

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

# Editorials & Comments

## Come Forward Black Middle Class!

Speaking to a group of Virginia black elected officials last month McKee noted, "I believe that the crucial concern in this campaign for black people is not just for those among us who are poor and near-poor, though concerned we must be, but also for the large, invisible and forgotten black middle-class of this nation who receive little attention and concern."

Most significantly, McKee says it is from this group - the black middle-class - that black youth find role models to use as examples of success in their lives.

In reality, what Mr. McKee is saying is what others have been saying for years; the middle-class Americans have always carried the major portion of the nation's tax burden because the poor have little and the rich find ways to pay little. To that extent, the black middle-class is no more forgotten than the white middle-class.

With regard to the black middle-class' invisibility as defined by McKee, this only occurs to the extent that black youth neither see, hear nor have an opportunity to communicate with most blacks because they are too preoccupied with being middle-class. Proof of this is in the nearly 40 percent unemployment rate among black youth and their school drop out rate. On the other hand, the high visibility of professional black athletes attracts a disproportionate number of black youth toward a sports career only to lead to failure and frustration for many if not most of them. More communication such as Bill Russell and Arthur Ashe have offered might reduce this kind of tragedy.

Thus, while McKee can find justifiable reasons for questioning Jimmy Carter's ability to lead the nation in economic affairs he really says nothing to suggest that Mr. Reagan has a plan for dealing with inflation or making blacks more visible. Therefore, we, the voters, still must think it through and then vote (register first) on primary and election day. It's your country, your duty, and your life, so vote!

## Dr. King Is Above Controversy

At last on Saturday the long awaited statue of Dr. Martin Luther King will be unveiled in Marshall Park.

However, after much criticism over fundraising, bickering among the planning and fundraising commissioners, questions over whether there should even be such a statue, and the seemingly selfish reasons for the expected absence of Coretta Scott King, now there is the possibility that the statue may not be a real likeness to King.

Undoubtedly, as King looks down from the Heavens, he is

As President Carter continues to pursue ways to cut the federal budget in a feeble effort to reduce the nation's inflationary rate, many blacks are growing increasingly disenchanted. A recent editorial in THE AFRO-AMERICAN reflected this feeling when it said "War should be declared on efforts to balance the federal budget at any cost; that is, at any cost to the poor, minorities, the elderly and handicapped persons."

Because of black disenchantment, the manner in which it's been expressed by a major black weekly newspaper, and the very strong possibility that Ronald Reagan will be the Republican Party's candidate for the presidency, has led Clarence McKee to seek out black voter support for Reagan.

What makes this a topic worth mentioning is that McKee is black and Reagan is viewed as a far-to-the-right conservative, and blacks historically do not support conservatives. McKee, a lawyer who worked for Ben Hooks when Hooks was a member of the FCC, says himself, "Reagan's image is very negative among minorities because he's a conservative, and to blacks that has meant opposition" to social and economic change.

McKee adds that conservatism "now reflects the concerns that a lot of middle-class blacks share. The average hard-working black banker, bus driver, government employee and business person is being devastated by double-digit inflation and skyrocketing interest rates, all of which are serving to erode the economic gains of the past decade."

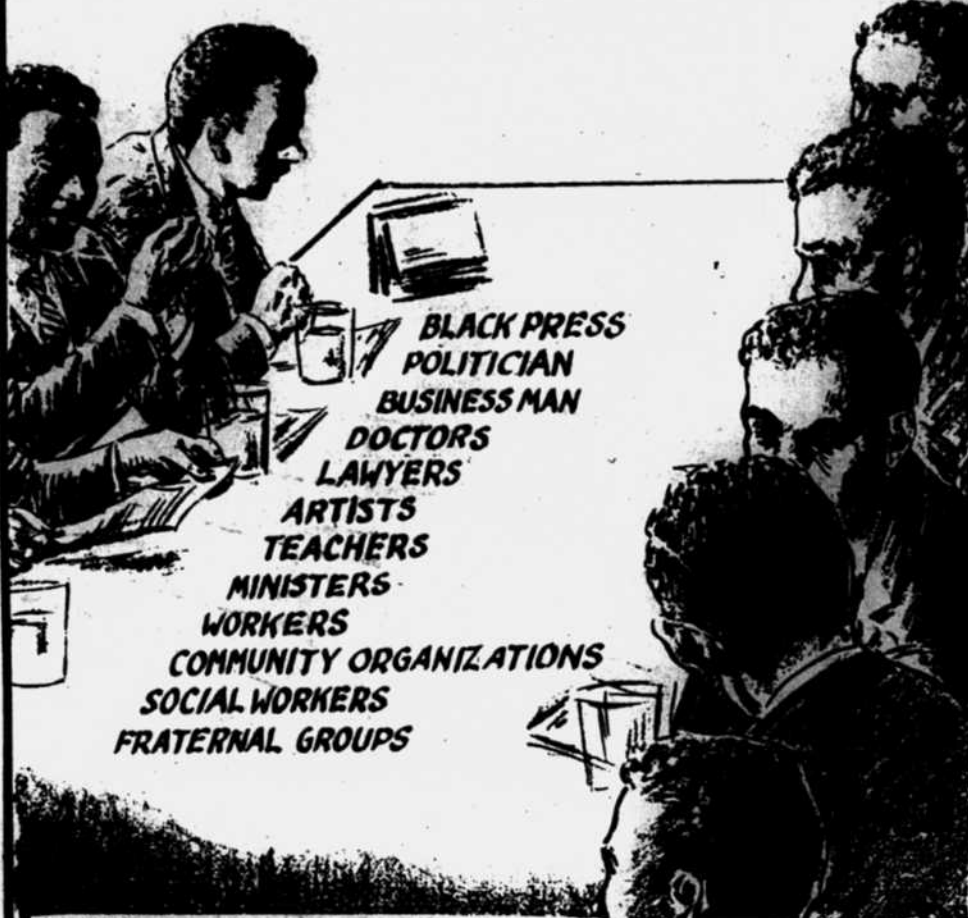
In effect, McKee is saying that the Carter administration is the cause of the erosion of black economic gains and that therefore blacks should "look past (Reagan's) image and take a look at the man and his record."

