

Editorials & Comments

Project Clout Needs You!

by Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

Senator Edward Brooke (R.-Mass.) the only black among his distinguished group, told an "Operation Push" audience in Chicago earlier this month that "the absolute rock bottom starting point for any Republican courtship of the black vote must be economic." He added that there are seven million unregistered black votes in this country. Then he said, "Can you imagine that potential...influence, power, and impact on this nation."

In the current issue of Black Enterprise magazine an article says in part, "Blacks have been able to erect a rather sophisticated political machine that has become a power broker in Kansas City politics." This has happened, the article continued, because blacks in that city "have managed to agree on issues." These observations can be summarized up in one word, "CLOUT." By clout we mean strength, political strength and influence in your own community so that we as black people can determine our own destiny.

Undoubtedly, you recall that a month ago WGIV Radio personality Jim Black, speaking on behalf of his radio station and co-sponsored by the NAACP, announced the launching of "Project Clout," a sustained voter education and registration drive aimed at getting more blacks to the polling places on election day. The Post applauded this giant step by the black oriented radio station

Blacks Migrating South?

A recent Census Bureau study shows that in the two-year period, March 1975 through March 1977, 147,000 blacks moved out of the northeastern part of the U.S. and over two-thirds of them - 104,900 - moved to the south. During the same period, black migration out of the south was considerably less than in previous periods, and, more significantly, the whole pattern of black migration is quite different from what it was in the decade of the 1960's.

In the 1960's, blacks continued a trend, dated back to World War 1, of migrating out of the south to the northeast in search of partly achievable better schools, jobs, upward mobility and social organizations.

With the presumed progress that blacks have made, particularly since the Civil Rights Act of 1964, nothing about the migration of blacks appears unusually significant. However, a conference on "The Rising Economy of the South" reports that "Virtually all the benefits of the south have occurred to whites...who have achieved parity with whites elsewhere in the country." Why then

and the NAACP and we expressed encouragement when the initial effort to register blacks at some record shops and at a rock concert were less than successful. We continue to applaud these efforts but now wonder if there are not better, more meaningful places to register prospective voters.

We believe it would be wiser to utilize the churches, social and neighborhood organizations, adult education programs and the growing influence of the black business community to get more people educated, registered and into the polling places on election day.

We are also asking the question, "Where are these organizations and institutions? Why are they silent? Why have they not publicly endorsed 'Project Clout' and offered assistance to make the project successful? It is only through such an effort that we can gain some measure of assurance that another highway will not rip through McCrorey Heights or Hyde Park, or that the University Park Post Office won't be closed, or that we can maintain adequate fire and police protection, and that rezoning won't destroy our neighborhoods.

If we are concerned about these services, and therefore the quality of life in our neighborhoods, we must join in support of the "Project Clout" effort NOW! It's your future and your neighborhood that's at stake!

Do something, support "Project Clout."

Something On Your Mind?

"Something on your mind" is the name of a column devoted to you—the young at heart readers of this newspaper — as long as it relates in some way to young people, regardless of age.

Or any other subject you want to write about.

Remember it's your column. Your article should be at least 250 words, type-written and double spaced preferred. Include your name, age, school, and a clear photo, and send it to the Editor, Charlotte Post Newspaper, Post Office Box 97, Charlotte, NC 28230.

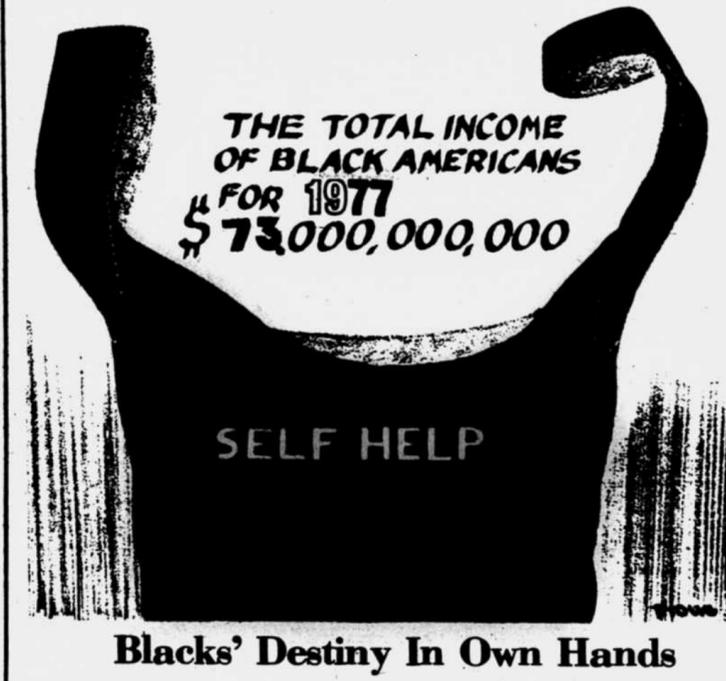
do we have blacks staying in the south or migrating to the south?

