

EDITORIALS

Carter's att'y general



says  
yes  
to death  
penalty,  
no to  
school  
busing

The Outcry Against Bell

The outcry against confirmation of Griffin Bell as United States Attorney General stems from the extreme importance of that particular cabinet post.

Basically, the influence of an attorney general goes far beyond what may be seen in his public acts. It includes advice to the president on critical public issues; on his appointments of Supreme Court members; Circuit Court and District judges; U. S. State Attorneys and many other policy making positions.

The post also includes supervision of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Prisons and other parts of the Department of Justice. It also includes the power to make decisions on which prosecutions to start; appeals to take; wiretaps to authorize

and investigations to launch.

Many Americans and citizens of the country have just been made aware of the many unknown files against them. This is again what makes the post so important.

Knowledgeable individuals who have looked carefully at Mr. Bell's prior record cannot find any assurance that his decisions will be made in a manner that complies with the spirit of the constitutional guarantees of freedom and equality that is so important for the advancement of minorities and other less affluent groups.

It would seem, based on Mr. Bell's past record and attitudes that he would not be the type of individual that would justify both the confidence and respect of Black Americans for the post of U. S. Attorney General.

Old Man Weather Plays Havoc

The continuing unusually cold weather all across the county has affected all types and styles of living in the nation as means of keeping and conserving energy.

It would seem that some of the people have forgotten how bad it could be when energy or heat is limited. From manufacturing centers, to rural lanes and resort areas, cold weather has brought new respect for nature and for the Man upstairs, it would seem.

On all sides, one hears sentiment expressed in our city that at least it isn't raining or we do have a little heat in spite of the huge utility bills. However, there are some families that are without heat due to insufficient funds to purchase it or other reasons. We would hope that when asked for aid, many of us will come to the rescue as we have and should do.

Perhaps such acts of God as the unseasonably cold weather beyond our control, will make us county our blessings instead of our complaints.

Things You Should Know

Harriet TUBMAN...



BORN A SLAVE IN MARYLAND; A HEROINE OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, FOR WHOM SLAVEOWNERS OFFERED A \$40,000 REWARD; ALSO A SCOUT, NURSE & SPY FOR UNION ARMIES IN THE SOUTH; AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE NORTH, CIVILIANS WERE DYING IN THE ANTI-NEGRO DRAFT RIOTS, LASTING 4 DAYS IN JULY, 1863. WHITE MOBS RAZED A NEGRO ORPHAN HOME & BURNED NEGRO SHOPS AND HOMES KILLING HUNDREDS!

To Be Equal

The State of Black America--1977

By VERNON E. JORDAN



The report just released by the National Urban League, "The State of Black America-1977" makes for grim reading.

It covers eleven broad areas of life and concludes that, in most of them, blacks slipped further behind in the year just ended.

In employment, despite a slightly improved job picture for white workers, three million blacks were out of work last year, about the same as for the Depression year of 1975. Twice as many black adults were jobless in 1976 as in 1974, and about half never collected a dime of unemployment insurance.

Let's skip past the rest of the chapters on the economy and unemployment. In the chapter on education we learn of the black lag in kindergarten attendance, black tracking into vocational schools rather than colleges, continued black exclusion from prestigious schools and many more indicators demonstrating black education disadvantage in a general climate of declining support for public education.

In housing, it was, as the report states, "a year of noose-tightening for blacks and other low-income groups." Housing construction is down, moderate income families are being priced out of the market for existing housing, public housing programs are at a standstill, and we see new trends of redeveloping predominately black

neighborhoods at the expense of their inhabitants.

All across the board, the situation of black people was bad. The report cites health statistics more appropriate for an isolated impoverished island than for people living in the world's richest and most technologically advanced nation. The welfare system continued its decline into utter collapse, leaving basic needs unmet.

Young people faced continued crisis in the absence of a constructive national youth policy. Crime continued its relentless attack on black communities while drug traffic-made fortunes for some and the official criminal justice establishment continued to neglect black community needs.

