

# EDITORIALS AND COMMENTS

## GOOD SCHOOLS ARE POSSIBLE WITH PLANNING

Many viewpoints have come up recently regarding what one may or may not consider as good schools.

As we see it, a good school is one that is racially balanced in terms of student body, staff and administration. There is no place for only power, if all students, faculty and administrators are to be able to render the most efficient teaching tasks to enable all children to develop into their best potential or capabilities without inferior feelings.

Black and white, rich and poor one that enables students to master the 3 R's and gives them a chance to live and study with all ethnic groups that make up this great democracy must be

given the proper perspective, if any school would consider its self as a good school.

Separation of races leads to unwarranted fears, ignorance, prejudice and racism at its worse. Students prevented from experiencing inter-racial exposures cannot develop skills in race relations nor ever fully understand positive human relations. Good human relations can only come from viable interchange and intergroup reactions among the many ethnic and races that make up this great country of ours.

Students who have an inaccurate view of society will be unprepared to participate in a multi-ethnic society and therefore will be systematically excluded from viable involvement therein.

All public schools have a moral obligation to deal directly with the issues and problems of race and ethnic differences.

The continuing frustrations of many students have to a greater degree been caused by the non implementation of real plans to eliminate the evils inherent in a society that have had a long history of denying to blacks and other minorities the opportunities to develop into their greatest potential. The highest burden must not, and should not be placed on those great institutions that have historically carried on the task of educating and developing great leaders among both black and other minority peoples.

The planning stages are at hand now and as such the above management phases may and can be placed into real operation as we look to the continued growth of public education in our country.

It is also not too late to develop good situations that have ample, well equipped facilities, one that is staffed with personnel who really want to be in the settings.

The atmosphere of mutual respect and trust among the faculty and school community and one where students are achieving the needed skills to participate effectively in multi-ethnic society can be done if good management in the interest of developing the greatest potential in all children are given prior management, and all efforts are geared towards that end.

Good schools can be had and developed if they are indeed racially balanced in terms of student body, staff and Administration.

You must have all three to effectively develop all children in this great democracy of ours.

## SUBVERSIVE LISTS SHOULD BE ABOLISHED

The decision by the Administration to abolish the U.S. Attorney General's formal list of subversive organizations, built up in the 1950's as a scourge of liberals and civil libertarians is good news.

Persons who belonged to such organizations on the list often lost their jobs or were otherwise blacklisted, humiliated and many times such degrading practices carried on through their lifetime.

Symbolically, it could well have been the forerunner of the present Government's "enemy lists" which came to light during the Watergate hearing.

More important is the fact that a well known lawyer, now fighting his alleged complicity in the Watergate hearings was one of the legal experts during the Subversive hearings of Senator Joseph McCarthy.

It is certainly the hope of most Americans that our Government must and should rise above the keeping of petty and picayunish enemy lists of so-called enemies that often included law abiding and decent Americans from all walks of life.

The abolishment of the lists certainly is well overdue and should be thrown out with much haste.



## TO BE EQUAL

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

## Make Voting Easier By Reforming System

Out of the slime of Watergate has come a new concern for increasing citizen participation in the democratic process.

The widespread corruption, cover-ups, and influence-peddling aided and abetted by the financial wheeling and dealing that accompanies American political campaigns make it all the more important to reform the system by which we elect our representatives.

Campaign finance reforms are important in this, but just as important is the drive to replace the horse and buggy registration system with something not only more efficient, but that also encourages greater voter participation and increased public interest in exercising the rights of citizenship.

That the need is great is obvious. President Nixon often talks about the "mandate he got from the voters in 1972, but his 47 million votes amounted to only a

third of the voting age population. Over 62 million people did not vote in 1972.

And this is no passing wave of no-shows at the voting booth. It is part of a persistent pattern of lowered voter participation. Back in 1876, eighty percent of voting age citizens cast their votes. Then registration was introduced and by 1960, it was down to 64 percent. And by 1972, the rate plummeted to only 55 percent.

How about other democracies? In France's recent election, 87 percent of the eligible voters went to the polls. The same holds true for other countries.

What makes America the grand exception? I can't believe Americans are less interested in government than other peoples. Nor is there any reason to believe that factors such as literacy, economic conditions, and others have any more impact here than in other countries.

## Much Has Been Undone



## Roy Wilkins Column

Executive Secretary of NAACP

## Looking Behind Shows The Nation's Future

It was a long time ago that the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the opinion in *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. It has been only 20 years, a mere minute as history goes, but in terms of what has been done it has, indeed, been a long 20 years. When it is considered what still has to be done before the *Brown* opinion can be fully implemented,

the task is formidable, indeed. It is more than counting the integrated schools. It is more than counting the so-called desegregated schools. It is more than the busing of school children. It is more than counting the black teachers who have lost their jobs to inexperienced white teachers or to black teachers who, say, have the "right attitude."

It is more than counting the suspensions and expulsions of black students and the going free of white students. It is more than a tabulation of private academies which are all-white. It is more than counting the stubborn school boards in northern and western cities which refuse at the same time to approve busing and to improve the so-called black school. It is more than the stand-pat-ism on neighborhood schools.

It is more because the destiny of

racess of people is the real prize at stake. It is worth much more than a sackful of the heartaches and injustices mentioned above.

White people of this country have as much to lose as the blacks. What kind of white Americans will go through the schools now with all the advantages and inequities of skin color, with the better

education in white neighborhood schools, with private academies, with biased textbooks and with their elders in nearly every seat of influence and power, ready to use the machinery of control for the benefit of their offspring?

Who will rise up 20 years hence and denounce affirmative action as preferential treatment designed mistakenly to correct inequities in the long ago by grandfathers and great-grandfathers?

