

Editorials

HEW Should Draw Line On Segregation

The University of North Carolina system is still trying to fight off efforts to remove discriminatory practices in its institutions. The department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) has given UNC a deadline with which to respond to some 40 instances HEW says they have violated.

HEW has threatened to cut off some \$60 million in federal aid if the guidelines are not met. Gov. James E. Holshouser received a letter from the office of HEW and was given

10 days to reply. Gov. Holshouser has asked for a delay. We feel that the Gov. should answer the letter immediately and that HEW should be firm in its commitment to equalize all of the state's institutions of higher learning.

It is not as though the UNC system was unaware of the HEW dictates and the expressed commitment of the state and the nation to be fair and equal. This issue is not a new one as some would have us believe. Black institutions have always been physically substandard. We believe it must be rectified, even to the point of cutting off funds to those who stand in the way of improvement.

The UNC system filed an affirmative action plan last year which was turned back by HEW. In the meanwhile UNC decided to locate a proposed school of veterinary science at predominantly white N.C. State rather than at predominantly black A&T state in Greensboro.

If no one is going to pay any attention to HEW then the office is no more than a sham. HEW should deal with UNC firmly and decisively. Too many bad precedences have already been set in regards equal treatment for black institutions. The line must be drawn somewhere...we think it should be drawn here.

Food Stamp Program : "Haven For Chislers?"

Government officials have once again revealed their contempt for less fortunate citizens. Treasury Secretary William E. Simon has called the food stamp program a haven for chislers and a threat to the free enterprise system. We take opposition with Mr. Simon's opinions.

Instead of trying to take bread out of poor people's mouths, we think Mr. Simon should see how much of the defense budget can be shaved. We are certain that there is money being wasted in federal spending that would have less negative effects on the American public than the food stamp program. We are not saying that the food stamp program does not have its welchers. It certainly does. But so does the tax structure.

We believe it is far less damaging to the economy to have a few people getting \$100 worth of food illegally than to have one-sixth of the population not paying taxes. That one-sixth, however, has nearly 80 per cent of the nation's wealth. The figures may be old, but the point is still current.

We also suggest that enough money is wasted right in Mr. Simon's department that could create enough jobs to reduce the number of food stamp recipients.

We see Mr. Simon's remarks as another example of the growing distance between government and the real needs of the citizens of this nation. And it is past time for our officials to start showing some concern for the people who are less fortunate.

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STATUE OF POVERTY



Prisons Revisited

By Dr. Bonnie J. Gillespie

Prison experts, criminologists, penologists, and others with similar expertise would under the right circumstances agree that prisons in part should rehabilitate its inhabitants. If we beg the questions here, and assume that this is, in fact, the case, then the question becomes "are they doing this?" The answer would be a mixed one. For some prisoners "Yes!" for others, "No!"

But, the fact remains that for the most part the answer is a resounding "NO!" Studies indicate that 8 out of 10 persons convicted and sent to prisons have already been in prisons at least one time before. This is called the recidivism rate. If prisons or correctional institutions were doing their jobs this recidivism rate would not be 80%.

If the Women Correctional facility, Central Prison, and Polk Boys Home all in Raleigh, are not rehabilitating, exactly what are they doing? And why aren't they rehabilitating?

Answers to these questions are not easy. Many of our most eloquent blacks have been in prisons. M.L. King said "If you're black you were

born in prison." Malcolm X, Eldridge Cleaver, Cleveland Sellers, Angela Davis, Ben Chavis, The Charlotte Three, Joan Little, and many Black Panthers have loquaciously told us of the horrors, inhumanities, and racism that exist in America's prisons. But why and how did our prisons get this way?

Money and politics are partial answers. If prisons had the adequately trained staff and personnel, they could do a better job. If wages for prison guards were adequate, a more professional type of correctional officer could be recruited. If adequate space were available for decent recreation, libraries, and educational programs, then some form of social and psychological assistance to our inmates could be rendered.

But all of this takes money, and if state legislatures like North Carolina's fail to pass adequate revenue appropriations for their prison systems, things will get worse before they get better.

So, whenever riots occur they will grab headlines which is the purpose desired. But, shortly afterwards our leaders of the prison bureaucracies all

point the finger of blame at someone else. The prisoners blame their immediate directors and warden who blames it on inadequate working conditions because of the lack of money.

The correctional executives and experts and administrators blame the legislatures for this same lack of money. The public blames the inmates for getting in prisons in the first place. The legislatures blame that nebulous "society". And so it goes. This political football bounces and bounces. And who do you suppose suffers? Of course, the inmates.

How do we stop this vicious illogic? Who knows? But if you and I get our stuff together then we can surely find out. Because as a race of people we need all the "young, gifted, and black" brains and minds we have to work for the Struggle--Black Survival--our perennial Struggle.

This country is lacking in moral and humanistic or spiritual direction. As the United Negro College Fund says "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."