

**Editorials**

**Our Political Leaders:  
A Good Lot...But...**

One should not construe from *The Carolina Times* story last week that we "attacked Durham's black political leadership".

Quite the contrary. Our leaders, political, moral, social, business or whatever, are all human, with every human foible that besets each of us. But the positions they occupy are so crucial to the community's overall welfare that we simply can't afford the wisdom of hindsight.

By its very definition, the term "leaders" is ambiguous. For example, *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* gives more than a dozen definitions of the term, and in the context of this discussion, two of them are very enlightening.

One definition says a leader is: "a person who has commanding authority or influence." We certainly want our leaders to fit that definition. Cultivated and trained in the reality of being black in America, our leaders, those chosen and ordained by us to represent our interests, carry the authority to speak in our behalf. Our goal in conferring that authority is that they will influence political decisions favorable to our interests.

But another definition, also in *Webster's*, carries a veiled threat. That definition says a leader is: "something that guides fish into a trap".

And now you understand our story. We are not fighting with our political leaders, and when we point out indiscretions, or even mistakes in the future, the intent is to reinforce the first definition of leader, and to make sure that the second always refers to "finned" fish and not us.

**Spring Is Here**

This beautiful weather that we've been blessed with just makes the heart sing.

There's probably nothing more reassuring than to come awake each morning just before the sun's rays grace the eastern skies, and hear the cheerful chirping of birds, smell the pleasant aroma of blooming flowers and anticipate the bounce our step will probably have that day.

And as we greet the day, dressed and ready to take care of business, there's nothing that turns that day into a pleasant experience any more than the bright sun, with its invigorating warmth.

Yes, there's something about Springtime that seems to make life more worth living, and things more worth doing.

So we highly recommend taking advantage of both the beautiful weather and the longer days to turn off the television, get out of the house and enjoy this lovely Spring.

**Swimming In The Mainstream**

The message is clear. Blacks must learn to swim and swim well in the mainstream. We've heard it in recent months from almost every direction, and last week it came through again, loud and clear, from William Clement, who sits on the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority.

Our hope is that people will hear the message and heed it. The time is gone when black people can content ourselves with wading along in a sort of "baby pool" of economics, politics and other vital issues in this country. We must develop our skills and dive headfirst into the mainstream.

And some of you who've been swimming around in the mainstream for years must agree to serve as lifeguards for those among us who are going to have to tread water for a while.

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*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

**Things You Should Know**

*Dr. Henry M.*  
**MINTON**

Born in Columbia, S.C., in 1871, educated in New Hampshire, he was class orator and co-editor of his college paper. He got his Ph.D. in 1895; his M.D. from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1906. As a scientific researcher, he made medical history with his pioneer work on the causes and prevention of tuberculosis. He was also a celebrated chronicler of Negro history.

—Continental Features

**Affirmative Action:**

**Warning: Reaganomics Kills Blacks**

By Gerald C. Horne, Esquire

The health of blacks in this country has long been on a precipitous slide. The dreary statistics about high rates of cancer, heart disease, diabetes, etc., are directly tied to the perilous conditions blacks find themselves in. And if the Reagan Administration budget cuts are pushed through, expect a worsening of an already dire situation.

The African National Congress of South Africa, which is spearheading the liberation struggle in the land of apartheid, has pointed out how the Pretoria regime has a decided interest in killing off as many blacks as possible out of fear of growing black militance.

In the U.S., the "chip and robot revolution" has meant that blacks as workers are rapidly becoming superfluous, thus killing off blacks here is approaching the level of South Africa. Take the school lunch program, for example, which has improved the health of thousands of black (and white) youth.

Treating catsup as a vegetable stirred mass outrage when it was proposed. But that was not Reagan's only absurd maneuver. He has sought to treat pickle relish as a vegetable also, not to mention treating cookies and corn chips as bread. Furthermore, Reagan wants to have the egg used in making a cake credited toward the allotment of meat and meat substitutes and have the juice used in jam counted as a fruit serving!

Under Reagan's proposed rules, a black high school student might be served two slices of cheese, one-fourth cup of grape juice, one cupcake, a cup of whole milk and a quarter-cup of canned peaches for lunch!

Since the school lunch program has often provided black youth the only worthwhile meal received during the course of the day, malnutrition and even death among these blacks is expected to ensue.

But they won't be the only ones hurt. Over 20% of the food served in school lunches represents surplus commodities purchased by the Federal Government to stabilize farm prices. The remaining 80% is purchased locally, with direct benefits to the local economy. According to Carol

Tucker Foreman, former assistant agricultural secretary for food and consumer services, if less food is used in school lunches, both farmers and local economies will suffer.

In his haste to give blacks the shaft, Reagan doesn't appear to recognize that he is sinking the entire economy. The school lunch program is not the only victim of Reaganomics that will wreak havoc among blacks. Dr. Robert Davis, one of five blacks in the U.S. with a Ph.D. in demography, and a professor at North Carolina A&T State University has spoken eloquently on this impending crisis.

"As the economy contracts, blacks will experience a notable increase in suicides, alcoholism, violence within black families and stress related illnesses such as cirrhosis and hypertension, the leading cause of strokes."

He added that the closure of urban health clinics offering pre-natal care and rising health costs generally would mean the black infant mortality rate will go unchecked.

Already almost one dollar in ever 10 generated by the U.S. economy goes for medical care today, as against one dollar in 20 two decades ago. Spiralling health care costs are leaving many in the dust — but particularly blacks.

The mean figure for a mere visit to a doctor is a hefty \$23. The mean charge for a dental visit is a whopping \$48. While some have health insurance to cover such costs, blacks are more likely than whites — says the American Public Health Association — to be bereft of such a cushion.

