

## Editorials

## Protect Your Good Name

Pardon us, as we turn to our Bible to find the principle that illustrates an important point in light of the two ballots in the July 27 runoff primary.

In Proverbs 22:1, it says: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches..."

Over the past 30 years or more, The Durham Committee, first called the "Committee On Negro Affairs," and changed later to "The Durham Committee On The Affairs Of Black People," has fought valiantly for its good name.

That good name — The Durham Committee — depicts an uncompromising yen for justice, for selfless service, and a ceaseless struggle to create opportunities here for the overall progress and betterment of black people.

But in the July 27 runoff primary, that good name — The Durham Committee — was misappropriated for the expressed purpose of confusing voters, and co-opting the process that has served the Committee well for some three decades.

It is the Committee's own fault.

The issue here is not the right or wrong of the Committee's decision to endorse Roland Leary in July; after having had endorsed Bill Allen in June. That could be debated ad infinitum.

The question of Mr. George Frazier's "right" to distribute a second ballot to voters is not the issue either. The Frazier ballot, as we have chosen to call it, was just another opinion, something we are all entitled to.

No, the real issue, as we see it, is the ease with which Mr. Frazier, or anyone for that matter, can use the good name — The Durham Committee — to nefarious ends.

It is sad that after so long, this organization has not protected its good name by incorporating it, copywriting it, or registering it as an official trademark, or something.

As it now stands, any black person, wrapped in whatever cloak of self-righteousness he or she chooses, can misuse the name of the Durham Committee without authorization and with little fear of reprisal.

The Committee's leadership must move quickly to protect the organization's good name.

Going back to our original principle, the verse in Proverbs, the word "name" is translated from a Hebrew word that means "honor," "authority," "character," and "as a mark or memorial of individuality." In that context the Durham Committee, its honor, its authority and its character, is only as good as the perception of its name.

And if someone, with his/her own ulterior motives, wishes to misuse the Committee's good name, and therefore sully its honor, its authority and its character, certainly the Committee should not abet such a charlatan in that type of chicanery by having no way to protect its good name.

Thus, let us turn again to the fountain of knowledge: "A wise man will hear and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsel." (Proverbs 1:5)

## The Committee And The Money

No matter how often leaders of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People say they don't sell the group's political endorsements, the fact remains that many political candidates who "contribute" to the Committee feel that they are paying for the endorsement, and the powerful bloc vote that often follows.

This leads to several aberrations of the political process.

First of all, it does appear to tie the Committee to a particular candidate through thick and thin, until the final decision is made, no matter what new information might come forward.

Second, it breeds a dangerous attitude among blacks who believe that only those elected officials who had Durham Committee support can be expected to serve the black community. This attitude sees it as a defeat for the black community if the endorsed candidate doesn't win.

But even worse, the practice of accepting money from candidates gives the appearance of conflict of interest, and certainly appears to co-opt the Committee's image as a fair-minded organization working hard in the public interest.

The Sheriff Bill Allen situation is a perfect case in point. The Committee endorsed Allen in the June primary, and he led the ticket, though he failed to get a majority of the votes. According to published reports, Allen gave the Committee \$500 following the endorsement. The Committee called that a "customary donation." Allen apparently felt that he was paying, as has been tradition, for the Committee to deliver several black votes into his column on the ballot.

It would seem reasonable to believe that money for the endorsement binds the Committee to that candidate until the final decision is made. That's apparently what Sheriff Allen thought.

But the Committee, for reasons that aren't totally clear, switched to Leary just before the July runoff primary.

Leary swamped Allen, and there is nothing to say that the Committee's vote could have saved Allen's job. But the switch does raise questions.

Obviously, Committee leaders feel that candidates are contributing because they support the Committee's work, etc. But if that was true, then all candidates would contribute, with or without the endorsement.

The Committee needs to clean the air. Its leadership must bite the bullet and put the burden of the Committee's support squarely on the backs of black people. If we can spend almost one-quarter of our discretionary income on booze and another third or so of it on clothes, hair and beauty care, then we should be able to support the Committee.

Money talks, and if the Durham black community wants to speak with a loud, clear and undeniable voice, then it must pay for the privilege.

Black people in this city should give the Committee all the money it needs to do the job we have decreed that it should.

Civil Rights Journal  
Commitment, Consistency  
And Organization

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

In 1874 upon leaving England, Frederick Douglass said, "I do not go back to America to sit still, remain quiet, and enjoy ease and comfort...I glory in the conflict, that I may hereafter exult in the victory. I know the victory is certain." These classic words take on a contemporary meaning in that we will continue to experience the indifference and despotic attitudes characteristic of the Reagan Administration, until we begin to effectively use our political strength in a cooperative manner. I submit that if we fail to act in unity, and deliberately, we will continue to witness the making of decisions that directly affect our total being, without regard for our needs or opinions. The effective use of political power must span the political spectrum. We do not have the

luxury of assuming a posture of non-participation. Furthermore, we have a duty to our future generations, of securing, by way of our best efforts, a social and political climate that includes the needs of this nation's historically disenfranchised.

It will take more than rhetorical complaints and cries of injustice, but rather an educated and organized electorate sensitive to their own needs in the greater society.

If we have not registered to vote, how then can we register our complaints? But in addition to voting, we must be educated and informed in order to make political decisions that operate in our best interests as well as the nation's interests.

Neither the Congressional Black Caucus, the NAACP, Operation PUSH,

nor even the black church can lead our community to the point of political independence and self-determination. Certainly these groups have a most important role to play, but these goals can only be realized when there is a willingness on the part of the total community to improve our condition. We cannot continue to look beyond ourselves for political empowerment. Our strength lies within our own community and it is here that we must focus our attention.

