



IN 1777 we struggled for freedom, the fight was against racism and slavery.
 IN 1977 many fail to recognize their slavery or would they want to be free even if they did.

Back To College? Why Not?

Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., commended North Carolina Central University last week for its interest in providing college training to mature adults, through its evening college program and other programs. This newspaper would like to add its commendation, and to urge our readers to take advantage of the programs offered by NCCU and other area universities.

No one can guarantee that returning to college will mean more pay, or a better job. Nevertheless, most employers are impressed with people who do go back to complete their education. And there are many positions which require both maturity and a college education. The forty-year-old recent graduate is as well equipped for those positions as the person who received his degree twenty years ago.

Programs like NCCU's evening

college program offer adults the opportunity to go back to college and hold a job at the same time. That opportunity is very important if one isn't sure what one wants.

There are other benefits to a college education, benefits which don't always show in a paycheck. College helps one to understand the world around us, to find new ways to solve problems, to communicate with others and to understand what others say to you. If one is past the age of thirty, then one has begun to understand how important those skills are.

If you think you would like to sample college and a college education, we urge you to contact Dr. Waltz Mayor, director of continuing education at NCCU, or the continuing education and extension programs of other universities near you.

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By CHARLES E. BELLE

RIISING BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT - THE UNDERCURRENT OF RACISM

The best one can brag about the economy, is that it is now advancing along the more moderate path projected in most forecasts. One government economist says if he could collar President Carter by the lapel, he would tell him that the economy is flat, flat, flat.

The national unemployment rate has halted its decline. It has been holding at an average of seven per cent since April, following a rapid drop from eight per cent during the business resurgence of last fall and winter.

The continuing high level of the national joblessness, is a reflection of the slower growth in the business condition to keep up with the growth in the labor force. There are simply not enough jobs being created for the country's work force. Black and other poor people are paying for this disparagement in the job market.

The U. S. Commerce Department estimates that the nation's economy grew at an annual rate of 7.5 per cent in the first three months of the year, then slowed to a rate of 6.1 per cent in the next three months. For the last half of the year only five per cent is predicted by the government.

The black population has been slowly eased into the last place in the highly competitive job market. While total employment has been steadily rising, black employment has not kept pace with its population growth. The average jobless rate between 1974 and 1976 increased from 9.9 per cent to 13.1 per cent for blacks, and over 30 per cent jump in just two years.

In the meantime, a record number of 95 million people are employed according to the

U. S. Labor Department. The department also found, for the first time in several years, that the unemployment rate for the elderly, aged 65 and over, exceeded five per cent, up from 3.4 per cent, in 1974, a jump of almost fifty per cent over the same time span.

Ten point seven (10.7) per cent of the nation's population is now 65 or over. An estimated 22.9 million senior citizens in 1976. Blacks who are able to live until the age of 65 tend to live longer than white senior citizens. Blacks, young or old, are not in demand in the current job market.

PLAN FOR THE EMPLOYED

One answer President James Earl Carter has for the call for help by blacks is a tax reform plan for the employed. The proposal for the tax reform will cut to fifty to seventy per cent at the top rate and trim to ten from fourteen per cent for the bottom tier.

The problem for unemployed poor people is a lack of jobs or programs which will provide them with the skills to find employment. There is no shortage of desire in the black community to obtain equal employment.

College enrollment of black students increased nearly three-fold since 1966, reaching 1.1 million in 1976, or about eleven per cent of all college students under 35. The Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, recently released its profile of the people of the United States indicating that Black Americans made up eleven per cent of the U. S. population in 1976.

The forced integration of schools allowed black people to present themselves to institutions of higher learning. Only similar types of forced employment mandates by Congress and the President will provide equal employment opportunities.

Congressional Black Caucus Reports to the People

Unemployment Is Killing Black People

BY REP. JOHN CONYERS

ITEM: Homicide, most of it gun-related, has exceeded heart-attack and accidents as the leading cause of death among black males between the ages of fifteen and 44. In the ten-year period, 1960-1970, the average life expectancy for black males who were twenty years of age or younger declined by one whole year, mainly the result of the increase in homicide in inner cities.

ITEM: There are at least 500,000 heroin addicts and nearly two million more use heroin occasionally. Of the 125,000 addicts in New York City, it is estimated 46 per cent are black.

ITEM: The prison population is increasing ten per cent each year and by 1986, if present trends continue, over half a million persons will be incarcerated 70 per cent of them black. The United States has the largest prison population per capita of any western, industrialized country.

