

Editorials & Comments

A Questionable Assumption

The domestic strategy of the Ford Administration places greater stress on the responsibility of the individual states in assuring that many of the services needed by people are granted.

..What this low profile approach will mean for blacks and other minorities is that the limited guardian role played by the Federal government in the past two decades will disappear. Favorable Supreme Court rulings, federal watchdogs, federally funded programs and other such things will cease to exist.

..These programs and mechanisms, it should be remembered, grew out of recognition of blacks that local

authorities were less endowed with the ideals of the U. S. Constitution than the federal government. Local minorities, left powerless at the hands of city, county and state officials, could thus count on the national government as a lever of influence in the face of the overwhelming political, economic and in some cases, military odds yielded by hostile forces.

..It is questionable whether or not the local and state authorities, in the past 20 years, have radically changed their attitudes towards blacks, and equally questionable whether blacks have had time to develop the sources of power with which to neutralize such grass roots level oppression.

Cost Of Food Stamps Should Be Low

"Congress has put a freeze on the price of food stamps for the remainder of 1975, and we think it is a good thing. Poor people are in a bind during our recession and can least afford to pay more as President Ford had proposed.

..We can well understand the concern of President Ford with reference to his total plan of combatting recession. He was hoping that the cost of these stamps would not get out of control. It already is running in the neighborhood of \$4 billion a year. With current economic conditions being what they are, the cost could go higher as more people qualify to buy stamps.

..In the last great depression, the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt said that "It was better to balance, the human budget than the fiscal one."

..The Department of Agriculture says unemployment is swelling the stamp rolls at the rate of 1 million persons a month. In addition, many people are being transferred from old direct-food assistance programs to the stamp program.

..Some congressmen want to ex-

pand the benefits to include even more people. President Ford wanted to raise the price of stamps so all recipients would pay 30 percent of their adjusted net income for food stamps. He estimated that this would save the federal government approximately \$648 million per year.

..We admit that there may be some abuses inherent in the food stamp program, and there may be needed a number of changes. But the good resulting from the food stamp program, far outweighs its evils. Congress, has directed Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz to make recommendations by June 30 on ways to improve and reform the program. Let us hope that out of his recommendations may come beneficial reforms. Maybe we need to transfer some people back to direct assistance programs.

..Minority and black poor people are experiencing a tight economic squeeze at the moment. By freezing food stamps at current prices, it will help millions of people to get their feet back on solid financial ground, and even exist.

Guest Editorial - The Carolinian



Are They To Be Deliberately Sacrificed....?

Letters to the Editor

Stinson Listed As Community Leader

P. O. Box 881
Charlotte, N. C. 28231
February 17, 1975

William Johnson, Editor
Charlotte Post
9139 Trinity Road
Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Please find attached an "open letter" and editorial comment made after learning of the awards presented by Kelly Alexander and the NAACP on Sunday, February 16, 1975.

Mr. Kelly Alexander
2128 Senior Drive
Charlotte, N. C. 28216

Dear Mr. Alexander:

After reading of the selections made by your organization of outstanding leaders in the local black community, I

would like to applaud the practice as one long overdue. ..Being ignorant of the actual specifics upon which the selections were made, I would, however, suggest a serious oversight was made in your failure to include in your first listing the name of J. L. Stinson. Need I remind you that Mr. Stinson has been a cornerstone in every segment of this community for almost 40 years...long before the persons you named became "names", by giving moral, financial, and general support

through the years, not only to NAACP, but to black political candidates, the church, the schools, and hundreds of people, young and old, throughout this city.

..Could it possibly be that the politics of "making it" to the top in the local "Who's Who" clique might include the apparent weakness of a faulty, collective memory...I.e. once at the "top", forgetting the very ones who helped to get you there?

..J. L. Stinson should have been one of the first to make your list as an outstanding person and contributor to the Charlotte community. I can say that as a daughter who is proud of him. I am more than sure that you and countless others would say it, too...if honesty prevailed, and due recognition was justly given when justly due.

Sincerely yours,
Linda E. Stinson

February 18, 1975

paper, please feel free to call. Yours for Progress,
Thomas J. Stator

To the Charlotte Post:

Thanks for your excellent cooperation in helping us inform our students and their parents that schools had to be closed on February 4 because of the hazardous weather conditions. The same goes for February 5 when some schools

had to close very early because of power failure. To inform so many people on such short notice would have been impossible without your willing cooperation.

Post Appreciated

February 21, 1975

Mr. Bill Johnson
Charlotte Post
9139 Trinity Road
Charlotte, N. C. 28216

I would like to express my appreciation for having had the opportunity to appear in the Charlotte Post recently. This exposure gave us an opportunity to inform the Charlotte Community of the functions of the PAED-Local Business Development Organization.

..Papers, such as, the Charlotte Post, are really delivering the message to the Charlotte community. I think your paper is very well received in our area, so keep up the good work.

..Once again, I would like to say thanks. If there is ever any way that we can be of assistance to you or your

Gas Hike Unnecessary

..It is hoped here that Congress will vote down Rep. Al Ullman's plans to raise gas tax to 40 cents by 1979. Ullman, chairman of the powerful tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee said Tuesday that he is "drafting a comprehensive energy program calling for oil import quotas and a gasoline tax of 40 cents a gallon by 1979.

