

Editorials & Comments

Young And Personalized Diplomacy

While many regret the departure of Andrew Young as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, the only real surprise is that he was not eased out when President Carter purged his Cabinet a few weeks ago.

We make this observation because Mr. Young has from the beginning of his appointment practiced a form of personalized diplomacy uncommon in the field of foreign affairs. In fact, many of Young's friends and political supporters had expressed strong reservations about Young accepting the U.N. ambassadorship. They reasoned that as a member of the House of Representatives with considerable status and as a personal friend of the President, he would be able to effectively influence national policy in many areas.

Furthermore, these Young supporters argued if an administrative position was desired let it not be the UN post. This position, Young was virtually told, was one of high visibility but little power or influence because the President, the Secretary of State and the nation security advisor were the foreign affairs policy makers.

Undoubtedly, in accepting the UN post Young had every intention of pursuing a form of personalized diplomacy. This had been done by former UN Ambassadors Adlai Stevenson and Patrick Moynihan - men who put the stamp of their own personalities on the post. Young did likewise. However, because Young is a black man and thus is one who has been oppressed by the ravages of racism and racial injustice he is therefore philosophically rooted in a form of individualism unlike Stevenson and Moynihan.

Wrong Man

Young's roots are with the poor, the oppressed, the civil rights crusades of the 1960s and the vivid reminder of the wasteful killing of Dr. Martin Luther King. Therefore, if the Carter administration was seeking a status quo foreign affairs officer for the UN job, Andrew Young was the wrong man.

There is no doubt that Jimmy Carter was aware of Mr. Young's personalized approach to issues of conscience just as he was aware that America needed to build some new bridges of trust and communication with the Third World nations, particularly among the black African states. It was therefore out of this setting the Carter picked Andy Young to perform a difficult task.

In performing this task, the A. Philip Randolph Institute noted, "Ambassador Young acted consistent with his conscience, a rare quality in political life today...He has created new links for America with

the Third World. He helped shape and implement a new, more humane

and effective policy toward Africa. He became a symbol of America's concern with the aspirations of the developing nations and our devotion to human rights."

While all Americans should be grateful to Andrew Young for his contribution, and while we recognize that many of his controversial statements were the outgrowth of his civil right value-orientation, Young wisely resigned before totally destroying

his usefulness. Statements like calling Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini a "saint" while practicing mass killings, that America has "thousands of political prisoners" and that Cuban involvement in Angola was a "stabilizing influence" indicate impulsive thinking or a considerable misunderstanding of the role of a foreign service officer.

These and similar untimely remarks and the climatic meeting with the PLO were in Mr. Young's mind a way to demonstrate to the world the practice of freedom and democracy American style. What Mr. Young overlooked however, is the fact that chaos, not freedom will prevail if every diplomat, corporate officer, military officer and others ignored established policy to express his or her personal viewpoints the very freedoms and democracy we cherish so dearly would be endangered.

Unjust Laws

Resistance to unjust laws and racism was the nature of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and with it statements contrary to established laws and policies, especially in the South, is and was effective in securing a degree of social, political and economic justice in a nation that has a greater policy and commitment to freedom and justice. It was this kind of mind-set that influenced Andrew Young's thinking.

Therefore, if it can be said Mr. Young failed, it was only his inability to understand that speaking out freely to gain justice in a society that is basically committed to justice is one thing, but speaking out freely in a world that is largely unjust is quite another. Yet, it was some of Mr. Young's controversial personalized diplomacy remarks that has undoubtedly led to improved relations with the African states.

Young's personalized diplomacy is a new dimension in the American foreign service. Even with its potential for chaos and the straining of policy considerations, it may be a useful short-term diplomacy strategy to get some tasks done. If this is true, thank you, Andy.



as i see it

Tunnel-Vision: Problem Of Specialization

By Gerald O. Johnson
Post Columnist

A guy got promoted to vice president at his office and came home bolstering the fact to his wife. As days passed the guy continued his bragging until his wife got fed up. She finally replied, "Vice Presidents are a dime a dozen, they have one in charge of prunes at the grocery store." Well, the husband just couldn't take this. He was outraged that his wife would treat his promotion so lightly. He immediately raced to the phone and called the grocery store in an attempt to refute his wife's comments. The reply he received after asking to speak to the vice president of prunes was, "Which Kind? Packaged or bulk?"

This story was used in "bits and pieces" to demonstrate how specialized our society is becoming. This specialization has helped this country become very productive. Unfortunately, specialization has the drawback of not properly exposing people to other concerns. Consequently, we all are developing "Tunnel Vision."

Tunnel Vision is the property of not seeing beyond the special problems and concerns of your own situation. It's a narrow-minded, one-sided view of issues, according to the "Wall Street Journal". It's caused by working hard trying to be competent in an area and succeeding. As



Gerald O. Johnson

one becomes more competent, the more important the work becomes, and the less sensitive one becomes to other viewpoints.