The answer to this question is that whether a racist or a liberal, southern whites tend to be more honest and straight forward in expressing their true attitudes and feelings towards and about blacks. In the other hand, northern whites too often exhibit a hypocritical brand of liberalism intended to deceive blacks and pretend to be superior to southern whites. Think it through, you might agree.

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BLACK BOOT-STRAPS



Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands

Labor Law Reform-The Broader Issue

For the past six months, American business groups and their erstwhile allies in the resurgent conservative movement have been beating the drums on labor law reform. "Big Labor," they tell us, is using the Labor Law Reform Act of 1978 as a battering ram against the gates of corporate America; if the gates swing open, they warn, hordes of power hungry labor bureaucrats will ravage the land, and bankrupt thousands of hapless businessmen.

Such a scenario is, of course, highly exaggerated, yet the opponents of the Williams-Javits bill have been extraordinarily successful in causing widespread confusion about the intent of the legislation. For one thing, frightened business leaders have labeled the reform package a "give-a-way to the Labor Bosses." If the bill passes, according to President Richard Leshner of the Chamber of Commerce, the nation's workers and consumer's "will be burdened with an unfair, imbalanced labor law designed to increase membership and economic and political clout of the big labor unions."

But the bill is not about "Union Power." It is, instead, a measure designed to revitalize and reinforce America's labor relations system, a system whose success or failure has an enormous impact on the economic well-being of low and middle-income Americans.

Black working people—despite what some conservatives and black businessmen have argued—have an especially

large stake in the outcome of this debate: it is blacks who are disproportionately represented in those industries and geographic regions which have most steadfastly resisted trade union organizing drives: the textile, clothing and service industries of the Deep South. Workers employed in those labor intensive industries receive meager wages (almost subsistence wages) and face the constant threat of temporary lay-off or outright dismissal.

They exist on the economic fringes of society with little or no hope for advancement... Trade unions do, however, make a difference. Recent studies have demonstrated that blacks with trade union cards fare substantially better than their brothers and sisters working in non-union enterprises. According to the most recent data, black union workers—both men and women—earned a median weekly income of \$169 in 1974. Non-union blacks, on the other hand, earned only \$124 per week: a difference of over 35 percent. Another study showed that black union members are less likely than non-union blacks to suffer from temporary layoffs.

It would be naive and misleading, of course, to argue that trade union membership per se will magically advance the economic position of Southern blacks and other low-wage workers. But strong trade unions do, nevertheless, serve as a solid foundation for future economic gains. And without them, workers cannot even begin to confront the other social and economic factors which perpetuate poverty.

Why haven't low-wage workers already organized themselves into trade unions? The answer is relatively simple: employers, because of their overwhelming political and economic power, have thwarted virtually every organizing drive, frequently by using illegal and unethical tactics.

Under the present law, there are few penalties which effectively deter unscrupulous employers from dismissing pro-union employees, interrogating workers about their union sympathies, or bargaining in "bad faith." Similarly, anti-union companies can slowly dissipate pro-union sentiment by continually delaying representation elections through clever—but costly—legal maneuvers.

Some critics of the proposed reforms, such as Mr. Leshner of the Chamber of Commerce, complain that the bill "would transform the National Labor Relations Act from a remedial statute to a punitive law, designed to punish employers." To a certain extent, Mr. Leshner is correct. But how else can one enforce a law which many employers find so tempting to violate?

The penalties included in the Williams-Javits bill are hardly draconian. Employers who repeatedly break the law and deny workers their most basic rights will be barred from receiving federal contracts. Who could possibly complain about that?

Business groups and Congressional conservatives on both sides of the aisle have derisively called the reform package "just another piece of self-interest legislation."

TO BE EQUAL



Washington's Role

It has become popular to run down the ability of government to deal with social problems, or indeed, with almost any kind of problem.

This trend goes well beyond the traditional griping about Washington, politicians, or public servants that has always been with us. It's taken on a new edge, a surly quality that could wind up as a deep, self-inflicted wound on our nation's hopes.

Even President Carter gave in to the trend in his State of the Union speech, in which he said: "Government cannot solve our problems. It cannot set our goals, define our vision, eliminate poverty or reduce inflation."

Well then, what are we paying taxes for? Because government can do precisely those things: it can solve problems of a public and national scope; it can — and should — set national goals; it can define our vision of the future; it can eliminate poverty through job and income programs, and it can reduce inflation.

The very items government is supposed to be unable to do are the same ones that only government can accomplish. True, it can't do it alone. It needs to involve citizens and interest groups and political structures in framing policies and solving problems. But again, only the federal government can be the convener and agent of changes of national scope and importance.

Ours is a diverse nation of 200 million people and literally thousands of local government units, so it's up to Washington to deal constructively with nationwide problems. For minorities especially, it's been the federal government that has spurred equal rights and economic advance. The programs of the 1960's for example, however underfunded, brought more real progress to black people than all of the preceding years in which state and local governments abdicated their responsibilities.