This is compounded by the shutting down of public hospitals — after bitter and raging battles — in cities with substantial black populations such as New York, Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, etc.

A case in point is Provident Hospital, located in Baltimore's predominantly black Northwest side. More than 50% of its patients receive Medicaid, a program to be slashed severely by the Reaganauts.

The Reaganauts are pushing madly the rule that Medicaid patients should be limited to only 20 days of in-patient care. Thus, hospitals like Provident can either evict a patient after the limit is up or treat the patient until care is no longer needed and face the prospect of not getting paid for its services by the state or federal government.

This could bankrupt the entire operation. And, if the hospital were to close its doors, the community would lose 1,000 jobs, more than \$20 million a year budget and education and training opportunities for young physicians and dentists of color.

While Reagan is working overtime to gut health care for the black and poor, handouts to the wealthy continue unabated. A recent study by Gail Wilensky of the National Center of Health Services Research confirms this dastardly state of affairs.

The documents that the Government spends as much on health care for the rich as it does for the poor, when tax breaks for insurance and medical statements are taken into account.

In 1977 alone, the Government lost \$7.5 billion because employer-paid health insurance premiums were tax free; and the Government lost \$2.4 billion because of medical deductions on individuals' income tax forms.

These tax breaks tend to favor the affluent with 60% going to the high-income and only 1% to the poor. Moreover, while the Government spent \$10 billion on medical care for the poor, through tax breaks, an equivalent amount was expended on the rich.

If such trends continue, either black health or the entire health care system will collapse. There are alternatives, as ever. Congressional Black Caucus member Ronald V. Dellums has introduced a bill which, if passed, would go a long way toward ameliorating many of the problems described above. But it will take pressure on the entire Congress and raised voices to ensure its passage. Until then, holding the fort against Reaganomics is a dire necessity.

**To Be Equal**

**The Enterprise Zone Experiment**

By John E. Jacob  
Executive Director, National Urban League

Congress is considering a new experiment whose supporters say holds the promise of revitalizing the urban economy and creating jobs for the poor.

The Urban Jobs and Enterprise Zone Act, better known as the Kemp-Garcia bill after its prime sponsors, is one of several proposals, including an Administration bill, that would offer tax breaks to companies in impacted areas.

The basic idea is to use the tax system to entice prospective employers into the inner-city and stimulate job-creating activity there.

As Congress confronts this important proposal, it will have to carefully consider all aspects of the plan. A final version that is carefully tailored to urban realities could well bring new job opportunities to people now locked out of the job market.

But if Congress falls into any one of several pitfalls, it could wind up creating a costly program that fails to make a dent in urban unemployment.

One basic question Congress must decide is whether the enterprise zone plan is a business assistance measure or a job creation effort.

Obviously, there are elements of both in the package. But if the plan is to create enough jobs then its business assistance components must be targeted at job-creating incentives.

For example, a final bill that induces capital-intensive industries that are highly automated to move into a zone will not end up creating many jobs. But if the final version of the plan tilts toward labor-intensive companies and small businesses, then it could cut urban unemployment.

Virtually all jobs created in our economy are created by small businesses. While big corporations have already received enough tax breaks to virtually wipe out corporate taxation in the next few years, highly targeted tax breaks could be the difference between success or failure for smaller enterprises.

Congress will also have to resist the temptation to turn an enterprise zone into a Christmas tree bill with lots of goodies distributed so thinly across the country that the experiment never has a chance to work. In the past it has turned targeted economic development programs into broad aid programs covering affluent and poor sections alike, with nobody getting enough benefits for the program to make an impact.

Another danger lies in weakening provisions requiring significant portions of the work-force to be residents of the zones. It would not be surprising if someone came along with an amendment whose effect would be to throw tax dollars at a company that moves its address to a zone without hiring the disadvantaged.

On the plus side, the Congress could, and should, beef up the plan with resources for training, housing and social service provisions needed by the zone's residents if they are to benefit from the program.

Enterprise zones have a far better chance of success if they are complemented by such support services. As Dr. Andrew Brimmer has written: "Enterprise zones — standing alone (although sheltered by tax incentives) — are unlikely

to be a viable means of rescuing depressed urban areas."

So no one should be under any illusions that enterprise zones are a panacea that will automatically transform the inner city. They imply dangers that poverty value increases would displace poor tenants, dangers of simply shifting unemployment from one area to another, and dangers of weakened protections for workers and the environment.

Those dangers are worth risking if the payoff will be more jobs for the inner city poor. But let's go into this with our eyes open and with a full appreciation for the experimental nature of the program.

I back enterprise zones — carefully designed to create the maximum number of jobs for the disadvantaged — primarily because they are the only game in town. The situation of the black poor is so desperate we should try anything that has



Federal help for veterans and most other categories of citizens is being tightened or reduced by the current administration. But other sources of aid, often overlooked because of their variety and special requirements, remain available. Consult your state or county veterans' office.

Virtually every state offers special benefits supplementing federal programs handled by the Veterans Administration. Among the most valuable can be school loans and scholarships often available to the children and spouses of deceased or severely disabled veterans and former prisoners of war. Not all are so limited.

Some states, like Virginia, exempt war veterans from paying tuition at state colleges if they are no longer eligible for GI Bill benefits. Minnesota offers honorably discharged state vets \$250 toward tuition after GI benefits are exhausted.

Alaska, Hawaii, Maine and Ohio give preference to veterans and their families in tenant selection for housing projects. Other states waive certain business or professional licensing requirements or fees. Benefits like these do not cost taxpayers money but provide a readjustment boost to men and women who have honorably served their country in uniform.



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