Some of the most prominent tunnel visionists are religious fanatics, self-made business men, college presidents and vice presidents, lobby groups, unions, black people, white people, etc.

One remedy to this problem is the ability to listen. Nobody really listens to anybody anymore. You can talk to people and while you are talking they are busy trying to figure out what they are going to say next. We are so busy thinking and talking and not listening, that we can't help but be narrow-minded.

Another remedy is to read. A diversification of reading material is a good way to get various opinions on a variety

of topics. Unfortunately, television has contributed highly to Tunnel Vision. People tend to watch television instead of reading.

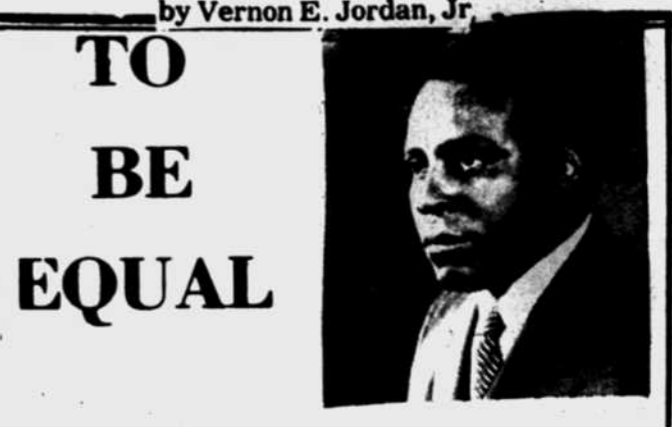
But most importantly, keep an open mind. Don't reject ideas or opinions simply because they aren't in agreement with your own. A habit I have been criticized for is arguing a point that I don't believe. Many have said I argue for the sake of argument. The truth is I argue to give all sides a chance to be heard. I believe that regardless of the issue there are two sides. To help myself from being tunneled about issues I like to argue both sides. It gives me a proper perspective of the issues. Try it! It will open your eyes to the world around you.

Quote: Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change and when we are right, make us easy to live with.

USA Sets Criteria

WASHINGTON—A new U.S. Department of Agriculture rule should result in more consistent state standards for defining schools in severe need of a breakfast program. Such schools may qualify for higher rates of reimbursement.

The new rule will help make breakfast available to more needy children on a more equitable basis.



TO BE EQUAL

Congress Should Shape Up

There's a lot of talk about the lack of leadership in national life, and a major responsibility for that situation must be borne by the Congress.

The institution of the Presidency was wounded by the war in Vietnam, by Watergate, and by the combined effects of inflation and unemployment. That left a vacuum in leadership and Congress rushed in to fill the gap. But in assuming expanded influence it has proved incapable of exercising it.

One reason lies in its size. Over 500 members of Congress and a complex committee structure simply cannot provide national leadership.

The decline of party loyalty is another contributing factor. Party leaders can no longer round up votes for their own members. There are too many wild cards going their own way.

Still another factor is that Congress has fallen victim to the selfish negativism spreading in the nation. "What's in it for me?" is the prevalent attitude. There was a time when Congressional leadership offered many instances of legislators voting their conscience, even when it meant no immediate benefits for their constituents.

One thinks of Senator Dirksen rounding up conservative votes to pass a civil rights bill, or isolationist leaders coming round to back the Marshall Plan.

There's little of that these days. A major international agreement such as the Panama Canal Treaty or the SALT Treaty offers opportunities for grandstanding and attempts to abrogate the authority of the executive by offering headline-grabbing amendments.

The public's disillusionment with elected leaders derives largely from Congressional cynicism. We're told how serious the energy crisis is, but it took Congress over a year to reach a compromise bill that no one can understand and is already outdated by events.

A good portion of Congressional business is spent on attempts to stop school busing, thus undermining progress in desegregation and attacking the legal and moral authority of the Courts.

Federal programs that aid the poor with jobs or income are regularly attacked. When it wants to demonstrate that it is a defender of the public purse, Congress cuts aid to the poor. Often amendments are tacked on to bills that result in added burdens for the poor. One such amendment may mean sharp cuts in federal welfare aid this year. Others limit abortion options for poor women. The list is long and getting longer.

While conservatism in spending is a favorite Congressional rhetorical device, the strictest budget-cutters are big spenders when it comes to pet projects that they think may benefit their districts or special interest groups.

While slicing job programs for the poor, Congress keeps spending billions on pork barrel ripoffs and on unnecessary and wasteful projects. Inner city housing or job programs are slashed by the same Congressmen who voted themselves the most expensive office building in the country.

The usual excuse for Congress' lack of leadership is that it simply reflects the mood of a public that's become more negative in recent years.

