

Editorials & Comments

Economic Parity And Human Rights

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

In an address delivered to the Mid-Winter Conference of the National Association of Minority Contractors earlier this month, Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell, president of the National Business League, said that the development of minority business enterprises in American face an uncertain future largely due to the steady deterioration of the nation's commercial centers. He warned that in the "absence of a national economic policy for the revitalization of America's centers of commerce" minority group efforts to achieve economic parity may be doomed.

Burrell echoed the same theme in an address a few months ago. At that time we editorialized (December 2, 1976) the view that economic parity for blacks would come only if blacks look beyond Richard Nixon's narrow definition of "black capitalism" to seven minimum requirements for economic development ranging from black owned profit-making and community development corporations to the complete elimination of racism as a basis for profit decision-making.

As important as these requirements are, they are not in and of themselves sufficient to provide parity—a parity that takes into consideration the needs and uses of human resources. However, this is not the concern of some of those responsible in part for maintaining social and economic order.

For example, the Task Force on Disorders and Terrorism, a group of police and law enforcement officials,

predicted recently another siege of urban riots and a continuing increase in terrorism. They warn that the nation is in a period of false calm and would like to give local authorities emergency powers. Such powers would allow law enforcement officers to search without warrants, arrest and jail certain individuals for "reasonable" periods of time because they are potential law breakers, forcibly relocate residents under certain circumstances and limit freedom of speech when it was judged (by whom?) to be "inflammatory."

Thus, while President Carter champions the cause of human rights around the world, the Task Force, a supposedly government advisory group, favors the suppression of minority economic right and the human rights guaranteed to all Americans by the Constitution.

The "false calm" and the possibility of new urban riots is in our view real. It is real because of the frustrations and tensions that characterize the lives of people consistently denied their full measure of human rights in the form of decent unsegregated housing, equal employment opportunities and a fair chance to participate to what we continue to call the free enterprise capitalistic system.

If governments—federal, state or local—accept the Task Force's recommendation to deny human rights because people cry out with so-called "inflammatory" rhetoric or even riots against such denials, then all Americans are doomed to a life of injustice and the loss of any hope for economic parity.

UNCC 49ers - Talent Plus Maturity

Legend, if not fact, tells us that when Tommy Burns was the heavyweight boxing champion between 1906 and 1908, he traveled around the world and challenged everyone.

Each time he did this the talented black boxer Jack Johnson would raise his hand and said, "I'll fight you Mister Burns," but the champ did not want to fight Johnson, so each time he ignored the challenger and moved on to another country. Finally, in Sydney, Australia, in 1908, Burns again ignored challenger Johnson and was about to leave the country when the authorities told him that he had to honor his commitment to fight any challenger before leaving. Johnson, history tells us, beat Burns badly for 13 rounds before knocking him out in the 14th.

Such has been the history of the UNCC 49ers basketball team for the past three years. Lame-duck reasons have come from established basketball schools as to why they won't play UNCC on a home-and-home basis. However, just as Burns could no longer avoid challenger Johnson, the established basketball powers can no longer avoid the 49ers.

