

# Editorials & Comments

## Nation Faces Leadership Crisis

While local economists and banners speak cautiously about expectations of continued prosperity in the Charlotte area, the nation appears to be facing another leadership crisis based largely upon a declining economy.

The developing characteristics of the nation's newest leadership crisis has culminated in a recent TIME magazine poll which concludes that a majority of the country's registered voters don't want President Ronald Reagan to seek a second term of office. While 37 percent of the registered voters polled said they hoped the President would seek a second term, 52 percent said they hoped he would not run again. Ironically, in the South and West regions where Reagan received his highest voter support in the 1980 election, those opposing his reelection are in the majority.

TIME says in this week's publication, "Public confidence in (the President's) handling of the economy is draining away because of worries about recession and unemployment." TIME continues, "Support for his foreign policy is diminishing and growing fears about a nuclear war and U.S. intentions in Central America."

While 48 percent of those polled expressed trust in Mr. Reagan, another 51 percent expressed "doubt and reservations" about the President. These "doubts" are based on more than mere opinion. For example, 19 states had unemployment rates in January of more than 10 percent (N.C.'s rate was 9.1; Mecklenburg Co., 5.3); upper income people are spending their tax cut income to pay bills, they're not saving as Reagan had projected; and the air controller-management problems continue despite the President's mass firing over a year ago.

As if this is not enough, many of the nation's leading economists and business people

foresee "slow and agonizing economic decay, corporations edging closer to bankruptcy, 1,000 or more savings and loans slipping into insolvency, and unemployment gripping one in ten workers." The evidence of such decay has been mounting for at least three years. The nation's production is down, interest rates and business failures are up, and a growing fear the recession may linger indefinitely.

These developments and the unfortunate assumptions that one man and his policy - the President - can solve all the nation's ills has led to a leadership crisis. It is unfortunate too that under the American political system candidates try to influence voters that they have a solution to all the nation's ills and when they fail, as mortal men, too often do, they are criticized and driven from office.

It would appear that the only way to ease the leadership crisis and begin to effectively deal with the nation's economic problems would be (1) for the voters to solve the nation's problems, (2) recognize that the complexity of our economic problems cannot be solved in a short four-year period within the philosophy or policies of a single political party, and (3) voters must recognize the need to assume some responsibility, collectively and individually, for helping to cope with the various economic issues we are facing.

Until the American people begin to recognize what is involved in these three points we can expect reoccurring leadership crises and frustration. For example, the nation needs to recognize that the depths of our economic problems are such that it will take a 15-20 year period of planning and bipartisan public policy transcending presidential administrations to effectively reduce this approach would allow for stronger leadership, more positive results, and reflect a new sense of maturity not yet evident in America.

