

A Challenge to Black Leadership



"WHILE THE RISING INCIDENCE OF CRIME HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT TO MANY BLACK LEADERS, FAR TOO MANY HAVE REMAINED AMBIVALENT TOWARD THE PROBLEM. PERHAPS THROUGH FEAR OF PROVIDING COMFORT TO RACISTS MASQUERADING BEHIND A MASK OF LAW AND ORDER, I RECOGNIZE THESE RISKS. BUT I ALSO RECOGNIZE AN EVEN GREATER RISK. THAT BLACKS THEMSELVES MAY CONFUSE THE RIGHT OF BLACK PEOPLE TO PROTEST THEIR UNSATISFACTORY CONDITION IN THE UNITED STATES WITH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CRIMINALS TO PREY ON EXPOSED CITIZENS."

DR. ANDREW E. BRUNNER

EDITORIALS

Record Enrollment At Historically Black Institutions

Enrollment at the historically or traditionally black public colleges and universities reached a record level for the fall of 1975 according to the newest Advancement news letter.

These reports cover the thirty-four historically black public colleges or universities which enrolled some 136,946 students. The totals included 121,939 as undergraduates with the remaining 15,007 being classified as graduate students.

This represents an increase of approximately 13.5 per cent in enrollment figures.

It is also important to note that academic programs at the traditionally public black colleges were expanded significantly for the 1975-76 year and possibly will increase in some offerings in the future.

Among the range of newer fields of study offered at some of the institutions are baccalaureate degrees in telecommunications and housing management at Texas Southern University; Commercial music and manufacturing technology at Kentucky State; Mental Hygiene at Fort Valley State; Transportation and Agribusiness at N. C. A&T State University and Lincoln University at Missouri; Criminal Justice and Public Administration at North Carolina Central University and Journalism and Communications at

Norfolk State.

The historically black public colleges and universities provide a unique opportunity for the nation to make long strides in affirmative action to counter the effects of discrimination against one minority in our society. Today, enrolling students of all RACES, they continue to provide for all an example of the productivity of investment in affirmative programs to correct past inequities.

With limited funds coming to these institutions throughout the years from state appropriations and receipts from students, the need for money and other support is more critical than ever to provide programs and services not included in the regular budget. Average income of families of the the students enrolled in these institutions, according to the data submitted, is \$6,400.

If these institutions are to continue to fulfill their roles or missions and realize their maximum contributions to the states and the nation voluntary financial support from individual business, industries, and foundations need to be increased.

We would certainly hope that the rounding out of our Bicentennial year will see a tremendous gain in financial support for these most worthy institutions who render untold services to all America.

Hillside School Facility

On Monday an advisory committee on Occupational Education submitted to the City School Board a highly critical report on the vocational education facilities at Hillside High School.

That Hillside's facilities are inadequate should come as no great surprise to any individual or committee. Hillside is still suffering the aftermath of "separate but equal" legacy which was separate but never equal.

One must review carefully the past history of Durham's city school system in order to get an honest perspective on the schools. This is especially important for the many persons who are new to the community.

Black parents and other citizens have sought and asked for more adequate and better facilities for their children throughout the years, but with little success. It is possible that this is the reason for many of the newer school bond defeats since most funds were diverted other ways.

Some five years ago when the schools became more integrated some attempts were made to improve the facilities. Usually such improvements were most inadequate for the desired use. In the meantime, most funds were being

diverted to the county school system to provide new schools or to build additions and schools in the fringe areas to at least minimize integration of the school system. Urban renewal within the predominantly black communities left no available and decent housing, was being built in the outlying areas. So black families also went to the outlying areas where more and better homes would be available, thus decreasing the usual school population in many areas.

The time is ripe for the city school board to take a closer look at the conditions and location of the city high school. Population patterns, and available land space for a new school within the city area should be looked at carefully.

The life and welfare of school children should be uppermost in planning future educational opportunities for inner city school education.

Surely greater focus should be placed on attempts to correct the inadequate school facilities. Provisions for the best possible education for children within the city school system should be made as well.

