

Editorials & Comments

We Need A New Airport Terminal

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Editorial Writer

On June 20, Charlotteans will be asked to approve a \$47 million bond issue for the construction of a new Douglas Municipal Airport terminal.

As might be expected, at a time when citizens across the nation are strongly opposing any kind of increased public debt that might even remotely imply the possibility of raising their taxes or affect their property values, voters are saying "no" or at least showing a greater awareness and concern and have matured from the apathy or indifference to such matters as they've done in the past. Thus, it is understandable that some opposition may appear in the June 20 referendum on issuing the \$47 million bond for the proposed new terminal.

Specifically, residents in District 3 in the West Blvd. area neighborhoods—primarily black—have expressed concerns about the possible increased auto traffic that the terminal would generate.

In addition, Allen Rousseau, president of the local chapter of the NAACP has expressed to City Council concerns about the limited job opportunities for blacks at the airport.

Finally, the Westside Community Organization (WCO), which helped to defeat a new terminal plan in 1975, has expressed concern about the effect of increased air traffic on property values in their neighborhoods.

Interest Groups

These three interest groups, knowledge of the fact that politics in a game involving the art of compromise, have each asked the City Council to grant them some special consideration in exchange for their support of the bond referendum. In particular, the West Blvd. neighborhoods and WCO has asked for increased recreational facilities and protective zoning to help beautify their neighborhoods and the latter has also asked for special tax considerations to protect property values near the airport. At the same time, the NAACP has expressed an interest in seeing blacks get more of the 30 or more jobs that the city has at the airport. WCO's Grace Bailey summed up these concerns when she reportedly told the City Council last week, "Based on your response, we will decide whether to support or oppose the bond issue."

In responding to these concerns Mayor Ken Harris appeared to sum up the City Council's views when he said, "I'm not making any guarantees." Mayor Pro Tem Betty Chafin added, "I think it's unrealistic to expect any kind of definite statement within the next two weeks."

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having given careful consideration to the Airport needs, and its earnings to pay off the bonds, the neighborhood concerns and the City Council's response, the POST supports the bond referendum because in our view when all factors are considered the City of Charlotte, and more specifically its citizens will benefit by a higher level of living both in the near and distant future.

We base our assumptions here on the fact that a new Airport terminal will undoubtedly be a prime factor in attracting new business and industry to the Charlotte area. This will mean more jobs for our citizens, both black and white, and increased revenues for local public services. Furthermore, a larger and more fully utilized airport means that the airlines themselves will employ more people at the airport and business opportunities at the terminal will expand.

Job Opportunities

Therefore, the proposed new Airport terminal can be the catalyst for expanded job opportunities, expanded small business opportunities, both at the Airport as well as in relation to the new business attracted to the area, and new tax revenue that may help to meet some of the expressed concerns about the airport's impact on neighborhoods.

