

# Editorials

## Waste of Manpower

### In The City Hall

At any given time in the life of an institution, what constitutes waste is often a debatable issue. We know that. Often, however, personnel and some departments that were once useful and necessary at a given period and time become a wasteful drain on the finances of the City Hall and the taxpayers.

We can see how this analysis applies to the function and role of the office of Public Relations in Winston-Salem City Hall. Why a Public Relations office for the City Hall? Many people ask. Are not the mayor and all the city employees public relation personnel in one way or the other? Can the City of Winston-Salem utilize the money presently spent in the office of public relations to better advantage somewhere else? Everybody who works for the city of Winston-Salem ought to be a public relations personnel for the city. Hence we think that it is a waste of manpower and money to have a public relations office solely for the function that every employee should be a part of.

The City is said not to have money when it comes to reaching all the people of Winston-Salem. We are familiar with such excuses. We know very well what such excuses mean when it comes to black institutions and facilities. In the same token, we also know that black people pay city and county taxes and that these taxes play a vital role in keeping the city and the county going.

If the City Hall is sincere in saving money for the city, we think that the City will save itself some money by abolishing the office of Public Relations here. But if there is something special that that office is doing that we do not know, we stand ready to be so informed. We shall give equal space to any explanation to that effect.

## Aldermen Must Make Best Use of Money

The Board of Aldermen are taking a great deal of time in planning the use of some \$15.4 million. That is a lot of money and much time should be taken in making sure that it is spent both wisely and fairly. Many people will continue to suffer if it is not.

There has been some talk of spending the money to beautify some parts of the city. Although beautification is certainly a desirable project to undertake, it is not a matter of life or death. But, there are areas in this city where people are actively struggling for survival. It is a painful thing to have to tell your children lies about why there is never enough to eat or why six of them have to sleep in the same bunk bed underneath a leaky roof.

We hope that the members of the Board of Aldermen who are (or should be) keenly aware of the existing debasing conditions will speak loudly and firmly to get some of the money that has been earmarked for the development of this great city.



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"These here obscene com'nist textbooks is destroyin' th' brains uv our chillun!"

## TO BE EQUAL By Vernon E. Jordon, Jr.

Few people think 1975 will be a good year; in fact a lot of people think it will be the worst economic year since World War II ended.

Inflation, while supposedly tapering off, is still barging along at a high rate. More serious, the country is settling into a deep recession, with joblessness plunging ahead at a tremendous rate.

Last September -- only a few short months ago -- the Black Economic Summit Conference issued a call for immediate creation of one million public service jobs to take some of the unemployment burden off the backs of the long-term unemployed.

Now that demand is sadly out of date. Since September almost another million people have been added to the unemployed. An emergency program we advised to cope with 5.3 million unemployed at the time, even if instantly implemented, would barely match the increase in unemployment since September.

So the big issue in 1975 is going to be the economy and what the country will do about

increased unemployment.

One answer was recently given by the Congress. It extended unemployment benefits to include many previously not eligible for them, increased the period of compensation and, most importantly, appropriated money to create about 100,000 new public service jobs. This would be in addition to the 150,000 such jobs for which money has already been passed.

Despite these measures, it is safe to say that they won't make a big dent in the problem. The total number of jobs, even if added to by further legislation, won't do more than provide work for a fraction of the increase among the unemployed.

Since the money will be sent directly to state and local governments to hire people for public service employment, chances are that the long-term unemployed won't benefit. Several big cities have been forced by the budget crunch to lay off civil service workers, and it is probable that their public service employment money will go to rehire such

workers. It's a way of shifting costs from city treasuries to the federal budget without doing anything much about the millions of jobless.

The program also has all the earmarks of an emergency measure designed to give the appearance of action where none really exists. It is clear that if 1975 is not to be the start of a long-term 1930s-style Depression, a solid, more inclusive job program should be launched.

Such a program should -- at the very least -- create jobs for the majority of the unemployed. It should include training components. It should, in addition to contracting job slots to localities, also consist of larger scale federal projects such as housing construction, and other unmet national needs.

Above all, such a program should be the first big step toward a permanent national full employment policy that will create meaningful jobs for every single person able and willing to work.

Such a program would finally get the nation off the See JORDON Page 11