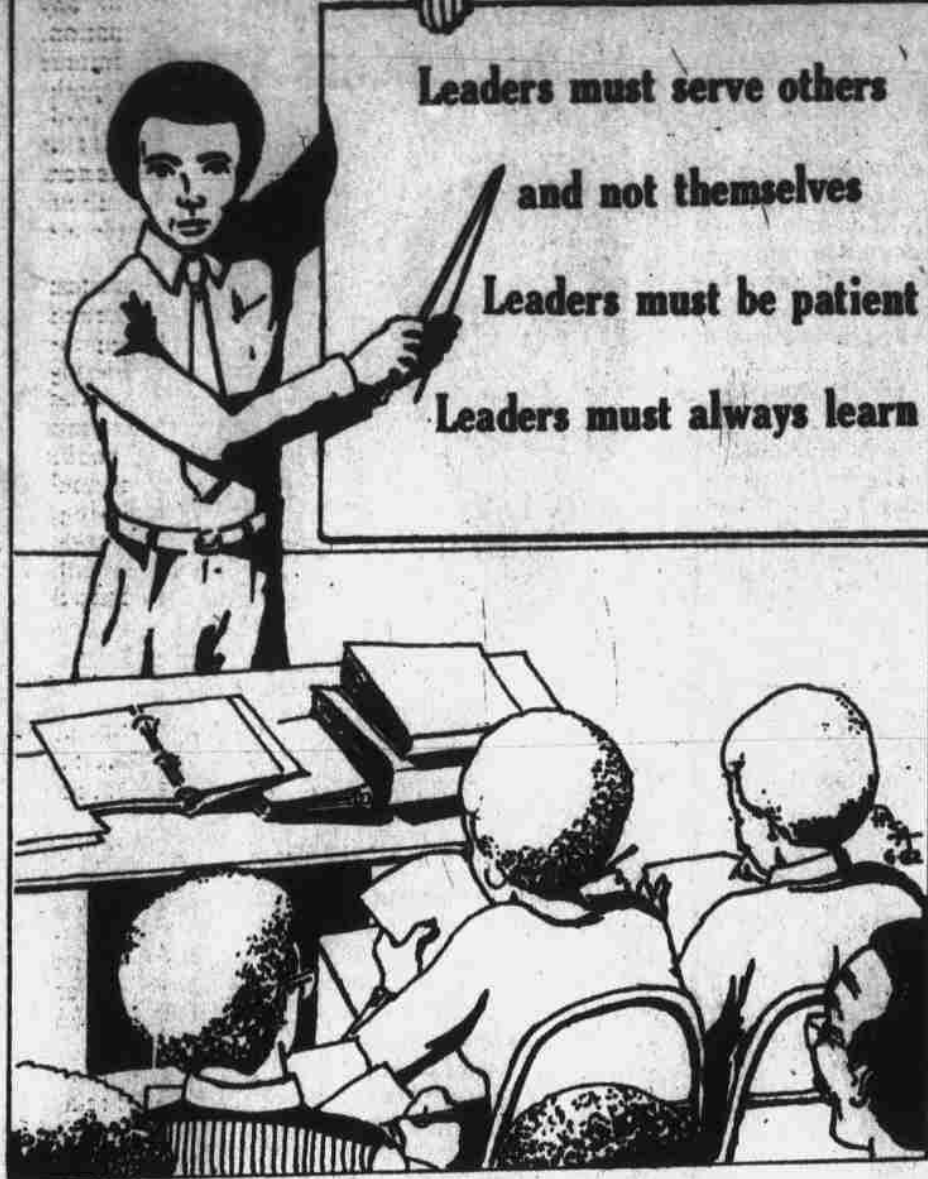


Leaders Must Be Taught . . . Not Crowned



Editorials

New Names Are Good New Voters Are Better

Voter registration activity across the state of North Carolina recently soared to its highest peaks in recent years, according to figures from the state elections office.

The figures are impressive. About 2,500 blacks have registered in Durham, and about 12,000 across the ten-county second district. We commend the organizations that worked hard to develop this trend.

But as we mentioned in April when we discussed this subject, while new names on the books are good, new voters are better.

It is not enough though to criticize non-voters for their apathy. Rather, the black community needs an institutionalized approach to creating positive political interests in black voters.

We recommend:

* A continuous program that will at least educate people on the workings of local and state governments. People need to know, for example, how zoning affects their lives, what rules govern refuse collection and how the state budget gets set. This program could be coordinated by a coalition of organizations, and very likely could be taught by advanced students in Central's public administration program.

* We should have an ongoing process by which we identify potential candidates for local or state office, and a method by which we provide these persons with an intense briefing on the important issues facing the offices they seek.