ITEM: Young people, under the age of 25, comprise 63 per cent of total police arrests. The highest rate of increase in the commission of felonies has occurred among teen-agers, and the next highest among the age group of twenty to 24.

Is there any connection in these circumstances that are so destructive to the black community? Of course, there is. The single most important cause of the homicide, narcotics addiction, teen-age crime, and over-flowing prison population is the incredible desperation of millions who are without jobs, income, self-respect, and hope. Their frustration triggers aggression and violence. Strange as it may sound, crime is not primarily caused by criminals, but fundamentally, is the product of social and economic decay. Why must this be in the most affluent society the world has ever known? Because wealth, power and other resources in America today are not

shared equally, but are concentrated in the hands of the few.

It is no coincidence that the rate of gun related homicide among black males rose 26% between 1968-75, while their unemployment rate more than doubled, from 5.5% to 13.7%. Unemployment has been a fact of life for whole generations of black Americans. In the past thirty years, the lowest level of unemployment in the best year exceeded the highest level of white unemployment in their worst year, and blacks have been unemployed at twice the rate as whites. Combining official and hidden unemployment rates, it is estimated that, currently, 24% of the black adult labor force is jobless, and 75% of black teen-agers. Unless sweeping changes occur in the economy, there is little reason to expect significant reduction in unemployment for several years.

What is government at all levels doing about these conditions? Instead of redistributing wealth and providing jobs to all citizens who want to work, we arrest those who make the effort on their own, by the means they think are necessary, and put them in prison - despite all the evidence that stricter law enforcement has little effect on the crime rate. The nation is now spending in the neighborhood of \$22 billion on criminal justice, five times the amount it spent ten years ago, and yet the problem of crime and violence is getting worse. The engrained response is more punishment and more repression. Even law-abiding citizens are the victims of the crime-fighting zeal and the massive build-up of police that have grown to resemble occupying forces in the ghettos. Since \$22 billion doesn't control crime, politicians call for reinstitution of the death penalty, mandatory sentencing, and the building of yet more prisons. If they have their way, federal and state governments over the next ten years will be spending between

\$6-8 billion on new and expanded prisons and jails, despite the fact that the cost of maintaining inmates is soaring, in N.Y. State \$26,000 per inmate per year.

It should be clear by now that the criminal justice establishment, other than being generously financed, has not the slightest notion how to control crime, let alone prevent it. They only know how to punish offending individuals, if they can catch them. Only 45% of violent crimes, 22% of personal thefts and 46% of burglaries are reported to the authorities, according to the latest studies. Crime remains a built-in part of the system, which no amount of money can solve, so long as its root causes are ignored.

While crime, drug addiction, and violence were contained within the ghettos, the majority white population viewed it as tolerable - even deplorable - but nonetheless tolerable as long as their own lives and property were spared. But the contagion of crime and violence is spreading; for example, the greatest relative increase in homicides has occurred among white males. We have permitted an incendiary situation to arise of massive frustration, coupled with an alarming increase in the number of firearms - 44 million handguns alone exist in the country. This explains the soaring homicide rate. The real issue is whether the Federal Government will provide hope through expanded economic opportunity and the redistribution of the resources of society. The test is whether it is willing to spend more on creating jobs than is currently spent on combatting crime. Enacting the Hawkins-Humphrey Full Employment Bill, which mandates the Federal Government to provide jobs to every citizen who is able and willing to work, is my idea for fighting crime. Until this is done, economic desperation is taking a terrible toll.

Congressman Hawkins' Column

Will We Survive Bakke?

By

Augustus F. Hawkins



People's memories are notoriously short. Maybe this helps to protect us from hurting too much, when we are forced to recall very difficult times.

But as easy as it is to erase the past, especially the lessons of the past - can help us better manage the present and assist us in making more effective plans for the future.

Unfortunately this nation is presently engaged in a series of actions which will almost totally negate all we have learned (or were supposed to have learned) about the sixties, and the enormous racial strife of that period.

A case in point: On October 31, 1977, a U.S. District Court judge in Los Angeles ruled that it is unconstitutional to set aside ten per cent of the funds in the 1977 Public Works Act, for minority firms.

The judge likened the public works set-asides as being similar to reserving spaces for minorities in college admission - which he appears to oppose - and which is currently under attack in the Bakke case.

The judge called the minority provision in the Act, "invidious and unconstitutional," and a violation of the equal protection clause of the Fifth Amendment.

