"Our time has come," Jesse Jackson told his followers during the campaign in an implied promise of black power. But it didn't come this year. Instead, white power, in the form of added voter registration that favored Reagan on election day, turned the Republican Party almost lily white and left the Democrats embarrassed with only a misplaced

than before the president was put

Black America does not need

its black leadership to list the

grievances against previous

presidents -- just the present

president! Perkins is perverted if

he believes, as he so states in his

article, that black American

leadership should get behind this

president to promote tuition tax

credits, enterprise zones,

deregulation of small business,

sub-minimum wage and stronger

measures to alleviate crime pro-

Perkins is a pinhead if he does

into office by white America.

black loyalty.

Attack on leadership misguided

"Democratic white voters and politicians abandoned their black constituencies," said a UPI report. By a ratio of 2 to 1, whites went for Reagan. Citing a one-seat loss in Congress, The Washington Post said that blacks "openly questioned whether, increased black voter activity helped drive Southern whites away from the Democratic Party."

State Rep. Robert Clark's bid to become the first black congressman in Mississippi since Reconstruction failed, despite the fact that his district is 53 percent black. Ken Mosely, in Jesse Jackson's home state of South Carolina, (where black turnout went down 3 percent) also lost his bid for Congress.

Blacks who favored Mondale by 88 percent to 12 percent (whites went for Reagan by 65 percent to 35 percent) must also face the fact that for the first time in more than a generation, people under the age of 30 gave the Republican presidential nominee the same percentage of their vote as the general electorate. That fact portends the future of an increasingly conservative white America.

Whatever the reason, "white flight" is a political reality and black political and economic isolation a fact. And this predicament will not be solved by outvoting white people.

The solution is economic -- not political.



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Letters

From Page A4

work in.

I would also like to invite those young writers to come see a performance of the play that I am performing in with the N.C. Black Reperatory Co. The production is the Athol Fugard play, "Master Harold and the Boys." I am sure they will find it quite enlightening and most entertaining.

This invitation is also extended to the entire staff of the Winston-Salem Chronicle. I'm looking forward to reading future stimulating issues.

Frank Barrett New York

Will it matter?

To The Editor:

If, after the nuclear holocaust and everything is dead, a leftover nuclear bomb explodes, will it make a noise?

> Joe Felmet Winston-Salem

## Edelman

From Page A4

dilapidated housing, and twice as likely to have no regular source of health care.

The bishops are correct to find a "scandal" in the large number of Americans who now live in poverty. In their draft letter, they call for "improvements in the quality of education for poor children and improved child care service," among the dozens of other recommendations.

Many parts of the bishops' draft agenda, such as the redistribution of wealth and reduction of the unemployment rate (now 7.3 percent) to three to four percent, are stirring tremendous controversy. This is all to the good. As Rep. Timothy Wirth (D-Colo.) has observed, "The debate about the poor in this country could have come to a crashing halt after Nov. 6. The bishops have kept it alive."

Regardless of our individual reactions to each part of this complex proposal, it is about time that the national debate over poverty and its consequences is being framed exactly as it should be: As a moral and religious issue, not just a matter of dollars and cents.

(Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children.)

not know tuition tax credits are for the middle and upper income groups to choose not to go to schools with people of color, who dominate the lower income catergory. Black America is 40 percent below the poverty line, and three-quarters below the middle income class.

Considering enterprise zones is excellent only if quotas for hiring and business allocations accommodates (sic, I think he means accompany) the package. The president is on record as being

opposed to quotas, Mr. Perkins! Deregulation of small business means almost nothing to black America; we simply are not a part of business. No finance, no romance! Sub-minimum wages are what we are receiving now whenever we are employed --barely 50 percent of white wages. Check the record.

Racism prevents us from being employed in volume, not price, Mr. Perkins. And as for crime control, read my column. Jobs is the name of the game!

In any event, should this Harvard MDA writer or any so-called black American leader to some dude on the streets rap to you or Glenn C. Loury, a Harvard University public policy professor, whom he quoted, "as to how the black poor are to be benefited by the policy actions extracted from the system in their name," then his name should not be mentioned in any major U.S. newspaper! Unless, of course, its devout objective is to keep black Americans poor!

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