With these two programs in place as an integral part of the political activity in the black community, we should produce not only more informed voters, but better prepared candidates as well.

We need these two programs because, as we've said, new names on the registration rolls are good, but new voters in the booths are a lot better.

The Civic Center: An Idea Whose Time Has Not Come

Durham sorely needs a catalyst to spur it forward — a well-planned, coordinated program that will both generate new development and encourage existing businesses and industries to improve their facilities as well.

This activity must be centered downtown, because no city can long endure with a dead downtown. Downtown is the heart of any urban center.

But the proposed, highly controversial downtown civic center, and hopefully an office and motel complex simply do not fit the bill.

We will not discuss here the emotion charged issues of Hayti or eminent domain, or even the question of whether the proposed center will serve conventioners more than it does local citizens.

Rather, we will confine our discussion to the question of downtown redevelopment as a product of comprehensive planning.

The problem with the current civic center proposal is that it is being considered as an isolated entity.

Critical issues that have apparently not been addressed are questions such as increased traffic, for example.

If visitors come to the civic center, what percentage of them will drive to Durham, and what impact will that have on the city's major streets? To what extent will local traffic, seeking relief, disperse through neighborhoods adjacent to major streets? And, what will be the impact of increased traffic on the livability quality of these neighborhoods?

Another unanswered question: Can the current downtown traffic circulation scheme handle the increased traffic generated by the civic center, the office building and the hotel? Here, we must not only consider the visitors, but the people who will work in these buildings as well.

Since Durham, like most urban centers, has rather limited access to its downtown, can the central city be truly redeveloped without first considering a long range plan to improve the bus system? Without an improved bus system, much of Durham's valuable downtown property will have to go to parking.

There are dozens of other important questions that must have answers before the question of downtown development can be seriously considered. We believe that city planners must go back to the drawing board and give Durham's citizens a comprehensive plan, a flexible guide, that will give us an overview of what we will have to pay over the long haul to get the type of city, featuring a thriving downtown, that we all want.

So right now, we conclude, the civic center is an idea whose time has not come.

To Be Equal

Family Planning Makes Sense

By John E. Jacob
Executive Director, National Urban League

The Supreme Court says it is constitutional. The public supports it by overwhelming majorities. But legal abortion is still a hot issue, with lawmakers subjected to pressures from a highly vocal minority that wants to outlaw abortions.

As a result, Congress has passed limitations on the use of federal funds for abortions, something that affects only poor women since others can pay private doctors to do what public clinics and federally subsidized services can't do.

And the regulators are also trying to rewrite the rules to satisfy not only the principled opponents of abortion but also those who regard sexual activity as an evil intrusion of the government into the economy see nothing wrong with putting federal cops in bedrooms and doctors' offices to enforce their own narrow views of morality.

One of the more curious outcroppings of this view was the Department of Health and Human Resources' decision to amend regulations for family planning services.

Under the proposed new rules, most people under the age of 18 coming to family planning clinics for birth control prescriptions or devices would continue to be served only after their parents are notified.

Aside from the obvious violation of the doctor-patient relationship by the federal government, and the warped practice of turning public health providers into

government informants, the rule would achieve the opposite of its intentions.

Presumably the intention is to discourage teenage pregnancy by discouraging proliferation of birth control devices. If a young person knows her parents will be informed, she presumably would not go to the clinic for birth control devices and would refrain from sexual activity. At least that seems to be the thinking. Note too, that it only applies to women.

But is that what is actually likely to happen?

Surely we know enough about human nature and needs and enough about society's attitudes toward sexual activity to realize that the result is more likely to be fewer young people taking advantage of family planning services and a lot more unwanted teenage pregnancies.

If the authors of the rules wanted to assert the role of parents they needn't have bothered to change the existing rule requiring that family planning projects encourage family participation to the extent practical. Instead of "encouraging" it, the new rule would mandate it.

The proposed rule has resulted in a storm of protests and letters from doctors, parents and young people. One young woman wrote:

"My baby will be three months old and I would not have been pregnant if I knew I could have come to the clinic without

telling my mother."

This fresh attempt to hinder family planning clinics is part of a larger campaign to make abortion illegal. The clinics don't perform abortions, but can refer patients to places that do.

By making birth control information available they help people to make intelligent, informed choices about whether they want children and if so, when and how many.

The abortion issue is probably the hottest issue around, subject to violent emotions on both sides. But it is too often a controversy concerned with theories of morality and not sufficiently concerned about that individual young person whose entire life could be changed for the worse by bearing children before she is mature enough for motherhood.

Nor is it sufficiently concerned with the fate of unwanted children who must start life with enormous disadvantages. Again, it is instructive that the most vocal supporters of the anti-abortion drive are also opponents of the programs that help disadvantaged people survive and offer nutritional and educational opportunities for children.

