

TEAMWORK CAN STOP DIS-INTEGRATION OF BLACK COMMUNITIES



WE MUST STOP FINDING EXCUSES FOR CRIMINALITY AND NOT ALLOW IT TO MASK ITSELF BY ANY OTHER NAME
ORIN COOMBS

EDITORIALS

Before Its Too Late

Elsewhere in this issue is a story on the Durham Chapter of the Black Child Development Institute. We encourage all of our readers, non-parents as well as parents, to take serious note of its purposes and resolve to give this fledgling organization our strongest support.

Our children are our future — and we're referring to *all* of our black children, not just those of our immediate families. While we neither wish the return of a bygone era nor is it among the organization's stated objectives, that story brought to mind that there were once some values and practices in dealing with young people that have been "put under wraps" in recent years that probably ought to be renewed. There was a time when any adult seeing any youngster doing something wrong could speak to that youngster and get a positive response. That was annoying perhaps to the youngster at the time, but for which he is grateful as an adult himself. At least that youngster knew that somebody

cares. Today, an adult might get cursed out for caring and saying so, but somehow that prospect does not weigh so heavily when one equates it with the potential worth of a life perhaps being saved through redirection.

That BCDI will advocate locally on behalf of black children is a welcomed prospect for improving the plight of most black children. One needs only to observe behavior, eating habits, inability to read, spell and do simple arithmetic, lack of basic common courtesies to realize that many are being lost. We are quick to criticize. Now is our chance to become involved and do something meaningful.

The Institute believes that blacks have "a collective responsibility to ensure the health, safety, and general happiness of their children." We do, too. We hope all blacks will support the Black Child Development Institute-Durham. Its ready with a plan. Let's get behind the effort — before its too late! Too late, that is, to save our children.

If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who propose to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean's majestic waves without the awful roar of its waters.

—Frederick Douglass

Things You Should Know

Jean LOUIS



1785—1865

A poor orphan from the West Indies who joined the French Revolutionist Army at age eleven. He became the greatest swordsman in history. Master fencer and militarist, he served widely; retired in 1830 and opened France's most famous fencing school in Montpellier. His advanced teaching methods were adopted by the army and most French fencing schools, many of which are named after him.

Too Many Holes In Reagan's Safety Net

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

In all the talk about cutting the Federal Budget, President Reagan has refused to admit that his proposed cuts will, almost exclusively, affect services that benefit working men and women, the elderly and the poor.

Despite the President's pledge that his budget cuts will be equitable, it is clear that the relatively modest sacrifices demanded of the affluent and/or corporations will be more than compensated for by his tax cut.

The Administration says that under its proposal, the "truly needy" will be provided for. The Administration contends that after its budget cuts are made, a "safety net" will remain in place to protect those truly in need.

But suppose for a minute that Mr. Reagan's cuts in social security, job training programs, and education are approved. Where will the safety net be which is supposed to protect workers and the poor in the inner cities of America?

Where is the safety net in the President's budget for the elderly men and women who live in the inner city, who are partially disabled and may find their disability payments reduced, social security slashed, food stamps and Medi-Cal denied?

Where is the safety net in the President's budget for the child attending the neighborhood elementary school whose reading teacher may be fired?

Where is the safety net for the worker who was laid off from one of the many plants around our nation which have closed and suddenly finds that he or she is not eligible for extended unemployment benefits or job training?

Where is the safety net for the college student who finds that he or she must drop out because there is no money available for school loans or grants?

The safety net of which the President speaks would require working people to pay higher fares to ride buses and subways; it would eliminate 700,000 people from the special programs which now provide milk, cereals, and juices for pregnant women, infants and young children.

Even more distressing, President Reagan's proposals would require drastic cuts in school lunch and child nutrition programs. As a result, many school children will be unable to learn because they are hungry.

In short, the Administration has allowed its concern for a balanced budget and infla-

tion to overshadow his concerns of human beings and a sound economy.

I, for one, believe that Mr. Reagan's safety net is full of holes — holes which will mean that many Americans will not get the food, medical care, and job training they need; or the education they deserve.

A major campaign will be waged in Congress by me and other Representatives who recognized that Mr. Reagan's safety net is defective. However, in order for the campaign to be successful your support is a must. To this end, individuals and local community organizations need to make the President and other elected officials know that a safety net that is full of holes simply will not do.

