

Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands



EDITORIALS

School Vandalism

The increases in school vandalism and arson must be stopped. It is eating away at valuable dollars which could be better applied to needed educational programs.

Recent attempts to destroy Durham High School with fires set in the teachers' lounge and the destruction of Edgemont School by fire points up the vandalism and possibly arson problems explicitly. Many of the schools have broken windows. Food and drink machines are vandalized and other acts which take their toll in dollars and time, requiring your money and mine to replace and repair the damages.

A recent survey the NCAE staff has revealed that other types of vandalism occur from the amorous couples who break into schools, but do not take anything, to those who upset cabinets, ransack desk drawers and throw library books off the shelves.

Individuals, young and old, who engage in such acts, should remind themselves that it costs many men hours and dollars to restore the situations to normal. Physical damages that are often

inflicted in maybe only an hour can cost a system much money and many hours of time lost from school.

School buildings are owned by the cities and counties of North Carolina and you and I, as taxpayers, pick up the costs through our property taxes.

All persons pay such taxes, even if they own only a car. Sometimes there is a mistaken notion as to who pays such taxes.

We can no longer accept as an excuse for the rising acts of vandalism in our schools such things as hostility, frustration, boredom or the quest for excitement.

We must show the culprits that we mean business against such acts of vandalism. Without doubt, some viable alternatives to combat the rising vandalism, inside and outside our schools, must be rapidly planned.

What it will be, one cannot say, but the eating up of tax dollars by such senseless acts must be stopped so that those funds may be better used to provide educational programs for all. The time is NOW!

Alcoholism Treatment Center

The expansion of Durham's alcoholism treatment facility points up a rapidly increasing problem area among people, young and old, male or female, black or white, rich or poor.

Reports which show that more than 52 per cent of individuals, age 14 and older are engaged in drinking of alcohol in some form is truly a bad sign for future parents who will be responsible for the generations of tomorrow.

Alcoholism, drug addiction and widespread crime, at all levels, are serious signs of moral decay and physical destruction which often tears at

the very fabric of nations. History will attest to this fact.

The new and expanded Alcoholism Treatment Center will aid in assisting many individuals to return to productive and useful lives as well as possibly cutting down the rising costs of overcrowded institutions, which render such rehabilitative services. An added feature will be the general closeness to an individual's home where family members can also give the needed support to aid in solving the problem.

The community can take pride in assisting in the establishment and expansion of this much needed facility.

Green Power

When will we ever learn?

A study on the spending patterns of ethnic groups sheds some interesting, but pitiful, light on black folks.

It was found that every dollar spent by Chinese changes hands among Chinese people five times before it leaves their community; among Jews, a dollar spent changes hands four times before it leaves their community; among Caucasians, its three to four times and

among blacks - you guessed it - one time.

It is green power among black folks that will move us all up the ladder and until black folk realize the importance of reinforcing their own institutions, we will ALL remain down in the bottom of the barrel behaving like a bunch of crabs.

For those not familiar with crab behavior, when one tries to get out of captivity, those down in the bottom reach up and pull him back down.

TO BE EQUAL

Running Against The Government

One of the most extraordinary things about the current presidential primary campaigns is the way so many of the contenders seem to be running against the government they say they want to lead.

This year's political rhetoric is centered about the supposed threat of "big government" with subsidiary thrusts against taxes, spending and especially against federal social programs.

Many observers claim that the candidates are just following voter disillusionment with federal failures. My own feeling is that the candidates are not so much responding to popular feeling, as they are encouraging it.

The abuse of federal power most threatening to a functioning democracy have barely come under attack at all. They slimy spying and secrecy of the Nixon Administration, the provocative and illegal exploits of the FBI and CIA, and the sale of government regulations to campaign contributors are not being attacked.

The flak is directed at federal programs to get people back to work, to house them, to educate them and to provide for improving their health care. These so-called social programs are the ones thrown up as examples of "too much government," not the hundred billion plus Pentagon budget.

The federal budget is traditionally seen as the measure of the size of the government's position in the economy. Its growth is taken as proof that the

federal role is growing too fast.

