

Editorial

Helms Fighting To Castrate HEW

Senator Jesse Helms, R-N.C., is staging a fierce battle in Congress to shut off some \$36 billion earmarked for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). Behind it all, of course, is Mr. Helms's desire to castrate HEW and keep them from requiring desegregation in institutions of higher learning.

Mr. Helms's ultimate goal is to keep the proposed school of Veterinary Medicine at predominantly white N.C. State rather than have the school at predominantly black N.C. A&T State, as HEW has suggested. Mr. Helms also believes that HEW should not have the power to cut off funds to institutions who do not follow HEW guidelines. We deplore Mr. Helms's attitude in regards equal educational opportunity and feel that his actions are detrimental to the state and the country.

Mr. Helms did not put up the same fight when East Carolina University was trying to get a four-year medical school. The UNC Board of governors were against that too. But, it seems to us that when the controversy deals with white only there is more compromise and it comes a lot quicker. This time, however, black is involved which for Mr. Helms makes it an entirely different ball game.

The only recourse HEW has to bring institutions in line is withholding funds. Mr. Helms calls this "harassment". And HEW has threatened to cut-off some \$60 million from the UNC system if they do not bring the schools in line.

We see HEW's action and authority as a means by which the federal government can assure some semblance of equality in the nation's institutions of higher learning and put a stop to some of the racism that keeps the school system preoccupied with frivolity.

CIA: Will We Ever Know the Truth?

The CIA revealed recently a weapon which they said had the capability of killing a person at a hundred yards. Ammunition for the weapon is a type of poison which will not show up when the person is examined. The poison makes death appear to have resulted from heart failure.

Of course, the CIA said they never used the weapon. But, how do we know they did not use it?

There is no way to know if the CIA is telling the truth. If the poison can not be detected then they could have very well used it as not. We may never know.

It saddens us that the CIA continues to show up as a corrupt agency of the federal government. And they continue to ask the American public to believe that everything they have been accused of was merely idea and not actually practiced.

It will be a long time, if ever at all, that any trust will be placed in that agency. It appears to be another episode in the total erosion of truth, justice and the American way.

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NOW LET US PASS A LEASLI LAW FOR
CATS AND KIDS.



To Be Equal by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Remember the old Nixon policy of Vietnamization -- the idea that the U.S. would pull out its troops and just give the locals a minimum of money and equipment to keep them fighting alone.

It was a way to disengage the nation from a terrible war raging in Vietnam. The Pentagon must have known it would lead to the South Vietnamese losing the war, but it was a face-saving device that enabled us to escape the full force of the final cataclysm of defeat.

There's another kind of Vietnamization policy in effect today. This one involves federal withdrawal from the financial crisis inflicted upon many cities in the nation. The policy in full bloom was seen in the brinkmanship displayed while the fate of New York City was in peril.

The city was on the financial ropes for many reasons, not least of which were its own irresponsibility, mismanagement and costly union contracts. Those were the reasons highlighted by federal officials, banking circles and the media.

But there were other reasons for New York's distress. And those reasons are unrelated to the managerial prowess of the city's administrators; indeed they affect most of the older large cities and many small ones as well.

The biggest cause of the crisis was the national Depression that threw people

out of work, left office space empty and taxes unpaid. This Depression had its genesis not in City Hall, but in the economic policies of the Nixon years and the continued failure of our national government to create jobs.

A second major cause, and one shared by most other cities, is the long-term trend of middle class departure for the suburbs. The central cities thus lose their tax base, yet must provide services not only for the remaining residents who are more likely to be poor and in need of services they cannot pay for, but also for the army of suburbanites that works in the city but does not pay its fair share of the costs of services it uses.

And behind all of this is the full range of national policies in the post-war period that helped to drain the cities of their tax base. Federal policy built roads and financed housing that created the suburban magnet. Agricultural policies destroyed the family farm and supported the technological revolution that drove the landless poor into the cities without marketable skills. Private policies, encouraged by similar federal ones, redlined central city areas cutting off the flow of investment in housing.

Add it up and you get a long-run war against the cities which had led New York first, and others surely to follow, right to the brink of default

and bankruptcy.

New York's default apparently has been staved off, at least until December. What happens then? Default has been pictured in the media as meaning that the city won't be able to pay off its bondholders. But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Welfare checks won't go out. City workers won't be paid and what fireman or cop will stay on the line without a paycheck? Schools would close, hospitals shut down, and services end. You'd have to drop a bomb on the city to get the same kind of chaos.

Attempts to paint this situation as just being a "New York problem" are devious attempts to mislead the public. Already, New York's fiscal crisis has led to unbelievably high interest rates in other cities and states, crippling their ability to raise investment funds.

And it's only a matter of time before other cities are on the ropes; in fact some are almost there already. The New York crisis is one partially created by national policies and one that has national implications.

But Washington's response was a hands-off attitude. It was a domestic Vietnamization stance -- leave it to the natives and if they can't hack it, too bad. If this policy continues, it could result in a chain-reaction that will make the Great Depression of the 1930s look like a fancy dress ball.