We must counter the blind rush to slash domestic spending for the sake of unfounded theory, but pure political gain, and we must work to see that our alternative programs are enacted in place of this "design for disaster".

Incidentally, if you locate one of those magical 13 million new jobs, let me know. I have a Vietnam veteran son-in-law who may need one badly if the Reagan budget cuts are unwittingly approved by Congress.

Business In The Black

Bank Of America Boast: Reagan To Rescue Economy

By Charles E. Belle

While recognizing that at least "twenty per cent" of the U.S. economy is "sick," Walter Hoadley, chief economist for America's biggest bank, Bank of America, held out hope for a total recovery under the new Reagan Administration.

Mr. Hoadley was holding forth at his annual address to an attentive audience at the Commonwealth Club of California regular Friday luncheon meeting in San Francisco. Walter and the members were well aware, as he put it, America has "lost some of our momentum."

Perhaps because Bank of America had fallen from first place as the biggest bank in the world. One woman, who just happened to be the quarterly chairman of the Club and wife of a noted economist, evidently did not do her homework as she introduced Walter as representing the biggest bank in the world. Back to the bench for her, the French Agricultural Bank is the new kid on the

block.

Black America has long known that America had been slipping. Too bad one had to tell even a "Television Personality" like Maralee Beck that the incoming Reagan Administration has the same problems of the previous administrations minus the time.

Mr. Hoadley's "prediction is that President Reagan will prove to be a successful leader." Let us all hope so for the success of America. All the king's horses and all the king's men cannot mend America back together again without the help of the masses.

Mr. Reagan will be advised to take Mr. Hoadley's helpful suggestion along these lines. In this area, Mr. Hoadley counsels, if your Christmas cards came from only one group, say 55-64 years of age, only, open up your mind and past methods to admit members of both the 45-54 and 35-44 age brackets.

Being in a separate circle of friends breeds stereotype thinking and America is not able to grow a nation of separate groups pulling a part at its seams, according to the chief economist.

The leadership of this country reiterated Mr. Hoadley is dominated by the oldest group of "can-do" thinkers. The middle gang has grown up in the "greatest period of economic advancement in U.S. history," consequently are "risk-averse." Palulum types, as opposed to the open field "perfection-computers" kids in the 35-44 bracket.

Black Americans fall greater in the lower two groups so it might be just great if some one, even a second ranked bank, can bring the Reagan Administration around to recognizing all the talent in the country. Carrying the country back up to the top will require every able bodied American regardless of age, sex, creed or color.

Affirmative Action

From the "New Deal" To The "Raw Deal"

Gerald C. Horne, Esquire

Though President Reagan has dressed up his so-called budget-cutting, tax-cutting, regulation attacking programs in florid rhetoric, it is becoming increasingly clear that his approach amounts to the same old bludgeoning of the poor and blacks spearheaded by the rich. It is the same program put forward in 1964 by Barry Goldwater and roundly repudiated by the voters. Now Goldwater's dream has become the black community's nightmare as Reagan — thus far — has been able to convince many that mugging the poor is absolutely essential for the economic health of the country.

Reagan's attack on "crippling business regulations" is especially pernicious. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is crucial for the health of black workers locked into dirty, dangerous, often cancer-ridden jobs. Forcing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to speed up the decontrol of natural gas will have an especially devastating impact on the black elderly in wintry areas, no doubt leading to frozen corpses. Attacking the Environmental Protection Agency will mean dirtier air, dirtier water and higher rates of cancer in a black community already reeling from this 20th Century plague.

But Reagan's regulatory attack will have its most insidious impact on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the main defender of affirmative action. The intent of the Administration is to move the EEOC away from suing on behalf of large classes of workers and toward a course of simply processing individual claims — if that. "We'll be claims adjusters, pure and simple," says one commissioner. The weekly magazine, *Business Week*, "expects the EEOC to move away from hiring goals and time tables. If this is true, then the already scandalously high black unemployment rates should be expected to climb even higher.

Reagan's budget cuts bring even grimmer news, particularly to our future — black college students. Today the lifeline for thousands of black students is the BEOG program, i.e., the Basic Educational Opportunity Grants. Under existing law, families earning less than \$25,000 a year are required to contribute up to fourteen per cent of their disposable income. The Reagan plan would require them to contribute twenty per cent and maybe more. The Administration has called as well for changes in the present federal policy of backing loans to students. His plan would reduce federal subsidies, even for the neediest students, by ending the federal policy of paying the interest on loans while borrowers are still in college. Moreover, interest rates on these student loans will be lifted sharply from nine per cent to "market rates," e.g. a whopping twenty per cent.

