

The Carolina Times
EDITORIALS

Food For Thought

Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, director of the Office of Urban Affairs of the American Council on Education told graduates of North Carolina Central University that the crisis in urban areas today are occasioned by poor race relations and poverty. Jenkins challenged the college graduates by relating that many of them had come here as ruralites and would leave out as urbanites. Therefore, the solutions of urban problems will require the application of educated intelligence for them as well as for the faculty of the institution.

It was pointed out that several factors, including the federal government itself, were responsible for many of the shocking conditions by its many, and long standing practices of concentrating funds for individual housing in the suburbs; of financing expressways and throughways to facilitate access to the suburbs; and of providing inadequate financial support for urban services. He also emphasized that cities throughout the world share similar urban problems, occasioned by deprivation and poverty, but it is accentuated in the United States by racism.

The involvement of institutions of higher education in urban problems is expected to be one of the major de-

velopments of the next decade. Many universities have already become instruments of social changes. Black colleges and universities are in a uniquely strategic position to have effective impact and give input. America's basic institutions are changing in response to a growing sense of power among the people and a determination to build a better world now.

Graduates must become politically involved by studying issues, evaluating candidates and voting to bring about changes in our society. Run for all offices and get in that game called power. Our cities will be rejuvenated only if blacks and other minorities can share in the responsibility; the decision making and the power. You are the educated elite and help save us from further war, poverty and injustices.

Leaders of revolutions throughout history were not the poor, downtrodden and uneducated; they were educators and educated people in the dedicated sense. The true revolution is not the young people in the streets nor the women's liberation, but people who are working to solve problems. Revolutionaries who ignore the solving of concrete problems and merely exhort rhetoric becomes cop-outs because they ignore this basic truth.

No Capabilities Of Blacks

The statement reported in the Raleigh News and Observer, May 31, 1971, by Charles Crutchfield Charlotte Chamber of Commerce president, that Negroes are not "economically or mentally qualified" are present to run large cities reveals that he is fighting hard to promulgate old myths, now that many blacks are running and being elected to high public offices in many of our cities.

It is well that Charlotte's city councilman and mayor protem, Fred Alexander, required that this statement be retracted or clarified. Chamber of Commerce presidents are most influential and powerful in cities, no matter what the size. It takes only a very small amount of bigotry and racism to light the fires of confusion, animosity and bitterness among its citizenry. Many of us recall how Adolph Hitler started such myths about another minority as they sought their freedom and determination and our world was thrust into a crucial con-

lict from which we have not yet totally emerged.

The time to speak up is now and we commend Councilman and Mayor Protém Alexander of Charlotte for his most timely rebuttal. Councilman Alexander, who has served six years on the city council and was the top vote getter in the latest election race said, "Given the same opportunities, Negroes can and are doing the same things white people are doing. I defy any person, white or black, to question my competence to run a city. Just as I can fulfill such a responsibility, there are other Negroes who can do likewise."

Crutchfield issued a statement on Thursday in Charlotte, saying he had expressed himself poorly. As a noted anthropologist once told me, when you hear an expression of bigotry or prejudice, correct it right then. So we commend Fred Alexander, councilman and mayor protem for his fourth right action.

Things You Should Know



Abraham HANNIBAL

CA. 1692-1782

BORN A SLAVE IN AFRICA, HE BECAME THE ADOPTED SON OF PETER THE GREAT AND LEARNED MILITARY ENGINEERING. LATER, HE WAS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY. AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, VASTLY WEALTHY, HE OWNED 2000 WHITE SLAVES.

CONTINENTAL FEATURES

They Don't Give A Damn About Us

In Memoriam —
TWO BLACK STUDENTS KILLED AND ELEVEN WOUNDED BY MISSISSIPPI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL—A YEAR AGO THIS MONTH—IT WAS THEN AN OFFICER WENT TO A RADIO CAR, CALLED IN AND SAID "YOU'D BETTER SEND SOME AMBULANCES, WE KILLED SOME NIGGERS!"



Comments from the Capital —
RUMORS, REPORTS AND REFLECTIONS
 by Vant Neff

Incongruities:
 A certain arrogant union leader feasted at world-famous restaurants, and in general, lives high off the hog, while his rank and file followers pressured for more money. Ironically, this very same "leader" was on the Sanitation Department payroll, though records prove that over a period of 15 years, he never once reported for a regular job of work. With his unsavory background, is it any wonder that once again he is under government investigation—this time, for alleged misuse of union funds?