Mr. McKee, who aims his observations at middle-class blacks like himself who he calls the "forgotten people," says further "liberals keep addressing us in terms of the 'black and poor' as though the terms are synonymous. To me, that's a put down."

thinking, "such trivia, such trivia, why don't they spend the money on something worthwhile to aid humankind. I need not a statue because I've left behind a dream. My dream should be their conscious and the equality of human kind should be their statue."

It seems to us that the huppla over King's statue should not be tarnished by any petty comment about its likeness or any other thing. If we truly admire and respect this great American, let's honor him with dignity, humility and Christian brotherhood.

## Stop Daily Flights Of Black Capital From Black Communities



"Whites appear determined to forfeit the cities to Blacks and it is inconceivable that the people, who through forced slave labor built this country for others, cannot now willingly unite to rebuild our communities for ourselves."

## As I See It

### Father Knows Best?

By Gerald O. Johnson  
Post Columnist

The other day my wife and I arrived home from work to discover our daughters waiting eagerly to talk to us. Before we could get in the house good, my oldest daughter ran up to us and said "I learned about intercourse today". My heart fell to my stomach as all I could think about was what the hell are these fool kids doing on the school bus these days?! You see I'm not against them learning about intercourse as long as it is taught in the proper environment.

But, of course, this was immediately cleared up as she continued, "...in my health class. They showed us all about intercourse". A sigh of relief came across my lips. "I know how children are born and the vagina and the penis," she explained.

Well, I knew that this was going to be a long evening. It seems proper to teach your children about sex, but the first time they start telling you what they know it makes you queasy.

Both my wife and I listened tentatively as my daughter went on with her newly learned topic. We hit a few points that made me blush, but I finally made it through the whole thing.

When my oldest daughter finished she politely got up and walked away without one question. Unfortunately, my youngest daughter decided she would take over the spotlight. "Well, Tania has explained all this to me and I want to know

continued. Well, I started thinking to myself again - I was doing a lot of thinking, no talking, just thinking - I ought to hit this brat in the mouth. One more wisecrack like that and she is going to get it.

"At night when you go to sleep", my wife said. Okay, Gerald, compose yourself, I thought; because if she asks to watch next time, it will take an army to get me off her.

Well my daughter's curiosity was satisfied and she dropped the subject. My wife commented that it was nice having 2 adults and a child discuss sex but she thought I should play an adult role next time.

Not to be outdone I said, "Girls, feel free to ask us questions pertaining to sex whenever they arise. Your mother and I will be more than happy to answer them as truthfully as we can."

Well, my wife intelligently explained the why, the what, and the how of sex. She went on and on embarrassing me more and more.

"Do you and daddy do it?" she continued. That's it! That's it! We don't have to sit here and take this humiliation from a 7-year-old, I thought to myself. "Do it", where did she get that slang from, I continued thinking. God, please get me through this in a hurry.

Again, my wife took the floor. "Yes, we do. In fact, that is how both of you got here".

"When do you do it?", my persistent little one



Gerald O. Johnson why the man has to put the penis on the lady's vagina?" That's it! I thought to myself, that's it! I can't get any redder. We must stop this conversation. I must say something bright, witty to get off this subject. But what? What should I say? "Ask your mother," I blurted out. Oh, no stupid, you didn't say that, I thought to myself.

A true friend unobscured freely, advises justly, assists readily, adventures boldly, takes all patiently, defends courageously, and continues a friend unchangeably.

High humidity can take the crispness right out of your morning read-to-eat cereals if they're not stored in a tightly closed package.

To restore their crispness, heat the cereal in a shallow baking pan in a pre-heated oven at 350 degrees F. for about 5 minutes, suggests specialists with the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.

William Penn

### CRISP CEREAL

## From Capitol Hill

# Budget Committee Will Cause Fight On House Floor?

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

The House of Representative Budget Committee came forth with a bill that calls for a \$16 billion cut which exceeds the President's \$13 billion cut. When Congressman Giammo, Chairman of the committee was reminded of the very large number of unemployed minorities and with the predicted rise in joblessness, he replied that there is plenty of money for jobs and that he expected the senate to make more drastic cuts than the House. After being questioned further on the proposal to cut one million jobs that already had a high rate of unemployment back to 500,000 jobs how could such an increased cut back produce more jobs, he said the budget committee bill will cause a fight on the House floor.