The problems of teenage mothers, unwanted babies, and families in need of assistance is too important to be determined by rigid, authoritarian spokesmen for a moral minority.

Civil Rights Journal

Death of the Fourth Amendment

By Dr. Charles E. Cobb
Executive Director
United Church Of Christ
Commission For Racial Justice

The Fourth Amendment of the Constitution asserts, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated; and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

This amendment has served as a protection against arbitrary and capricious acts on the part of law enforcement officials by barring the use of evidence that has been obtained illegally. The principal object of the Fourth Amendment is the protection of privacy. Therefore the capacity to claim the protection of the Fourth Amendment depends upon whether the area searched was one in which there was a reasonable expectation of freedom from governmental intrusions.

In a recent decision by the Supreme

Court, a majority of the justices held that it was permissible for police to conduct a warrantless search of any container found within a car so long as they had probable cause to conduct a warrantless search of the car itself.

This decision on the part of the Court, effectively removes the warrant requirement contained in the Fourth Amendment. But more importantly, this decision departs from the intent of this amendment as it relates to the question of probable cause. Historically, the Supreme Court has insisted that inferences of probable cause be drawn by "a neutral and detached magistrate instead of being judged by the officer engaged in the often competitive enterprise of 'ferreting out crime.'" This most recent decision by the Court totally ignores the critical function served by a neutral magistrate and in fact places this function at the discretion of the individual police officer.

I find this absolutely unthinkable. Particularly at a time when police community relations is at the danger level. When we hear statements by the Los Angeles police chief that police chokeholds may affect blacks differently from "normal people", I find it utterly absurd that the Court would increase the discretionary powers of the police. If a police officer stops a motorist and reasonably believes that a container in the motorist's possession, which cannot be easily destroyed, contains any form of contraband, the officer should be required to obtain a warrant notwithstanding the inconvenience. Justice is often inconvenient.

As Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall said in his dissenting opinion "efficiency and promptness can never be substituted for due process. . . Is not a dictatorship the more 'efficient' form of government?"

Education Cuts

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

In this season of college graduations and commencement exercises, one fact is going all but unnoticed. That is that the Administration wants to severely cut college financial aid programs. Indeed, if the Administration has its way, Federal aid to education will drop 31% in the next two years. Specifically, the Reagan proposal would drastically increase the cost of student loans, and restrict the number of eligible students.

Today, the vast majority of students who attend colleges and universities do so with some form of Federal financial assistance. For these students, the proposed cuts will be disastrous. For poor students, who are disproportionately black, these cuts may well spell the difference between going and not going to college. And, in times of high unemployment and stiffening competition for the jobs that are available, the value of a college education takes on new significance. Indeed, the unemployment rate for blacks with a college education is less than a third of that of blacks without a high school diploma.

The Administration contends that its proposed cuts in college student aid will affect relatively few students. However, sources estimate that upwards of two million needy students will be hurt by the President's proposals. Those within the Association of Black Colleges estimate that the Administration's proposals for 1983 would affect about 50,000 of the 250,000 students attending historically black schools. They go on to predict that 30,000 of those would lose so much money they would be forced to drop out of college. While the President may consider this number insignificant, I don't.

By reducing college financial aid, many talented students will have to abandon

their educational goals. As a result, our nation's foundation may well be weakened by a lack of trained human resources. It is truly ironic that this Administration, instead of planning for our nation's future, is destroying the foundation on which the future depends.

The Administration's rationale for cutting student aid is that the Federal government should not be the principal source of no or low-cost funding for higher education. The Administration says that parents must assume a greater responsibility for educating their children. Unfortunately, the Reagan Administration seems to have the idea that higher education should be limited only to those students whose parents have an extra \$25,000 to put a son or daughter through four years of college.

The other reason given for cutting back on college financial aid stems from situations where some students, primarily those who are upper-middle class and well to do, have abused the Federal Guaranteed Student Loan Program. These abuses came about when these students took out loans for college and instead of using the money to pay for their education, put the money in money market funds. On this point the President and I agree; college students should not be able to use Federal money to invest. However, the very program the President singled out as problematic is the only one he proposes to increase. At the same time, the Administration is recommending a 40% cut in funding for Pell Grants, the basic form of Federal aid to low and middle-income students. Moreover, they propose substantial cuts, and in some cases total elimination of other financial aid programs which are geared for the low and middle-income student.

Cuts in student loan programs will close the door of opportunity on tens of thousands of Americans. As a result, colleges and universities will be forced to choose their students on the basis of their ability to pay, rather than on their desire to learn and their willingness to contribute to our nation's future.

We must join together to convince the Administration and their Congressional supporters that the American public simply will not tolerate policies which threaten our future.

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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