No matter how much legislation is written, nor how many bills passed by Congress, without a consistent political and philosophical direction, and most importantly, organization, these measures will simply be words on a page.

## To Be Equal

## The New Federalism Returns

By John E. Jacob  
Executive Director, National Urban League

After its plan for the "New Federalism" ran into fire from governors and mayors, the Administration went back to the drawing boards and attempted to meet enough of the objections to win broader support.

But the revised New Federalism is still a misguided plan, mistaken at its core, and ought to be buried.

It simply is not amenable to repair work, because it is designed to meet the needs of an earlier era, not the needs of today. It recalls the bad old days of states' rights and proposes returning to the states the powers they once abused, thus leading to the federal government's expanded role.

The basic flaw of the New Federalism is its decentralizing thrust, which comes at the very moment when state and local economies are also dependent, not on federal dollars and mandates as the New Federalism supporters maintain, but on international trends as well.

Whether your town can maintain its vital public services often depends on whether rising oil prices shut local factories or whether steel and auto imports put people out of work.

If anything, we ought to be constructing a New Nationalism, not a New

Federalism, to deal with the effects of complex national and international trends.

Instead, the Administration wants to continue to turn over a variety of federal programs to state control and to dump welfare on the states.

But if there is any program that should be fully federalized, it is welfare. Welfare is not a local problem to be dealt with locally, it is a national problem that can only be dealt with on a national basis.

Welfare cannot be separated from poverty, for it provides the barest minimum sustenance to the poorest of the poor. Poverty and the welfare program it spawns is the result of national economic failures.

Hunger in Michigan is the same as hunger in Mississippi, and if we are a nation it should be dealt with nationally. Fairness demands that poor people get the same treatment no matter where they reside.

And the quality of that treatment is bound to suffer under the New Federalism. Welfare and other social benefits vary wildly from state to state, even with the federal government picking up a substantial part of the cost.

If anything, the problem with the

welfare system, in part, is that it already under too much state and local control. So we get a situation where states like Mississippi and Texas provide benefit levels far below any reasonable concept of decency, and no state pays benefits matching the understated poverty level.

Some states have a long tradition of pushing their poor people out — tolerating conditions so harsh that they leave instead of helping to create opportunities that will keep them in their home states as productive citizens. The New Federalism amounts to an invitation to the states to compete in being tough on the poor.

But poverty is a national problem that won't go away by Washington's attempt to dump it on the states. The ranks of the poor are rising fast — over two million people were added to the poor last year and the continuing Depression adds more daily.

So it is illogical to dismantle national programs and national accountability for growing national problems. Like it or not, our leaders must realize that we are nearing the end of the twentieth century and our problems will never be solved by returning to the failed methods of earlier centuries.

## Business In The Black

Haig Helps Out  
Shultz Should Be Better

By Charles E. Belle

Secretary of State Haig has finally slipped off the ship of state. Still like a "bad penny" he is persistent and likely to "pop up" again in the future. Having found a fortune in private industry earning over a million dollars from United Technology Corporation for a few years work, we can expect Haig to "hot foot it" to anything that reeks of power.

Playing chief foreign policy maker for the major country in the world has given him fame he is unlikely to lose without another fight for power. Professional observers of his tenure in public office can understand how his war like policies constantly put the administration in the embarrassing position of shooting its way out of "bar brawls" or begging the forgiveness of its few friends. Finally, America will assert itself straight from a

"corporate business concept" and not as a "bonging bully."

Believe it or not an exactual change in the style of the administration has taken place for the better in the case of black American and other black people. Instead of threats from a "war monger," deals will be made based on shrewd management decisions. Doing business with foreign governments is going to improve under newly selected Secretary of State George P. Shultz. Shultz starts with a relatively clean slate. Still fresh from the business world where Bechtel Corporation cooperated to the tune of \$100 million for the construction of a building in the predominantly black American city of Oakland, California.

Civil rights is an area where Shultz is

strong and sensitive to the dollars and cents of the black American community. Considering the "off handed" attitude of Haig, the Shultz administration should be refreshing even with the present President. On previous occasions Shultz has stood fast for affirmative action in hiring by federal contractors.

Shultz should redirect foreign policy to participate with "all" people interested in the profit motive. This is the first indication that the administration is prepared to share some of the wealth and not "hog it all" as was the policy under Haig. Have no fear, Shultz shall be tight on entitlement programs, such as social security. Nevertheless, a new day has dawned on the administration and it's about time.

## Truth or Consequences

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

With our nation's unemployment rate at its highest level since 1941, it gets harder to wake up to "Good Morning America" and see or hear anything resembling good. With more Americans being added to the unemployment rolls weekly we are seeing real life "Family Feuds" — these families are not competing for \$10,000 or a chance to kiss Richard Dawson, they are simply trying to survive.

Now eighteen months into this Administration even "Ryan's Hope" that Reaganomics would work has waned. Unfortunately, for the American public, President Reagan has shown no signs of losing faith that his program of stuffing the rich in the hopes that the crumbs they drop will trickle down to the middle-class and the poor.

The "Facts of Life" are that Reaganomics hasn't worked and the "Guiding Light" which Mr. Reagan promised has not helped in the average American's "Search for Tomorrow". Today under Reaganomics "The Price is Right" — only on television.

Knowing this, Americans must demand that the Administration open its eyes and realize that for us to have "Happy Days Again" we must embark upon a different road.

"As The World Turns" the American public is not asking for "Another World" they are simply asking for a fair shake.

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 Douglas.

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