The report goes on in this vein, examining other areas of importance to black people, but it is of major importance to note that one of its most important conclusions is that the dominant feeling among blacks today is hope.

This was confirmed in a section of the report on opinion surveys of Urban League affiliates who reported that despite deteriorated black-white relationships in the cities, black people viewed the election results as the most important event of the year, and a majority reported more confidence in political leadership because of Jimmy Carter's election.

For the first time in eight year black people

feel they have a President in the White House who will listen to their concerns and, more important, take action to lift the curse of poverty and discrimination from their backs.

That's a big responsibility for our new President, for failure to take long deferred action and failure to satisfy the just expectations of minorities and the poor of all races could threaten the democratic process itself.

What kind of action? Well, first, there should be a Presidential affirmation of his resolve to work toward a society that no longer tolerates inequality and racial discrimination. It should be bold statement that lets black people know that their basic problems will be dealt with sympathetically and imaginatively, and lets white people know that the actions black people need and want will benefit the white majority as well.

Second, he could begin moving toward acceptance of the 24 recommendations in the report, ranging from a national income maintenance policy and guaranteed jobs for all through concrete proposals in health, housing, revenue sharing allotments, and a host of others.

Taken together, such steps would amount to formulation of a new social Bill of Rights that would answer the human needs of our society, needs never imagined two centuries ago when the original Bill of Rights was designed to guarantee our political freedoms.

Benjamin L. Hooks

Minority Cable TV Ownership

After many rumors and reported false starts, a small group of cable franchise holders and owners got together in Washington D. C. in December to discuss formation of an association of minority cable television owners/franchise holders. They named themselves The American Association of Cable Television Owners (AACTO).

It's about time. Minority cable television owners (holders of franchise papers for the most part) for only black cable system is currently in operation: Gary, Indiana Communications Group headed by Dr. William Douglas for years have faced almost insurmountable obstacles in attempting to obtain necessary financing, management assistance and, once operational, adequate programming and other industry needs.

Under the auspices of the National Cable Television Association (NCTA) and the Inner City Communications of Atlanta, 16 minority cable system owners and franchise holders, met and grappled with the thorny problems they face from a hostile or indifferent financial community that applies different standards to minorities for short and long term financing.

Three reasons for withholding financing are usually given: (1) lack of sufficient equity; (2) lack of qualified management experience; and (3) the unspoken but accepted practice of leading institutions not to risk money in minority-owned new ventures.

At its December meeting AACTO decided it would establish an office in Washington, DC so

that it can begin to do serious battle with those who deny them equal access and participation in the growing television industry.

Principal speaker at the organization meeting was dynamic Jesse Hill, president of Atlanta Life Insurance Co., and an official of Inner City Communications of Atlanta, Ga. He praised the group for coming together "to lay the foundation for a plan of mutual support and cooperation."

"There is great significance in the fact that the initiative for this meeting has come from the National Cable Television Association, an organization representing the entire industry."

"Clearly in taking this initiative, NCTA has recognized that the broader interests of the Cable industry, as well as of the nation, will be best served by assisting those minority entrepreneurs and groups holding franchise licenses to become successful industry members and an integral part of the industry's structure."

Hill emphasized the great opportunities and challenges facing the little band of minority franchise holders, and added: "There can be no doubt that the CATV industry, which over the past 26 years has grown from a local antenna service to the hills and valleys of Pennsylvania and Oregon to a vast artery of communication which today serves almost 12 million American homes, offers tremendous opportunities."

This industry today generates more than \$777 million in revenues, employs over 25,000 people and has a total capital investment of al-

most one billion dollars."

A practical, hardheaded businessman, Hill is painfully aware of some of the hurdles confronting minorities seeking to enter the industry. He knows that many minorities have been oversold on the "Blue Skies" proposals of CATV, but that many of those components, two-way communications, data-transmitting services, etc., are today practical realities.

He is also aware that many blacks and other minorities are now beginning to realize that cable is a capital intensive business often requiring enormous outlays of money including capital costs of constructing cable systems, especially in urban areas, and that the "payout period" - the time required for system revenues to permit paybacks of the original capital investment, make it almost impossible for all but the hardest to survive. This period is variously estimated at between five and ten years.

