



EDITORIALS

A Salute To The Black Press!

In studying America's freedom, the Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville wrote in 1832, "The press is the chief democratic instrument of freedom." Since that pronouncement, the American press has progressed from being biased, inaccurate and arrogant to having gained the respect of the general public by demonstrating its maturity through objectivity, fairness, self-criticism, courage and a sense of human compassion.

An often too little recognized contributing factor to relative prestige and respect of our nation's free press, is the role of black journalists on the staffs of white newspapers and more significantly, the black press itself. While minorities comprise a mere 5.8 (of which 1,500 are black) of the nearly 50,000 journalists employed by the nation's 1,700 daily newspapers, their mere presence is having some quiet but positive impact on the sensitivity to and less biased reporting and editorializing when minority persons or groups are the newsmakers. It is for this reason that minority journalists argue, and we fully agree, that it is necessary to integrate the nation's predominantly white newspapers simply to make them better newspapers.

Of greater significance is the fact that in

Anti-Smoking Law Not Discriminatory

A page one story in the Charlotte Post last week concluded that the many anti-smoking ordinances being passed around the country will generally impact more heavily in a negative way on minorities and the poor than on other Americans.

These so-called "nuisance laws" are said to be hard to enforce. Such laws require "selective" enforcement, that is, enforcement against a certain group of people - namely smokers.

The article goes on to say that a veteran of 20 years on the New York City Police Department argues that the smokers' laws have been used excessively against blacks as concluded from a Chicago survey. The survey showed that 90 percent of the people arrested for smoking on public conveyances in Chicago and brought before the Smokers' Court were black.

The assumption drawn from this is that the Chicago Police were using a clean air ordinance as a means of harassing blacks and arresting them in disproportionate numbers.

While we don't doubt that some policemen would abuse the intent of the anti-smoking ordinance, we would quickly add that this is no reason to abandon such anti-smoking legislation in public places. Strict monitoring of a police officer's work with appropriate reprimands for questionable law enforcement practices overtime should resolve the arrest problem.

On the other hand, the anti-smoking laws are needed to help stop the increasing

concerns over the possibility of lung cancer among secondary smokers, that is, non-smokers who inhale a smoker's smoke.

After all, when a non-smoker is forced to inhale a smoker's smoke against his will this represents one individual imposing his will on another. In effect, one person's freedom ends where another's begins, thus the smoker has no right to blow smoke into air that someone else must breathe.

The harassing and arresting of blacks in disproportionate numbers is undoubtedly an abuse of law enforcement and one of the many politically emotional issues that has and will surface over the freedom to smoke and where issue. It is however not an issue of whether smokers may smoke, but rather whether a smoker should have the right to pollute the air that others must breathe.

The human environment is already being saturated with pollution from many sources, not the least of which is motor vehicle carbon monoxide. Significantly too medical research has concluded a non-smoker's constant breathing of a smoker's smoke can in effect cause lung damage and possibly cancer.

This then is a serious issue that focuses on the rights and freedoms of non-smokers as well as the equally important question of personal health. Who is or is not arrested under non-smoking laws is therefore of considerably less significance and can be more easily resolved if a real effort is made to deal with the issue.

The following day took on more meaningful tasks - scrubbing the spaces between the one square inch tiles on the bathroom floors. Over three hours later and

it was snowing borderline blizzard, but it had to be done that day. So it was.

Let us recap briefly, it started with one closet and two bathrooms!

On the third day the lovely idea of cleaning and relining the kitchen cabinets seemed like a fun idea. That was the days project and it was just that, a project. Every can, bottle, dish and glass had to be removed. The lining had to be washed with nothing else but ammonia and water! Some cans had to be discarded and the rest organized in some fashion; that was simple. Dishes and glassware offer a different problem because being creatures of habit, Americans use the same dishes and glassware night after night - day after day. The infrequently used articles usually found in the back had to be washed, dried and arranged with the others. It is absolutely amazing how dust finds innocent things to rest upon.

Day four arrives - what next? The refrigerator! All kinds of unusual things lurk there. For example remember the pudding that was served after dinner on Sunday, well one dish made its way to the back, lost its beautiful appeal, sunk in the middle and grew a beard! Oh yes, remember the new cucumber, onion bacon and pepper salad dressing that no one liked last Labor Day - it's still on vacation on the bottom door shelf growing a stunning green afro. Other elements that are found in the wonderful assortment include slices of meats never used for lunches and snacks in the last month, the cabbage head someone forgot about, one bottle of tonic without a cap, something in a jar with no label and something brown in a plastic container that is unidentifiable! After all those goodies are removed, its back to the ammonia and hot water to wipe the sides and shelves. Salvagable foods are put back and a shopping list develops. Now comes the time to open the other side called the frost free freezer! This was fun! T.V. Dinners that had last date of sale stamped March 31, 1984 - don't think we'll eat those. Let us discard those for sure.

Upon completion a cry of "enough, enough, no more" echoes throughout the house and so it was.

Let it be known publicly for people who exert themselves physically for a living will always have my respect.



God Bless The Physical Laborers!