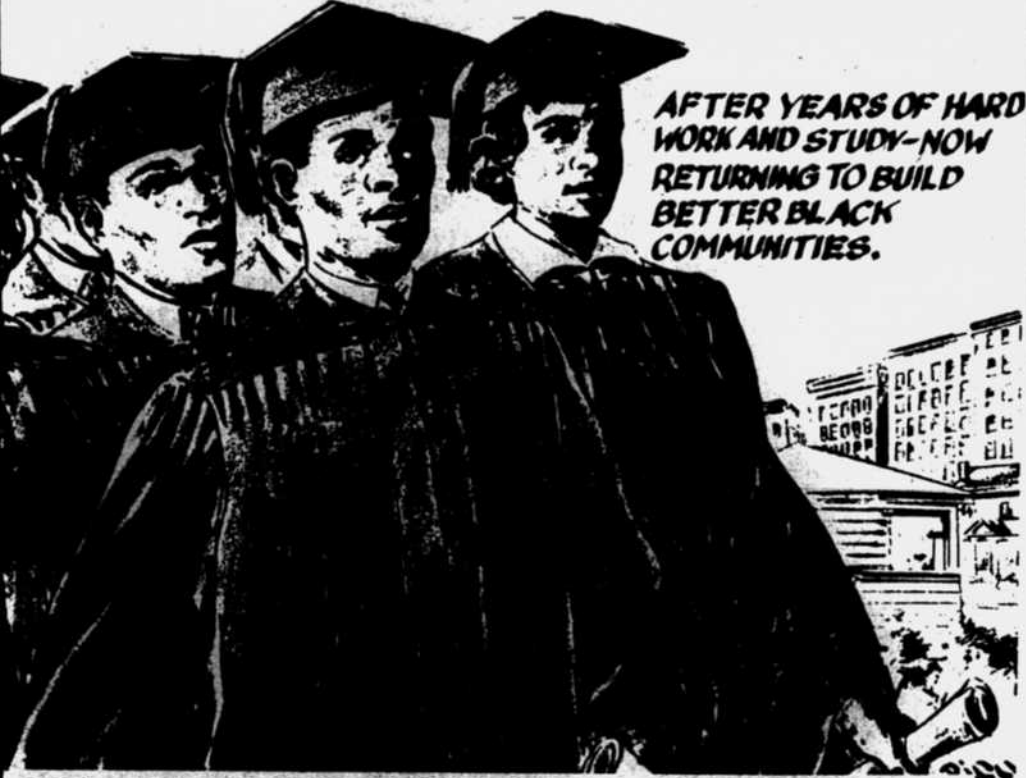
We believe too that George Bean, president of the Airport Operators Council International, put the issue in clear perspective when he said in Charlotte recently, "The community which fails to plan for and provide the best obtainable airport facilities and air services will see its future progress and prosperity diverted to a more farsighted and aggressive environment."

Finally, with a City Council that had the courage to say no "guarantees," its self to a stronger plan for affirmative action and has demonstrated a concern for the needs of the districts and their neighborhoods, we believe that blacks, residents of the West Blvd. area and members of The Westside Community Organization, can as Mayor Pro Tem Betty Chafin has asked, "have faith in this Council" to respond to citizen needs in a timely manner that will benefit both rich and poor, black and white.

The POST believes there is thus sufficient reason for all citizens to support the Airport referendum on June 20. To do less, we believe, would be to fail to have a sense of vision, faith and hope in the future and trust in your elected officials.

To help your future and your city support the Airport bond referendum on June 20.

LAWYERS ARTISTS
DOCTORS ARCHITECTS
DENTISTS BUSINESS
ENGINEERS SOCIAL WORKERS
TEACHERS ACCOUNTANTS



AFTER YEARS OF HARD
WORK AND STUDY-NOW
RETURNING TO BUILD
BETTER BLACK
COMMUNITIES.

We Have The Tools To Do The Job

Welfare Is Third Major Problem

Raleigh—"The welfare rolls are full of able-bodied loafers and cheats who drive Cadillac to the grocery store and buy beer and wine with their Food Stamps."

People who work for a living - and pay taxes - find it difficult to understand those who do not, therefore, statements, such as the one above have become commonplace in our state and nation throughout the years according to Robert Ward, director of the Division of Social Services of the N.C. Department of Human Resources.

Based on the over 100,000 responses to the Governor's "North Carolina Tomorrow Survey," citizens of the state consider "welfare" to be the third major problem in our state. Results of the survey show that approximately one-half of the responses citing "welfare" as a problem related to the concern over recipients fraudulently receiving aid.

Ward said the Division of Social Services is responsible for the overall administration of the Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) program. The program is state supervised and county administered and covers more than 195,000 recipients. He said while this is not the only "welfare" program it is the one that more citizens are concerned about.

Currently, the 100 county departments of social services are responsible for determining suspected fraud in the AFDC program and taking appropriate action based on their findings. Although all county social services departments are actively involved in determinations of suspected

fraud, only 30 departments have specialized procedures in fraud prevention, detection, and or investigation.

"Even though contrary to popular belief, we feel that the welfare fraud problem in North Carolina is minimal compared to our nation's metropolitan cities, we are launching a more concentrated statewide program for the prevention, detection and investigation of fraud effective July 1, 1978," Ward said.

