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The water-walker

This nation's news media seem to drop all they're doing and come a'running whenever Michael Jackson sings a song or does a soft drink commercial or hiccups (with a beat, of course).

They seem equally fascinated when Reggie Jackson hits a home run or Billy Martin -- or both.

They aren't so entranced, however, when Jesse Jackson frees political prisoners.

Jackson upstaged the Reagan administration again last week when he negotiated the release of 48 Americans and Cubans imprisoned by the Castro regime.

And President Reagan thanked the Rev. Jackson by refusing to meet with him while Reagan's subordinates, with the media's help, downplayed the significance of what had happened while characterizing Jackson as a pawn of Fidel Castro.

Castro wanted to embarrass the Reagan administration, they said. What's more, they noted, Castro releases a few prisoners every now and then anyway.

Furthermore, they argued, Jesse Jackson has no business negotiating the release of prisoners and he certainly has gall to go down there with all those nasty communists and say something uncomplimentary about the U. S. of A.

"We argue strongly among ourselves in this country but the tradition has been not to criticize your country from a foreign base or platform, or in countries hostile to the United States," said State Department spokesman John Hughes.

It is terrible, isn't it, for an American citizen to exercise his right to free speech?

Ted Turner's Cable News Network then welcomed the triumphant negotiator home by echoing a *Wall Street Journal* article that characterized Jackson as a man motivated by his "failure of fear," followed the next night by a live broadcast of an interview with controversial Islamic leader Louis Farrakhan, a Jackson supporter who has probably received more headlines in recent weeks than Jackson himself.

What the media by and large appear to be doing is castigating Jesse no matter what he does.

If Jackson does something right, they'll find something wrong with it -- if they acknowledge it at all.

If he does something wrong, as all humans are wont to do on occasions, they'll magnify it to ridiculously grand proportions.

The situation might best be summed up in a joke making its rounds in the black community these days:

Jesse Jackson, Walter Mondale and Gary Hart are sharing a lifeboat, the story goes, and an unexpected wave tosses Hart and Mondale into the water. Jesse then walks across the water, recovers his comrades and brings them to safety.

The headline in the daily papers the next day reads: "Jackson Can't Swim."

Crosswinds

No substitute

From The Charlotte Post.

Students who seek employment after high school graduation need to master the same basic academic skills as the college-bound person. Therefore, vocational training and technical education are no substitute for education in the core competencies. These are important because the major asset the employers want in a high school graduate is basically "the ability to learn and to adapt to changes in the work place."

This statement summarizes a National Academy of Science panel report of business and education leaders titled "High Schools and the Changing Workplace." It is a report that appears worthy of commenting on as our nation's youth and teachers are departing from school for the summer, and for many, the seeking of permanent or summer jobs.

Richard Heckert, vice chairman and chief operating officer of the E.I. DuPont Co., and chairman of the 20-member panel, said the report is concerned only with high school graduates who do not attend college, who, he said, "represent the largest segment of the American workforce and play a critical and central role in the nation's economy."

Mr. Heckert added that the panel was seeking to set forth a set of core competencies that include:

The ability to read, write, reason and compute, including a mastery of "standard English in its written and spoken forms" and elementary algebra.

An understanding of American economic and social life. Possession of the attitudes and personal habits that make for a dependable worker and citizen.

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CONGRESS PASSED AN IMMIGRATION BILL - IT GRANTS US AMNESTY

IT ALSO MAKES IT A CRIME TO HIRE AN ILLEGAL ALIEN



WON'T THAT MAKE EMPLOYERS AVOID ANYONE WHO LOOKS LATIN?

IT'S A COMPROMISE - WE GET GREEN CARDS WITH OUR PINK SLIPS



What tax reform is needed?

By JOHN JACOB  
 Syndicated Columnist

It is generally agreed that there will be far-ranging tax legislation in 1985, and support is building for reform of the tax system to raise more revenue in a fairer way.

But what's fair to one person may be very unfair to others. Advocates for the poor have to be especially watchful that tax reform doesn't degenerate into yet another round of soaking the poor. The 1981 tax reform wound up doing just that -- squeezing more from the poor while providing windfalls for the affluent.

That tax cut, combined with drastic cuts in federal domestic spending, took some \$17 billion from poor people between 1983 and 1985, while affluent families in the \$80,000-and-up brackets got \$55 billion worth of tax benefits.

The same tax legislation, even though it was modified the following year, vastly increased special tax gains for wealthy individuals and corporations. Three of those items -- the accelerated cost recovery system, preferential

treatment for capital gains and the investment tax credit -- will cost the Treasury over \$50 billion in 1984.

Without considering whether such tax breaks are economically justified, we can question their fairness. The capital gains tax was cut to a maximum of 20 percent, which is actually lower than the marginal tax rate and social security tax rate paid by a working head of a family of four who earns \$12,000 a year. And fairness is the issue when taxes paid by the poor

The reason is that Congress tilted the cuts toward higher income brackets and didn't take such simple steps to protect the poor as increasing personal exemptions, standard deductions or the earned income tax credit.

