

## Editorials

### Tax Reform-Myth Or Reality?

For more years than anyone can probably remember, Congress, many state legislatures, and a multitude of special interest groups, have talked about the need for tax reform. A year ago a reform effort began when the Reagan administration announced, with much fanfare, a bold plan called Treasury I. Its aim was to rewrite what everyone agrees is a ridiculously complicated and loophole-ridden income tax law.

In spite of President Reagan putting the prestige of his office behind Treasury I, the plan lost momentum. Now, Mr. Reagan has given a lukewarm blessing, not an endorsement however, to a more modest plan referred to as Treasury II. This second plan too was losing momentum until Illinois Democrat Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee, seized the initiative to move the plan along with a Democratic Party bias. Rostenkowski, feeling a sense of accomplishment for having at least secured a committee-approved bill, said, "We have done what many people thought couldn't be done."

While President Reagan has not endorsed the Ways and Means Committee's income tax bill proposal, it is believed that he hopes the bill will be approved by the House and then possibly once it reaches the U.S. Senate a compromise bill can be developed that he might be confident to approve. This possibility is based on the presumed support of the President by the Republican-controlled Senate.

Nevertheless, the committee's income tax proposal is already being heavily attacked. For example, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a pro-business advocate, is reportedly so disheartened by the proposal that it has called for a postponement of any effort toward tax reform for at least two years. Yet, some companies support the proposal because of the overall lower corporate tax rates it offers.

The central question in the income tax law reform issue, something that everyone appears to think we need, is why is it so difficult to get a reform bill passed with which at least a majority of national lawmakers and the American public will be reasonably satisfied? The blunt answer is

that tax reform means the same thing to everyone and simultaneously something different to everyone. That is, everyone believes that tax reform should mean lower taxes for them or their special interest group and, to the extent necessary, higher taxes on all others to assure the continued providing of public services ranging from national defense and environmental health to garbage pickup and public transportation at the local level.

Thus, it has been the competing and often conflicting interests of business and its many internal sub-special interest groups, labor unions, the elderly, consumer groups, such as homeowners, farmers, people with savings, and even state and local governments all see federal tax reform from a different perspective. Corporations don't want to lose their lucrative investment tax credits; labor unions and workers in general want lower personal income taxes; middle-income families don't want their tax write-offs on mortgage interest payments on the second home taken away; retired people are concerned about taxes on their tax shelter - long-time savings; farmers are fearful of subsidy losses within the tax reform maze; and, state and local governments are concerned with any tax reform plan that may affect their taxing policies and programs.

Thus, with a multitude of special interest groups and lawmakers trying to respond to the needs and desires of their constituents, it is nearly impossible to write a tax reform bill that is pleasing or at least something that the voters feel reasonably comfortable that it is a fair bill. Rostenkowski's own committee has helped to fan the fires of public dissatisfaction by including in its tax reform proposal certain tax exemptions for congressional staff workers that are not available to other Americans.

Until and unless all Americans begin to think and respond positively to the John F. Kennedy's lasting statement, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." What we can do is begin to think about what's best for America and therefore what, in the long run, will be best for each of us as Americans.

### Children Having Children

In a nine-page report Time magazine's (December 9) cover story entitled, "Children Having Children," we observed the latest painful studies about teenage pregnancies referred to as a "corroding" force on "America's social fabric."

With regard to blacks, the article restates the now well known fact that over 50 percent of all black babies born in America are born to unwed mothers who are usually under 19 years of age. "When you look at the numbers, teenage pregnancies are of cosmic danger to the black community. Teenage pregnancy ranks near the very top of issues facing black people," states Eleanor Holmes Norton, a black scholar,

in the Times article.

Fortunately, the article points out that Ms. Horton is not alone in her concerns in that a new breed of black academicians and leaders have begun to acknowledge teenage pregnancy as a major issue confronting the nation's black community. Admitting there is a problem is a first step toward finding solutions. Significantly, when N.Y. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, then a sociologist, released a study on the instability of the black family 20 years ago, he was accused of being a racist; now we have had the courage to admit that we were wrong and hopefully have begun to systematically attack the problem.

Miller Says:

### The Female Option: Stigma Or Privilege?

By Sherman N. Miller  
Special To The Post

In November whilst sitting in the Memphis, TN, airport, I found myself locked in an awkward debate where I was defending to a woman the uniqueness of women. This lady was replete with religious conviction that God had made females merely for the accompaniment of males. She supported her beliefs by highlighting a message she recently heard at a national church conference where the minister's homily purportedly touched on the fact that God made Eve for Adam. Her confutative comments challenged me to start examining how mainstream America perceives the equality of women.

Since the labor market is one of the major fronts in women's pursuit of socioeconomic parity, I decided to get some feel for the perception of women in this arena. In the summer 1985 issue of The Review of Black Political Economy, Lonnie K. Stevens, Charles Register, and Paul Grimes question the tenacity of females in the job market. In an article entitled, "Race and The Discouraged Female Worker: A Question Of Labor Force Attach-



Sherman

ment," they write, "...females, when considered as a whole, do not appear to show a tenacious attachment to the labor force similar to that of males."

