

Editorials

Thank You, Mr. Smith

The retirement of Lee W. Smith, Jr., as director of the John Avery Boys' Club at the end of this month will signal the close of an era in Durham.

It is an era that many of us, over the past 37 years, have been privileged to watch and often be a part of. There is probably no way to count the number of lives touched by this man who has worked with probably thousands of future citizens of this city, state and nation.

There is also probably no way to measure the full impact that this dedicated and resourceful man has had on the lives he touched. But we can say one thing without equivocation: Durham and the people he has worked with directly and indirectly are much better because of Mr. Smith's zeal and commitment.

There are times when the human nature in us responds more quickly and more enthusiastically to the flash and exciting contributions. But in doing that, we often overlook the quiet contributions of a person who toils day in and day out to do a job simply because it needs to be done.

In many ways, Mr. Smith's contribution to this city reflects a statement made by Christ when he said: "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Mr. Smith invested 37 years of his life into his friends, and on behalf of the Durham community, especially those young people whose lives you helped to shape and direct, we say, Thank You, Mr. Smith.

Let's Put Ourselves In The Language

Stop and think for a moment how seldom black people and ideas are portrayed in the English language, either in superlative, or even just favorable terms.

Consider that when we speak of a task of mammoth proportions, a word we often use is "herculean", referring to a Greek mythological hero named Hercules. According to the dictionary, this word means: "...extraordinary power, size or difficulty."

Or consider the word "Malthusian", which means: "...the process of population growth that will always outstrip subsistence, and which must be checked by outside forces." The word refers to Thomas R. Malthus who developed the theory.

There are many other words such as these, some of them used rather often, and others that are not used very much except in high specialized situations.

But there are almost no words common to the language referring either to superlative situations or specialized ones that reflect a positive view of blackness.

Maybe we just should put some of those words into the language.

Putting words into the language is not quite as hard as it might seem at first. According to the *World Book Encyclopedia* in the article "Language", "...the number of words (in a language) increases with the development of new ideas."

Here, then, are some suggested new ideas:

"Garveyan" (for Marcus Garvey), meaning "a task that appears impossible, but which committed individuals tackle because they see it has to be done." Example: Developing successful black businesses in a hostile, racist society is a garveyan task.

"Martinique" (for Martin Luther King), meaning "a person who stirs people to a pitch of self-sacrificial fervor in the name of a worthwhile cause." Example: To spur increased black investment in promising black businesses, leaders must develop martinique approaches.

"Carverial" (for Dr. George Washington Carver): "The process of endeavor for humanitarian good, despite the fact of racism." Example: In developing the Red Cross blood bank during World War II, Dr. Charles Drew took a carverial approach to medicine.

We could go on and on, but we believe the premise is clear. There have been many, many black people who have contributed uniquely to this society. We believe their work should be remembered and honored. One way of doing that is to interject descriptions of their work and contributions into the language.

Interestingly enough, we don't have to ask anyone's permission to do this. We don't have to have a law passed, or anything of the sort. All we have to do is accept the premise and apply our considerable intellectual prowess to the idea and begin using, and of course, defining, the terms in all levels of conversation.

Frankly, we'd be interested in hearing responses from our readers on this idea. Send your comments to: Letters to the Editor, The Carolina Times, P.O. Box 3825, Durham, N.C. 27702.

Business In The Black

Banker Begg For Relief U.S. Corporations Constipated

By Charles E. Belle

Continental Illinois National Bank and Chase Manhattan Bank recently wrote off \$45 million each in losses for a total of \$90 million caused by the failure of Penn Square Bank in Oklahoma City. The cause is the question. There is much talk about what is holding U.S. corporations up from pushing forward the economy. Academia is all concerned about the prescription of capital within the corporation.

