

# EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

## Issues Beyond The Handgun

The senseless killing of two young Charlotte uniformed police officers within an eight month period, and a 12-year old girl before the second officer's burial, has created in our community the all too familiar outcry for stricter control in the legal purchase, possession and use of handguns, sometimes called "Saturday Night Specials."

The reaction across the nation to the increasing and indiscriminate use of handguns in the taking of human life, assaults, and robberies has ranged from one city ordinance requiring each household to possess a firearm to another precedent-setting plan to ban the possession and sale of handguns. This, too, has led to an outcry as groups as philosophically different as the National Rifle Association and a homosexual organization called Gays for Guns, have banned together to oppose proposed stricter handgun control laws.

These groups and other continue to argue that the real issue is the control of the proliferation of handguns in the possession of criminals, convicted felons, incompetent adults, and juveniles. They argue that under any ban on handguns these elements would continue to retain concealed handguns while law-abiding citizens would be disarmed and thus less able to protect and defend themselves and their property.

The arguments for and against stricter gun control legislation

The arguments for and against stricter gun control legislation will undoubtedly continue for a long time before a meaningful solution is reached, if ever. Equal to, if not more important than the issue of gun controls, is the broader issue of the value we place on human life and personal property.

Why did it take the killing of one police officer, much less two, for a louder public outcry about gun control? Why have not public officials and citizens been pressing for and supporting a

handgun control bill such as Mayor Eddie Knox supported as a state senator in the early 1970s?

Why is it that John W. Hinckley Jr., the man who shot and attempted to kill President Ronald Reagan, was found not guilty by reason of insanity and may walk the streets as a free man again? Why is it that the man who killed Robert Kennedy may be paroled next year? Why is it that Charles Manson, the man responsible for the killing of six people at a Hollywood house party, may be paroled next year? Why is it that people in North Carolina sentenced to life in prison usually for taking a human life are imprisoned for an average of only 13.8 years? Why does a 17-year-old Charlotte youth get shot to death playing with a rifle with a friend?

Ameen Kareem Abdullah, the man convicted of murdering a Charlotte police officer Edmond Cannon, 26, by shooting him five times, may be eligible for parole after 41 years in prison? Ironically, with a history of arrests, a New Jersey parole officer said of Abdullah that he had been given every opportunity. He showed no progress and what he was doing 10-12 years ago he's still doing today. Yet, in 41 years or less Abdullah may get still another opportunity by being eligible for release from prison. Officer Cannon, his opportunities are no more.

Richard E. Watson, the man accused of killing police officer Ernest Coleman, 31, and Otto Withers, the man accused of shooting and killing 12-year-old Roberta Hartsoe, both have prior criminal records. Withers was involved in the killing of another person some years ago.

We have made mention of these men because each used a handgun to take a human life. Yet, out criminal justice (?) system appears to not indicate a high value for human life because each of these convicted or accused killers may be free again to possibly kill someone else.

## Candidates Of Quality

Much has been said in the media about blacks being the top vote-getters in the recent Democratic primary election. On the state level there's considerable talk about the strong possibility that Durham lawyer H. M. "Mickey" Michaux may become the first black congressional candidate in North Carolina in 80 years.

However, while we should be joyful over these trappings of victory, let us not forget that they are just that, trappings. The real political victories, if they come, will follow the general elections in November.

Equally, if not more important than the first place finishes of Bob Walton (County Commissioner) and Phil Berry (State House), and the first time political victories of Jim Polk and Jim Richardson, are two important facts. First, the relatively high black voter turnout may be a positive indication that black voter apathy is on the decline. Secondly, and most importantly we are not just talking about black candidates for political office, we are talking about candidates for office of high quality and commitment who just happen to be black.

NEEDED NOW...UNITED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



Tony Brown's Comments

## Kennedy Fools Some Of The People

"You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time," my music teacher at all-Black Garnet High School in Charleston, W. Va., always reminded us.

Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), the trumped-up White liberal, made it real at the 73rd annual convention of the NAACP in Boston. He was prolific in his denunciation of favors for the rich and racial bigotry. It was sheer hypocrisy.

"I reject their cruel and unfair theory of government of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich." Did this pious little rich boy every reject any of the privileges of wealth?

He cheated on his exams at Harvard and was expelled, only to be elected to office by his family's often questioned wealth. And when he was elected to the U.S. Senate, he had no prior job experience in any field.

If a poor white or any black had played his role at Chappaquiddick Island, he would be doing life in prison. Even when running for president, he fumbled over the sordid aspects of the party and the death of Mary Jo Kopechne on July 18, 1969. "Irrational and indefensible and inexplicable," he called his actions.