One group of working people who constantly are overlooked as far as recognition is concerned are those who earn a living via physical labor. These people include maids-housekeepers, construction workers, import-export dock workers and the like. The physical strength and endurance exhibited is tantastic. Simplistically speaking these people are America's backbone. Here is the reason why the writer has chosen to step out of anonymity and speak frankly about the subject.

Recently the opportunity arose to do some cleaning around the house; not the basic everyday chores of dusting, dishes and the like, but some true grit cleaning. The bug bit on a Monday starting with the rearranging and cleaning of the utility closet. Two hours passed and finally the task was complete. This, mind you, required a cool refreshing drink and a hot shower afterward.

The following day took on more meaningful tasks - scrubbing the spaces between the one square inch tiles on the bathroom floors. Over three hours later and



Sabrina

raw hands made the decision to carpet the bathroom floors much more appealing! But wait, the scrubbing adventure did not stop there. The bucket, brush and ammonia found their way into the kitchen because a no wax floor should be scrubbed too - grandmother says. This was also done. Well before that floor was dry the idea of renting a carpet cleaning machine to clean the bedroom carpets took over a weakened sane mind. Out the door, into the car, down the hill, over the river and through the woods to rent a carpet cleaner. This ride which normally takes 10 minutes took 47 minutes because

was adopted by congress and signed into law by President Carter.

In his first term, President Carter appointed Gray to chair the U.S.-Liberia Presidential Commission and to lead talks with Liberia following that country's coup. He represented the United States at the inauguration of the Zimbabwean government. Gray was very valuable in trade negotiations with Nigeria.

The rules required that in the 98th congress Mr. Gray leave the Budget and Foreign Affairs Committees, but maintain his seat on District of Columbia Committee. He then became a member of the Appropriations Committee and the chairman of the subcommittee on Government Operations and Metropolitan Affairs. While on the committees which makes decisions on the nation's fiscal affairs, Gray has led the effort to shape Federal policies which address economic development, housing, mass transit, urban development and needs of the cities' youth. While on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Gray introduced legislation to ban new investments by American corporations in South Africa. The bill passed the House, but was killed in the Senate-House conference. Gray says he will introduce the bill again in this congress, where it appears that chances of its passage seem more favorable. Especially since the Free South Africa Movement has prompted more members of congress to focus on the evils of apartheid.

In the 99th congress, Representative Gray holds one of its most important chairmanships - that of the House Budget Committee. That position requires him to be the

House's chief fiscal negotiator in the House-Senate conference. Gray says that leadership always presents a challenge. To allay the sentiments of some whites that he will be a chairman of Blacks, he says Black officials have demonstrated competent leadership and ability to see national interest as well as Black interest. He contends that his selection as chairman of the Budget Committee shows that Black congresspersons past and present have proved their competence.

Commenting on the President's statements denouncing Black leaders and traditionally Black organizations, he says they are deplorable, insensitive, undemocratic, boring and racist. He says Blacks are intelligent. They will elect their leaders and hold them accountable. Gray says the President accuses Black leaders of misinformation about his Administration. He says the information is correct. The congressman asks, "Is the President prepared to say the same about Jews and Hispanics who voted against him in the 1984 election? Is he going to denounce the Jewish and Hispanic leaders and organizations?"

The majority of them voted for Mondale. If not, he has a double standard.

In a news conference Bill Gray made two very important points. First is he concerned that the President's budget does not respond to the future economic crisis which is the deficit. Second the need to maintain a proper balance and equity in making choices on how to cut government spending. Surely

Bill is equal to the task and his leadership challenges the very highest in our nation.

From Capitol Hill

Gray Has Displayed Intense Concern For People

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Representative William H. Gray, of the Second District of Pennsylvania, is the son of a minister, grandson of a minister and a very dynamic minister himself. He is the pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, where he was preceded by the pastorage of his father and grandfather, consecutively.

The 42 year old congressman was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, but came to Philadelphia as a very young lad. He attended the Philadelphia public schools, graduating from Gratz High School. Gray received a bachelors degree from Franklin Marshall College, master in divinity from Drew Theological School, masters in theology from Princeton and completed graduate work at Pennsylvania University and Temple University.

He is married to the former Andrea Dash and is the father of three pre-teenage sons.

William Gray has displayed an intense concern for people throughout his entire life. Before coming to congress he realized the existing inadequate housing for poor and low-income people. So he founded and was president of a corporation that constructed more than \$20 million in low and moderate income housing. He was also highly instrumental in designing the Philadelphia Mortgage plan, which has supplied inner-city Philadelphia residents with more than \$100 million in home loans.

Bill Gray has been a civil and equal rights fighter. The Gray v. Serruto, a precedent-setting civil rights case, was brought by Gray



against a landlord in New Jersey who refused to rent him an apartment. The court ordered that financial damages must be paid by those who discriminate in renting multi-family housing on the basis of race.

William Gray came to congress in 1979. His freshman colleagues, immediately, recognized his expert ability, by electing him to represent them on the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. During the 96th congress, which was Gray's first congressional term, he served on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Budget Committee and the Committee on the District of Columbia. During this first term, Gray was the only freshman to author a program that was passed by both Houses of congress in the 20th century. This legislation established the African Development Foundation to deliver visible United States' aid to African villages. He also sponsored an amendment which called for an increase in the number of minority and women Foreign Service officers. This amendment

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