## Gastonia: A Household Name!

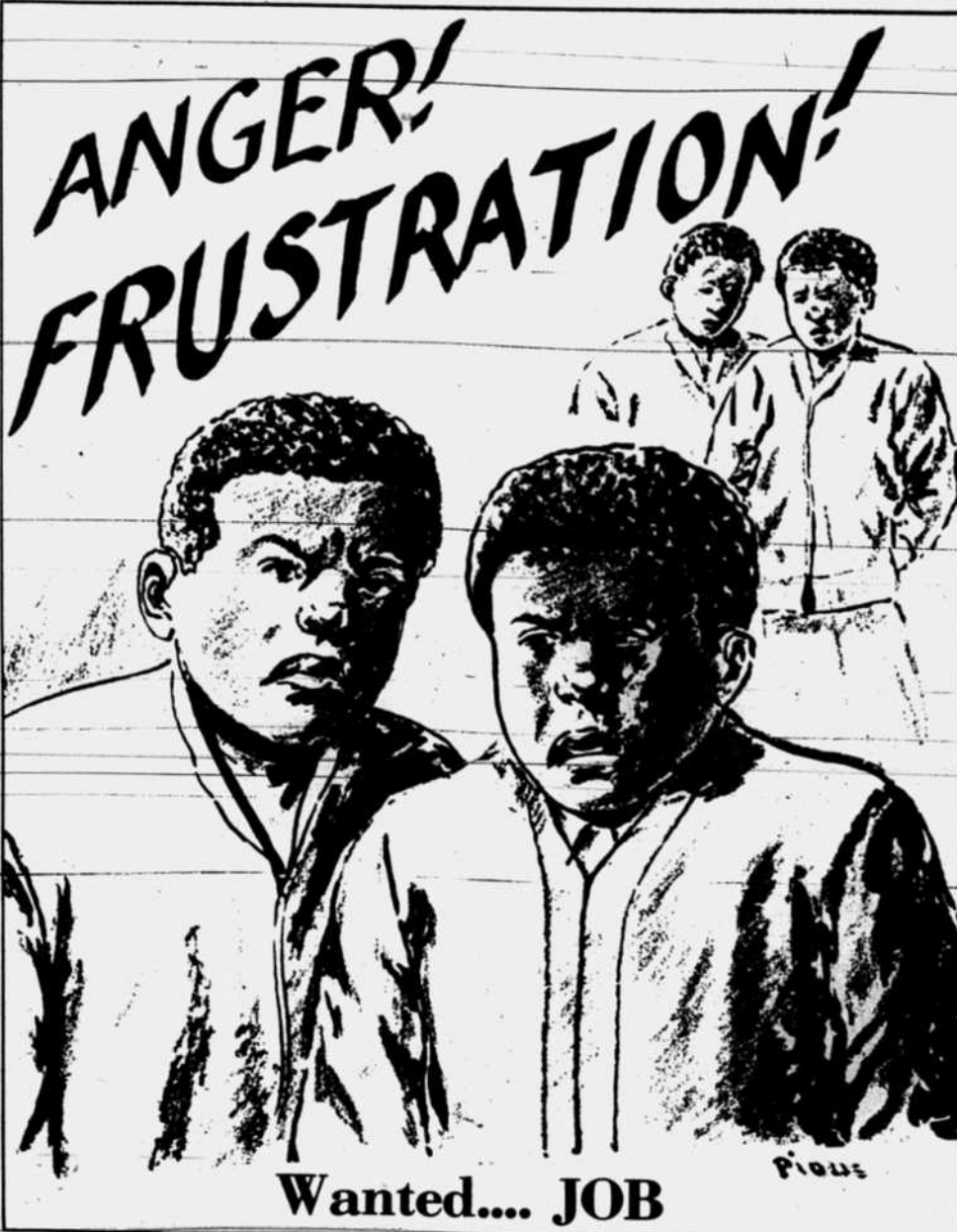
In recent years a number of long-time established newspapers have had to discontinue publishing in the face of changing times and the public's desire for the instant news coverage offered by television.

In spite of this trend, it is pleasing to see that efforts are being made to maintain the role and place of the printed media in America life. We are referring specifically to recent action to merge the Minneapolis Star and the Minneapolis Tribune into a single newspaper.

In Philadelphia, where two of four daily newspapers ceased publication within a two-month period, two weekly newspapers have emerged. One of the weekly - The National Leader - is aimed at black readers. Claude Lewis, a black columnist with the now

defunct Philadelphia Bulletin, plans to publish his first edition on April 29. He said he hopes to sell over 50,000 copies for one dollar each or \$26 for a year's subscription.

The Post wishes the National Leader much success in its beginning efforts.



Tony Brown's Comments

## Coach Fights Racism With Victory

Dan Rather of the CBS Evening News summed it up: "I can't say enough about the man...He really cares about those young people who are playing for him."

But Dave Kindred of the Washington Post described him best. "John Thompson is what he is: a great basketball coach...Great coaches produce teams that are their mirror images, for they teach life as they learned it."

John Thompson is the most successful basketball coach in Georgetown University's history. His players call him a wise man; his media detractors use racist definitions such as "the Idi Amin of Big East Basketball."

However, that's hardly news to the pragmatic Thompson who coaches at a Washington, D.C. school which, wrote Kindred in the Post, "20 years ago had Blacks on its basketball floor only when they came with the other teams."

Now you know why Georgetown has not been to the NCAA finals since - well, since. Moreover, although this column is being written even before the Hoyas win the semi-finals, I'm convinced they will win the championship.