You might also use that definition to describe racism-or his mother's behavior in a Paris-fashion salon when she refused, on two occasions, to judge a dress if a black model wore it. A personal friend of mine wears Mrs. Kennedy's racial scorn for life.

Kennedy, however, preferred to push his demagoguery in front of the NAACP by diverting atten-

tion to a proven scapegoat. "Bigotry is not the message of Jesus Christ... In reality, Bob Jones University is nothing more than Jim Crow University..." he said, "and tax exemptions must not be granted for racial prejudice in segregated schools or colleges."

In another instance, a black Kennedy campaign worker and her husband found themselves, along with the black maid and butler, the only Afros at a Kennedy soiree.

In a brief 15-minute speech at the NAACP convention, Kennedy was interrupted 35 times by applause. There is not one Afro-American man or woman who could have come close to his record in front of that black audience. And that's a shame.

It's really more telling than anything else. This disciple of tired, out-dated politics who has never sponsored a successful bill in Congress with a more than questionable ethical background, has successfully superimposed himself as the leader of black people's rights.

His solo voice-over, with the black singing chorus to "We Shall Overcome," was a disgraceful display of poor taste by the Chappaquiddick Kid, described once as "a playboy, millionaire, womanizer with wife whose emotional problems are due to his moral weaknesses."

For those blacks who need a white leader-and there are a lot of them-they should find one better than Kennedy.

The 35 applause interruptions should have come, instead, for Earl Graves, who always specializes in

common sense. The publisher of "Black Enterprise" magazine, warned the blacks that, "We must learn to be more dependent on ourselves, economically and politically. We know by now that as black Americans we cannot depend solely on government. We cannot depend on anyone or anything outside ourselves to provide real economic opportunity and justice."

"When we look at the way things are today, we realize that we have been standing in the same station waiting for economic opportunity, watching train after train pass us by," he said.

A 35 applause interruption would also have been more meaningful if directed to Joseph E. Madison, the NAACP Director of Voter Education: "Before it's over, we will know we are not going to find our strength in the Republicans, we are not going to find our strength in the Democrats, and we won't even find it in Independents. We will find our strength in each other."

"Tony Brown's Journal," the television series, can be seen on public television Saturdays on Channel 42 at 8 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Sundays at 6:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

### Free

### Blood Pressure

### Screening Set

Free blood pressure screening will be held at Burger King on Beatties Ford Road from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. July 10. For more information call 919-399-0345.

By Rev. John Perkins  
**WALK Your TALK**

## When Love Takes Hold

Second in a series

The next Sunday I went back to the mission and the teacher was expounding Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death." Well, I understood what it meant to get wages. But the Holy Spirit also showed me that "the gift of God is eternal life." That morning at the invitation I went down to the front of the church and asked Jesus Christ into my life.

I began to attend Child Evangelism workshops where Mr. Wayne Leitch was my instructor. In the afternoons after work I would go to his office, and Mr. Lietch would teach me the Word of God. When I worried that I might get away from Jesus Christ, Mr. Lietch taught me that I was Christ's and he was in me. It was like a burden rolled off my shoulders.

I was saved, I knew it and could explain it to other people. Now I could witness to Christ and soon I was speaking at Christian businessmen's meetings, churches and prison camps. In the evenings I taught Child Evangelism classes and on Saturday afternoons I conducted Bible classes for young people in the community. Here were teenagers such as I had been, school drop outs with no skills. I became acutely aware of the need to reach Black people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That's when God began to deal with me. Even though I was making it in California with a good job and a nice home, he sent me back to Mississippi.

In the year 1960 my wife, five children and I drove back to our home farm. There I picked cotton in the mornings and taught Bible classes in the afternoons. My wife had been a Christian as a little girl and had since rededicated her life. God now gave her skills in leading songs and making flannelgraphs.

After a few months God opened the door in a remarkable way for me to go into 12 different public elementary and high schools on a monthly basis. I was able to tell Bible stories to about ten thousand youngsters ever month. I still meet young people who accepted Christ as their Savior through those Bible stories in the public schools.

Next we began a Bible class in a lady's home near Mendenhall, Miss.; and when her home couldn't hold all the children we started another. Eventually we got the idea of establishing a Bible institute. I went back to my friends in California for financial help. We raised \$3,000 for the institute and the young people built it. God really blessed that ministry with young people coming to Jesus Christ as their Savior. The Voice of Calvary Bible Institute formed the nucleus of what was to come.