The Russians urge an end to biological weaponry. Long ago, the United States, at the direction of President Nixon, curtailed all biological warfare. What, if anything, in war-making capabilities have the Russians discontinued?

American car sales are up 12%. Foreign car sales in the U.S. are up almost 50%. Yet our own auto workers are enforcing demands for higher wages, so that the price of American cars are automatically increased in the vicious wage-price push. Are the unions so short-sighted that they will price us out of world markets?

Black artists at the Whitney Museum exhibition insist that their work only be selected and judged by black critics. Racism, anybody?

Russia exhorts that the Israelis give back the captured lands to Egypt and Jordan. How about the Russians giving back all the Baltic states, the Finnish border, Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, etc., etc.

Have you noticed that the students of South Korea are battling the police and authorities? They are against government military training programs. Korea is highly vulnerable to guerrilla infiltration from Communist North Korea. What you can't notice is that the student demonstrations and battles are financed by the Communists. The same sponsor.

It's a fact that radical groups work towards the destruction of our country. Yet our own courts have ruled that the government may not tap radical phones without court permission. Which means that by the time the justice department secures an order the whole community knows about it. Incongruous, huh?

Since U.S. troops are withdrawing anyway, I wonder why it has never occurred to the North Vietnamese to disengage from the fighting? Could it be the dictates of the Communist high command?

Met a good-looking, long-haired Harvard student on the train.

Making conversation on the long ride, I asked him what he intended to do after graduation. "Nothing for the Establishment!" he spouted. "I'm a chem major, so naturally I've had nibbles from the recruitment boys from the industrial companies. I told them, 'thanks but no thanks!'"

"Have you better plans?" I inquired.

"Of course," he scoffed. "I'm going back to the bench. Do things with my hands. Create." "What kinds of things?" I queried.

"Useful things. Leather crafting. Shoes. Vests. Belts. Maybe woodworking. Unusual furniture. Designs. Americans have to get back to doing things that essentially benefit mankind, not destroy him. No bombs for me."

I was curious to know whether the rest of his Harvard mates



shared his hippie resistance to technology.

"Not all," he admitted. "But some of the enlightened ones do." Then, in soothing tones, he demanded: "Can you name one person who ever did anything worthwhile for the human race, locked up in a stuffy chemistry lab?"

Controlling myself, I answered, "Yes, Jonas Salk, for one."

Let them die, the chief of the hospital employees' union virtually said of the patients. Crusty Leon Davis, leader of the way-left Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers' Union, pulled no punches about priorities. "The welfare of our members comes first. The public's welfare, second."

Sickening, I say. But isn't this the callous attitude of so many labor leaders? (Luckily, not all of them!) During one of the many strike threats that hit hospitals on the Eastern seaboard, Mr. Davis unequivocally stated that an actual strike would be "real tragic, real serious, and real deadly."

Davis' use of the word "deadly" is all too true, referring to the helpless victims—the critically ill, the injured, the patients just out of surgery—who might not make it through the night without vigilance, care and concern.

Aside from the threat of strikes in hospitals, millions of people are victims of the union's exorbitant wage demands which have to be met through jacked-up costs of hospital services, rooms and medicines. It's the public, whose welfare is relegated to second place by the

union masterminds, who has to pay. As usual. Or else die.

Well suited: an enraptured local of the United Auto Workers union is suing officials of the national union. Why? They're infuriated at the spending of union funds on political candidates, and on radical and left-wing causes. The men don't want it. They won't buy it. And what's more, they're telling the world that they won't pay for it. It remains to be seen whether the union's leaders, whose power is absolute, will yield to their members or the courts!

Inside information: It has been whispered that almost \$200 million appropriated for welfare programs has been mishandled, "misplaced," or perhaps just "plata multetada Scandali? That's putting it mildly."

Where did the dough go? And wasn't it tax dollars, culled from you, me and the rest of the garden-variety taxpayers in this country?

Pay attention, Americans! We work too hard for our money to let it flow down the drain. Or worse yet, to permit it to pass into the pockets of inefficient or unscrupulous persons who don't really give a hoot about anyone else, as long as they get theirs.

Time to take the wraps off, I say. If you or I swiped \$5, we'd be up on petty larceny charges. How can these guys get away with it?

Let's not kid ourselves. The higher wages skyrocket, the higher the cost of everything must soar. It's an endless wage-price push, and nobody, least of all the worker, stands to gain very much. His so-called raise all too quickly turns out to be merely momentary paper profits and may often buy him less . . . and less . . . and less. The only real increase in purchasing power comes from increased productivity.