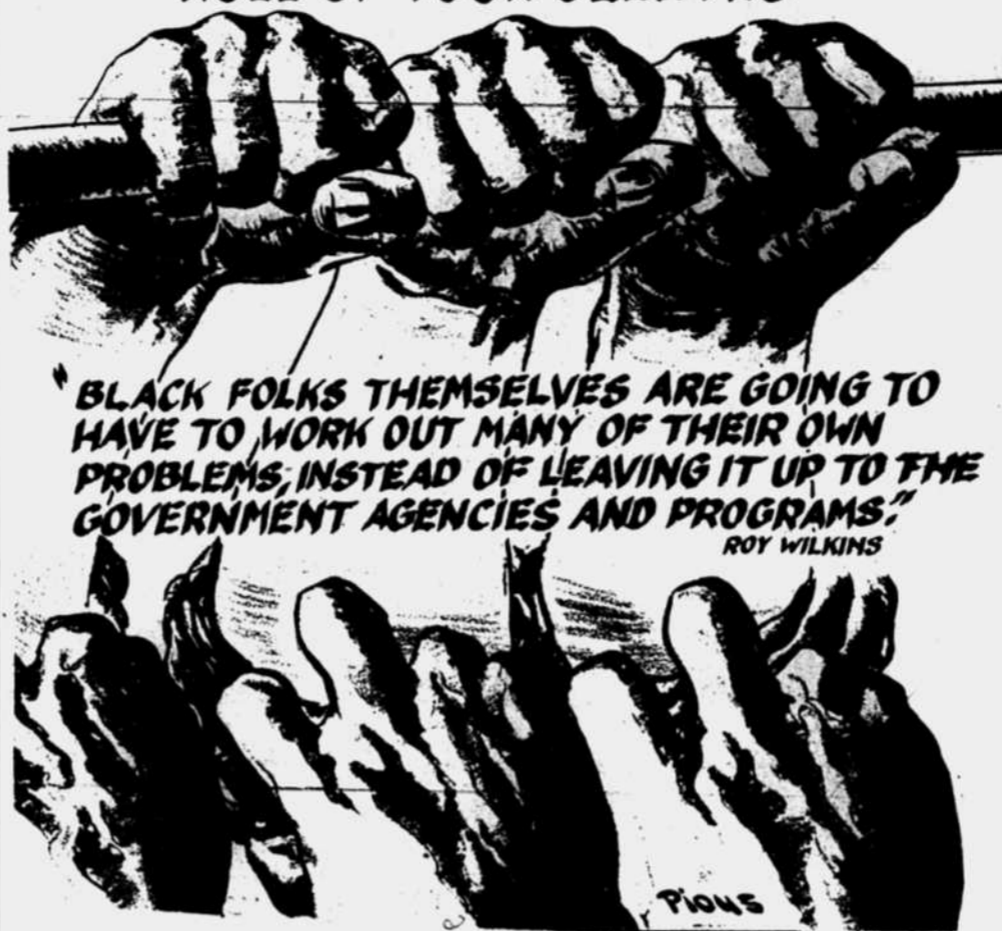
What accounts for this phenome-

nal success of the 49ers? Writers and newspapers across the country have answered this question in classic fashion. A LEXINGTON HEROLD headline said: "Charlotte Destroys Syracuse..." The story that followed said: "If Charlotte has a weakness, it wasn't apparent last night... Like (Coach) Rose, the 49ers showed marvelous composure and made the win (over Syracuse) look easy."

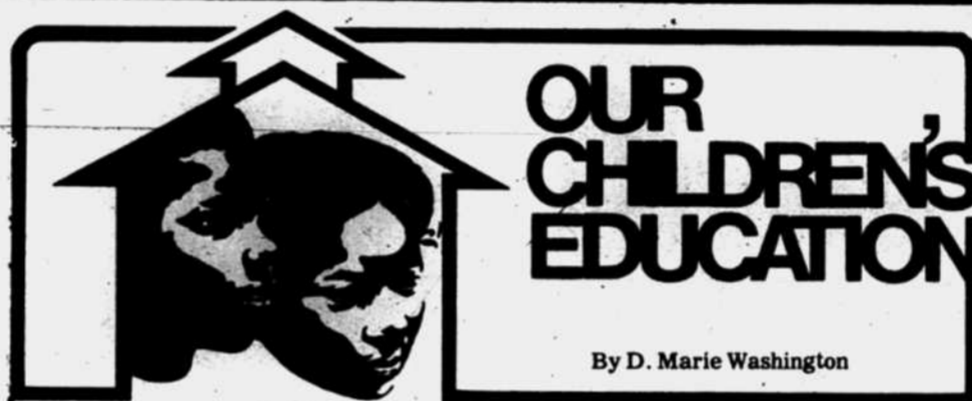
Local sports writer Bob Quincy eloquently explained the 49ers success when he wrote after the win over Michigan: "The story behind the most impressive triumph in UNCC history can be found in the dressing room. As impressive as the victory was the players weren't turning cartwheels. The 49ers took their success in their usual unexcited manner. Therein, I think, is their secret."

The POST is proud to salute the 49ers as they journey to Atlanta in quest of the NCAA Basketball Championship. While we wish them well, there is no doubt in our minds that UNCC richly deserves No. 1 status. Regardless of the outcome in the Atlanta, UNCC is the only one of the finalists to have beaten the very best. Right-On UNCC!

BLACK AMERICA ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES



Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands



The Real Bias In Tests

The use of standardized tests for college admission and employment all too often results in blacks being shut out. The discriminatory aspect of these tests may not lie so much in the questions asked on the test as in the application of a single standard on a dual society. For example, if both French-speaking and English-speaking people must take the same test, the use of French as the language of the test would surely discriminate against those whose native tongue is English.

