — including us Christians and those of other faiths — to be attached in kind to this great economic, social and political force.

Congregational Church.

Dr. Cobb is a graduate of Hillside High School, North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University); and received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Howard University, Master of Sacred Theology degree from Boston University, and was awarded his Doctor of Divinity from Huston-Tillotson.

Dr. Cobb is one of two representatives of the American National Council of Churches on the Working Committee of the Churches Human Rights Program for the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act.

He is a founding board member of Trans-Africa, Inc., and past President of the National Conference of Black Churchmen, of which he is also a founder.

Dr. Cobb has brought the Commission for Racial Justice from a Committee to an ongoing Commission and permanent instrumentality within the United Church of Christ. He has brought the United Church of Christ into social focus and provided the impetus for the denomination's active involvement in social and political issues that directly affect the minority community. This community service has been recognized by numerous groups and associations.

Dr. Cobb is the recipient of the Frederick Douglas Citation for outstanding achievement in the "Struggle for Black Liberation", the NAACP award for Outstanding Community Service.

Listed in Who's Who in Black America, and a frequent lecturer on university campuses, he also serves on the Board of Directors of the Black United Fund, and the Congressional Black Caucus' "International Relations" and "Legislative Support" brain trusts.

Dr. Cobb was appointed as Executive Director of the Commission for Racial Justice in 1966 and has responsibility for the implementation of the Commission's programs of Higher Education, Research, Information and Education, Community Organization, Program Development with the White Constituency, Criminal Justice and Penal Reform, Grant Funding, Leadership Development and Training, Black Church Empowerment and Program to Combat Drug Abuse. The commission for Racial Justice has staff based in Washington, D.C. and North Carolina — Virginia.

Many changes have taken place in the predominantly white United Church of Christ since Dr. Cobb became a national executive that have made the Church relevant in the black and minority struggle for liberation, justice and human fulfillment.

A few of these are:

- Election of a black as Secretary of the Church, the second highest office;
- Black representation on all boards, commission and agencies;
- Organization and mobilization of the black constituency;
- Status of Commission changed from ad hoc to permanent agency with funding from basic support budget;
- Establishment of two field offices of the Commission for Racial Justice to further implement programs;
- Program involvement throughout the United States.

Dr. Cobb's strong dedication to community service is reflected in his special appointments. From 1958 to 1962, he was appointed by the Mayor to serve on the Executive Committee of Citizen Action Commission in Springfield, Massachusetts, and was appointed to serve as a Commissioner on the Springfield Public Welfare Commission.

Dr. Cobb organized the Springfield, Massachusetts School for Civic Responsibility in 1952. In 1959, he served

President Eisenhower's Special Committee on Government Contracts, and in 1964 served on the Governor's Advisory Commission on Civil Rights in Massachusetts. In the religious community, Dr. Cobb has maintained a position of leadership and guidance. He serves on the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches.

In 1974, he was elected President of the only national Black Ecumenical Organization, the National Conference of Black Churchmen, of which he is a founding member. He currently serves on the Board of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization.

Dr. Cobb has been Managing Editor of The Carolina Times (Charlotte Edition), and the director of Boy's Work, at the YMCA in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is currently the publisher of the Commission News, Criminal Justice Issues, and the CRJ Reporter and a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

After directing St. Marks Social Center in Boston, he served as a local pastor, and Chaplain at Kentucky State College in Frankfort, Kentucky where he also served as Dean of Men.

From 1942 to 1944, Dr. Cobb was a supervisor of Offset Reproduction in the Army Corps in Washington, D.C.

He and his wife, the former Miss Martha B. Kendrick, have four children: Charles, Jr., Ann, Adrienne and Janet.

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