The Administration has claimed that

Social Security benefits is one area that will not be touched. This is simply not true. For starters, Reagan plans to eliminate Social Security payments to students entirely. But that is not all. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has already worked out, at the request of President Reagan, a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) that lowers the present Social Security COLA paid out on July 1 of each year during years of rising inflation. More ominously, Rep. Geradine Ferraro (Dem.-N.Y.) has noted a Congressional meeting last month where Reagan spoke of a "voluntary" Social Security system. If implemented, the black elderly might as well kiss that expected \$338 per month bye-bye.

One would think that in the face of Reagan's bizarre, "Robin Hood in reverse" program that the Democratic Party would rush in to fill the breach. One would think that the Democrats, who brought FDR's "New Deal" would quickly label Reagan's program the "Raw Deal." One would think so, yes, but this is a far cry from what is happening. Instead of reading the riot act about attacks on food stamps, mass transit, etc., the Democrats have decided to wave the bloody shirt on the issue of — synfuels! In other words, the Democrats are making their stand on the question of pouring the public purse into the pocket of Big Oil in one of the biggest rip-offs since Manhattan was sold for \$24. Let them eat synfuels, the Democrats say.

This "me-too" approach to Reagan's economic program has been accompanied by a growing insensitivity to the herculean role played by blacks in bringing votes to the Democratic Party. At the most recent meeting of the Democratic National Committee, black representation was reduced from ten seats to eight. Mayor Richard T. Hatcher of Gary, Indiana complained bitterly about this high-handed, cavalier treatment. So did Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit but many blacks in private acknowledged that it was the blind Carter policies of black politicians like Young that paved the way for the slave-like devotion to the Democrats that led inexorably to the present pickle. This insult to the black community was topped off by electing as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, a wheeler-dealer banker from Beverly Hills, Charles T. Manatt. This multi-millionaire not only owns 2,500 acres of prime Iowa farmland and is chairman of the First Los Angeles Bank, but is senior partner in one of the nation's biggest law firms serving the gigantic corporations. Appropriately enough, the *New York Times* refers to the party's leader as "a superb manipulator," a "Sammy Glick" who is always on the make.

It is difficult to conceive of anyone who is less likely to fight for food stamps, aid for students, Social Security and other "people

programs." In fact, veteran political observers note that Manatt was selected because of too close a Democratic Party identification with these programs now under attack; since Reagan and Company have convinced many that these lifelines for the poor are bankrupting the nation, Manatt is expected to go hoarse from saying "me-too" to each and every budget cutback.

Manatt and Company are expected also to assent in a lemming-like fashion to the astronomical hikes in the Pentagon budget. In the next three years, it is planned to have a rise in the Pentagon's share of total federal spending from 24.1% to 32.4%. In the next six years, the rapacious warmongers will receive a net increase of \$141.3 billion in military outlays. Those wondering why there has been so much bleating in the press lately about "El Salvador" and the "Soviet threat," should look no further. "Never give a sucker an even break," said W.C. Fields and those who go for the Pentagon's latest foreign policy pronouncements must also be interested in purchasing the Brooklyn Bridge.

Fortunately, all are not going for (Continued On Page 15)

The Carolina Times

(USPS 091-380)

L.E. AUSTIN
Editor-Publisher 1927-1971

Published every Thursday (dated Saturday) at Durham, N.C. by United Publishers, Incorporated. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3825, Durham, N.C. 27702. Office located at 923 Fayetteville Street, Durham, N.C. 27701. Second Class Postage paid at Durham North Carolina 27702. POSTMASTER: Send address change to THE CAROLINA TIMES, P.O. Box 3825, Durham, N.C. 27702.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year, \$12.00 (plus \$0.48 sales tax for North Carolina residents). Single copy \$3.00. Postal regulations REQUIRE advanced payment on subscriptions. Address all communications and make all checks and money orders payable to: THE CAROLINA TIMES.

NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE: Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., 45 West 45th Street, New York, New York 10066.

Member United Press International Photo Service, National Newspaper Publishers Association, North Carolina Black Publishers Association.

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