It became evident as time passed that our young people needed college training so that they could come back to their community to share the Gospel. But there was no economic base to support them. When they came home for the summer there was really nothing for them to do. So we organized a summer cooperative leadership development program in which they could work, teach Bible, do evangelistic activity and earn the money to go back to school.

Next Week the conclusion of "When Love Takes Hold."

## From Capitol Hill

# Reagan Ignoring Nation's Most Precious Commodity?

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

While the Reagan Administration and Congress are giving vent to their Soviet phobia with a goal of military superiority under the guise of protectionism, they need to answer the question: protecting whom? Certainly not the elderly because their health care and living are cut to a "maybe mere existence." Surely they are ignoring the nation's most precious commodity; the youth of the nation whose education opportunities are in jeopardy and their unemployment is running from whites at 20 percent to minorities around 50 percent and in some cities as high as 75 percent.

Because of the recent budget, without giving any consideration to the high unemployment, has cut all areas of the funds that related to jobs, job training and unemployment compensation; all below the '80 fiscal level which had a six percent unemployment and a \$9 billion budget to the '83 level of 9.5 percent and unemployment and \$4 billion, Rev. Leon Sullivan,



Alfreda L. Madison

Chairman of Opportunities Industrialization Center, is launching an emergency program, called "Hire One Youth Campaign." Rev. Sullivan says that he has traveled across this country for the past three months and has found that youth unemployment is greater than it was before the riots. He stated that these young people seem hopeless. They've told him that no one seems to care about them. The nation has turned its back on them. Rev. Sullivan says the city ghettos are explosive and that something must be done now. He said that the Miami riot was an unemployment cause. This movement calls

upon every one of the 13 million businesses in this country, every church, all fraternal and other organizations and every member of Congress to hire at least one disadvantaged youth now.

This bi-partisan congressional support asks the Congress members to take the strong initiative in getting action from businesses and organizations among their constituencies. If this project succeeds, it will renew hope in the young people that the country does care about them.

Rev. Sullivan was joined at the press conference, where many young people filled the Rayburn Building caucus room, by several members of Congress. They were representatives Jack Kemp who heads the Republican Assembly, William Gray, Vice Chairman of Congressional Black Caucus, Walter Fauntroy, Caucus Chairman, Robert Garcia, Hispanic Congressional Caucus and several others. Congressman Gray cited the groundswell of Democratic congressmen support who were unable to

attend the press conference. They included James Wright, Majority Leader, Carl Perkins, Chairman of House Education and Labor Committee and Augustus Hawkins, Chairman of Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities.

Jack Kemp gave the Republican roll call, which included House Minority Leader Bob Michel, Conservative Hal Daub, moderate Tom Evans and Bud Hillis, who introduced a youth Career Intern Bill for OIC in the 97th Congress. Also present at the press conference were Jeffrey Joseph of U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Dr. Calvin Rolark of United Way and Black Media, Inc. who heartily endorses the "Hire One Youth Campaign."

Representative Jack Kemp, a Presidential aspirant, and one of the authors of the Urban Enterprise Zone, stated that he has called upon all businesses and chambers of commerce in his New York district to comply with the project. He said that when we give youth jobs, we will bring down the social and economic problems. Yet, there seems

to be a conflict in Kemp's and other Republicans' actions who heartily endorsed this youth project while voting for the G.O.P. budget which cut jobs and job training programs. Then, too, many of these congressmen are chairmen of committees, and yet, they have no minorities on their committee staffs, none of their office staff, or if they do it's just mere tokenism. Naturally, the minority congressmen are not included in this discriminatory hiring group.

Representative Mervin Dannally of Congressional Black Caucus who anticipated this problem a year ago, has already gotten a jump on the group by getting a commitment from the Aerospace Industry for \$2 million for a high-technology training program spanning the next decade.

A "Dear Colleague" letter has been sent to all 435 members of the House to join in the "Hire One Disadvantaged Youth Program." Representative William Whitehurst of Virginia informed us that he has already complied by hiring one black and two

white youths. This can be the typical pattern for the program's hiring practice more whites than minorities, which can continue the widening disparities.

Since the President has emphasized that the private sector has a responsibility in employment, he is being called upon to join in this volunteerism. One congressman who endorses the program said that since youth will be working for a below minimum wage, there is a great danger that heads of homes will be replaced by the youth.

Rev. Sullivan, while leading this job initiative emphasized strongly that this does not relieve government of its jobs and job training responsibility. He said, "We must not sacrifice our youth, the nation's

future, on the altar of balanced budget and anti-inflation policies."

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