

Editorials & Comments

Economic Issues The Big Winner!

Too often when members of the white news media want to get the views of the black community they will seek out one or two so-called "black leaders" for an opinion and then write, "the black community says..." Such an approach represents an attempt to ignore black self-awareness and black self-images and to substitute a view of black people from the perspective of white people.

Unfortunately, too, a few unscrupulous blacks have used a similar tactic in order to assume a self-proclaimed leadership role. It was just such a tactic that the POST opposed last week when two blacks proclaimed themselves to be representing the views of the black community in opposing Rowe Motley's appointment to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Fred Alexander.

It is out of a concern to avoid claiming to speak for the black community, what we view as a need for blacks to more thoroughly review the candidates and their positions on the issues, and our view that there is one overriding issue in the 1980 elections that leads us to not endorse any candidates. Elsewhere on pages in the POST are stories and articles about all candidates who sought to offer their viewpoint to us for you to read and judge for yourself.

By overriding issue we mean that the nation's economy; that is, the basic economic difficulties facing the American people is and will continue to be the big winner in the primaries and the coming November general elections.

People are finding it hard to pay up to two dollars for a gallon of gasoline, \$1.25 for a gallon of home heating fuel, and 17 per-

cent interest on a home mortgage. Furthermore, people can't stand the growing uncertainty from continuing job lay-offs or the inflation that continues to eat away at the size and power of the payroll check. In addition, the recently released "State of the South" report prepared by the Southern Regional Council states that in spite of all our civil rights, equal opportunity-affirmative action efforts over the past 30 years, black males still only earn about 57 percent of what whites earn.

This disturbing facts lead us to believe that economic issues will be the primary concerns of voters in general and blacks in particular. For example, in the Wisconsin primaries, black voters turned noticeably to Republican John Anderson. Does this mean blacks are not satisfied with Carter's economic policies?

At the same time, conservative Republican Ronald Reagan has his chief black campaign strategist Clarence McKee trying to convince black professionals, government workers, bus drivers and business people that their best interests are with middle-class Republicans.

Again, addressing economic concerns, Ben Hooks, executive director of the NAACP said recently, "The few gains black people have made are threatened by the present climate of fiscal austerity."

Black people must add to their political awareness skills a talent for understanding and analyzing the economic issues of the day and then voting for the candidate whose political and economic viewpoints will, to our best belief, work to create a more liveable and economically sound environment. It's your vote - use it wisely.

Let's Stop Self-Destruction

In the May issue of "Demography," the journal of the Population Association of American, Reynolds Farley details findings which conclude that blacks in the United States are six times more likely to be shot to death than white people.

Farley notes the risk is highest between the ages of 25 and 34 when homicide accounts for more deaths than any other cause. "Unlike most causes of death in this country, homicide rates have risen steadily, especially since the mid 1950's," he added. "The increase is evident for both blacks and whites, but it is highest among blacks."