Kenneth Nason, now a retired Minnesota farmer, former president and chief operating officer of Quaker Oats company, a \$2.5 billion diversified food processor, has a novel position of the corporate problem. "Current widely-held theories on profitability, investment values, productivity and personal ethics are leading the free-enterprise system in a direction harmful to its long-term interests," warns a Yale graduate at a lecture live on the University of California Berkeley campus. Berkeley has been the scene of many radical and unsavory acts in the past. Profit is once again still a titillating issue at the school.

Equally interested in getting the matter out in open air was the considerably more conservative Commonwealth Club of California audience across the bay from San Francisco. There they were listening

to W.C. Butcher, chairman Chase Manhattan Bank. Some grunts and groans must finally have worked their way through the system and its ready to blow out. The system needs to rid itself of a lot of waste in a bad way.

Unfortunately, the cause for consternation is not the unemployment which broke into double-digit territory in September at 10.1% for the first time in more than 40 years. Black Americans are at 20.2% unemployment, no doubt a record since reasonably accurate counts have been completed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The "Butcher" from the former David Rockefeller-controlled bank sounded "a clarion call for higher corporate profits" pleasing to the ears and purse-strings, no doubt, of the coin conscious members of the Commonwealth Club of California. "We are not going to get economic recovery in this country until there is an indication we are going to get increased profitability. I am talking here not about the loss attributable to an isolated experience, but rather to the chronic erosion over time of earning power. For if there are inadequate profits, there is no incentive to engage in those activities that create wealth. The basic truth has been too long ignored," screamed

Rockefeller's successor.

Some people at U.C. Berkeley might get indigestion at this thought, but not the guests at the Commonwealth Club of California's regular Friday noon luncheon. Like a sign from God they got what they wanted to hear, hold in your stomach and "grin and bear it". Relief is right around the corner. Provided of course profits are allowed to grow untouched by the instrument of the people-government.

Government regulations and interferences are the culprit according to "Butcher". Our society's "perverse" approval of lower profitability is in fact to blame boasts the "Butcher". Berkeley's lecturer however likes the idea of using all the assets, financial, people, intellectual, and environment to solve this society's current economic stop gap. Getting business people oriented to all these assets is a real problem with wealthy people who mostly sit on their assets. Nevertheless, science has recently discovered that hemorrhoids and other extrusion problems are extrapolated by excess asset sitting. So, if they read it in an academic setting rather than feel it in their assets, it has a certain higher conclusiveness to them. Beats me.

Civil Rights Journal

The Facts Speak For Themselves

By Charles E. Cobb

Executive Director United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice

Attempts by the State Department to censor the comments of El Salvador Ambassador Deane R. Hinton will not change the facts. The Reagan Administration has once again assumed a questionable position in supporting El Salvador's rightist government.

Ambassador Hinton has served in El Salvador for the last 17 months and has reached similar conclusions as his predecessor, that the Salvadorean government, is engaged in human rights abuses.

The State Department has expressed serious concern over Ambassador Hinton's decision to "go public" with his views, claiming that this type of public

statement hampers the diplomatic process.

However, I remember similar State Department claims relating to South Africa. But, it was not until we witnessed a public outcry that the apartheid regime saw fit to even begin considering the rights of the black majority.

In his comments, Ambassador Hinton referred to the "rightist Mafia" in El Salvador is being as much a threat to the nation's stability as the leftist guerrillas. It is irresponsible for the State Department to repress these observations, instead, this kind of candor on the part of the American diplomats should be encourag-

ed and supported.

We must make it clear to host countries that we will neither tolerate nor support human rights violations in any form. And, that we are confident enough in our position, to state it publicly.

It is only through this type of open diplomacy that our country will be perceived by other nations as an equitable peacemaker, and not an international police force.

We must not allow our allies to force us into a posture that contradicts our national standards.

To Be Equal

Washington's Job Bills

By John E. Jacob

Executive Director, National Urban League

Politicians of both parties, upon reading the election results and duly noting the voter revolt against high unemployment, are backing new bills designed to create jobs.

