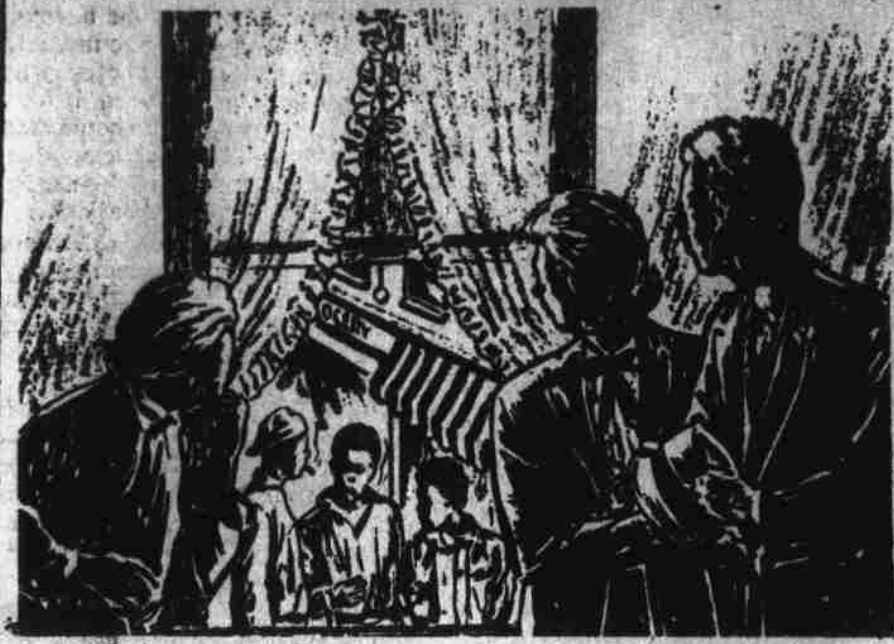


CRIME IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY SHOULD BE EVERYBODY'S CONCERN.



BLACK BUSINESS IS SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF CRIME ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE, IT IS STRUGGLING TO MEET THE HIGH COST OF DEATH INSURANCE, VANDALISM, SHOP LIFTING AND ROBBERY. THE PROBLEM CENTERS AROUND NARCOTICS DRUG RELATED CRIMES.

Editorials

Be Careful! Good Plans Sometimes Fail

After a long, often bitter fight, residents of the Crest Street community, local government officials, and the state's Department of Transportation have apparently worked out a plan that will both save the Crest Street community and clear way for completion of the East-West Expressway.

We applaud the steady commitment on the part of the Crest Street community residents in this struggle to save their community from the destructive knife of this highway slashing through their neighborhood.

But we would be remiss in our duty to this community if we did not encourage the residents not to rest, not to relax their vigilance just because a plan seems to have been developed.

Good plans sometimes fail, and people who have struggled long and hard often lose, though victory appears in sight.

There are many, many problems that still must be resolved before this plan will work. There is still much negotiation to be done. So we say to the Crest Street residents, don't quit now. Your work is not finished. It has just moved to a higher level. Now that you've helped to work out a concept, you must work equally hard to help fine tune the details of that concept, because surprises usually follow a relaxing of vigilance.

A Distasteful Spectacle

The argument this week at the Durham County Commission meeting over a proposed county affirmative action policy was one of the most distasteful spectacles we've witnessed in a long time.

To respond to a legitimate citizen concern with biting ridicule and comic analogies as both Mr. Howard Easley and Mr. Dillard Teer did Monday morning past reveals an old-time narrow-mindedness that seriously hampers this community's racial progress.

Nothing about affirmative action implies an effort to force either incompetent, moronic, imbecilic or senile employees on the county. And the issue is not whether the proponents of the proposed policy are right or wrong in their contentions.

Rather, the issue is the responsibility of elected officials to treat legitimate citizen concerns with dignity and respect. If the facts invalidate those concerns, then let the facts speak for themselves.

But to stoop to the depths that Mr. Easley and Mr. Teer did in their responses to this concern shows that wisdom is not an automatic product of age; that dignity is not an automatic product of wealth.

Things You Should Know

Charles Henry TURNER

BORN IN CINCINNATI, OHIO, FEB. 3, 1867; HE ATTENDED SCHOOL THERE AND WON HIS MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN 1892. HE DID SO WELL IN THE FIELD OF BIOLOGY THAT HE WAS AWARDED A PH.D. SUMMA CUM LAUDE IN 1907! HIS FARR-REACHING DISCOVERIES ON THE HABITS OF BEES AND ANTS ARE WORLD FAMOUS!

