

Editorials & Comments

Real Melting Pot

Americans have developed a new self-portrait, or, in the words of Census Director Bruce Chapman, "...a snapshot of the country." What this means is that when we look inward as a nation to where we were, what we were doing and what were our habits and beliefs in 1970 and compare these with 1980, we can see some startling changes.

What we have found out about ourselves is that as a nation we have made some substantial changes in the last decade. This is undoubtedly highlighted by the changing notion about America as a melting pot of ethnic types. Twenty years ago sociologists Glazer and Moynihan wrote, "The notion that the intense and unprecedented mixture of ethnic and religious groups in American life was soon to blend into a homogeneous end product has outlived its usefulness, and also its credibility (because)...it did not happen (as evident by)...the unevenness of achievement" of people in different ethnic groups. This belief about the myth of a melting pot persisted through the early 1970s.

However, "the new self-portrait," in the words of the Associated Press, painted in 1980 and now revealed by the Census Bureau, "shows that America is more of a melting pot than ever." For example, 23 million Americans use a language other than English in their homes - 49 percent of these are speaking Spanish. Secondly, Asians had a median family income in 1980 in the United States of \$22,075, compared to \$20,840 for whites; \$14,911 for Hispanics; and \$12,618 for blacks. In the Carolinas, whites had a substantially higher median family income than blacks. For whites it was \$18,357 in North Carolina and \$19,498 in South Carolina. For blacks it was \$11,597 and \$11,282, respectively, in North and South Carolina. People of Spanish origin in 1980 had median family incomes of \$12,471 in North Carolina and \$10,837 in South Carolina.

Other major findings in the 1980 Census included:

Poverty Decline

(1) The percentage of people living in poverty declined from 13.7 to 12.5 percent in the ten year period ending in 1980, with the largest decline in the Southern states where the poverty level has been the highest. "A high percentage of people in poverty are women raising children. Poverty seems to attach itself to people trying to raise children alone," notes Bruce Chapman.

However, in the Carolinas while overall poverty levels declined they remained above the national average with 15 percent in North Carolina and 16 percent

in South Carolina. Furthermore, nearly 20 percent of all families, born nationally and in the Carolinas, were headed by a single parent - usually a woman.

(2) In the decade of the 70s, the number of women in the labor force increased by 58 percent while the increase by men was only 42 percent.

(3) The median household income in 1979 was \$16,830, up by 98.3 percent from 1969. However, adjustments for inflation show no real change in income during the ten year period. In the Carolinas median income more than doubled and therefore exceeded the 98.3 percent increase in the national average. A typical household in North Carolina had an annual income in 1979 of \$14,876, up nearly 112 percent from \$7,025 in 1969. In South Carolina, the leap was about 122 percent to \$15,145.

Sharp Decline

(4) The number of non-family households - people living alone or with a non-relative - increased by an astonishing 71.9 percent during the decade of the 70s; while the number of families increased by only 15.7 percent. So-called non-family households now constitute over one-fourth of all households in the nation. Nearly 90 percent of the non-family households consist of a single person living alone, usually an elderly person or a young adult. Non-family households make up over 20 percent of the households in the two Carolinas.

(5) There has been a sharp decline in the use of public transportation by Americans traveling to and from work - 6.3 percent in 1980 compared to 8.9 percent in 1970.

(6) For the first time over half - 66.3 percent - of all Americans 25 years of age and older have completed four years of high school. In North Carolina it is 28 percent for a six percent increase since 1970. In South Carolina the increase was from 21 to 27 percent.

(7) Approximately 17 percent of all Americans had completed four years of college in 1980, up from 11 percent in 1970. In North Carolina completing four years of college was at six percent in 1970 and up to 13 percent in 1980. For South Carolina the percentages were six percent in 1970 and 14 percent in 1980.

(8) All types of housing cost more than doubled between 1970 and 1980. For homeowners with mortgages, had monthly increases of 112 percent from \$172 to \$365.

Next week: This column will explain the impact of these changes on black Americans.

"IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT WE WHO HAVE PREVAILED IN SPITE OF THE BARBARISM OF WHITE PEOPLE SHOULD, IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY, STAND AS MUTE SPECTATORS TO OUR OWN DOOM."



United Community Leadership...Needed Now



Tony Brown's Comments

Blacks Succeed At Supply-Side Education

This year I have had three distinct honors. I was drafted by the Council of National Alumni Associations, an umbrella group representing 92 of the 111 black colleges, as the first member of its CNAH Hall of Fame. I also had the distinction of being selected as Prairie View A&M University's commencement speaker.