Standardized tests are based upon the language and culture of literacy. Even though we commonly think of literacy as simply being able to read, Marshall McLuhan describes it as a separate and distinct culture, with its own vocabulary, language structure, life style and pattern of thinking. A test which is based upon the literate culture examines the vocabulary which is unique to the language of literacy; it examines the knowledge which has been passed on by the institutions of literacy; and it judges reasoning ability by the thinking patterns which, according to McLuhan, have been shaped and altered by print technology.

Segregation laws, however, have kept black people excluded from the literature

culture, and have denied blacks equal access to the main sources of literacy, namely, schools and libraries. The result has been the development of an "oral language culture" within a literate society, which is essentially different from the literature culture. Even though many members of the oral culture may read equally as well as those of the literate culture, discriminatory laws and practices which have segregated the oral society places upon them the burden of having to live and function within one language culture while having to complete on tests which are based on a different language culture.

Any test which is based upon the language and culture of literacy will give to those who are native to that culture an advantage over those who have been excluded from it. Though two children may be of equal ability, the child who is a native of the literate culture should be able to score higher on a reading readiness test or IQ test than the child who has been confined to the oral language environment. The job applicant who has been segregated to the oral language culture is more likely to be eliminated by a literacy-based test than an applicant who has grown up in the literate environment, even though he may be able to

read as well and perform the job as well or better than the other applicant.

As long as literacy-based tests are used to determine who shall receive more literacy and who shall receive the advantages of literacy in terms of employment, those who have been denied equal access to literacy will automatically be denied equal access to education and jobs, and we will continue to have separate and unequal societies divided along the color line.

Hornets' Nest

Girl Scout

Council To Meet

Hornets' Nest Girl Scout Council will hold a Freedom Forest Arbor Day Celebration Friday, March 25 (Rain date March 27), 7:30 p.m., at Freedom Park in Charlotte. Over 2400 Girl Scouts will participate in presenting to the City of Charlotte approximately forty "Freedom Trees" they have received from the governors of various states throughout the U.S.

During the closing candle-light ceremonies, hundreds of miniature block boats carrying lighted candles will be launched on the lake at Freedom Park. The event is open to the public.

TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

Young's Unfulfilled Legacy

It has been six years since Whitney Young's death deprived our nation of one of its most creative and forceful leaders, and the passing of time has not dimmed his stature. Rather, it has enhanced it as we see how right he was about America's need to change, and how the specific measures he fought for are still needed.

Most prominent in Whitney Young's unfulfilled legacy is his concept of a Domestic Marshall Plan to rebuild the cities. His idea was that a broad coalition of the public and private sectors should concentrate national resources on inner-city problems worsened by racial discrimination.

He was the first person to put forth that idea, and while many others have followed—using his phrase and concept—the task is still to be done. In fact, the opposite policy was followed—a program of federal and private sector disinvestment in urban areas, a massive redlining of the nation's cities.

The pressing financial needs of older cities are bound to get worse unless Congress revises the 1974 Housing and Community Development Act. Despite its name, the law set up a formula for federal aid to urban areas that means decreasing amounts of money will go to the cities that need it most, while small towns and suburban communities in relatively good financial shape will get more.

This amounts to a huge transfer of tax funds from the cities to their suburbs, precisely reversing the priorities rational policy demands.

But that's not all—not only do the funds move more heavily to areas where they aren't needed as much, but those that do go to the cities are often misused. Urban areas get their aid on a complex formula that is supposed to ensure funds for cities characterized by older housing, overcrowding, and poverty pockets, but evidence indicates most such cities put the money into middle income sections.

A key part of Whitney Young's program was open housing. He was one of the key figures in passing a federal fair housing law passed, but the law has not been enforced. While many suburban communities have erected discriminatory barriers in the guise of neutral zoning laws—supported by the courts—the government has not tried to break the practice through lawsuits and through aid cutoffs.

Another important aspect of Young's work was affirmative action—trying to get employers to hire black workers at all job levels. Here too, in spite of some progress, there's been little more than half-hearted results, with government agencies themselves numbered among the worst offenders.

The recession just about halted affirmative action programs in their tracks, and the continuing glum job picture offers little hope for immediate change. But this is one issue black people won't let die, and the Carter Administration ought to revitalize compliance programs and stamp out job discrimination.