This judge has obviously forgotten the history of our past, and all the events which led to a need for a minority provision in the Public Works Acts. He also seems to have forgotten that the Fifth Amendment was designed to protect the minority - as well as the majority.

He needs to read the history of the Los Angeles area, as it pertains to race; he especially needs to read the McCone Commission Report which studied the conditions in Watts that led up to the riots in 1965.

Those conditions still exist in Watts - and most other ghettos and barrios of this nation: Lousy police - community relations; impossibly high unemployment; anti-human welfare systems, a continually eroding educational system, the absence of an employing business community; and the lack of sensitive, responsible leadership.

The move is on to negate the gains for human rights that occurred as a result of the civil rights struggles in the 60's.

But the consequences of such negotiations will come back to haunt us, if we don't follow a sensible path - which provides law with justice.

Any acts by this nation which ignore the sensitivities of blacks and other minorities, are going to cause the nation untold harm.

We are potentially looking down the gun barrel of enormous national upheavals if we allow minorities to sink (or get pushed) further into the quagmire of social depression and economic disadvantage.

The seeds of our own construction or destruction are embodied in how we handle these sticks of racial-ethnic dynamite.

I'd like to see us survive.
I hope we can.

TO BE EQUAL

Measuring Quality Of Life

We're known as a nation that worships the gross national product. The bigger the better, is our hallmark. Somehow people really believe that the GNP is a true measure of improvement in our lives.

Well, the GNP keeps going up and up, but it is very arguable whether the quality of our lives is improving. In fact, the GNP includes a lot that is positively bad.

The GNP is the sum total of the value of goods and services produced. So it includes the dollar value of bombs and guns along with hospitals and schools. It's a total flop as a useful measurement of well-being.

Experts at the Overseas Development Council sought to provide just such a measure. By combining statistics for infant mortality, life expectancy, and literacy, they came up with something they call the PQLI - Physical Quality of Life Index.

It is a very rough measurement since it doesn't include housing quality, work opportunities or other standards. But since the ODC is primarily interested in improving life in the world's poorer countries, it decided not to use elements that are culture-bound.

The shocker is that the PQLI, which might be seen as a narrow development economist's tool or as an academic exercise, reveals major weaknesses in our own society. The United States, with its enormous GNP, might be expected to lead the world in such basic areas as infant mortality, life expectancy and literacy.

It doesn't. The United States lags behind Sweden, the Netherlands, and several other European countries, including some that have lower per capita incomes. And while the nation as a whole has a fairly high PQLI rating compared with most countries, there is considerable variation among the states.

As might be expected, there's also a big difference between whites and blacks in the Index. White Americans have an Index score of 96 (on a scale of 100) while black Americans only score 89, well below a country like Poland, which has a 93 score, and not far above impoverished Sri Lanka, which has an 83 Index rating.

The Index score is not determined by income, either. Washington, D.C., which has an average income of over \$7,000 actually has a lower life expectancy rate than Sri Lanka, where the average income is only \$130 per year.

Part of this is due to high infant mortality rates in the District, affecting both whites and blacks. Nationally, black infant mortality rates are double those for whites.

What the PQLI shows us when we compare America's vast wealth with the quality of life, is that in key areas America resembles an underdeveloped country.

The fact that the Index is so limited - measuring only three core items that are absolutely basic to well-being - makes this result even more troubling. As a nation we have been so concerned with out-producing and out-buying everyone

By Vernon Jordan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE



else that we've neglected the rudimentary elements of a decent life.

It is simply unacceptable for residents of the capital of the world's richest country to have lower life expectancy than the residents of one of the world's poorest countries. And it is just as unacceptable for America's white population to enjoy one of the world's higher Index ratings while the black population has an Index score comparable to middle-rank nations.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Henry BIBB...

A SLAVE OWNED BY W.H. GATEWOOD OF BEDFORD, KY., WHO ESCAPED TO CANADA. IN 1849 HE PUBLISHED HIS LIFE STORY PLEADING THE ABOLITIONIST CAUSE. BY 1851 HE HAD ORGANIZED THE REFUGEES' HOME COLONY, BUYING SOME 1300 ACRES OF LAND FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF ESCAPED SLAVES. IN 1853 HE ATTENDED A NATIONAL COUNSEL OF NEGRO LEADERS DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF AFRICAN COLONIZATION.



CONTINENTAL FEATURES -

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