

EDITORIALS

Support South African Blacks!

Still fresh in the memory of many black Americans is that not too many years ago a young black preacher from the South was awarded the coveted Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in leading peaceful efforts in a quest for social justice and equal opportunity in the economic and political arena. Of

course, we are referring to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his consciousness-raising pursuits that led to many progressive changes beginning in the 1960s.

A parallel to this background occurred this week when the black South African Bishop Desmond Tutu traveled to Sweden to receive a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in seeking a similar sense of economic and social justice and anti-apartheid activities on behalf of the masses of black people in his native South African homeland.

It was undoubtedly out of the similar experiences of King and Tutu for the need of black people that four black Americans sought a visit at the South African Embassy in Washington on Thanksgiving eve.

The four black Americans sought to discuss the fate of 21 black South African social activists who had been detained and arrested without charges after a nationwide strike of black workers earlier in November.

When discussions with South African's white ambassador Bernardus Fourie proved to be unproductive, the four Americans refused to leave the embassy. Fourie called the police to arrest Mary Francis Berry (a former Civil Rights Commissioner), Walter Fauntroy (a Congressman from D.C.) and two others.

In the three weeks since that incident 13 congressmen have been arrested in similar protests outside the embassy. Furthermore, hundreds of people have marched daily in picket lines at South African diplomatic facilities in several American cities. Surprisingly, sympathetic response of interest

New Westside Library Branch

Westside residents have been pressing for nearly five years to get a branch library with such intensity that they had threatened to withhold support from the library bond issue if their requests were not honored.

Finally, the residents did support the bond issue and got their long-awaited library branch in the form of a 1,600 square foot modular building. The glass and steel building is designed to seat 32 people and will store up to 16,000 books, reports Library Director Ron Kozlowski. The building is movable, an added feature of considerable merit Kozlowski notes because libraries are reluctant to build free-standing buildings because of possible population shifts, and we might add poor use of the facility by a neighborhood.

have come from about 40 conservative Republican members of Congress. Ironically, this has occurred while the Reagan administration is seeking to strip many of the hard-fought civil rights gains won by black Americans in the 1960s and 1970s.

Reagan's so-called conciliatory policy of "constructive engagement" toward South Africa has been severely criticized. This pressure finally led Mr. Reagan to make a strong public attack on South Africa's minority white government when he said, "We view racism with repugnance" while signing a proclamation marking the beginning of Human Rights Week. Significantly, on the same day, the South Africans released from detention 14 black and Asian opposition leaders.

While this is a small but significant beginning, and a long overdue show of support by black Americans for their racial brothers in Africa, we must not forget that while 89 percent of black Americans voted against Mr. Reagan, nearly 63 percent of white Americans supported him and, there-

fore, don't agree with the views of most black Americans. Significantly, it is quite possible that America is moving toward a form of black-white apartheid - separation -

at least in a philosophical, political sense which can easily translate into political economic reality such as the jobless rate of black youth - always twice that of white youth.

What this then should clearly remind us as we should have already known is that the struggle for justice and equality of opportunity is a never-ending pursuit. Therefore, the moral and physical support offered by black Americans to black South Africans is a recognition that ours is a common struggle at different levels and different needs but with the same intensity in a quest for justice and equality of opportunity.

Westside residents can be proud of their persistent efforts to gain this greatly needed service. It should serve, too, as a model of what can be accomplished to enhance a community when citizen groups, public officials and private enterprise join forces for an improved quality of life in a bigger and better Charlotte.

Now, residents, let's go to the library and read and read and read in a quest for new knowledge and a greater world of good living.

BLACKS HAVE BEEN AWAKENED...?

IT IS UP TO US, BLACKS WHO CARE ABOUT THE BLACK FUTURE, TO IMPOSE ORDER WHERE NONE EXISTS TODAY.



WE HAVE TO DO IT BECAUSE WE CANNOT ASK OUR OLD PEOPLE TO SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES PASSING THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF MUGGERS.

ORJE COMBES
N.Y. MAGAZINE

PIONEER

Causes Of Decline In Food Output!

The cruel famine in Ethiopia and its East African neighbors will become a permanent condition by 1988 unless steps are taken now to tackle the root causes of the decline in food output. The famine now is a symptom, not a cause.

In Ethiopia, per capita grain production there and in 23 other nations has fallen steadily two percent a year since 1970. At that rate the amount of home-grown cereal grain available to feed each person in the region in 1988 - in a normal year with normal rainfall - will be roughly equal to the famine harvests of 1984. Prior to the current famine, one of every five Africans in the region was fed with imported food. Frankly, this is unsuitable: these economies cannot afford to import at those levels.

The United Nations' Office of Disaster Relief Coordination in Geneva estimates that 35 million Africans (approximately 10.5 million under the age of five) are threatened with starvation as a result of the drought during the 1981-82 growing season.



Sabrina

Charitable organizations and governments in the United States, Europe and Japan have rallied to provide food to the nations hit hardest by the famine.

Recently, a U.S. Congressional delegation visited and toured Ethiopia - and reported that the ULSL should offer intensive aid to the region.

These kinds of efforts are essential. However, if the short-term charity is the wealthy world's only response to the famine, then it will not be enough and could possibly get in the way.

The need reaches far beyond food for today, money, advice and domestic policies are needed that will produce more food for tomorrow. One major step is for African

nations to increase the prices farmers are paid for their crops. Farm prices are - dangerously low, so low that even in non-drought regions, farmers are affected and are not producing a surplus above and beyond family needs.

As difficult as it is to push domestic food prices up during a famine, but if farmers are to produce more - economic incentives may be the golden key. A preference is to have prices set by the market but that seems impossible in Ethiopia since it has been under a Marxist regime since 1974. With the current crop in Ethiopia declining, officials realize that direct action must be taken to improve and step up farm prices prior to the next planting season in May and June. Other African nations in that region are moving to change their farm-price structures.