The long-overdue interest in job creation would gather a more optimistic response if the various proposals really did create enough jobs. But those advanced so far would just skim the top of the unemployment figures.

With almost twelve million people officially unemployed, the most ambitious of the proposals would create only about 600,000 jobs. That barely takes care of the monthly increase in the numbers of the unemployed.

More modest proposals would create far fewer jobs. The Administration is said to be considering a highway repair program financed by a higher gasoline tax. It would create about 300,000 new jobs. The scale of the current proposals is clearly inadequate to meet the needs of this Depression's high unemployment. None of the plans addresses the pressing issue of providing sufficient jobs and training opportunities for the bulk of the jobless.

Why, in the face of such enormous needs, are the proposed job programs so unrealistically modest? Those enormous federal budget deficits, caused by heavy tax cuts and runaway defense spending, are part of the answer. Political leaders may fear that a large-scale jobs program will send the deficit even higher into the stratosphere.

If so, the problem is easily solved by cutting defense spending to more reasonable levels and by reducing the scale of the tax cuts which are now seen to have failed in their intent. At its height, the old CETA jobs program cost about \$12 billion. You could get that much out of the Pentagon's petty cash fund.

Another reason may be what is perceived as the political unpopularity of federal

job creation programs. CETA got a bad press, and its failings were magnified. Like all programs intended for the less fortunate in our society, it was stigmatized as wasteful and inefficient.

But in fact CETA was successful. It put people to work in socially useful jobs. It provided training that could have led to permanent jobs in a normal economy.

Public service jobs are the fastest and cheapest way of getting people off the unemployment lines and into socially useful work situations. Calling such programs "makework" doesn't make sense when the work that is "made" keeps schools, libraries, day care centers and hospitals open and functioning better.

The reluctance of political leaders of both parties to tackle the jobs problem leads to suspicions that they don't really want to do more than trim just enough off the unemployment rate to take the political heat off.

The difference between an unemployment rate of 9.9 per cent and one of 10 per cent is enough to make unemployment a hot political issue, with headlines about "double digit unemployment" and widespread public alarm.

So if Congress passes a modest job creation program and the Administration signs it into law, both parties can claim credit for having done something about high jobless rates without really having done much at all.

But that political strategy can only work if there is a strong economic rebound, ultimately bringing unemployment down sharply without government programs. Unfortunately, virtually every economist suggests that economic recovery — when it comes — will be weak. A boom is unlikely to follow this bust. Unemployment will continue to mount since economic growth well in excess of three per cent is required for real job growth.

The plans for creating jobs through in-

creased public works and repairing our crumbling roads and bridges make sense. But no one should be under the illusion that such a program would be more than the barest beginning of the task ahead.

To really do something that puts people back to work requires a national effort involving the public and the private sectors in a Universal Employment and Training system.

Beginning with improved education and skills training and moving on up to stimulating private job creation, direct federal public service employment and public works jobs, such a system would aim at ending unemployment, not just making it politically acceptable.

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Things You Should Know

The Rev.
Samuel E. CORNISH



Pastor of the African Presbyterian Church, New York City, he was an intrepid pioneer of journalism. In 1827 he co-edited the first American negro newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*. In 1830 it became *Rights of All*. In 1837, he put out *The Weekly Advocate*, this was later renamed *The Colored American*.



Four Great Lies Of Control

- * That white people are omnipresent, all-knowing, practically infallible, and that racism is an aberration of character.
- * That success for blacks in this country is based more on our abilities to keep secrets from whites than upon skill and execution. But, of course, if you believe this lie, along with the first one, success is impossible.
- * That progress for blacks in America can be measured only in the light of white benevolence. Thus, there are no really talented, skilled or committed blacks, only blacks upon whom whites have smiled.
- * That above all things, blacks cannot trust each other — which of course, leaves us in the psychologically suicidal position of trying to trust whites.