The third honor was an opportunity to produce a program, "Supply Side Education," on this unique university. During the filming we found out that the supply-side concept had been in Texas for years.

Advocates of supply-side economics stress tax cuts and regulatory reforms to help American industry supply goods and services. And although the idea is perceived as new and revolutionary, it presents no new body of theory. As a matter of fact, one Dr. Alvin Thomas has been applying this neoclassic mode of analysis to black higher education at Prairie View A&M University near Houston, Texas since 1966.

By taxing defeatism and subsidizing success, while preparing graduates for growth markets, Dr. Thomas, Prairie View's president, with an enrollment of 5,500 produces more black professional graduates than any college in America. And their average starting salary will be \$14,000 - twice the average of their parents.

Prairie View is the major producer of black engineers. Prairie View graduates more black engineers than any of the nation's 307 colleges and universities - black or white - offering engineer-

ing. Approximately 70 percent of the black registered nurses in Texas are graduates of Prairie View. The university has commissioned more than 1,000 officers through the Army ROTC program. Prairie View's Naval ROTC has commissioned more black officers than all of the universities in the South have produced in the history of the nation.

The state's second oldest university has graduated more than 50 percent of the black currently enrolled at medical and dental schools in Texas. And every pre-medical student will be accepted by at least one medical school.

But many have paid remarkably little attention to the lessons of this university and Dr. Thomas' ability to increase the nation's supply of educated, employed black professionals. In the 60's many black colleges abandoned their traditional supply-side strengths in vocational and technical education for liberal arts programs while the market was glutted with these majors. Many of them have fared poorly as a result of this and the black student exodus to white colleges.

But Dr. Thomas is over-seeing a growth program because he has refused to emulate white universities: a classic supply-side concept and an idea that has paid off.

Why is Prairie View so successful?

One intangible, but very real reason is the environment. Admittedly, while some students at Prairie View have the traditional gripes of college adjustment - discipline, aca-

demically assignments and finding Mr. or Miss Right, they pale when compared to adjustment problems of blacks at white colleges. An increasing number of black students in white academics spend huge amounts of time and energy railing against white rural environments, isolation from other blacks, music preferences, the availability of black men, women or churches, teacher bias, academic difficulties and an overall racist environment.

Prairie View has a head start in educating black students who are academic victims of busing for racial balance or blackboard jungle ghetto schools - something white colleges must now do. Remedial training in freshman reading, math and writing have long been emphasized.

But that's not the only reason for this success story.

There are the black role models: blacks who prove by their demonstrated ability and leadership that a black can create destiny. Confidence also comes from a compatible social environment that includes rather than excludes the black student into a feeling of isolation or marginal acceptance at best.

The bottom line: Prairie View students are emotionally and academically prepared for any aspect of our society - all white, all black or various shades of salt and pepper.

Dr. Thomas is the most revolutionary black educator since Booker T. Washington. His student body is poor and frequently benefits from lenient admission. See BLACKS on Page 10

By Rev. John Perkins

Walk
Your
Talk



Rev. Perkins

Great Concern For Black Community Of America!

I have a great concern for the black community of America. I am also concerned about the Spanish people coming to this country from Central America. My fear is that the same thing that happened to us will happen to them. My greatest concern, however, is for the present leadership within our black community and the kind of image that it is projecting.

A leader is more than a person who diagnoses the problems. He must not only understand the problem, he must have some idea and visions for solutions. He must also be the one who takes the responsibility for that condition and move forward to administer the solution.

Presently, our leadership basically explains the condition and then lay blame on the historical situation and expect those people who created the condition to come forward with a solution. For a leader to expect the ones who put us into this condition to get us out is to expect the impossible. A leader must motivate the people to pull themselves out of the condition.

In order to move out of that condition, a community must possess the skills, technology, and economic resources. How do we bring these resources together? This is the point where the gospel of Jesus Christ becomes relevant. If we look at where the motivating ownership and pride is in our community, you will discover that it is in the black church. It then becomes natural to me that if blacks utilized the resources that are there and then submit themselves to the lordship of Jesus Christ, we would have a much better model of liberation. John 5:1 exemplifies what I am saying.

"After this there was a feast of the Jews and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now these were at Jerusalem, by the sheep gate a pool which was called in the Hebrew tongue, Bethesda, having five porches. In these laid a great multitude of impotent folks, blind, lame, paralyzed, etc., waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down in a certain season into the pool and troubled the water; whoever then first, after the troubling of the water stepped in and was made well of whatever disease he had. A certain man was there who had an infirmity for thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there now for a long time, he said to him, "will thou be made whole?" The man answered him, "Sir, I have not man when the water is troubled to put me into the pool, but while I come, another step down before me." Jesus said to him, rise, take up and walk. Instantly the man was made well, and took up his bed and walked. That day was the sabbath."