But the budget's size has to be measured against the total size of the economy, the gross national product. And that has been growing too, so the federal share in the economy is roughly what it has always been in recent years.

And to the extent that it's bigger, it's because of the extraordinary needs brought on by the current economic Depression. This year some \$45 billion will go toward unemployment compensation payments, food stamps and welfare costs. Much of those costs would not be necessary if we had a full employment economy with jobs for all.

And the only way to get that kind of situation is for the federal government to expand its role in job-creation and in social and economic programs that help to end poverty and increase people's capacity to produce and to consume.

That's the hidden secret the supporters of less government won't talk about, won't tell you that less government means less protection for people without resources, less food on people's tables, less government services, and less chance for minorities to get ahead.

This currently popular plea for less government, which I call the "new minimalism" because it wants us to do the minimum to improve our society, is actually a blueprint for continued inequality.

By VERNON E. JORDAN
Executive Director National
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This new minimalism would just make more of us poor and jobless; it would institutionalize intolerable living conditions for the poor and the black, and it would hasten the decline of America's suffering cities and rural poverty pockets.

Like it or not, the federal government is the only institution we have that has the capacity to unite all Americans, and to mobilize nationwide efforts to deal with our key priorities. The states can't do it, they've specialized in neglecting the needs of the poor and are always looking across their borders to keep their taxes lower than the next state's.

The private sector can't do it because of the nature of the system that necessarily limits it to purely business goals. Only the federal government has that capacity and it is just incredible that candidates have decided to run against the institution they want to lead.

No corporation would name as its president someone who wanted to dismantle the corporation and no labor union would elect as its president someone who campaigned against unionism.

So why should citizens support for the presidency someone who wants to limit government's effectiveness and lessen its capacity to become a really positive force to unify the nation and deal effectively with its pressing domestic problems?

On Cable TV

Benjamin L. Hooks

FCC
COMMISSIONER

Cable television, I now believe, has a bright future. I haven't always been this optimistic but in the last few months after traveling to various parts of the country observing some of the progress cable has made, I have begun to be more enthusiastic about it.

I have seen cable systems doing marvelous things and many of the operators are performing what I truly believe is a genuine public service. These impressions are reinforced by the survey I just finished reading which reports that approximately four million subscribers now get some form of local origination programming and that 75 per cent of the sample group surveyed indicate they are providing time on their local origination channel to public and private schools, junior colleges, colleges and universities, as well as the local school boards. Sixty nine per cent in the same sample indicate they are providing local time on their origination channels to individuals and community groups.

These kind of figures are heartening to me, particularly when I understand that there are now 10 million cable subscribers in the United States and that cable penetrates 15 percent of all the 70 million TV households.

Because I am encouraged by these initiatives, I intend to do everything in my power to see that cable is given every reasonable opportunity to grow and develop into a socially useful communications tool.

I do get concerned, however, when I notice other patterns of cable growth and development that are disturbing. One of those patterns is what I call the "Donut effect." That is, cable growth which encircles, without serving the central cities, where huge numbers of blacks and other minorities are clustered, and concentrates its efforts on the affluent white suburbs and the outlying rural areas.

Not only are such patterns inappropriate because they fail to serve all the people of the U.S. as required by the Federal Communications Act, I believe these patterns are very short-sighted.

After all, most of the population of the U.S. now lives in large cities and I think after a period of mass white (and some black) exodus to the suburbs and disgust with problems of the cities, we have begun to see a heavy trend in movement back toward those cities.

Anyone who fails to recognize this is going to find himself in the position of going when he ought to be coming. Someday, in order to expand its revenue base, cable is going to want very much to come back into the core cities where increasing numbers of people live and where high density residential clusters make a natural market for diversified services.

If cable fails to realize this, I don't want it coming around again and blaming the Federal Communications Commission for its lack of overwhelming success. Many business judgements made by cable operators have been wrong, in my view.

Distant signals and pay cable will never supplant the natural market cable has for specialized services where the cost of the product is more reasonable than "blockbuster" films or sports extravaganzas.