CONTINENTAL PUBLISHERS

To Be Equal

The Drive To Resegregate The Schools

By John E. Jacob

Executive Director, National Urban League

Don't be fooled by the slogans about returning control of local schools to the community, preserving individual rights, or reflecting the will of the people.

The current Congressional drive against busing is simply a blatant attempt to resegregate America's schools. As a byproduct, it also suspends constitutional rights and undermines the federal courts.

That's the real meaning of the Senate's passage of an anti-busing bill that would virtually outlaw busing as a tool to desegregate unconstitutionally segregated schools.

The bill would prevent federal courts from ordering busing of students to schools more than five minutes from their homes, bar the Justice Department from pressing desegregation suits involving busing, and even permit the government to go to court to ask for removal of past busing orders.

I have a few doubts that the federal courts will throw this clearly unconstitutional bill back into the cesspool in which it had its origins, but much damage will have been done until then.

You don't have to like busing to hate this bill. Even opponents of busing are against it on constitutional grounds. That's why Senator Lowell Weicker, who fought a valiant, months-long fight to prevent passage of this bill, had some unexpected support from the dean of Washington's conservatives, Senator

Barry Goldwater.

A long-time opponent of busing, Goldwater said: "I think it is dangerous for the country to limit the actions of the courts. If we limit what the courts can do with busing, how long is it until we tell the courts they can't act on drunken driving or murder?"

The anti-busing crowd has whipped up a hysterical atmosphere that even tolerates drilling holes in our legal system to get their way. Why?

Let's label it for what it is — racism. That doesn't mean opposing busing is racist. Nor does it mean that the Senators who voted for that awful bill are racists. But it does mean that when you want to end busing without providing any alternative means for preventing resegregation, and when you do it with a fanatic zeal that would dynamite the courts and the Constitution, then a reasonable, objective observer is entitled to suspect racism.

Another factor is cowardice. Privately, some of the Senators who voted for the bill would admit they did so in the belief that it would help them in their re-election campaign, expecting that the House would kill the bill or the courts would rule it unconstitutional.

And what about busing itself? No one views it as an ideal solution, but it is often a necessary tool to desegregate school systems in violation of constitutional

abuses.

Even though busing has often taken place in negative circumstances, administered by the same officials whose violations of mandates against segregation led to court-ordered busing in the first place, it has worked.

Although relatively few children are bused for desegregation reasons in America, it has helped reduce segregation. It has helped improve minority educational opportunities while not affecting test results by majority children, as countless research studies have shown.

And polls indicate that most parents whose children are bused are happy with the situation — over eighty per cent in one recent national study.

The bill now goes to the House, where the leadership should simply bury it. Don't let it come to committee. Don't let it go to the floor for a vote. Even debating a clearly unconstitutional bill would demean the House and drag it into the same mud-covered field the Senate has just walled in.

And dare we hope for a Presidential statement opposing a bill that is unconstitutional and would try to resegregate America's Schools? Does this Administration have the moral sense and the political judgement to take a stand consistent with true conservative principals?

Getting Smart

Turning Back The Clock

By Walter L. Smart

Executive Director

United Neighborhood Centers of America

It now seems very apparent that the revolutionary changes being wrought by the Reagan Administration will do a lot more than cut billions out of Social Welfare programs, transfer authority to the states for many programs previously administered by the federal government and arm America to the tune of several trillions of dollars. The Administration has also begun a very sophisticated attack on a number of Civil Rights gains for which a large number of Americans (perhaps a majority) had begun to accept as the law of the land.

It is puzzling as to why the amiable President Reagan, against whom no one has yet attached the label of "racist," would move so steadfastly to turn back the clock of Civil Rights progress in this nation. A few may have had some doubts about the direction the Administration was going to take with regard to Civil Rights, forward or backward. Today, no one can deny the backward motion.

In attempting to protect the President from a hint that he might have some racist tendencies, Attorney General William French Smith blurted out before a Congressional hearing, "President Reagan doesn't have a prejudiced bone in his body." That may be so but if the public is prepared to accept that, then there are a number of other possibilities which must

be considered:

1. Like President Rutherford B. Hayes before him, President Reagan has agreed to sell out the Civil Rights of Americans of color in order to gain the support of powerful southern Congressmen for his new programs.

2. He doesn't really know what is going on and he is being ill served by high ranking officials within the Departments of Justice and Treasury.

Attention would naturally focus on Attorney General William French Smith who:

(a) Announced his opposition to taking the oath of office, announced that the Justice Department would not enter cases involving school busing.

(b) Announced his opposition to Affirmative Action programs.

(c) Announced his opposition to a continuation of the Voting Rights Act as it is presently written.