Some people look at the \$500 billion budget and say "government's too big." But they forget that budget is still a small part of a more than \$2 trillion economy, and that the U.S. government's share of the national economic pie is smaller than that of almost any other industrial nation in the world.

And a big chunk of that \$500 billion budget is simple income transfer programs like social security, which is paid out of a trust fund and not out of general tax revenues. Which means the federal share of the national dollar is even smaller.

From the way some people talk, one might think that "bureaucrat" is another name for a parasite. Charges against "big government" are always followed up by demands to get rid of the "BUREAUCRATS" WHO ARE SUPPOSEDLY GROWING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

Well, in the first place, many people labelled as "bureaucrats" are dedicated public servants performing work of great value to the nation. For another, the federal non-military payroll is almost what it was thirty years ago, and since 1960, the federal share of the American work force has actually declined.

as i see it

Overhaul School System

by Gerald O. Johnson
I am a strong believer in education.

A good education can take you a long way in life. But there is nothing more discouraging or more disappointing than the type of educational system we have now. The current system has many downfalls, including not providing an education for the mass of students. There are many reasons for our educational system being in such a shambles. I would like to highlight a few of the problems.

There is a lack of appreciation for an education. Most people view an education as a means to an end and not as an end in itself. Students are misguided into believing that an education is the key to success. Consequently they pursue an education with the objective of getting a degree or diploma and they are not concerned with learning.

If it were true that an education was the key to success then every educated person would be employed. This is clearly not the case. An education should be viewed as an enriching and broadening experience of the mind. Just to know facts, ideas, and opinions on varied topics makes it easier to deal with everyday situations. A

good education will enhance your chances for good employment but does not guarantee employment.

The forced education of the masses has a direct effect on educational appreciation, also. It is stupid, expensive, and ineffective to feel that every child under 16 years of age has to be educated. This forced education creates the crime problems currently existing in our systems and it forces institutions to be no more than inane baby sitting facilities.

The mere fact that education is legislatively required of all its constituents is proof that we lack an appreciation for it. It is impossible to educate anyone who is forced to receive it. Any proposal offered that would suggest that we not educate everyone would be met with the immediate reply "What would we do with all of those kids?" Education never is the point.

Another problem with the system is its isolation from the real world. Though education is suppose to be the hub of the rest of our society there are no direct lines of communication to or from the system. Businesses are not knowledgeable of what's going on in the schools and vice-versa. How can teachers prepare you for a society that they have no



Gerald Johnson

experience in. Of course, this applies to high schools and post secondary schools. This problem is easily rectifiable simply by allowing all students to participate in "Co-op" programs and internships. This is simply giving students the opportunity to work in meaningful jobs during certain months of the year. This experience will give the student the opportunity to see his class work being applied. Thus he will appreciate the fact that education is a useful and worthwhile tool. Moreover, teachers should be required to get outside work experience in their field

of expertise. This will make for a better teacher because the course won't be so book oriented. Finally, people working in areas other than education should be required to teach periodically. This type of exchange program will improve present day education 100 percent and make it a meaningful experience for all involved. Furthermore the society as a whole is involved with the educational process.

School systems lack adequate counseling procedures. Never have I seen so many mis-informed students in all my life. The few students that endeavor to abuse education for career opportunities are misled into career objectives. The single motivating factor is money. For instance, I've been teaching mathematics and computer science for the last four years. Students come to me saying that they want to pursue a career in data processing because that's where the money is. Unfortunately, the student has no idea what data processing is about nor does he know what he is all about.

He has been misled to pursue a career for money instead of on ability. It is without a doubt that any field you can master will reward you

financially, but more importantly it will fulfill you. Hence, it is the school system that is responsible for finding out a student's ability and interest. Without these two inputs it is impossible to counsel a student effectively.

The process of obtaining this information is both tedious and time consuming, but it is mandatory. Each student should be required to visit the counseling center periodically for talks, testing, and evaluations.

Most importantly school systems lack competency based measures to insure performance at the administrative and teaching positions. Unlike a business that is measured by profitability, educational systems seem to be intangible as far as evaluation is concerned.

New programs are implemented on a trial and error basis with students serving as guinea pigs. No one seems to have a hold on the situation. The students are now required to take competency base test but the personnel of the system are not. Though a student's learning inability can be for many reasons, one of the reasons should be incorporated to evaluate teachers on classroom effectiveness and knowledge of subject matter. I

think it is appalling to have teachers that hate kids, but this case does arise frequently.

Nothing is being done to correct the inadequacies of the system. The recent warpath that parents went on only brought about cursory results. It is past time for some serious overhaul to take place with the system. Until such time we will be obligated to continue to pay more tax dollars for less results.

UNCC Alumni Sets

Merit Scholarship Program

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte General Alumni Association has launched a merit scholarship program, Dr. William Britt, vice chancellor for development has announced. A \$1,600 grant will go to a rising senior at UNCC who has proven outstanding scholastic attainment, participated in University and/or community activities and demonstrated campus leadership. Mrs. Susan Piscitelli, director of alumni affairs, said that the first Alumni Scholar named on April 15, 1978.

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