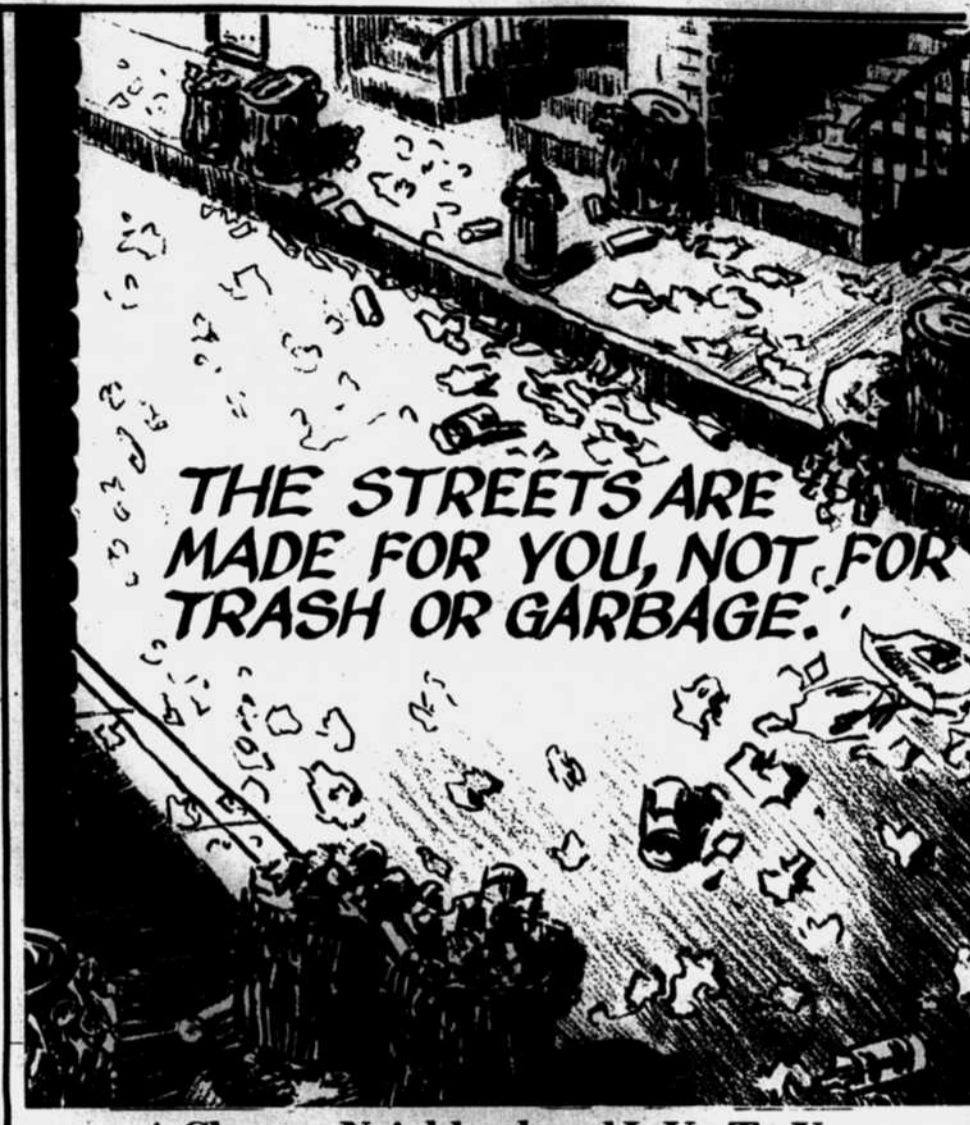
Farley states further that almost all the rise in black homicides and a large part of the rise in white homicides has resulted from gun killings. Thus, he concludes, "There is a clear correlation between the increased avail-

ability of firearms and the increase in murders."

While Farley's report does not address a significantly related

factor, that is, black-on-black crime, we need to be reminded that much of our homicide rate is caused by other blacks. This is evidenced by two facts. First, crime is often committed against us by someone we know; someone who has been in our homes or businesses. Secondly, there appears to be a total disregard for black life and black-owned property by too many blacks:

As blacks, we need to stop the feelings of worthlessness, which leads to much black-on-black homicide. To be blunt we must police our own neighborhoods and be responsible for stopping our own self-destruction. If we don't love ourselves, no one else will.



A Cleaner Neighborhood Is Up To You....

As I See It Demise Of The Educational System

By Gerald O. Johnson
Post Columnist

The following article is the third of a series of articles pointing out the end of an era. These articles represent my reflections on several great books that pinpoint the end of the Industrial Revolution. Future articles will bring out more elucid points to substantiate this claim.

It is interesting to realize that our educational system is based on a centralization and standardization process. During the turn from the agricultural era to the industrial revolution (see last week's article), the majority of our citizenry were farmers. As factories started popping up all over the country the biggest problem factory managers faced was employing people to work in the factories. Obviously, the initial workers were farmers. Farmers were not used to the repetitive, laborous, routine, day-to-day requirements of the factory. Consequently, the factories did not operate efficiently.

