

EDITORIALS

Big, Bureaucratic Government

Long before the emergence of big bureaucratic government and multi-national corporations, when people had problems,

their neighbors came to offer whatever assistance was needed. A burned-out family would witness neighbors and people they did not know coming with hammers, saws, nails, and lumber to rebuild their home. A family with a very sick child and mounting medical bills would often receive financial gifts from near and

far to meet their heavy bills. The destruction of property and the threat to life and safety brought on by tornados and floods have resulted in large volunteer forces going to the aid of whole communities.

Last year we recall that on the urging of at least one City Council member, men and equipment were sent east on a Saturday to help in the salvage efforts following a tornado. Likewise, in South Carolina offers of help were provided to three black churches that were mysteriously burned.

Considering these historic developments, which are now fewer in number, people have been conditioned to look toward government to meet such needs. It was, therefore, a sad sight to observe the Crestdale community losing federal Community Development money for badly needed housing and community improvements after nearly a 10-year wait because of the ineptness of both some Mecklenburg County and state employees.

However, true to the American way and

No Professional Sports?

Businessman George Shinn's quest to bring a United States Football League team to Charlotte raises some interesting thoughts about the history of professional sports in the Queen City. Considering the relative instability of the USFL and the city's spotty professional sports history, we wonder about Mr. Shinn's optimism.

We have stressed "professional" sports because there is a distinct difference and attitude in Charlotte toward collegiate sports. Any basketball game on any night involving one of the Big Four teams - Carolina, N.C. State, Wake Forest, or Duke - will fill the Charlotte Coliseum. Likewise, in football the same thing would occur even at small Memorial Stadium. In fact the recent football crowd that watched Carolina's Blue and White intersquad game two weeks ago was larger than most of the crowds that have watched the Carolina Hornets, Chargers, and Storm football teams over the years.

We don't see any hope for greater success in getting another professional sports team of any lasting duration because George Shinn's USFL interest has one and possibly two of the characteristics of all

out of an apparent deep concern for the needs of the Crestdale community, Mecklenburg County Commissioner Rod Autrey said on Tuesday that he plans to set up a trust fund to help raise \$100,000 for building supplies to aid in the rehabilitation efforts in Crestdale, a low-income black community located near Matthews in the southern part of the county.

In addition, 10 private developers have said they are willing to repair homes in the community without charge if the residents respond by expressing a willingness to help with free labor. Commissioner Autrey also proposes to have the County to finance water taps and to install septic tanks in six homes that lack indoor plumbing. He also foresees the possibility of building a park in the area.

A meeting planned for tonight (Thursday) involving the Crestdale Community Organization, county officials and developers are expected to determine the specific planning format. There are 37 homes in the Crestdale community.

Steve Walsh, president of the Walsh Corporation, is one of the 10 developers who has agreed to help in the project. Mr. Walsh put the project idea in perspective when he said the idea fits his political philosophy in that the private sector should assume more of the service responsibility that government provides.

We offer our thanks and best wishes to Ron Autrey, Steve Walsh and others for their commitment to public service within a spirit of "love thy neighbor."

previous professional franchises. That is, the USFL is a weak league and secondly it has serious financial problems.

Therefore, it appears to make more sense to seek to get an NFL or NBA franchise.

Some would argue that Charlotte is not large enough to support such teams. Our response to that is that Green Bay, Wis., has a smaller population than Charlotte yet it supports the Green Bay Packers of the NFL. This is possible because the marketing program for Packer fans is not limited to Green Bay. The many towns and cities around Green Bay support the team.

With no major professional sports teams between Washington and Atlanta on the East Coast, it appears unlikely that a good marketing program could not attract fan support from at least a 100-mile radius around Charlotte.

Mr. Shinn, don't make the same mistake as others. Go for the gold, go for an NBA or NFL franchise or don't waste your money. An NBA team might be your best bet since a facility to house quality pro basketball is in the making. We'll buy the first ticket. Good luck!

From Capitol Hill

Reagan's Proposal Assaults Low Income People

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

In cutting the big deficit that he produced, the President has taken another swipe at low income people and the disadvantaged, by first attempting to abolish the Small Business Administration. Senate Republicans worked with the President on a compromise to abolish the agency and its loan programs and to switch some of its programs to Treasury and Commerce. Later it was decided to maintain the agency but to eliminate the lending programs - both direct loans and guaranteed loans. It is now an independent agency which will maintain the procurement and management assistance programs. Edward Dale, assistant to David Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget, said that no name has been decided upon for the present.

Representative Parren Mitchell, chairman of the House Small Business Administration, has introduced a bill, H.R. 1281, which calls for a three-year reauthorization of the Administration with a continuation of the loans. The bill cooperates with the Administration in cutting the budget by cutting direct loans from \$350,000 to \$150,000, the guaranteed loans will be frozen at the 1985 level and the surety bond guarantees would be frozen at a little over \$1 billion.