The Black Beat

Your Vote In The Upcoming Election To Decide City's Future

By Milton Jordan
Special to the Post

How you vote in the upcoming elections will help determine this city's future.

Charlotte sits at a critical juncture in its history, faced not only with unparalleled growth opportunities, but also armed with the experiences of similar cities that erred dramatically when sitting at a similar juncture 10 years or more ago.

So Charlotte can become a showcase city, a jewel of the New South, capable of proving that urban living need not be an "either, or" situation. Or Charlotte can become another urban statistic, a city that grew to its own destruction.

The deciding factor, then, of Charlotte's future is how well it manages urban growth.

Most cities haven't managed well. For the last decade or so, urbanites have had to choose between the urban area's progress, and the peace and tranquility of suburbia. Faced with this choice, many people, with characteristic "self-interest," tried valiantly "to have their cake and eat it too."

Business people, industrialists, workers, etc. all flocked to the cities by day, escalated the demand for urban services, and fled to the suburbs by night. Thus, they robbed

the cities that served them of the needed tax base to pay for the daily demand.

And today, the chickens have come home to roost. Our cities across the nation are declining rapidly.

They are weighted down by masses of impoverished citizens who couldn't afford to flee, and who can't pay for the services demanded by those who fled. Our cities are choked by miles of constricting concrete, ribbons of escape that bring the service demands to us by day, and provide them with rapid routes to their suburban cocoons by night. Our local governments wrestle daily with the problems of having to provide so much for so many with no one to pass the tab or the hat to.

To add insult to injury, urbanites, operating under their suburban disguise, demand that cities put on a false face of progress and success. Cities have tall, air conditioned bank and office buildings, ritzy restaurants, shops and shopping centers, broad streets, computerized traffic control systems, spiraling parking decks and the like so these urban traitors can work and indulge themselves in an atmosphere to which they have become accustomed.

Small wonder, then, that the people left to roast in the gruelling heat of similar



Milton Jordan

wants with fewer avenues by which they might be achieved, become the parasites of crime and decay that feast on the putrid spectacle of decline.

The result of all this deceit, this unfairness of demanding urban services and suburban lifestyles, has created a monster called urban sprawl.

So now the prodigal urbanites are returning home, bringing their condominiums with them.

Charlotte has escaped much of this.

One reason is the state's liberal annexation laws that allow our cities to reach out and bring suburbia back to "urbania."

for years Charlotte was "off the beaten path." Few people knew about it, and fewer still cared. It was not exactly "easy" to get here, flying, riding, or walking. Everyone was interested in Atlanta, Miami, Houston, Dallas, and other shinier jewels in the fledgling crown of the South.

Still another factor is that Charlotteans, themselves, have played their development cards close to the chest. Whether wisely or selfishly, Charlotteans have not raced out in wild abandon and sold their city to the highest bidder. In the past, newcomers were carefully selected, both for what they brought to the city, and how little they disrupted what the city already had.

But momentum is taking the power of selection out of our hands. People now know that Charlotte is the largest city between Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. It's easier to get here, and getting easier all the time. People are coming to Charlotte uninvited and whether we want them or not.

City progress, then, is inevitable. In today's world, there's no way for a city to survive without growing. So Charlotte must grow.

The question facing all of you in these upcoming elections for mayor and city council is how do you choose to

grow, and how will this growth be managed?

Do not kid yourselves, transportation is an issue in this campaign only to the extent that transportation relates to growth management. Annexation is an issue only as it relates to growth planning and management. Taxation is an issue only as it relates to the ability to adequately finance growth management without overburdening taxpayers.

Housing is an issue only as it relates to growth management.

Growth management is THE ISSUE in this campaign.

What are Charlotte's options as the city faces and grapples with this critical question of growth management?

The choices are quite simple:

+ Charlotte can choose to grow to the Southeast, leaving the rest of the city to fend for itself.

+ Charlotte can choose to grow as evenly and fairly as various costs and other barriers allow, actually accelerating growth in some areas to help them catch up with the Southeast section of the city that has been growing for years.

There are advantages and disadvantages in both of these options.

Unquestionably, Southeast Charlotte is the city's post-

card. Its beautiful, tree-lined boulevards, rolling yards, stately homes and relatively peaceful environment are attractive and easy to sell.

Folks around here, who years ago invested in the concept of southeastern growth stand to reap handsomely as a result of their faith and patience. But the disadvantage of southeastern Charlotte growth at the expense of the rest of the city is the same as the consequences of an uneven activity in any living organism.

If, for example, you never used your left hand, just because you're right-handed, your left side would eventually get the message and become useless. But the death of the left side would be painful. But more importantly, though the right side would be stronger, there would surely come a time when you would need both hands, and the left hand wouldn't be there. So it is with Charlotte.



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