In the famine struck nations, only small amounts can be done. For example, seed will be needed for next year's crop since the people are eating. In addition, they will need money for fertilizers, better farm equipment and improved food distribution systems.

The world bank - the West's leading development-loan agency is attempting to harness some of the current public support for famine relief to get more long-term aid for the region. The Bank at its Joint Annual Meeting in September with the international monetary fund, plans to devise an outline for tackling some of the deep-rooted economic problems. In addition the Bank is encouraging domestic policy changes that will help the nations help themselves.

However, the Bank's efforts have been hampered by limited available funds to the International Development Association (I.D.A.) - its principle vehicle for help.

Possibly the money shortage is rooted in the Reagan administration's refusal to increase U.S. contribution to I.D.A. blended with the unwillingness of other donor nations to pick up a greater collective share in I.D.A.

Presently, the United States - the wealthiest of I.D.A.'s donors - contributes 25 percent of the association's budget - approximately \$750 million annually. That leaves 75 percent divided by 32 other donors.

From Capitol Hill

Pendleton Rushed In Where Reagan Fears To Tread?

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Just to paraphrase Clarence Pendleton, Chairman of the Civil Rights Committee, who said, in speaking of comparable worth for women, "as probably the looniest idea since looney tunes came on the screen," in his television appearance denouncing comparable worth and his speech to an Akron business group he seems to be the looniest person since looney tunes came on the screen.

Clarence Pendleton is really advocating that 19.7 percent of all the children in this country in homes headed by women included in that number are 48 percent of all black children should be legally discriminated against. He is consigning them, eternally, to a life of inequities and poverty - they will never be able to compete with those from male-headed homes.

Pendleton, who was appointed chairman of the commission which was created to investigate agencies' practices on equity and justice for all citizens, and to make recommendations, seems to be perpetuating a policy of inequality, injustice and unfairness to certain groups of American citizens.

Dr. Mary Berry of the Civil Rights Commission, said that Mr. Pendleton violated Commission policy, of making public statements on issues that had not been discussed by the full Commission. When asked about this, Pendleton replied that it was an oversight on his part. Forgetting the organization's policy is a poor excuse for making such a drastic mistake.

A day before the comparable speech announcement, the Commission Chairman denounced black



Alfreda

leaders. He said they led blacks on a "suicide mission" when they were urged to vote for Mondale. He said, "I say American black leadership opened the plantation gates and let us out. We refuse to be led into another political Jonestown as we were led during the presidential campaign. No more Kool Aid, Jesse, Vernon, and Ben." Pendleton stated that if Reagan wanted to get political, blacks wouldn't get a thing because they voted nine to one for Mondale.

Pendleton needs an understanding of the basics of the American Constitution, which requires the President to be the Chief Executive of all the American people, irrespective of how they use the voting privilege. Seventy percent of the eligible voters in the United States did not vote for Ronald Reagan in the 1984 election, 45 percent did not vote at all. Ignoring the Constitution, Pendleton is saying that Mr. Reagan should only be concerned about 30 percent of the eligible voters.

Clarence Pendleton, like the conservative think tank, the Heritage Foundation, is against busing to achieve integration, affirmative

action enforcement and the congressional mandate ten percent set-aside in government contracts for black businesses. He has no problem with the huge government contracts that big white corporations receive.

In a telephone conversation with this reporter, Mr. Pendleton seemed anxious to explain his statements. He said that he only wanted to start thinking on the part of blacks. He stated that black leaders should have attempted a brokerage policy with the President. Since Reagan came into the presidency committed to the mandate of the Heritage Foundation to make getting rid of civil rights a top priority, to attempt any brokerage with him is like asking a Klan realtor to begin selling homes to blacks in the better neighborhoods where whites live, when the realtor is even trying to remove blacks who are already living there, back to the ghetto. Brokerage with Reagan would have meant no Voting Rights Act or one so weak that it would have just about been useless, tax exemption for schools that discriminate, resegregation of schools, perpetuation of job discrimination and a widening of racial gaps. What Pendleton, evidently, means is humble submission to the Reagan civil rights assault policy.

When Clarence Pendleton likens around 30 million blacks to slave plantation owners, of black leaders, he, like his boss, President Reagan, underestimates the intelligence of the black community. Since Clarence considers himself as one of the rarest breed of intelligent thinking blacks, perhaps if he walks out of the White House plantation, occasionally, he might run across some other

black thinkers.

It is rumored that the White House wrote the comparable worth statement that Pendleton made and that someone wrote the Akron speech. Whether or not this is true, the White House certainly knows about it. The black community feels that Pendleton is being used by the Administration to make ridiculous statements that it would not dare to make. Some blacks feel that Pendleton and Sam Hart are the type of blacks whom the Reagan Administration likes to present to the public. Blacks feel people do not represent the best black thinkers and those who are concerned about civil rights for the black community. Mr. Pendleton did stimulate these thinking aspects among the black community.

Mr. Reagan will only be in office four more years. What will happen to Clarence Pendleton then?

Collection Schedule

Due to City holidays for Christmas and New Year's Day, the schedules for backyard and curbside trash collection have been changed as follows: During the week of Christmas, December 24 to 28, backyard garbage collection will be on Wednesday or Thursday and curbside collection will be on Friday only. During the week of New Year's Day, December 31 to January 4, backyard garbage collection will be on a Monday-Thursday. Wednesday-Friday schedule, and curbside collection will be on Thursday or Friday. Christmas trees placed at the curb by December 31 will be collected December 31 to January 4. For more information about garbage collection in the city, call the City Sanitation Division at 336-2673.

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