State Of The Union Not So Good

TO BE EQUAL

By VERNON E. JORDAN

Executive Director National Urban League

For a nation that grew great by thinking big and being realistic, we now seem to be entering a phase of thinking small and indulging in myths. The President's State of the Union address, like the pronouncements of many political candidates today, reflects this new cramped, narrow perception of what America is all about.

Thus, instead of the long-awaited institution of a national health insurance program that assure everyone, rich or poor, of high quality, comprehensive health care, we get a proposal for some kind of major medical expense coverage for Medicare recipients and a vague hope that some day there might be some form of plan to widen middle class participation in private insurance programs.

Now that's just not good enough. It doesn't deal with the issue at all, which is how can we as a society construct a health care system that delivers quality services to all, regardless of race or income.

Welfare is treated the same way. The President, says it isn't "the right time for massive and sweeping changes while we are still recovering from the recession." But now is exactly the right time to replace the welfare system with an income maintenance program that includes a universal refundable income tax credit.

Again, the same sort of "thinking small" comes through on jobs, for the President says "our kind of government cannot create that many jobs." Why not? That sounds more like an argument for changing our kind of government than it does as a

reason for accepting intolerable unemployment rates.

The fact is our government can create jobs, not only, as the President suggested, through incentives to the private sector, but in direct public works projects and in public service employment jobs.

The new mythology was too much in evidence as well. He put forth the idea that "massive national programs" were tried and that they failed. He lamented the supposed shift in emphasis from defense to domestic spending which supposedly unbalanced our economy.

Anybody here remember Vietnam? That war cost over \$200 billion, shifting money from the domestic economy to war waste and inducing the inflation and depression of the early 70s. That, not the feeble social programs of the 60s is what turned our economy sour.

More myths include the one about the so-called "scandal ridden food stamp program" which is scandalous only to the extent that it has been successful in supplementing incomes of low-income families.

It's been well documented that the program is about as free from irregularities as any other federal program, and attacks on the food stamp program along with the proposal to tighten welfare eligibility and benefits, reflect a meanness of spirit out of keeping with the meaning of the Bicentennial year.

There was something else very noteworthy about the President's State of the Union speech, although I doubt if many people noticed it. There was not one single reference to black people or other minorities in the whole speech, not one!

Nothing about the government's role in enforcing the civil rights laws, nothing about the disproportionate sufferings black people have endured in the current Depression, nothing about mob attempts to deny blacks their constitutional rights in desegregated schools.

Nothing about the needs, the hopes, the aspirations of the largest minority in the country, the most urbanized people in our nation of cities, the majority of the population in the nation's Capital—nothing, not one word!

That may have been the biggest disappointment in an address riddled with disappointments.

The President said: "It is time we quit downgrading ourselves as a nation." To which I say, "amen," but indulging in the new rhetoric of smallness, propagating myths, and refusing to recognize our social and racial problems is in itself a way of downgrading our country and its potential.

About the only consolation is that, considering the way this year has started, there's nowhere to go now but up.

"ONE ISSUE COMMISSIONER?"

One of the most vexing issues I face as I move about the country addressing this group or that one, is the often heard remark: "Now Commissioner Hooks seems like a nice fellow, but he is a 'one issue' Commissioner. He appears to be pre-occupied with minority affairs. This remark is made usually after I have visited a city or talked to a reporter.

I wouldn't mind being labeled a "one issue" Commissioner if a reporter had taken the time to query me on a wide-ranging number of subjects the Federal Communications Commission must deal with in its regulatory work. But the remark is generally made against a background that is incomplete, to say the least, rendered so by the reporter's own inclination to ask me only those questions that touch on minority affairs.

Now many of these reporters are from the broadcasting medium and this, it appears to me, doubles the irony. For if these reporters are up on the functions of the FCC, they would know I not only participate in the myriad issues that come before the Commission, but often I write detailed concurring or dissenting statements setting forth my views in these matters.

But these reporters sit down and ask me questions like: "How many black radio and television stations are there? What do you see as the role of minorities and women in



television and radio? Are you satisfied with the employment of minorities in broadcasting?" And then, after we finish all of that, time has usually run out on the show or the interview and it gets reported that all I was interested in was minority affairs.

Well, darn it, I am a minority. I have been all my life. So are my people - family, friends, etc. Quite obviously I am interested in them and the gross mistreatment they are we have received historically in the media and other social and economic strata of this country.