It was decided that the only recourse available was to train people to become factory workers. Standard educational institutions sprung up around the country to do just this. The schools were set up to prepare people at the early ages to work in the factories. School hours were set to get people accustomed to the work day. Standard curriculums were developed that were repetitive and redundant to prepare people for the type work they would be doing. School bells were used to get people accustomed to responding and adapting to



Gerald O. Johnson

their sound. The list of things that parallel the reasoning for the school system goes on and on.

But the main purpose for the educational system was to prepare people to work in the industrial era. The educational system adjusted and changed as the industrial revolution matured to the system we know today.

The one overriding point about the educational system is its ability to control and not expand the mind. All of us think exactly alike. We differ not on an issue but on its perspective to us. It is like the ditch-digger and his supervisor. They both have different perspectives of ditch digging. One looks at it as it has to be done while the other views how it should be done. The question might be if it should be done at all. Our entire system - economics, politics, religion, leisure - churns on our inability to rationalize. It churns on our inability to question. It churns because the majority of us accept things the way they are, and not on the way they should be. The majority of us don't realize how things should be.

This is why television has thrived so well in our society. Advertisers utilize our inability to reason to sell us garbage. Religious leaders utilize our inability to reason to sell us a concept of God. Politicians utilize our inability to reason to sell us down the tubes. We abuse our inability to reason to sell ourselves short. Even the internal Revenue Service utilizes our inability to reason to force us to pay taxes. Ironically, the people working for the IRS are hired because of their inability to reason. They are trained like robots to collect funds and off they go.

All of this is due to the overriding purpose of our educational system. This purpose was to produce mechanized humans to subsist for the betterment of society.

But recently, our educational system has been under the gun. No one is satisfied with the increasing cost and the decreasing value of the system. It has become apparent that the system does not work. But it never has. So, why all the fuss now? It is because of integration; bussing; higher taxes; poor education? These are individual causes that help people become aware of the problem. But much more lies at the root of the cause.

On the road lie signs indicating the end of this era. The reason for support of the educational system as we know it today has vanished. Consequently, we are witnessing the deterioration of the support base (people) for the system.

With vastly improving see DEMISE on Page 4

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

TO BE EQUAL



Call To Curb Police

Violent attacks on policemen and police violence against civilians are growing problems that need to be dealt with.

One major element in the deadly equation - the question of police violence, was the subject of an extraordinary meeting last December in which police officials and community leaders met under the auspices of federal officials and minority organizations.

That meeting was often stormy, but since it was the first such national dialogue that is to be expected. More important was the evident concern of police representatives about the gravity of the problem.

Just days after the meeting an incident occurred in Miami that illustrates the seriousness of the problem. A black businessman on a motorcycle was chased by four policemen who beat him to death, at first reporting the death as the result of an accident.

The four were indicted for manslaughter, and reports of the inquiry into the incident suggest that violence against civilians was far from rare. In fact, one officer admitted that Miami police had a scale to rate injuries inflicted on civilians.

It is estimated that about 600 people die each year at the hands of law enforcement officers. That's more than one person every day. About half are minorities.

Typically the incident occurs without justification. Often the victim is unarmed, or not in a position to endanger the officers. In too many cases the victim is shot in the back. Few victims were suspected of serious crimes or of being dangerous.

Many cases are the tragic result of mutual fears compounded by cultural misunderstandings between white policemen and minority youths.

Minority policemen have rarely been involved in such incidents, indicating their understanding of the ghetto's values, behavior patterns, and non-verbal signals makes them better equipped to deal with situations that might otherwise be explosive.

Racism is sometimes a factor - a prejudiced officer abusing his authority. But more significant may be the subtle racism that pervades our society and makes it difficult to avoid the negative stereotyping that can spark fear and panic leading to deadly use of force.

There is no easy answer to the problem. Model codes, strict police administrative supervision, community-relations efforts, recruitment of more minority law enforcement officers, are all part of the solution.