Alfreda L. Madison ing unemployment among minorities his reply was the always old worn-out excuse about the hard core. He was told that it was a terrible indictment on the United States to have allowed a large hard core segment to develop, about the Roosevelt CCC program and with the present action of the Administration and congress how did they expect this group to make a living? He answered that inflation must be reduced first because it's hardest on that group of

people. There seems no concern at either place for the welfare of minorities and the poor. Caucus has publicly announced that it is disassociating itself from the Democratic Administration and the Democratic Leadership in the House on the issues of the fiscal 1981 budget. These members say they do not oppose the concept of a balanced budget but heartily object to having it balanced on the backs of the poor, minorities, elderly and children. They agree to inflation fighting measures which address the causes of skyrocketing prices for energy housing, food and health care, but they do oppose political rhetoric which arouse emotion and false hopes which violate the democratic principles. Representative Parren Mitchell has prepared an alternative budget to that approved by congress. This budget focuses on both inflation and unemployment. It targets a tax cut for small businesses with the intent of increasing labor productivity through train-

ing incentives. This budget will also focus on education, training and skill development programs. The details of the budget will be released to the public after the Easter holidays. The Congressional Black Caucus feels this budget can be passed by congress if the senior citizens, veteran groups, health care and education associations, and many other groups and individual citizens will put pressure on their various congressmen. These Caucus members are taking the Administration and congressional budget to the people through its network which has representatives in all fifty states. This same method will be used in galvanizing support for the Mitchell budget. There is little doubt that this Mitchell human rights amendment can pass if all black leaders muster their black constituents support for it. Black leaders must not fall victims to some little personal hand-out of recognition by the Administration at the expense of betrayal of the jobless.

# TO BE EQUAL



## Balanced Budget Or Balanced Lives?

Balance-the-budget hysteria is sweeping the country. The Administration, which first submitted an austere budget amounting to a real decrease in social program spending, tore it up and came up with a newer, even more austere budget.

This one takes the hatchet to programs that primarily benefit poor people. Instead of giving the poor job programs, welfare reform, and expanded necessary services, the new budget gives them MX missiles.

It's all in the name of fighting inflation. But the budget doesn't fight inflation at all. You could travel the length and breadth of this nation and not come up with a single economist who believes a balanced budget will shave more than an insignificant fraction of a percentage point off the inflation rate.

A good part of the inflation rate is the result of OPEC increases for oil. The planned ten-cent-a-gallon tax on gas will just force a few more poor people off the roads while actually fueling inflation through higher gas prices.

It's too small to conserve energy and too big to do anything but harm poor people. If the Administration is serious about limiting gas imports it would impose a rationing system that allocated gas through transferable coupons and put a firm lid on imports.

The rest of the balanced budget program is similarly concerned with symbols rather than substance. There's no serious effort to get a handle on big ticket spending items. Defense spending is still scheduled to rise.

But social programs and urban aid are slated to be trimmed. This is less an effort to balance the budget than it is a move to pander to an electorate perceived as being fiscally conservative.

Everyone wants to eliminate budget deficits - so long as the other guy pays for it. The budget becomes a political instrument and the politically powerful get to keep their tax loopholes and favorite programs while the cities and the poor are cut.

For all the rhetoric about how we all must make sacrifices, the sacrifices are concentrated disproportionately among those who depend most on federal programs.

Black unemployment is actually about twenty percent and black youth joblessness is about sixty percent in some cities. But job creation and training programs become the priority target for the budget cuts.

Those cuts have been justified as a signal to the international financial community that the United States is finally serious about controlling inflation. There's talk about giving the bond market a psychological lift.

Black people and poor people have always been asked to make sacrifices. They've borne the burden of wars, depressions, recessions, and now, inflation.

But this may be the first time in history that poor people have been asked to make sacrifices to give a psychological lift to the bond market!

I'm all for real steps to get a handle on inflation.

poorly educated, ill-housed and poor health care of the blacks who put them in office. As a black reporter who meets many black officials on Capitol Hill and at the White House, I find it alarming to see some of them criticizing the President's and congress' continuous neglect of the prevailing devastating conditions of blacks and the poor and yet these same leaders are heartily endorsing Mr. Carter. Upon serious scrutiny, it can usually be found that these individuals have been given some minute personal favor, such as a trip, a patronage powerless appointment, or something else minor by the Administration.

## AFDC Program Increases?

RALEIGH-The number of teen-age mothers and their children receiving public assistance in North Carolina under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program has mushroomed during the past three years. In 1979, there were 4,664 teen-age mothers receiving financial assistance compared to only 205 three years earlier in 1976 - an increase of over twenty-fold.

Ninety-five percent of those receiving AFDC payments in 1979 were 18 and 19 year olds and the remainder were younger.

The over-all problem of teen-age pregnancy has become a matter of great public concern across our state and nation. It is ac-



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