I would be less than a human being, if I didn't keep foremost among my thoughts the place from whence I came. So it is quite obvious from my record that I have a deep and abiding interest in minority affairs and will have until blacks and other minorities can fashion a better, more equitable life in our country.

If there hadn't been a growing and vocal minority interest in communications or people like Bill Wright (former president of BEST, a community communications

group) and Ted Ledbetter, also a vocal leader in the fight to secure blacks a more equal footing in the communications media, I would probably have not been considered for, much less appointed to the FCC.

So I do not need to apologize, nor do I apologize for my deep interest in minority affairs.

What concerns me always is to be made to appear limited. I do not charge that these reporters are malicious, or, if you will, limited in skills. It comes out that way, sometimes, however, in the manner in which they pursue their story. Even those questions before the Commission that seem to bear uniquely on minority affairs usually have a broader application. And this can be discerned on closer examination. Time the simple, but highly charged issue of equal employment and fair upgrading. A company (and I have heard many express this) feels better about itself and the job it is doing (and consequently, often does a much better job) when it hires fairly and upgrades fairly regardless of race. So even equal employment opportunity issues become less a minority issue that one that impacts heavily on all Americans, black, white, yellow and red. And, even in this narrow context, in waging an unrelenting battle for EEO, I am thus, less a minority affairs Commissioner than I am a federal official who wants to make our stated Constitutional principles applicable to all Americans.

Congressman



Hawkins'

Column

What Economic Recovery?

As preparation for the show down in the 1976 elections, the administration's guns are blasting the media waves with economic recovery dribble. Dribble is the best descriptive word for the dishonest administration portrayal of this depression, as being in the throes of recovery.

Arthur Burns, chief seer for the Federal Reserve Board, keeps prattling about the most bizarre factors regarding this trumped-up recovery. The other day he looked into his cracked crystal ball and announced quite seriously that the recovery had "developed a forward momentum", all due to a recent upsurge in the stock market prices. (Any five cent administration economist could have told Burns that the speculators were at it again, and that spurts in stock market prices only lets one know where the speculators heads are.)

Burns cites the increase of 1.5 million jobs since April 1975, as another recovery factor; he purposely forgets that the total labor force has also increased at about that same level since November 1974! He further cites the strong showing of retail sales especially during Christmas; but what he cleverly forgets to mention is that

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In this our bicentennial year we should look anew at the man for whom our State of North Carolina is named, King Charles I of England. The memory of King Charles, the only person ever formally canonized by the Church of England, is especially dear to Anglicans throughout the world. King Charles gave his life to preserve the Church of England as a reformed Catholic Church. He refused to surrender or compromise the apostolic succession - the scriptural and catholic ministry of deacons, priests and bishops. At a time when kings were expected to be and accepted as men of less than perfect moral behavior, King Charles I was a devout Christian and steadfastly faithful to his wife, Queen Henrietta Maria. I am proud that our state is named for this Royal Martyr and Saint of the Church.

January 30th is the Feast Day of King Charles the Martyr. On this day the North Carolina Regional Branch of the American Church Union will sponsor a special Mass

in commemoration of King Charles I at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Fayetteville. Members of the Society of King Charles the Martyr from throughout the nation are expected to attend this Service of Commemoration at 7:30 p.m. Father Albert T. J. Heath, Rector of St. Joseph's Church, joins me in cordially inviting all North Carolinians to join us in this commemoration. Robert M. Pace President, N.C. Regional Branch The American Church Union, Inc.

Things You Should Know

George Washington WILLIAMS...

CELEBRATED LAWYER & HISTORIAN

WHOSE TWO-VOLUME WORK ON NEGRO HISTORY

CAME OUT IN 1882 / HIS HISTORY OF THE NEGRO

TROOPS IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION WAS

PUBLISHED IN 1897 / ONE FACT HE HELPED UNEARTH (HIMSELF

A CIVIL WAR VETERAN) IS THE BATTLE OF MILLIKEN'S BEND ON

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER JUNE 6, 1863, IN WHICH A NEGRO SOLDIER

TOOK HIS FORMER MASTER PRISONER!