We will be the grandfathers then. We will know what we did because we had the power (or the chicanery) to ignore the law. The blacks and other minorities in America also have a piece of the action. Black Americans will be a different and a weaker people if they curl up and die before the admittedly hard choices and harder tasks before them.

## Freedom's Journals

JOURNAL AND GUIDE

IT IS NOT A matter of small interest that the Black Press is observing its 147th anniversary at a time when freedom of the press, a First Amendment guarantee, is being challenged.

Back in 1787 when the founding fathers of this republic were hammering out the First Amendment freedoms, striking the shackles from what had been the colonial press, the black man continued to stand in chains, three-fifths of a man.

But freedom is indivisible, and 40 years later, the first black newspaper—Freedom's Journal—raised its own masthead to fight against slavery in the South and discrimination and oppression in the North. Soon it was joined by William Lloyd Garrison and his *Liberator* and Elijah P. Lovejoy and his *Observer*. There was no stopping this small segment of the press (even the lynching of Lovejoy) until human freedom was also achieved.

BUT THE freedom of blacks was short-lived. And the struggle begun by John B. Russwurm and the Rev. Samuel E. Cornish and their *Freedom's Journal* and continued by Willis Hodges and Frederick Douglass and others was renewed. In the new effort, Calvin Chase, Christopher Perry, T. Thomas Fortune, Ida B. Wells Barnett, and John Murphy took the lead. These were followed by Monroe Trotter, Robert S. Abbott,

W.E.B. DuBois, P.B. Young Sr., and Robert L. Vann.

Today, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, representing a membership of 129 black newspapers, including all the major ones, is helping to focus the continued fight being carried on by its members. The publishers of these newspapers are among the most astute and articulate black leaders in America. Assurance that the fight will continue is the growing number of young dedicated publishers.

THEIR FIGHT for freedom is devoted in large measure to improving the economic opportunities of 26 million black Americans who are not benefiting as fully as they should from their annual expenditure of nearly \$50 billion.

The Black Press is an informer and a sounding board, a crusader and a professor, a fighter and a healer. It is a force that can stimulate further growth of the American economy and help heal the cancer of racism that painfully divides the American people.

But again the freedom of the press is challenged, because human freedom continues to be threatened, especially the freedom of black Americans. The Black Press can help achieve freedom of the press for all media, if all media will join hands in a fight for total freedom. The message of Black Press Week was a reminder that freedom is indivisible.—HBW

## THE PROBLEMS AND FUTURE OF HOUSING

By DR. GLORIA E. A. TOOTE

### KNOW THE SYSTEM

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Know what you want and the appropriate means of securing responsiveness from government. This simple principal sounds so obviously easy that minority America simply discounts it.

Not only is this principal easy to understand, but is also a major tool for accomplishment.

The ten regional seminars sponsored by the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity of the Department of Housing and Urban Development will helpfully identify to minority America, and the poor, the various means of making their concerns and needs known to government.

The five seminars thus far held have proven the obvious: minority Americans feel that the system is not interested in their progress. Unfortunately, minority Americans for the most part, do not know how to have impact on government programs and policy.

The frustration too frequently identified as the ineptness of government to quickly response to the needs of the people is priority to myself and staff. I have imposed, however, strict adherence to a coordinated inter-office, inter-government relationship. While this by its very nature is time consuming, it is ever so rewarding in assuring total government responsiveness rather than limited restricted programming.

The Block Federal cash grant to local government, and Federal Revenue Sharing, is on the upsurge in America.

The Federal government has accepted the argument of the people that their life style and community needs can be met better by local government than the government in Washington.

Minority America must learn now how to relate, and secure redress, from local government across the nation. If we fail to acquire the tools and means to do so now, we will allow a void to occur in the transition of funding control that could negate many past civil rights accomplishments.

My office recognizes that the seminars we hold can not possibly give all the answers. They are offered to create an awareness of a new need of minority America through person to person input.

To those unable to participate in our seminars, the following information may be helpful in dealing with government.

The first rule for a successful advocate is to know what government agency has the responsibility for their area of concern. Always be able to identify the policy office in the agency and the responsible official.

Research thoroughly the legal bases, mandate and or funding source of the office. This information should indicate the existing programs, usually numerous, you may use singularly or collectively for redress.

Always reduce your inquiry to a brief written letter or statement, addressed to the appropriate office head. This will assure a response by someone with knowledge in your area of concern.

When possible, be specific. Identify the legal basis and scope of your complaint, whether the problem relates to an individual or many people, and always request a response.

It is also to your advantage to request that your inquiry, if addressed to the wrong office, be forwarded to the appropriate one and that you be advised of the referral.

Those with the responsibility for representing the needs of minority America, have the task of adapting existing programs and laws singularly and collectively to meet the needs of the day, areas of future concern, and of bringing inadequacies of law to the attention of elected officials for speedy, remedial, legislative relief.

The legislative process is, in all instances, slow and tedious. We can ill afford, in haste to request anything short of total remedial legislative responsiveness.

In a future column, I shall discuss two exciting programs in my office that will in the future provide various techniques to involve the poor in the local government planning and program process. This column is offered as a public service by your newspaper.

## Things You Should Know

General Oliver Otis HOWARD

1830—1909



BORN IN LEEDS, MAINE, A GRADUATE OF BEDFORD COLLEGE, 1850, AND WEST POINT, 1854 — HE FOUGHT BRAVELY IN THE UNION ARMY/ AS HEAD OF THE FREEDOM'S BUREAU FROM 1865 TO 1874 HE DID MUCH FOR THE WELFARE OF NEGROES / HE WAS THE FOUNDER OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY — IN 1867 — AND SERVED AS THEIR PRESIDENT /

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