Another major federal priority has to be reforming the welfare system, preferably along the lines of a minimum income guarantee as espoused by Whitney Young. He came out for such a step long before it was fashionable, and now even conservative economists are backing a negative income tax or a similar device that would guarantee a basic minimum level below which no family would be allowed to fall.

as i see it

UNCC 49ers' Victories No Fluke!

By Gerald O. Johnson

Many people are riding high on UNCC's recent (upset) victory over Michigan. A lot of people are still saying that they hope the 49er's luck holds out. Well, believe me, the luck isn't really luck at all. It is a combination of a lot of things but mainly a well coached team.

Having watched basketball tournaments for the last month, I must say UNCC is the best team I have seen in tournament play. The key to the UNCC success can be summarized in the following way:

- 1) Well disciplined
- 2) Fundamentally sound
- 3) Minimum of mistakes
- 4) Well prepared

Basketball players are a dime a dozen. You can find a young man with a lot of talent, anywhere. Good coaches are like a needle in a haystack. They are not easy to find. However, it is the coach that is the pilot of the team. He gives the team direction and pur-

pose. All the talent in the world is useless with a poor coach.

On the other hand a team with mediocre talent but a good coach can jell into a great team. This is the case with UNCC. There is no Earl Monroe or Kareem Abdul Jabbar on the team. Yet the ball club has been in every game they've played this year. The three games they lost was never more than 3 points.

The team's greatness can be contributed to coach Lee Rose. The above four ingredients has been well planted into the team.

Let's take each ingredient separately. This ball club is unawed by their opponents regardless of their national rating. Most teams will enter a game with a rated team five points down before the game starts simply because of fear. The UNCC 49ers must feel confident in their team ability and hence, they must feel they can play with anyone. And they do. The 49er's seem to be under con-



Gerald O. Johnson

rol in all situations they get into. This is the sign of a well discipline ball club.

The fundamentally soundness of the club is evident in how well they execute the basics: passing, shooting, guarding, dribbling, etc. Most people and even a lot of coaches don't realize the importance of basic skills in basketball. Consequently, a lot of teams spend to little time on basic skills. Anybody

seeing the CIAA Tournament will vouch that a lot of schools lack basic skills in basketball.

Most important is the making of mistakes. The team that makes the fewest mistakes will win most of the time. Mistakes usually show up in the form of turnovers on the stat sheet. Fundamentally sound, and well disciplined teams make few mistakes. Nervousness, poor fundamentals, tiredness, good teams, and many other things are all causes of mistakes. UNCC makes a minimum of mistakes.

Last but not least is how much time goes into studying your opponent. Obviously, if you know your opponents strengths and weakness you can prepare your team much better to play that opponent. By taking advantage of your opponent's weaknesses and steering away from his strengths, you are bound to fare pretty well.

Lee Rose spends a lot of time studying his opponents with his team so that they will

know what to expect out there on the floor. I was quite impressed by an article I read last year when UNCC went to the NIT. The article said as soon as the bus got to New York, Lee Rose hopped off, ran to his hotel room, and started watching game film. N.C. A&T was at the tournament also, and I will not repeat what I heard about its coach's pregame preparations.

So you see UNCC's success is no fluke and it is not luck. They are a well organized basketball team that has made its mark on the nation. It is not definite that UNCC will come away from Atlanta NCAA Champions. But it is definite that they can't come away a loser.

Lee Rose will never be a loser. University of North Carolina will face the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. This will be an interesting game because Nevada has a wealth of talent. They are fast, big, and strong. But they lack

three of my basic ingredients. They will be well prepared but they are not as fundamentally sound as UNCC, not as well disciplined, and will make more mistakes. The game will depend on if UNCC can take advantage of those mistakes. Frankly, I don't think so. A close game UNCC can slow UNLV down and control the tempo. A runaway, otherwise. At any rate UNLV will end up in the finals.

UNCC will meet Marquette and we have already covered the 49er's. Marquette is an emotional team that is not well disciplined. Disciplined, yes, but not well disciplined. They will be well prepared and emotionally charged for this one as coach McGuire is an expert at inspiring his team. They are not as sound fundamentally as UNCC, but can explode at any time UNCC should win it but anything goes with a team as explosive as Marquette. I predict UNCC should win it but diet UNCC in a squeaker.

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