However, Stevens, Register, and Grimes went on to factor in the effects of race into their proclamation. They continued, "...while females as a group and non-minority females exhibit only marginal attachments to the labor force, minority females show an attachment that rivals the male's in fervor. Thus, the results indicate that minority females are increasingly playing the same socioeconomic role in society as men."

I wondered what sorts of taints the above findings may have on the thinking of some males in high offices. I was greatly disturbed when I



### 10 Million Children Come Home To Empty Houses

On any given day in the United States, it is estimated that 10 million children come home to empty houses. These children carry their own keys and have little or no adult supervision after school.

Researchers Thomas and Lynette Long coined the term "latchkey kids" for children who participate in the lifestyle. In studies done by the Longs, they found that latchkey kids do learn quickly to be independent and self-sufficient; some also experience other problems, such as loneliness, fear, boredom, and depression. A certain percentage experiment with sex.

Other researchers argue that latchkey kids are more likely to be involved in drinking, drugs, crime and rebelliousness, and become victims of crime, accidents and illnesses. A recent study of 400 12- to 15-year-olds found that 40 percent of those living in single-parent families had participated in heavy petting or intercourse at home after school. The nation's schools are aware that students, oftentimes pre-teens, experiment with drugs.

If the preliminary report holds true concerning sexual activity for latchkey kids around the nation, society is



Sabrina

facing an unavoidable tragedy.

The lives of the young people will be ruined when children bear children. Parents suffer tremendously and society pays an enormous price when the "quick grow" kids cannot care for themselves. The picture does not have to be completely grim and dark. Most latchkey children are not the monsters studies and statistics make them out to be.

A number of people want to turn back the hands of time to the heart warming Norman Rockwell vision of family. In this scenario dad went to work and mom stayed home, which she put ahead of her selfish career plans for the children to have a safe and happy home.

Sometimes having mom at home can create more problems than it solves. The Norman Rockwell view is just that - a view. Its existence is non-existent. A two-parent home does not guarantee a well adjusted and independent child.

Society talks of domestic violence, child abuse, granny bashing, molestation and the list goes on; the irony is that these injustices most often occur in a two-adult living situation.

A majority of the women working today (one in four families with children) is a single-parent household. Changing times especially for white Americans.

Latchkey kids are not all wasting time becoming an illness to society. That would be and is an unfair generalization. The truth is latchkey kids find other things to occupy themselves (find other things under the supervision and concern of their parents). They participate in in afterschool civic and religious programs, such as volunteer groups, afterschool activities, such as sports, music and drama. Older ones have part-time jobs. Churches and community organizations offer activities. In addition to that, school work and household chores contribute to filling the time alone.

The emotions of being alone must be dealt with. But latchkey children need not and are not the complete degeneration of American society.

### New CPCC Program

Employers who need specialized training for key people on their payrolls may be able to find that training through a new program at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC).

Using a \$75,000 state grant, CPCC will provide training in certain occupations the state has said need upgrading. Some of the occupations included in this new Cooperative Skills Training Program are automotive mechanic, electrician, fork lift operator, printer, roofer, sheet-metal worker, textile worker, upholsterer, and welder.

"One of the good things about the program is its flexibility," said Dean Gilbert, co-director of the CPCC program. "There is no minimum class size. We can teach large classes or small classes and we can teach either on campus or at any business or industry in Mecklenburg County."

Hoke Griffin, who co-directs the program with Gilbert, said the program can be especially useful for small operations that could not otherwise afford training for employees. Tuition is \$15 per student.

"In an area as cosmopolitan as Charlotte, businesses are in competition not only with other American businesses, but also with foreign companies," Griffin said. "Improving the skills of certain key employees can give them the edge, may help people stay in business and prosper."

CPCC is one of 19 colleges in the state to offer the Cooperative Skills Training Program. For details, call Gilbert at 373-4471 or Griffin, 373-6931.

THE CHARLOTTE POST	
North Carolina's Fastest Growing Weekly	
704-376-0496	
"The People's Newspaper"	
107 Years Of Continuous Service	
Bill Johnson Editor, Pub.	Bernard Reeves Gen. Mgr.
Fran Farrer-Bradley Adv. Mgr.	Dannette Galtier Office Mgr.
Published Every Thursday by The Charlotte Post Publishing Company, Inc. Main Office: 1531 S. Camden Road Charlotte, N.C. 28203	
Second Class Postage Paid at Charlotte	
Member, National Newspaper Publishers' Association North Carolina Black Publishers Association	
National Advertising Representative: Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.	
One Year Subscription Rate \$51.76 Payable In Advance	
USPS No. 065500 POSTMASTER Send Change of address to: Charlotte Post 1531 S. Camden Rd. Charlotte, N.C. 28203	