From the multitude of people at the wall, Jesus selects one person who symbolizes the people who were there. This one had been there for thirty eight years dangling at the pool depending on other people. He had created a welfare mentality. He was expecting others to do things for him. Within his own mind, he forgot that others were performing his deeds and came to depend on them without thinking.

Jesus says to the man, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." Immediately the man was made well and took up his bed and walked.

From Capitol Hill

Ronald Dellums Holds Hearings On Disastrous Military Police

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The Reagan Administration which seems super-saturated with a Soviet phobia, sees all foreign problems as an East-West conflict and that they can be solved militarily. He has proposed a weapon program that is causing a growing fear in this country and around the world of a total world human destruction. Both in foreign countries and here at home there is a ground swell of nuclear freeze.

Hearing those clarion calls, Representative Ronald Dellums, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, being unable to persuade the committee to hold hearing on full implications of the military budget, set up an ad hoc committee in order to develop a coherent and cohesive rethinking of the military assumptions and weapons spending. Dellums said, "U.S. strategic and tactical weapons programs are leading us toward nuclear war - Reagan Administration policy escalates and ac-

celerates development of the military systems which have been identified as aggressive and destabilizing."

The hearings focused on four phases: (1) foreign policy and national security implications of the military budget, (2) economic implications of the budget, (3) moral implications of the military budget, (4) impact of global arms sales on the military budget, and (5) Third World implications.

On the foreign policy and national security military implications, former Senator Fulbright said, "This budget, together with the propaganda to sell it to Congress and the public, has the effect of shifting the focus of our policy from that of deterring nuclear war to the waging of nuclear war. The military budget is so large and the emphasis on nuclear weapons so strong and rhetoric about Soviet threat so extreme, that one cannot resist the feeling we are preparing to fight and win a nuclear war."

These witnesses viewed the Reagan foreign policy



Alfreda L. Madison as amateurish; that it is filled with misstatements and misconceptions of Soviet intent and capabilities and that Congress is being swamped by the military seeking bigger budgets for more expensive weapons. They strongly criticized the Reagan Administration for its lack of world leadership because his policy is inherent in a military solution of world problems instead of an economic policy.

One witness stated that our present foreign policy proves that we've learned nothing from our involvement during the 60's in Vietnam and Nicaragua, with our immense military

power, which was insufficient to determine a winner in either case.

Economic implications of the budget showed that American economy is in ruins, because of neglect of vital services such as clear water, reliable transportation, efficient ports, competent waste disposal - all of this has been reflected in U.S. industrial production. American industry is making inferior products and is investing in foreign countries. These conditions developed because the United States has assigned to the military economy large quantities of machinery, tools, engineers, energy, raw materials and skilled labor and management.

Moral implications of the military emphasis was shown as greatly affecting our education system. Dr. Herndon, President of National Education Association stated, "Our dependence on the implements of war seemingly threatens our will and capacity to establish justice, insure tranquility, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty.

Moreover, it may indeed provide more common jeopardy than defense."

Bishop Walter Sullivan of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond stressed three points: (1) American policy on arms shipments contributes to the spread of death around the world; (2) the proposed military budget is a theft against the poor, (3) emphasis on national security has had a negative effect on the attitudes and hopes of the young people in our country.

He stated that armaments are big business which has caused our world to become an armed camp. He said that in the last 10 years arms purchases have risen by 825 percent in the Middle East, 422 percent in Latin America and 3,500 percent in America. We lead the world in arms sale. Bishop Sullivan said that our emphasis on arms have caused tension to increase and our military weapons keep oppressive governments alive. He stated that our weapon build-up, bills the poor by causing them to starve, while the money is used for military produc-

tion. The Bishop said that the arms emphasis has caused our young people to believe that a nuclear holocaust is inevitable.

Bishop Sullivan ended with a paraphrase, "The arms race does not form a more perfect union, does not establish justice, does not insure tranquility, does not provide for the common defense, does not promote the general welfare and finally the arms race does not secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and to our posterity."

Even though these hearings were attended by only a very few congressmen, it is likely that in the near future, the anti-nuclear sentiment will force major congressional hearings on our military phobia. Ron Dellums is just another example of blacks being ahead of the powerful white establishment.



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