So we have to wonder just how concerned Congress will be for poor and low-income taxpayers when it considers more sweeping tax reforms. Some of the reform ideas now surfacing suggest that "reform" could wind up hitting the poor again.

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have risen while those for the affluent were cut. One recent study showed that in 1978 a family at the poverty line paid \$269 in combined income and social security taxes.

But in 1984, that same family at the poverty line paid over \$1,000 in income and social security taxes -- a jump from 4 percent of that family's income in 1978 to over 10 percent this year.

For example, there is renewed talk of a value added tax (VAT), in effect, a form of national sales tax. Unless such a tax is carefully framed to exclude food and low-cost items that are likely to be part of a poor family's consumption package, that would soak the poor with a vengeance. Sales taxes always do that because

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Black education vs. Reaganism

By DR. MANNING MARABLE  
 Guest Columnist

For three years, the Reagan administration has waged war against black America. The relentless budget cuts in human services, the tax policies which provide welfare for the rich and the suppression of civil rights and civil liberties all amount to an unprecedented assault on people of color and the unemployed.

One decisive aspect of this class warfare can be observed within higher education. Slashes in government spending for education have

for traditionally black colleges.

Under Reagan's tenure, black college administrators have been forced to scramble in a desperate bid to retain students and to maintain their schools. Clariborne C. Davis, director of financial aid at Mississippi Valley State University, stated in a recent interview in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that his school had lost approximately \$100,000 in federal student aid since the beginning of 1983.

"If we had the money, we might have had 200 to 300 more students," Davis notes.

The students who could afford to attend Mississippi Valley "either are not going to college at all, or are attending less expensive community colleges. Careers could be sabotaged by a student's inability to attend a desired college because of a lack of money."

At nearby Tougaloo College, Melvin Phillips, director of student financial aid, states that the lack of federal aid has affected the school's enrollment, or has forced prospective students into the "military service as a way to get college money. With 550 students, we

payments because their financial aid had been cut."

Buchanan notes that a number of prospective students "have not been able to come to the university because they could not get adequate funds to sustain them while they are here ... I feel there is a responsibility on the government to provide opportunities for students who are poor, but who are capable of doing university work."

Even at those traditionally black institutions where the tuition is extremely low, the impact of Reagan's budget

"The problems of black institutions transcend mere dollars and cents."

can't afford to lose that many bodies."

At North Carolina Central University, the situation is even worse. According to Vice Chancellor Roland L. Buchanan Jr., 90 percent of his university's 5,000 students rely on some form of financial aid. When North Carolina Central informed students that they could not postpone the payment of short-term debts this fall, "at least 20 students were forced to drop out when they could not meet the

cuts had been felt. At the Baton Rouge campus of Southern University, roughly 85 percent of the 9,500 students receive aid. Southern's vice president for student affairs, Clarence M. Collier, states that more undergraduates have had "to use the Guaranteed Student Loan program" just to remain enrolled.

The problems of black institutions transcend mere dollars and cents. Surveys by Please see page A5



Letters

Number one in the nation

To The Editor:

Congratulations on being named the number one black paper in the nation. What an honor! I know you are proud of your accomplishments.

I am reading the paper now and wanted to take the time thank you for your continued pursuit of excellence. This award acknowledges that you are moving in the right direction.

I am glad to be a part of the number one team as a subscriber. The community expects continued success and improvement. Keep up the great work.

Nigel D. Alston  
 Senior Underwriter  
 Integon Life Insurance Co.  
 Winston-Salem

More compliments

To The Editor:

Congratulations for the outstanding work and service that you and your staff have done and for the well-earned honors and distinctions bestowed upon your publication.

Thanks for being so receptive and obliging to the many articles that I have sent or brought to your office for publication relating to church, school, fraternity or community activities.

Of all the papers I send news to, to be published, only yours, the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*, has printed and presented this news, for the most part (with minor editing), as it was originally prepared. You have done much to inform the public and make a part of printed history individuals, groups and causes that otherwise may have been ignored.

It is no surprise to me that you are the best weekly newspaper. Your new location and future plans are indicative of dreams and plans to do even greater things in journalism.

My hobbies, writing, taking pictures and keeping a continuing history of organizations that I belong to are greatly enhanced by the clear and informative clippings from your newspaper. My scrapbooks are fairly comprehensive. Without your great contribution, in terms of publishing complete stories, including sharp pictures and captions, these histories would be incomplete. To really be informed about what is happening in the black community of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, one must read the *Chronicle* on a regular basis. Get wise, those who get second-hand news. Get and read the best -- the acclaimed *Winston-Salem Chronicle*.

Rudolph V. Boone Sr.  
 Winston-Salem

A note of thanks

To The Editor:

First, congratulations on recently being named the best black newspaper in the nation.

Second, on behalf of Dr. and Franco's Stars, I would like to thank you for the fine article your sports editor, Robert Eller, did on our softball team. It was another example of the fine reporting done by your newspaper.

I would be doing a great injustice if I did not mention the founder and present and only manager of the Stars, Robert Bailey, J.D. Dunlap is in his first year as a Stars coach.

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