Final note: Disgusted by the British auto workers' performance, the Ford people are cutting off any new investments in England.

But from where I sit, this is just one more case of organized labor using its excessive power to kill the goose that lays the golden wage.

Letters To The Editor

I would like to notify my Black brothers and sisters that as of May 31, 1971 my employment status will be changed. On that date I will begin working with United Durham, Inc. (UDI) to coordinate its work with the wishes and needs of the low-income Black community.

This is not a farewell letter, because I am not leaving UOCL. Nor does my change of employment signify that UOCL's work will change. It will not: the problems which UOCL has been fighting since its beginning remain to be eliminated. And UOCL will continue as always — and I will continue to support UOCL — in its efforts for the Black community.

This is, first and foremost, a thank-you note. I can not possible find words to properly thank the community people for their participation, their understanding, and their active support for UOCL's

efforts to make the lives of Black people better. I can not think of a single instance when UOCL has called upon the poor Black people of this city — housewives, working men and women, welfare recipients, students, unemployed people — when the people haven't come through. They have responded every time.

Because of the support of the community, I have enjoyed being with UOCL. It has been a challenge. It has been a real experience and frustrating experience. But my strongest feeling is that, because of the people, it has been rewarding.

I am happy that UOCL has never been a one-man organization and that it will remain on the case for the problems that persist. Everyone in the Black community knows the problems by heart: the arrogance and injustices that are present in public housing; the

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

By JOHN MYERS

Ask the man on the street about Durham and surely one of his replies will be an expression of concern regarding the cleanliness of the city.

In my five years in the Durham area I have heard remarks ranging from "needs a better sanitation department" to "one of the dirtiest cities I've ever seen."

I cannot blame the citizens for feeling this way about blatant filth on the city streets. I would not think to condemn a man for degrading his city for its filth if there was nothing he could do about it.

On May 1 several town committees sponsored "May Day," a day to clean up Pettigrew Street, one of the streets in the immediate city, hardest hit by unsightly landscaping. The purpose for May Day was to clean the tracks and bordering grounds on Pettigrew Street, dig holes for planting, and plant greenery along the tracks. Here was a chance for the truly concerned citizens to remedy their complaints. On May 1, a handful of people showed up for work. By the end of the day two lonely men finished their work and headed for home.

The public response has been the same every Saturday following May 1. A job which could have been completed on one Saturday has now been continued into the fourth week.

This Saturday, June 5, will hopefully conclude the planting and landscaping of the foliage. Five weeks spent on cleaning and planting one mile of track because the people who screamed the loudest were silent when it came to production.

I cannot condemn people for not coming out to work on the one day they have to take care of duties around their own homes, but if the beauty of the city was as important to them as their cries indicated, they could surely have devoted two hours of time sometime during the day.

If the commissions in Durham had taken it upon themselves to clean up our city with no advice or consent from the citizens I could say "let them do it themselves," but they yielded to the demands of the citizens. They gave time money, and equipment for a venture which should have been important to all the people who complained. Their venture was met with indifference, neglect, and above all, apathy from the very ones who asked for something to be done.

After this display of concern by the Durham citizens it is any wonder people are put in the position to ask "Is anyone really listening to me?" You were listened to when you asked your question but when the city answered you, you failed to hear.

continued problems of substandard private housing; the absence of Black faces behind the counters in downtown stores.

Two specific, recent incidents deserve special mention: the arbitrary firing of two Black men, Ervin L. Hester and Charles Tillman. The way in which their white employers fired them — Brother Hester from WSRG radio and Brother Tillman from the Durham Housing Authority — indicates that Black people in Durham are a long way from equal employment opportunities. This is the sort of problem which remains to be resolved. I look forward to working with the people of UOCL to resolve these and other problems which we share.

I also am happy to be working with UDI, which has drawn upon the people of UOCL for support since the initial idea for the United Durham project. UDI's plans

for creating businesses owned and operated by low-income Black people depend, for their success, on the very same people with whom I've been working as director of UOCL.

So I am not saying farewell to anything. I am saying thank you to the Black community — especially the low-income people — who have made my experience with UOCL so rewarding. Thank you is not enough, but it's all I can say.

Perhaps most of all, I'd like to state very clearly that Black people in Durham are still faced with very serious, very deep problems. Because of this, I am grateful that we have two such strong, committed groups as UOCL and UDI. We will need every ounce of energy from both groups — and from all participants in the struggle — in the years of work that lie ahead of us.

Signed Ben Ruffin

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