This long term investment is called "patient money." It is the hardest money to come by in capital markets generally and for the minority community in particular, Hill says. "Because of these high capital requirements, as well as the special conditions necessary to assure successful market penetration, the risks of cable investment also tend sometimes to be high."

Finally, the specialized nature of the industry puts an even higher-than-usual premium on that most indispensable of ingredients, capable management."

More on minority cable ownership, next week (NNPA).

FCC Commissioner



Congressman Hawkins' Column

By Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins

Living Each Day

My great friend Senator Hubert Humphrey, the "Happy Warrior", was interviewed the other day about the relationship between his current political fortunes and his recent battle with cancer.

In that interview a series of questions arose about his rapid recovery and his high spirits. Mr. Humphrey said that he thinks positively, and that he lives each day as it comes.

He felt that his good thoughts, and fully living each day, has a way of giving one the edge in times of great stress and strain.

If anyone is the living proof that this kind of philosophy has the power of fight off adversity, Mr. Humphrey is such an example.

We could all take a page from Mr. Humphrey's life, and use it to great advantage.

During the Senator's stay at the New York City hospital where his surgery took place, I understand that Senator Humphrey's buoyant spirits so dramatically changed the atmosphere on his floor, that patients did things which sped their recoveries along, which were not ordinarily done prior to Mr. Humphrey's cheerful ministrations.

One nurse was quoted as saying that the

hospital was not going to be the same when Mr. Humphrey left. In other words it was going to return to its routine dullness.

Mr. Humphrey practices the same kind of magic in the Senate. (At least I think its magic!)

He's an activist, interested in doing and accomplishing. He takes victory in its stride, and does not despair in defeat.

He's committed to the best in American idealism, and never backs away from a fight, especially if the fight is over principle.

I once heard him lay his commitment on the line, when school desegregation and busing was taking its usual beating. (And when respected liberals wanted to make some serious compromises.)

Mr. Humphrey said in essence, that his whole political life was one dedicated to the delivery of equal opportunity to all Americans; that equal access to education by Black Americans was America's greatest challenge, and that he for one, was not going to be deterred from the struggle by the weak-kneed, who wanted to pick up their marbles and run home. Mr. Humphrey intended to stick to his guns on school integration, and not retreat one inch.

No one's seen him retreat yet! The miracle is that he continues on - and how much better we are for his strength.

Surely it would be understandable, if he were to slow down a bit, develop some pessimistic viewpoints, begin to complain about the restrictions of the American ideal and talk about amending the Constitution (instead of amending our wrongful ways of resolving the nation's problems.)

But this is not how Mr. Humphrey operates; he's not a pessimist, he's an optimist. He thinks we can all be better than we are.

And he's right! So right!

Ethiopian Peasants Take Active Part In Construction

ADDIS ABABA (Hsinhua) - In a spirit of self-reliance peasants in different parts of Ethiopia are building feeder roads and bridges. Sinking wells and digging canals to increase production and improve their living conditions.

Local press reported recently that peasants in 14 places have built 820 kilometres of feeder roads and seven wooden bridges in the past two months. Over 5,000 peasants in Kulkonta District, Kaffa Administrative Region,

have constructed a 143 kilometre unpaved road in less than a month. Linking the District with Jimma, Capital of the Region. Peasants in Denchia District have built a Bailey Bridge across the Denchia River with 20,000 Ethiopian dollars raised by themselves.

The peasants have to pay high transport charges in marketing their farm products and buying manufactured goods due to poor communications. The new roads and bridges

will therefore change the situation.

To make good the shortage of drinking water, over 1,500 peasants from 63 associations in Agarfa District, Balle Administrative Region, have built a dam across a river and a 60 kilometre main canal with six branch canals for bringing water to the nearby villages.

Ten wells are reported to have been sunk by the peasants in Fentalla Sub-district, Shoa Administrative Region.

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