Win or lose, however, two facts are already confirmed: the five Afro-American young men at Georgetown are the finest or among the finest basketball players in the land and

their Black coach is probably the best coach in all of college basketball.

White sports announcers, in an apparent attempt to deny this reality, call Thompson a coach who "gets along well" with his players. Translated: His only talent is his shared ghetto background. At the same time, they cannot heap enough "well coached" praise on mediocre-basketball strategies such as Boston College's. The difference, of course, is a White coach and a much-Whiter team. By the way, that's the way you spell R-A-C-I-S-M.

There's another innuendo that shows up in the White-reporting on Thompson. It suggests that he is a little paranoid about the exploitation of Black college athletes--"he distrusts a lot of people, including the curious media," Kindred wrote in the Post.

"Thompson still sees a congregation of sinners who would use young Black players and discard them without educating them. His work will, in time, help change the perception that college athletics by definition abuses Blacks," added the Post sports writer.

Thompson does not distrust a "curious media," he distrusts a racist media which resents his success as an intellectual, a thinker who can out-think Whites in a similar capacity. Neither is his observation of exploitation a "perception."

One study of Black athletes at White schools showed that only one out of every 250 graduated from college. It is also a fact that they are not recruited with any educational benefit in mind. Georgetown is probably, because of Thompson, the single exception to this rule. Virtually all of the Hoyas finish college.

On the other hand, look what these young Black men-and a Black coach-are doing financially for Georgetown University. When they won the Western Regional final, Georgetown got a hefty \$440,000 reward and that's only one game.

And on the heels of this opportunity, a Georgetown official announced more opportunity. "We're going to be announcing a \$115 million campaign." To capitalize on the literal scent of victory, the school's president and fund-raisers went to the New Orleans finals to meet with other financial sources who like the association with a winning team.

The Hoya Hoops Club, for example, raised a record \$70,000 this year. Another booster group, the Hoyas Unlimited, exceeded its \$100,000 goal. Thanks, again, to the basketball team.

"Tony Brown's Journal," the television series, can be seen on public television Saturday on Channel 42 at 8 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

By Rev. John Perkins

Walk  
Your  
Talk



Rev. Perkins

## Black Community Facing A Crossroad

We in the Black community are facing a crossroad. In order to move from this crossroad, we need to establish leadership that will provide the incentive to ignite creative spiritual and moral revolutions.

A parallel to the condition that we are facing is found in the first chapter of Romans. Paul's life had just been transformed by an encounter with Christ. Prior to this, Paul was a scoundrel. By examining his new nature, he knew first hand about the power of the gospel to change one's life. He then began to preach about this power that now engulfed his life, telling others that their lives could be changed also.

In this same chapter, Paul talks about the condition of his day. In verses 19 and 20, he says: "Because that which may be known of God is manifested in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they were without excuse."

What Paul is saying is that the creation alone should have been sufficient in establishing zeal for obedience to God. But this is not true. Man does not come to know God by creation alone. After clearly defining the condition, Paul finds a solution.

In verse 21, Paul says, "Because that, when they know God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were destroyed. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man and to birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things wherefore, God gave them up." This is Paul's description of mankind without God.

We are facing similar conditions in our nation, and in the world. Paul's solution to the problem is found in Romans 1:16. "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth to the Jews first, and also to the Greek."

Paul reveals in the above passage his belief that the Gospel of Christ, God's love lived out and presented through preaching, can transform people's lives. He also believes that this cannot happen if we are ashamed of the Gospel.

There is indeed power in the gospel to transform lives, but the gospel must consist of both words and deeds in our presentation of it. It is important that we live out the Gospel as well as proclaim it verbally. I believe that if the Black community could unite our hearts and lives together and

began to creatively present the gospel in words and deeds, lives would really be changed. This is the only way to establish the leadership that is needed to move in the proper direction from this crossroad. I am committing my life to this task. Will you commit yours to this task? Together we can make a difference not only in the Black community, but in all America as well.