Mitchell called the proposal to dismantle SBA "senseless and ill-advised." He also called the President's proposal to sell the \$10 billion loans to improve cash flow, a shortsighted venture. The Administration proposes to sell \$9.8 billion in loans assets for four years, but the projected yield of \$1.83 billion, which will only be \$0.19 on



Alfreda

the dollar. This creates a windfall for investors under the guise of budget austerity.

At the hearing on H.R. 1281, witnesses testified that the loans to minority, disadvantaged and women businesses have paid great dividends in taxes to the federal government. The Small Business Investment Companies (SBIC) pay the government \$2 million annually in users' fees and that on the government's \$34 million loan to all SBICs it has received more than twice that amount in taxes from just one company.

There are nine living Small Business Administrators who served under seven previous Presidents - all of whom stress heartily the importance of maintaining the Administration with all of its loans. They agreed that Small Business Administration should bear its part in the deficit reduction, but disagree on "junking or crippling the agency."

Witnesses stated that small business' role in our economy is far more important than many economists

"IF THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PROTECT US AND IF THE POLICE CANNOT, IT FOLLOWS THAT BLACK CITIZENS MUST PROTECT THEMSELVES."

"WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL DISCRIMINATION ENDS BEFORE WE RID OUR COMMUNITIES OF CRIME. WE CAN NO LONGER EXCUSE CRIME BECAUSE OF SOCIETY'S INEQUITIES. WE STAND MENACED BY OUR OWN KITH AND KIN. 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 CENTURY, STAND AS MUTE SPECTATORS TO OUR DOOM!"

ORDE COOMBS
N.Y. MAGAZINE

America's Fascinating Lifestyles?

Anyone who visits the United States is fascinated by American lifestyles. The general feeling is that Americans lead the most interesting lives and truly enjoy Capitolism. Let us take a peak into some points of interest in the lifestyles of the middle income and not so famous.

The fastest growing counties are Fort Bend, Texas, Montgomery, Texas, Gwinnett, Georgia, Dinton, Texas, Collin, Texas, Anchorage, Alaska and Arapahoe, Colorado. Bear in mind that Alaska has the highest income level per person at \$17,155. New York below the middle at \$14,121 and Illinois at \$13,728 at the bottom. Texas did not rate in the top ten. So why is everybody moving to Texas?

In the world of material growth and satisfaction: the Caribbean remains the number one honeymoon destination, Hawaii comes second and Florida third. What about our neighbor to the north for a honeymoon - Canada was last, but rising! Cadillac is still the number one luxury car in America and Lincoln is a far second. The first choice of the seven VCR manufacturers is RCA,



Sabrina

Panasonic was number two, Sony number three and Magnavox was last. The Ladies Pro Golf Association Player with most consecutive \$100,000 years are Pat Bradley, Amy Alcott, Nancy Lopex and Joanne Carner.

Health issues! How does exercise affect the population? It helps make friends, promotes closeness to a loved one and improves love lives. Caesarean births are on the rise with 20 of every 100 births in 1983 being Caesarean births. A.I.D.S. (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) cases and deaths rose from 8 deaths and ten cases in 1979

to 4,230 cases and 1,389 deaths in 1984. Curfews do save lives - states who have adopted teen curfews show a reduction in teen auto accidents (the number one cause of teen deaths). Pennsylvania is showing a 69 percent reduction and New York a 62 percent reduction. Maryland is number three with 40 percent reduction and Louisiana number four with 25 percent reduction.

Unemployed people are the least healthy people. More than four percent annually are admitted to mental hospitals. 1.7 percent will die of heart attacks and 1.2 will account for all deaths.

On the subject of religion four out of 10 feel religion is increasingly influencing American life. The most popular Biblical films are The Ten Commandments, Ben-Hur, The Robe, The Bible, Spartacus, Quovadis, and Samson and Delilah.

One's chances of IRS auditing increases with income. If yearly earnings are \$25,000 - \$49,999 - 2 of every 100 will be audited. If earnings are \$10,000 - \$24,999 - 1 of 100 will be audited. Sympathy to the people in the \$50,000 and over income level - 4 of every 100 will be audited!

If education is the game - what is the toughest course for college freshmen? Math - with 25 percent of the freshmen class enrolled in remedial math. For those anticipating law school - those with math, economics, philosophy, engineering and chemistry majors score highest on the law school admissions test.

And in the world of sports. The oldest ball park is Comiskey Park (Chicago White Sox) - it was in 1910 that its first game was played. The major league baseball stadiums that had the most home runs hit in them in 1984 were: 1. Comiskey Park

(180) No. 2 Fenway Park (176). No. 3 Anaheim Stadium (162). No. 4 Wrigley Field (156). The conference most players picked in the 1985 NFL college draft was the Southeast with 45 players choosing it. The running of the 11th Kentucky Derby found itself with another "fast pacer." The winner, Spend a Buck, is the third fastest derby horse - clocking the race at 2:00 and one-fifth. The number one slot is held by the beloved Secretariat of 1973 at 1:59 and two-fifths. Remember Churchill Downs is a 1 1/2 mile course: Those horses are pretty swift!

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