No single one of these, perhaps not even all in combination, will totally solve the problem. But those 600 fatalities can be cut to a small fraction of the number if those steps were taken.

Cities with strict gun codes - and enforcement of those codes - report sharply reduced incidents of civilian fatalities.

Curbing police violence makes for better policing too. Officers can do a better job when they've got strict rules and regulations that govern anticipated incidents.

Police departments should not view the outcry against deadly force as an anti-police feeling. Rather it is the pained protest of people who want the police to protect them, not endanger them.

From The White House

United Methodists Urges Carter To Continue Same Course

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

A representative group from the United Methodist General Conference met with President Carter to discuss the Iran question. They informed him that they represented more than ten million people in the United States and around the world. The group congratulated the President on the restraint he has exercised in the hostage situation. They urged him to continue that same course because they feel that this is necessary since the Iranians are undergoing the formation of a new government.

The group told Mr. Carter that a vast reservoir of support exists in our land, especially among the churches and synagogues for policies which make for peace. They implored the President not to give in to those who counsel military intervention, nor take steps which will eventually lead to war, because this will create a state of affairs far worse than the one we now face. That course of action



Alfreda L. Madison would not only forfeit the lives of the hostages but thousands of lives of Iranians and Americans would be lost, which would put the peace of the world into instability and jeopardy.

The representatives urged the President to restore normal diplomatic relationships with Iran as soon as possible and to offer assurance to Iran that they will honor their national independence. "We cannot identify with policies of covert or overt intervention in the affairs of that nation."

The only response the group got from the President is that he will send them a written reply.

Spokesman for the group, Bishop Dale White, of New Jersey, has spent several days in Iran where he had a conference with Ayatollah Khomeini, other leaders and the students who are holding the hostages and the hostages, themselves. He was allowed to move freely throughout the country and talk with the people. The Bishop reports that the Iranian people were very friendly. He visited Beheshti Zahara Cemetery where hundreds of young martyrs of the Iranian Revolution are buried. The Avatollah said he wished he could stay in Iran long enough to see what the Shah had done to the people. Youths were tortured in underground cells, many were killed and all of this was on the ground that they were commissioners for the big powers.

Bishop White reports that the students are highly intelligent, but they are

angry at the U.S. for putting into and keeping the cruel Shah in power for two and a half decades and that rapacious U.S. interests siphoned off their oil money and ruined their economy. Bishop White criticized the squeezing of Iranian students out of American by angry American people. Of course, this anger is inflamed by leaders of our country who refuse to reveal the truth to the American people.

Dr. Joseph Sisco, architect of the Nixon Doctrine, emphasizes that the United States' expertise of multinational business leaders assisted in building Iran's economy. Millions of people were enabled to live in comfort. The Shah pushed a traditional rural culture into the twentieth century industry. Sisco, however, failed to tell the truth that Iran fertile agriculture lands lie in ruins and that Iran has to import over 93 percent of its food and that hundreds of thousands of farm families have been reduced to abject poverty and forced into slums. Sisco

did not mention that industrial jobs were created, but that it was riddled with high inflation and corruption.

We do not emphasize the fact that thousands of people were killed by the Shah and that Khomeini pardoned 60,000 SAVAK members who were trained by our CIA for support of the Shah.

The students are aware that the hostage-taking is against international law; however, they are struggling with the only weapon they have to expose the vast network of international criminals supported by the great powers who violate human rights and just aspirations of millions of Third World people. They, like black Americans in the fifties and sixties are engaged in civil disobedience.

Dr. Richard Falk of Princeton says that international law was written by governments to protect governments and people who live under repression regimes have no international law for their

protection.

It seems quite clear that the administration's and European sanctions against Iran are really ruthless and inhuman; all for big corporation greed at the destruction of humanity.

Culp Predicts

10,000 Blacks

Will Vote

continued from Page 1
polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sample ballots are available at all libraries, First Union and Mechanics and Farmers Banks, and the Election Office. Voters are urged to study the sample ballot in advance. All voting will be done by voting machines.



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