

# EDITORIALS AND COMMENTS

## OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH FINANCIAL TRANSACTION

The Operation Breakthrough Board voted to commend the handling of a Financial Transaction with a vote of 19-1 at its official meeting with a quorum present.

Therefore, it becomes incumbent for all board members to honor its own motion.

One is led to believe that by the consistent leaking of information to the press may be a method to avoid getting both city and county participation at this time for the support of the many viable programs that Operation Breakthrough offers to advance the large group of youths and other disadvantaged individuals.

However, it must be remembered that Operation Breakthrough helps not only black youths, but white youths, and especially the thousands of poor people of all ethnic groups within the Durham community with these self advancement programs.

Have we become so unconcerned that we do not wish to continue the self help and other improvement programs that have moved many persons from the walls of sheer desperation and more especially our young people, both black and white, who have been able to secure some economic and educational advantage by the Operation Breakthrough Community Action programs?

It would seem incumbent upon both the city and county officials to join hands and continue to assist and support Operation Breakthrough in this very human self-help improvement need so that all Durham citizenry may enjoy some of the many fruits of this great democracy of ours.

The time is now at hand and let us hope that the cooperative efforts and mutual sharing of the much needed economic and financial assistance will come through by all parties concerned.

## OUTSTANDING ALUMNI OF NCCU HONORED

The honorary degrees—Doctor of Laws—bestowed upon the Honorable Maynard H. Jackson, Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia and the Honorable Clarence E. Lightner, Mayor of Raleigh, should bring feelings of pride and high esteem to all individuals and most specifically, the Alumni of North Carolina Central University. Both honorees hold top leadership posts in capital cities of the South.

The Honorable Mayor Jackson delivered the commencement address to the graduating seniors, their parents and friends.

Their many accomplishments in governmental and political areas offer incentives and serves as a model not only for young black Americans, but all Americans.

The young of any society are the carriers of its future and certainly Jackson is to be commended for this great achievement at an early age.

His challenge to the nearly 900 graduates, their parents and guests

was that they get involved and help change the plight of all black people and poor people by the skilled use of the ballot, and by the formation of various coalitions that would work to each others advantage was timely and well received. Continuing education should, and must become the goal for all young blacks and other minorities so that top quality leadership can be provided as one enters the market place.

Significant advancements and improvements for blacks and other minorities have never been achieved without a struggle. We know that where there is no struggle, there can be no progress.

The task then for all graduating young blacks is to bring the highest skills possible so that concentrated and undivided energies may yield the greatest improvements to advance the struggles of mankind for dignity, justice and economic opportunity to all.

## CITY SCHOOL SPONSORED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

The city-school sponsored Career Opportunities Program (COP), federally funded and operated under the leadership of Mrs. Edna L. Walker, Program Director and the NCCU Elementary Education Department demonstrates a high level of achievement by the graduating students who were enrolled in the program.

Fifteen of the students, white and black, graduated with honors from the program, which included Vietnam Veterans as well. Many had been out of school for several years.

It is important to note that these students took advantage of the "catching up experience" and pursued their academic work in the classrooms, along with teaching experiences in community schools and centers and even attended some classes late at night. It really meant diligence to the task at hand for them to acquire and reach the very high level of performance as reported.

Perhaps this program should be used on a much larger scale to develop even better classroom performance by many aspiring educators.

## What About The Services Of Our Postal Monopoly?

So often, we have noted a rise in postage rates, and each time we look for more prompt and efficient service. But as the time goes by, we find little improvement in the United States Postal Service.

Well, a study by a private research group concluded that the monopoly enjoyed by the U. S. Postal Service, "in no way promotes better or cheaper mail service." This must be a shocking statement to many people.

With a boost in mail rates, besides the statement of officials that more income will not mean improved services, the study findings results take on a more important meaning.

The findings of the research team is that Postal Service monopoly "probably impedes the development of better mail systems for delivering written communications."