In fact, the Attorney General's position on Civil Rights is strangely close to those of Senators Strom Thurmond and Jesse Helms.

Recently, feelings finally erupted in public when President Reagan announced that he was overturning the policy of the last fifteen years by ordering the Internal Revenue Service to stop denying tax exempt status to educational institutions

which discriminated against people on the basis of color.

When the President began to gauge the extent of the public's outrage over what many consider an illegal as well as an immoral, insensitive act, he announced his personal opposition to the act of discrimination and stated that he would introduce a bill to seek Congressional action against institutions which discriminate on the basis of color.

Sounds good, doesn't it? But unless the Supreme Court reverses him, all educational institutions which blatantly or subtly discriminate against minority persons can reap the benefits of a tax exempt status as a direct result of actions taken by President Reagan.

To allow a few men to rip off our carefully developed veneer of civility before the real fruits of an aroused society, which truly provides liberty and justice for all, would be the height of apathy and lethargy.

Some have said that they are confused about these times. Whatever these times are, it is not the time to sit back and take our freedom and justice for granted. Perhaps next there will be an effort to overturn the Public Accommodations Act and to return the South to an enclave of segregation and prejudice. It's been done before!

Black Family Plan

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

In line with the celebration of Black History Month, a meeting was recently held in Washington to unveil a document entitled: "Black Leadership Family Plan for the Unity, Survival and Progress of Black People". Planning sessions attended by Members of Congressional Black Caucus, the National Black Leadership Roundtable and an array of black leaders and personalities resulted in a plan which offers black people and other oppressed minorities a model of principles and practices which can make us more effective in achieving the broad social changes of primary interest to us.

During the course of planning, twelve basic rules were developed focusing on areas worthy of our attention. The twelve rules are:

1. Support the black church
2. Protect the elderly and support youth
3. Excel in education
4. Oppose crime
5. Contribute to the Black Development Fund
6. Buy and bank black
7. Register and vote
8. Hold elected officials accountable
9. Support black family and community life
10. Challenge and boycott negative media, and support positive media
11. Secure and defend the black community
12. Support Mother Africa and Caribbean nations

History and experience have shown us that the black church has held an unparalleled role in cementing the black community together, while advancing the aims and aspirations of the community. Indeed, during the period of slavery, many black persons learned to read through exposure to the Bible. Black churches have always been the bedrock of

support upon which the struggle for equality has been built. Even in the most adverse times, the black church has served to fill the people with the inspiration to survive and the determination to persevere.

At a time when job opportunities are quite limited, the need for black youth to be encouraged and supported in their educational endeavor is obvious. During the 1960's and 1970's, educational opportunities were for the first time extended to previously excluded groups. Since that time, large numbers of black youth have been able to gain the skills and training necessary to better their own lives. More importantly, however, these same youths were able to bring their skills and talents back into the black community where they are so desperately needed.

Understanding the power of the voting booth and effectively wielding that power has enabled black people across the country to put officials in office who are responsive to the needs of the black community. Most notable of these elections in which black voters have displayed their strength and sophistication was in the election of President Carter and, more recently, the election of Virginia Governor Charles Robb.

During the 1960's, the phrase "Black is Beautiful" came into being as a reaction to hundreds of years of racist psychological oppression which branded black people as lazy, ignorant, dishonest and a lot of other negative characteristics.

The Plan's call for black Americans to challenge and boycott negative media takes up where the "Black is Beautiful" phrase left off in terms of combatting racist representations of black people. When our children are bombarded with negative images promoted in the media, we cannot help but be concerned and active. We must understand and defend the

psychological, as well as the emotional, financial and spiritual needs of our children. We must demand that the media include black artists in the creative and administrative processes. This simple step alone will go a long way toward solving this problem.

The idea of freedom, justice and equality having a price should not be. The Constitution guarantees these rights to all Americans. However, in the absence of these rights being accorded to all citizens and in light of the struggles of civil rights activists throughout our history, we know that the quest to attain these rights is very costly. Further, this is a cost exacted not only in terms of human sacrifice and suffering, but also in monetary terms.

The Black Development Fund is a national movement, rather than an organization, envisioned to give greater discipline and effectiveness to the use and allocation of our combined resources and income. It's simple. The Plan suggests that we should give regularly to the black organizations of our choice. Each month, a particular category of organizations is targeted for donations. In the month of April, for instance, black senior citizen organizations are to receive donations.

If we can put the Plan into effect, we will have progressed a long way in the struggle to marshal our resources for an effective impact upon a society which has not been attentive to our needs. For more information on the Plan, contact the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C., H2-344, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202/225-1691.

North Carolina Black Publishers Association