Some of this potential may have to be deferred until cable develops its economic second wind; but in one sense, it will never be cheaper to wire the cities or to engage in some of the more ambitious cable services than it is at the present time and cable will regret it if it permits immediate short term financial gains or institutionalized racist attitudes, or both, to keep it from seizing these earlier opportunities.

Recently, a staff report of the House Subcommittee on Communications took the FCC to task for allegedly stifling the growth of cable by formulating rules and regulations that favor over-the-air broadcasters to detriment of cable.

Some of the charges, while they may have some basis in fact, certainly do not represent our over all efforts. Since I have been on the FCC, I have cast my vote in favor of this technology which I sincerely feel could be the opening that blacks and other minorities can utilize to enter the otherwise historically closed electronics communications media. Of course, much genuine progress has been made here. (I will be writing more on this later).

Nevertheless, cable makes it harder for us to justify supporting it when it engages in such nefarious "Donut Effect" practices. (NNPA)

Congressman Hawkins' Column

Racist Promises And Election Issues

Some well experienced, opportunistic political candidates are once again promising the moon to troubled parents concerned about school busing and school desegregation.

Even a small number of presidential aspirants (including the temporary occupant of the White House) who ought to provide the Presidential office with the dignity it needs, are mired in the muck of anti-busing rhetoric.

They are deliberately, wrongly and hypocritically feeding the fears that many parents have about integrated education as it refers to children attending schools outside of their immediate neighborhoods.

The self-serving motivation of these dishonest campaigners is obvious: promise the voter anything, as long as you think there's a fast vote in it for you.

What many voters fail to realize, however, is that no candidate even if he is elected, can turn back the clock, and recreate the past. (The candidate realizes this, of course!)

In reality, segregation as a once acceptable way of American life, is slowly losing its dehumanizing grip on this nation. Not that it does not exist - it still does, in virulent forms in many parts of the country, but its sanctity is being attacked on all fronts, and one day it will disappear, just as slavery did.

Segregation and the mentality it produces, dies uneasily, however, and Americans are thus hard pressed to find acceptable solutions. Necessary to push segregation into its deserving grave.

Knowing full well how to deal with the psychological fears of some Americans on this subject, the desperate political candidate seizes on these fears as means of escalating his elective possibilities. His bankrupt campaign platform momentarily appears to be on target, and the easily influenced voter thinks he has a candidate for all seasons.

What ought to be obvious to all the voters, is the fact that the average American, concerned as he may be about school desegregation, is more concerned about his job, and his ability to stay employed. One nation-wide opinion survey after another, has clearly indicated that the majority of

Americans are desperately worried about the current economic depression, and the heavy impact this depression is having on their living standards.

In the recent Massachusetts primary, a major presidential hopeful identified his campaign with the "lunch pail" issues of jobs and prices. This is a most precise statement of the constant direction in which the '76 elections are going to be pulled (and/or pushed.)

No candidate for public office is going to be allowed the luxury of side-stepping the major issue facing all of us - and that is how this slackened economy can be moved from its present posture of limited growth and high unemployment.

About 10 million unemployed workers, who will be going to the polls in November, want to hear how candidates' plan to create jobs that will put food on their tables.

Candidates need to honestly address this economic issue; anything less than this kind of discussion will be pure hocus-pocus.

Things You Should Know

THE AFRICAN SEAMAN FROM MENDI VILLAGE, BRITISH WEST AFRICA, THROUGH WHOM THE STORY OF THE SLAVE MUTINY ON THE SPANISH SHIP MISTAD REACHED THE AMERICAN PRESS, IN 1839, THE SLAVES WERE CAPTURED AND TRIED IN NEW HAVEN, -THE DEFENDING ATT'Y WAS 73 YEARS OLD & ALMOST BLIND, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, FORMERLY 6th PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. /LATER, IN JAN., 1842, ADAMS PRESENTED ALMOST 200 ANTI-SLAVERY PETITIONS AT A SINGLE SESSION OF CONGRESS!

James COVEY...