It is their opinion, the nation's mail services will be improved if Congress abolishes the monopoly. In fact, the report said, the researchers can find no economic justification for the 182 year old law that virtually prohibits competition to the government's Postal Service. Some competition is permitted with the delivery of packages and "express"

items. There are even some messenger services which are a thin disguise for first class mail service. But, generally, the Postal Service has no serious competition.

We have been talking about the study published by the American Enterprise Research Policy, which says repeal of the laws which protect the Postal Service's monopoly would not encourage competition automatically. But it is felt that the profit motive might entice private firms to develop cheaper ways to deliver the mails and thereby increase the Postal Service's incentive to do the same.

The study revealed that most innovations in postal delivery so far, have come from private sources. We don't know if this is true, but if so, it is a serious indictment of the federal system. Competition would not put the U. S. Postal Service out of business. On the contrary, the researchers think it would prompt the agency to do a better, more efficient job.

Those in favor of the present postal system, may not wish to try out another system to improve service. But we couldn't do much worse with a private system, and the prospect for improvement certainly looks good.

## GLAD HIS CONCEPT DID NOT PREVAIL ...?



## CONSUMER PROTECTION NEEDED

Plugging telephone equipment into the communications network is a lot different than plugging a television set, an electric clock or an egg beater into an electric outlet. The difference is that an electric appliance does not put anything into the system from which it draws energy, while telephone equipment actually becomes part of the communications system and affects the overall quality and dependability of service.

At present, customer-provided equipment can be attached to the telephone network only through connecting devices provided by publicly-regulated telephone companies. These are designed to protect employees from electric shock and prevent the equipment from causing service problems for others—as, for example, cross talk on the line, calls that do not go through and getting wrong numbers.

Now the Federal Communications Commission is considering some kind of certification system which would establish a set of standards for the manufacture, maintenance and repair of privately-owned telephone equipment.

Such equipment, once certified, could be hooked up directly to the nationwide telephone network. The problem is, who would do this certifying, maintaining and repairing? Those who owned the equipment or who sold it would not be responsible for the overall tele-communications network, yet the equipment they attached to it would affect the service provided to everyone else. The ultimate effect of certification would be virtually unlimited use of customer-provided equipment.

Knowledgeable authorities, both in the telephone industry and in the government have warned against this course of action. A National Academy of Sciences report has stated the imperative need to protect the tele-communications network from uncontrolled direct electrical interconnection of customer-provided equipment. Certification, as envisioned by the FCC, would mean two things for the average telephone user—higher telephone bills and poorer service. To correct this situation before it is too late, a good dose of consumer protection would be very much in order.

## Poet Gives Students Right Advice?

Whenever one mentions the name of Nikki Giovanni, at once he thinks of a militant black poet. This is the person students want to identify with and call "sister," for they consider her the symbol of blackness.

While Nikki Giovanni, activist poet, uttered a rhythm that gives the right beat as attested to in North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, recently, she possibly laid out some sound and practical advice as she talked to the students at the University of South Florida—the kind she has been giving in Maryland, Georgia and North Carolina.

To the black students, Nikki, during the rap session, urged them to earn higher grade averages in college. She blamed it upon their lack of drive and their attitude that college administrators and instructors should be more accommodating to blacks. The poet didn't bite her tongue and placed the blame in the laps of blacks. She encouraged more self help and mutual help.

"If blacks are to increase their impact on the social-political world, black stu-

dents must exert every ounce of energy during their college days in order to excel," she added.

Continuing, she said, "Group progress is Personal freedom to develop within the outside, the realm of the black movement." To this thought we subscribe; blacks must get out of the black stream into the main stream of our society. This will be much more meaningful to the race than the salutations leaving "brothers" and "sisters" void of feeling and respect for one another.

Blacks have been stereotyped as poor students in college, and certainly Ms. Giovanni's counsel hits the nail right on the head. A large number of students say, "Oh teacher, don't fail me, mark down D for me; scale down my test and examination grades so that a 49 will be an A. When you read my composition papers, don't mark off for incorrectly spelled words and poor language and diction."

In the words of the poet, by way of summary, "We must earn better grades, exert every ounce of energy during our school days."

