

# WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

NDUBSI EGEMONYE  
Publisher

CHARLES T. BYRD, JR.  
Business Editor

ISAAC CARREE, II  
Advertising Manager

ERNEST H. PITT  
Editor-In-Chief

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Saturday January 15, 1977

## Is Anybody Listening To Us?

A lion often prowled about a pasture where three bulls grazed together. He had tried without success to lure one or the other of them to the edge of the pasture. He had even attempted a direct attack, only to see them form a ring so that from whatever direction he approached he was met by the horns of one of them.

Then a plan began to form in the lion's mind. Secretly he started spreading evil and slanderous reports of one bull against the other. The three bulls, distrustingly, began to avoid one another, and each withdrew to a different part of the pasture to graze. Of course, this was

exactly what the lion wanted. One by one he fell upon the bulls, and so made easy prey of them all.

That fable, written by Aesop many years ago, still has relevance today. It is perhaps this "withdrawing to different parts of the pasture" that is responsible for much of the plight that we experience today. Many of our leaders have been felled recently by attacks of a slanderous nature. These attacks, true or false, not only causes damage to the individual but to the rest of us as well when we turn on each other. We then make easy prey of ourselves. Is anybody listening to us?

## Is This Good Business

Tuesday the city finance committee voted to let the Convention Caterers, which provides food services to Benton Convention Center, continue its operation even though this outfit owes the city nearly \$60,000.

On top of that the city has decided to extend the pay period so that the food service group can repay the money. In addition, the city has decided to renew its contract with the group at a lower rate which means they will be paying the city less.

The city manager said that it would be easier to get the money owed the city by renewing the contract instead of dropping it. This is a

good arrangement for the caterer but we fail to see how it can be good for the city. We wonder how the group got that far behind in the first place. What with the city being up tight for money and all.

There are some serious questions that need to be answered in regard to this situation. Why is the city guaranteeing renewal of the contract at a lower rate? What is different now that the city believes the group will be able to pay its debt while paying the current fees? Does this procedure comply with the recommendations made by a consulting firm recently? We'd like to know.

### WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Chronicle is published every Thursday by the Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Company, Inc. Suite 603 Pepper Building - 102 W. 4th St. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. Phone: 722-8624. Second Class postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

Subscription: \$8.32 per year payable in advance (N.C. sales tax included).

Opinions expressed by columnist in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of this Paper



## Black Empowerment

By Dr. Nathaniel Wright, Jr.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

### EYEING OUR COURTS

Not long ago, an eastern district conference was held on the federal courts and several social issues of vital interest to all black Americans.

Such conferences are apparently held from time to time as a means of having interchange between federal judges at all levels, including those on the U.S. Supreme Court. The immediate conference with which we are concerned was presided over by no less an august jurist than the Honorable Warren Burger, Chief Justice of the United States.

The conference was disturbing on a number of counts. For example, the panel dealing with affirmative action cases contained no black jurists nor women.

When one distinguished black member of the bar arose to object to, or to question the propriety of, such an arrangement, the Chief Justice is reported to have been visibly incensed and to have lost composure.

Those present described him as flushed in face as he proceeded to engage in a shockingly racist harangue on the theme that "all Americans are alike." In a replay on the text... "some of my best friends are..." Mr. Burger noted that the

chief of the Supreme Court security was an Oriental, that another aide was a Latino and yet another was of Polish extraction. All of which served to prove nothing... except the Chief Justice's unconsciously inherited White American race chauvinism, a strain of which flows in every person acculturated in our model White Anglo-Saxon Protestant (or WASP-ish) ways.

The Chief Justice's demeanor alone could be nothing short of a signal to the judges and lawyers present as to what the mood of the nation's highest court would be, should cases involving affirmative action come to the highest court on appeal.

But if this were not enough, the Chief Justice, gratuitously and unashamedly, went much further. He pointed out that all of our courts must set priorities in terms of the importance of cases when schedules are set. Since there were far too many cases of a highly serious nature before the federal courts, the Chief Justice is said to have indicated, then it could be a matter of years before an affirmative action case could be reviewed either by appeals courts or by the U.S. Supreme Court itself.

Here again was a direct signal to do whatever one pleased as a federal judge in handling whatever cases might arise regarding affirmative action or what is termed traditionally as discrimination in employment.

Let us be hasty regarding the apparent personal prejudices of any member of the federal judiciary, we need to remind ourselves constantly that the nation's pervasive pro-white inheritance is in a constant—and happily, a growing—tension with the ideals of racial justice or fair play.

Actions always set into motion reactions. This is a physical, social, emotional, philosophical and spiritual or esthetic law or inherent dynamic. Hence, Mr. Burger's reactivity may be only a symptom of the trauma of racial change moving surely—and with devastation—against our racist habits and traditions.

On some further score we note, again with some measure of cautious alarm, the Chief Justice's apparently callous disregard for the need for racial equity in the make-up of the judiciary. Less than two per cent of our judges are black, while 12 to 15 per cent of our population as a nation is black and some 50 to 80 per cent of our criminal justice victims are black.