The State Social Services Commission at its May 16, 1978 meeting approved implementation of a fraud prevention, detection, and investigation program requiring all county social services departments to participate. The State Division will issue state regulations and procedures that will provide a better understanding of the county social services departments' responsibility in this area.

Ward said the Division is also in the process of developing a fraud training program for county workers that will begin in August. A pamphlet on fraud is also being printed for county departments to assist AFDC applicants in understanding the penalties for fraud and how to provide accurate information to the workers. Additionally, all current AFDC recipients will receive an insert in their September check explaining the same thing.

Ward said the Division began in May matching AFDC recipient files against Employment Security records to determine which recipients have been working and reporting earnings. This information will be sent to county social services departments to

serve as an indicator of potential fraud.

"We will also begin using the Department of Human Resources toll-free Care-Line number 1-800-662-7030, for people across the state to report suspected fraud," Ward said.

He indicated that although North Carolina already has a good record in relation to low incidence of fraud and error rates, with this added emphasis the program should continue to improve.

The Division of Social Services has a statewide Quality Control System with a staff of quality control analysts who do a thorough review of scientific statewide sample of AFDC cases to determine errors in eligibility and payments, to assess the cause of such errors, and to implement procedures to correct errors. For the July-December 1977 reporting period, the Quality Control case error rate for the AFDC program showed that 96.5 percent were eligible and only 3.5 percent ineligible. This was lower than the national average ineligible rate. Of the total errors committed by recipients, only 1.7 percent were due to misrepresentation of facts.

"I sincerely hope that these increased efforts to detect fraud don't make our citizens continue to feel that the majority of welfare recipients are 'cheats and bums.' We are just trying to do a better job of weeding out the few who have helped create this image. I am confident that the vast majority of our AFDC recipients are honest people who sincerely need the limited help they are getting," Ward concluded.

TO BE EQUAL



Jobs Program Up For Renewal

Congress is considering legislation that would extend the life of federal job programs under CETA-The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. Hopefully, it will also improve the Act so that it becomes what it was intended to be—the chief weapon in the war against structural unemployment.

Experience with CETA has revealed some glaring faults. While it has served as a vehicle for providing disadvantaged people with job-training, work experience, and job-related educational services, it has also been a vehicle for providing cities with federally-subsidized white collar workers.

This, combined with slack supervision of prime sponsors—local governments—led to what has been called the "substitution effect." Cities, in order to prevent lay-offs or higher local taxes, simply switched municipal workers off the local payroll and onto CETA-funded budgets.

That meant a shift in the focus of the program away from the disadvantaged. In some cities, a third or more of municipal workers were paid for by Washington. Meanwhile, the long-term unemployed have gotten lost in the shuffle. Blacks, young people, and the poor continue to swell the ranks of those who need the skills, training and opportunities afforded by federal jobs efforts.

There are about ten people eligible for every federal jobs program slot. When scarce resources are diverted to helping middle class workers retain their jobs, less is available to train and employ the truly disadvantaged.

So a major goal of Congress' re-examination of the program should be to sharply focus CETA openings on those most in need. The new legislation should include clear and unmistakable language that mandates aid to economically disadvantaged persons who are unemployed or underemployed.

Formulas for the allocation of CETA funds should also be revised to assure that federal money is channeled to the areas that need it most—places where poverty and unemployment are highest.

The traditional Congressional practice of spreading funds broadly should be resisted. Every dollar sent to a region of relatively high employment or used to fund a job for someone who could find employment on his own or who has the skills to compete in the job market is a dollar denied someone desperately in need of training and work.

The Administration has also added provisions for a private sector job program—some \$400 million to boost private business' employment of the unskilled and the long-term jobless.

That's an important step in the right direction, since the private sector employs the bulk of American workers and should be the source of new jobs. If we are to be a full employment economy, the private sector will have to be a full partner with government in job-creation and training.

Local "private industry councils" will work with local government CETA sponsors to develop specific plans for training and hiring the unskilled jobless.

as i see it

The Decision Of The Future?