## From Capitol Hill

# Reagan Administration Lacks Commonality With Blacks

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post  
President Reagan responded to a question about some of his Black appointees by saying that they share his views. Since some of his recent key appointees certainly are not exemplary of the most qualified Blacks for the positions, it appears that the President had to resort to Blacks of lesser qualifications to carry out his views or either he has adjusted his ideas to fit them into the mold of Blacks with whom he or his advisors are acquainted.

Rev. Sam Hart who was appointed to the Civil Rights Commission seemed more of a clown than a person eligible for public office. His statement that homosexuals don't have any civil rights and that their sexual habits are by choice-their choice is immoral, cast him in the role of a psychologist and God's chief determiner of morality. Outstanding psychologists have not been able to determine whether one is born with homosexual tendencies or whether these are acquired. It is hard for a person who



Alfreda L. Madison

believes in a just God to feel that He has condemned to an eternal hell such a large group, as the homosexuals, irrespective of their deeds. Sam Hart was a choice of the conservative Christian right, Hart also plays Jerry Falwell's records on his radio station. Both Pennsylvania Senators and several of the Congressmen objected to Sam Hart's appointment. The good Reverend was so disinterested in the American political system that he hadn't voted between 1966 and 1981, and only then after he had been contacted for the Civil Rights position.

William Bell of Detroit was President Reagan's

nominee for Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). He was almost an unknown until he ran for Congress in 1980 against John Conyers where he received only five percent of the votes. Bell ran an executive recruitment service called BOLD CONCEPTS. During the peak of his business he had no more than four employees. He and his wife were among the four. Bold Concepts placed no more than two people during each of the last three years. The organization had no identifiable budget, and much of the overhead was supplied by others with Mr. Bell's brother being the chief donor. Such a background seems quite unlikely to qualify Mr. Bell for head of an agency that has, even with the Reagan reduction of funds, an annual budget of \$140 million and 34 hundred employees. There was such a deluge of witnesses from civil rights and other organizations testifying against the Bell confirmation, until his appointment was killed.

The President later tapped Clarence Thomas

for the EEOC Director. He is a graduate of Holy Cross Seminary and obtained a law degree from Yale. Mr. Thomas worked in the office of now Senator John Dansforth when he was Attorney General of Missouri. When Mr. Dansforth was elected United States Senator, Thomas became a lawyer for Monsanto, a big corporation in Missouri. Then later, Senator Dansforth brought Thomas to Washington as his legislative assistant, where he remained until he headed the Office of Civil Rights at the Education Department. Recently, civil rights lawyers have filed contempt of Court charges against Mr. Thomas. Mr. Thomas acknowledged that he had ignored the Court order because he was attempting to settle matters by negotiations. These actions are certainly to surface when Thomas' name comes up for confirmation. Clarence Pendleton, the Administration's Civil Rights Commission appointee who was the San Diego Urban League Director is being oppsed by civil rights organizations. The Senate Judiciary confirm-

ation hearing of Pendleton was set at a time when most of its members were functioning in the different appropriation committees' meetings on the budget. So only Senators Grassley, Domenici and Specter were present. Both Grassley and Domenici are highly conservative. Pendleton was questioned by these conservatives on busing, affirmative action and voting rights. He said he opposes busing, is against quotas, timetables and goals in affirmative action and that he is for extending the Voting Rights Act as it is - he has trouble with the effects test and favors proving intent. This means that he is against the House passed Voting Rights Act which calls for changes, and the effects test, because intent is just about impossible to prove. Pendleton said he concurs with the views of Sowell and Williams. These are two Blacks whom the Administration and congressional conservatives have chosen as the most important Black spokespersons. What these conservatives fail to realize is that Sowell and Williams reiterated their

conservative views back to them and the conservatives swallow their own anti-Black progress ideas while rapidly alienating just about all Blacks. The Sowell and Williams following consists only of white conservatives.

When Pendleton was asked to comment on the recent test scores published by the Army, which showed that Blacks scored lower than whites, he said that Black parents and Black communities must see that their children learn and teachers teach. He ignored all the education inequities and other injustices meted out to Blacks. Pendleton said, in a media interview, that he favors supply-side economics with its "trickle down theory." He stated that he is not for raising the poverty level but for increasing wealth. He also said that he would carry out the President's views.



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