..Who would benefit from these extra dollars? The big oil companies have already announced record profits for this past year. A second and most important thought here is the question of whether the government is thinking about getting into the oil business.

..Ullman has said his plans would

channel all United States oil petroleum imports through a federal purchasing authority that would solicit sealed bids and buy at the lowest price.

..We believe a gas hike law of this proportion would levy unbearable obligations to poor Americans. At a time when prices are soaring on just about everything Americans have to purchase, it would appear to us that Rep. Ullman and his powerful committee could come up with something better than a huge hike in the price of gasoline.

..The Post believes some control is needed during the energy crisis. We, however, do not believe Mr. Ullman has found the answer.

as i see it

Historical Case Imminent In North Carolina

By Gerald Johnson

Historical Case Imminent In N. C.

..North Carolina is on the verge of a historical and classical trial. The trial is that of Miss Joan Little, accused of murdering the jailer in the Beaufort County jail with an ice pick. Miss Little claims the jailer attempted to rape her, and she killed him in self defense.

..The problem lies in the fact that regardless of the outcome of the trial there will be a FACTION in complete disagreement.

..The North Carolina white populace, who feel Black women are promiscuous, anyway, will believe that Miss Little prompted the jailer. Miss Little will be depicted as a Black Widow spider luring her prey into a death trap.



..The North Carolina Black populace, who feel that all whites are pigs, will believe Mr. Allgood, the jailer, tried to force himself on Miss Little. Miss Little had to do what she did to protect herself.

..The prosecutors will open the trial by digging into Miss Little's past and trying to show the type character Miss Little is.

..The defense will counter by citing cases where women were abused in small town jails. Then a character profile of Mr. Allgood will be introduced to secure the point.

..With all this done the entire case hinges on the characters of the members of the jury. Race, sex, marital status, age and financial class will play important roles in how jury members will see this case. Obviously, a young Black single female would be more sympathetic toward the defense than say a white, middle-aged, businessman.

..The jury will be left to judge the case on predominantly character

judgement of Miss Little and Mr. Allgood. I can't see any facts developing from the situation since Miss Little and Mr. Allgood were the only witnesses. Of course Mr. Allgood will not be able to tell his side of the story.

..A white man dead at the hands of a Black female is in itself a situation to be contended with in a state such as North Carolina. Ignoring this aspect the case is still quite monumental. But, of course, this situation can not be ignored.

..Regardless of the outcome of the case the truth will still be blowing in the wind.

TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

Work Program Needed

Anyone foolish enough not to take the current recession seriously got a tremendous jolt from the President's Budget and the report of his Council of Economic Advisors.

..Both paint a picture of a sick economy right through to the end of the decade. Unemployment is projected at almost eight percent for the next three years. This means the government's top economic minds are willing to accept that nearly eight million people will be out of work annually.

..They don't even offer much light at the end of the tunnel. By 1980, they say, unemployment will still be 5.5 percent of the labor force, or over five million people. And all of this is to be accompanied by continued high inflation.

..It seems to me that any such projection should serve as the springboard for action. If the economists say this is what will occur, it becomes mandatory for government to intervene in the economy on a scale sufficient to insure that such disastrous predictions don't come true.

..With each passing day it becomes more clear that the country needs a massive full employment policy that guarantees a decent job at a decent wage to everyone who can work, and some form of economic controls to end high inflation.

..This worries a lot of people, even those who reluctantly go along with the President's plans for a big budget deficit to stimulate the economy. Too much government control, they insist, means the end of the free enterprise system.

..What they seem to be forgetting is that a free enterprise system that can't make work for eight million people, that locks 85 million people into poverty or near-poverty, may be doomed anyway.

..In fact, only bold steps that put people to work and insure their earnings aren't eaten away by high inflation, can save the system. Back in the 1930s, at the height of the Depression, the government took radical steps to put people to work and saved the system in the process.

..Some people are suggesting that one of these steps, the Works Progress Administration, be revived today. This was a program of work relief that, in spite of all the myths about workers sleeping on their shovels, was extremely effective.

..The WPA put a total of over eight million people to work on projects we're still using today. At its peak, one out of every twenty American workers were on the WPA payroll.

..They built 650,000 miles of new roads, 124,000 new or rebuilt bridges on viaducts, 120,000 public buildings, such as libraries, schools and offices, 23,000 miles of streets and paths, 16,000 miles of water lines, 1,600 parks, 6,000 playgrounds and athletic fields, and thousands of hospitals, plants and other facilities still in use.

..In addition, WPA programs taught reading and writing to 1.5 million adults, organized nursery schools for 36,000 children, drained swamps, produced clothing for the needy, and revived cultural life.

..This is an extraordinary record, and it is typical of the ingratitude of many people who survived that era on their father's WPA checks, and now claim that it was a "boondoggle" whose revival will endanger the system.

..All of this doesn't mean we should copy the WPA formula in its entirety. It was a relief program whose pay scales were deliberately kept low and which rotated the jobless on and off its payrolls.

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