

# WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

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## All Talk - No Action

City officials have been feverishly presenting statistics to show that the hiring of black and women is not as bad as we all know it is. The meeting with the black ministers Tuesday was at best a farce. City officials said no more than was reported in numerous newspaper stories. Therein lies the problem: all talk and no action.

Everybody knows how simple it is to play with statistics. In the meantime, the city is doing nothing to change what a report recently said made Winston-Salem one of the most racist cities in the country.

The goal of the city seems to be to hire 19.1 per cent black by 1980. Will that percentage continue to be the same? That assumes that the work force in the city will not increase, which in all probability it will. So the city is behind even before it starts.

The city's task is no easy

one. It is going to take some conscientious effort to right a wrong that has been long in the making. It will also take a confession on the part of the city that it is wrong and here is what we are going to do to change it. There is no time for playing statistical games and attempting to justify the situation.

It is simply wrong that no more than three blacks hold top jobs when there are 42 available; no matter how you look at it. We are not suggesting, however, that blacks be given jobs for jobs sake. Blacks and women should have meaningful jobs where important decision-making takes place. It is simply not true that only white males can hold important jobs.

We know there are noble men in city government and that they will make every effort to straighten out this crooked line.

## Manners And Politeness

With all of the emphasis today being placed on higher education, and with the colleges and universities supposedly teaching young men and women how to be the leaders of tomorrow's world, there are a couple of things that might have been overlooked.

Manners and politeness.

If no mistake, those two words still exist in today's dictionary.

At a recent concert held on the campus of Winston-Salem State University, students took the word "intermission" for granted.

To some, that word meant going outside the auditorium

for an indefinite period of time.

Before they could come in, the artist had begun his concert. Now, instead of the students coming in quietly, doors could be heard closing, people constantly talking..all this distracting others from hearing the concert.

If the only reasons students are going to the concert series is because of their musical curriculum, then something should be done about it.

Another sad thing is, why should WSSU's Lyceum Series always suffer?

Since Winston-Salem likes to boast being a very "liberal" and "artsy" city, where were

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## To Be Equal By Vernon Jordan, Jr.

Racism, called by some, "the American disease," has slackened since its glory days years ago, but it is still with us and still represents a major public health problem.

The infection of racism has been generally contained over the past decade but signs of a resurgence are unsettling. While many white Americans may be content to think it is a thing of the past, the truth is that racism is still alive and well.

It struck in its sickest form around New Year's when a home owned by a respectable, hard working black family was dynamited in a previously all-white neighborhood in Queens.

It struck in its currently accepted form when Boston's School Committee, defying a contempt of court citation, refused to submit a desegregation plan for the city's troubled schools.

And it struck in its most hidden form -- the accumulated hurts and pain of a black lifetime -- when a Chicago police detective died of a heart attack, leaving behind a letter revealing the toll prejudice and discrimination took. "Mine is a wasted life, he wrote, "full of degradation, muted feelings and not belonging. This is one hell of a world for a black man."

It is instructive that racism's victims in these instances -- an innocent black

family, black school children, and a lone black man -- all lived in the North, in cities that were vocal in their support for black civil rights in the South.

Doubtless, instances of racism could be drawn from the South, perhaps even more. But that would only prove that racism, that peculiarly national disease, is an infection that's spread across the length and breadth of this land.

The stupid thing about it is that the victims include hater and hated, alike. Psychologists could probably explain the twisted mental mechanisms that result in racism, but the social costs of that behavior are plain for all to see.

Boston is a good example of this. White parents are tearing up their town, just to prevent busing that will integrate the schools. They can't even claim they want to preserve the excellence of their school system because, if anything, the schools of Boston's white ghetto are even worse than those in Roxbury.

If nothing else, integration could break down the defensive barriers of white and black school kids alike and better prepare them for our multi-racial world. At best, it could galvanize white and black parents to go after the

real enemy -- the forces that keep the city's schools inferior for all.

The anti-busing hysteria has provided a convenient cover for overt racism feelings. In Boston, the fact are very clear: the all-white School Committee has persis-

tently and consciously maintained a segregated school system, they have done so in defiance of the law of their State and their country, and they have persisted in this in the face of court orders to remedy the situation.

Desegregation in Boston has been made more difficult by the failure to comply with the law and by failure to prepare parents and school officials for the change. Desegregation has worked elsewhere -- even in the most segregation-ridden Deep South towns -- and there is no reason why mob rule should prevent it from working in Boston.

What's needed in Boston and in the nation is firm leadership. That's why I've urged President Ford to take the occasion of his State of the Union address to speak out loud and clear against racism and for the integrated, pluralistic open society that should be our number one national goal.