By Gerald O. Johnson
It is that time of year when young people all over the country are faced with big decisions. What shall they do with the rest of their lives. Yes, the time is graduation and the decision is the future. High school graduates are faced with the decision of continuing their education or entering the job market. College graduates are faced with the same dilemma but with more intensity. High school graduates have a tendency to feel the future is tomorrow while college grads realize the future firmly based upon today.

Unfortunately, both high school and college grads are failing to resolve the problem of making the decision. More and more students are finding that they can't make the decision or that they are making the wrong decision.

Because both sets of students lack proper guidance and counseling in making a decision based on individual needs, I am going to give a little advice so that these students can help themselves.

First, know yourself. Know the things you like to do and the things you don't like to do. "Prioritize" the things you like to do, then research possi-

ble careers in those areas. This is simply stated, but it is a difficult chore.

When I taught Computer Science I had a student who was determined to major in Computer Science. His single motivating factor was that Computer Scientist made a lot of money. I was living proof that was a falsehood. But after teaching the student and watching him fail, I had a talk with him. He had a very poor math background, an even poorer attitude about analytical situations, and no idea what Computer Science was all about. I was able to learn from our conversation that what he was really interested in was art. But he didn't have any idea about what he could do with his talent. I talked him into going to a technical school where he could learn Fashion Design, Drafting, Commercial Art and a host of other things. Today he is doing quite well in school which was a complete turn around from how he was doing.

This was a situation where a student was forcing himself into a predicament where he couldn't cope. But after realizing what he enjoyed doing and finding out about career possibilities he was able to do



Gerald Johnson

well. Secondly, set career objectives. Once you determine the career you would like to pursue, set up a plan to achieve it. If you decide that you would like to pursue a career in Computer Science and your interest are geared in that direction, then look into possibilities of achieving that career. It might mean you would like to get a Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Computer Science and enter the job market with a well rounded background. Or you could get an Associate's Degree from a technical school and work your way up in the ranks. You could even get a entry level job and work

your way up. But the decision must be yours.

Thirdly, don't wait until you are a Senior in high school to look into a career. The 8th and 9th grades are excellent times to begin to look into your future.

The importance of all this can't be overemphasized. The fact that more and more young people are futureless is quite evident when you talk to them.

Recent college graduates have no jobs and no idea about what they will spend the rest of their lives doing. Many graduates will end up with jobs that didn't require them to spend four years in college.

So, what gives! COLLEGE AND YOUR FUTURE

It is without a doubt that the whole college scenario is going to pot. In fact the whole educational scenario is going to pot. What this means to you is in order to make it today, you must excel. A college education today doesn't amount to much more than a high school education. A high school education amounts to an elementary school education and so on. Unfortunately, as the educational quality declines the business environment's quality inflates. Consequently, only the top 5 per-

cent of college graduates are getting employment. Schools that stress quality in education of course have a higher percentage and those schools that view a college education as means of employing people have a lower percentage. Most Black Institutions fall in the latter category. This recent trend in predominately Black Institutions shortly after integration. Since then Black Institutions beat the bushes for warm bodies and completely ignores any quality in education. This is partly due to the Government and partly due to the Institutions themselves.

All of this is to say if you choose to go to college be completely sure you choose carefully. If you choose a predominately Black school make sure it has programs to suit your needs.

If you choose a technical or trade school be extremely careful to choose a good one. Most aren't any good. CPCC happens to be a very good one.

But even then a technical school is limited because it is job oriented. Hence, it teaches specialization in a trade and this has limitations.

But don't go to college and waste your time and money unless if you don't really want

it. In closing I would like to say that today is the start of the rest of your life, use it.

Interest Rate

Wachovia Bank and Trust Company will increase the interest rate it pays on Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) from 7 1/4 percent to eight percent, effective July 1. The increased rate can result in an additional savings of over \$10,000 for persons who make maximum contributions for a period of 30 years.

The increased interest rate was made possible by regulatory actions taken May 11 by the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Federal Home Loan Bank.