THE CAROLINIAN



## TO BE EQUAL

By VERNON JORDAN  
Executive Director, National Urban League



## Revenue Sharing Flops

REVENUE SHARING HAS proved itself to be a great big flop. It's a success if your measurement is how much money the federal government can shovel into state and local governments. But if the yardstick is in how that money is used to tackle social problems and economic hardship, then the program is a miserable failure.

The big federal social spending programs of the 1960s were criticized on the ground that they didn't eliminate poverty. The present administration proposed that instead of these federal programs, the money would go to state and local governments to spend as they wished.

The idea was that these units of government were closer to the people and would be better able to judge how to spend money for resolving local problem areas.

CONGRESS WISELY didn't buy this wholesale dismantling of vital federal programs. But it did authorize a five-year, \$30 billion general revenue sharing program that does not replace existing federal operations.

The federal Office of Revenue Sharing has now come out with a detailed report on how the first \$2.8 billion was spent, and it's a sorry story.

The report breaks down the spending by category. By far the biggest chunk of money, almost half, went into two areas—public safety and education.

Since these are areas that are almost always funded by state and local taxes, this new spending is really a way to avoid local tax hikes. I doubt that much of it represents new money that wouldn't have been spent anyway. And I doubt that much of it went into making ghetto areas safer or schools better.

A LOT OF communities frankly said that the revenue sharing money enabled them to cut taxes or to defer tax rises. So the program really comes down to the federal government borrowing money to give to state and local governments who use it to keep their own taxes down. Since servicing this debt comes out of our federal taxes, the situation has the aspect of taking from one pocket to put into the other. And it has its share of "the hand is quicker than the eye" razzle-dazzle.

What about programs to reduce poverty? Many people said that Washington is too far away; that local towns would know better where the poor are and would use the money to deal with their problems.

Not so. Out of the \$2.8 billion, a measly \$125 million—less than five per cent—went on the combined categories of social services for the poor and aged, housing and community development, and economic development.

AND EVEN THIS pitiful amount is swollen by expenditures on the state level. County governments put only two per cent of their cut of revenue sharing funds into those key categories. And cities and towns only put about one per cent into them.

- Congressman
- Hawkins
- Column

By REP. AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS



## Higher College Costs

MORE AMERICAN YOUTH go to college now, than in any previous period of this country's history. This fact is dramatically represented by the 9.7 million students who are attending college now, as against the 3.8 million who attended college in 1960.

In addition to providing higher education for increasing numbers of students since the Great Depression, American colleges and universities significantly helped deflate old prejudices regarding the caste and class status of students, based on economic or social conditions beyond the student's control.

The period of the mid-sixties also saw expansive opportunities for Blacks and other minorities to enter higher education institutions, in unprecedented numbers.

BUT ALL OF THIS IS changing, and the optimism of the 60's which encouraged many young people from varied socioeconomic levels to seek a college education, is giving way to frustration and despair.

What essentially is taking place is a dramatic rise in institutional costs involved in higher education; these rising costs are being reflected in increased student tuition costs and related college fees. College officials are citing the energy crisis and higher maintenance and salary expenses, as a major cause in the passing on of these increases to their students.

The result of these rapid changes in college costs of course is that a college education may soon become available only to the very rich, who can afford it, and to the very poor, who are more easily eligible for government sponsored financial aid programs.

MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES are going to find it more difficult to provide a four-year college experience for their children, since very few middle class families are presently geared to meet the spiraling educational costs, nor are they generally able to meet the requirements for government financial assistance.

By next fall most of the nation's major colleges and universities expect tuition and other related fees to be substantially raised.

A recent survey of 2,200 institutions of higher education by the College Entrance Examination Board, revealed that the cost gap is narrowing between two-year and four-year post-secondary institutions, both public and private. Their study also suggests that commuters of two-year colleges would experience greater increases in average total budgets than residents. In fact the most outstanding increases for tuition, room and board, and transportation are occurring in private two-year colleges.

THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE Examination Board survey also revealed that the average cost of a year at a private four-year college by next September will be a little more than \$4,000. (In 1970-71 the cost was \$2975.)

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