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MEMBER NORTH CAROLINA

Spirit Of Easter

Nearly every religion and culture in the human experience has some sort of celebration at this time of year. It is as if man knows instinctively that this is a time for rejoicing. Anthropologists have long explanations for the myth of rebirth, explaining how primitive man

evolved stories to explain why the earth "died" every winter, and then came back new and green every spring. The season is both a religious celebration of man's "second chance" and a time of rejoicing because the harsh winter is behind us for another

year. It is probably easier to be "thankful" on Easter than it is on Thanksgiving. In November we manufacture our excitement by preparing a special feast, but at Easter, the excitement is already provided.

See Bottom Page

Ban Prohibition

The Board of Aldermen has proposed its decision on beer sales at the city's golf courses, but we hope that when the matter does come to a vote, the decision will be a favorable one.

Many golfers are indignant that the city should consider a ban on beer at public golf courses. The result may be a considerable loss of revenue for the city, if the golfers take their business to private clubs or to municipal courses in Greensboro or High Point.

"Golfers are gentlemen!" protested one Reynolds Park player. "They know that having beer on the golf course is a privilege, and they won't abuse it!"

Opponents to the beer sales contend that beer cans still litter the golf course, and intoxicated duffers will infest the park. This does not seem to be a problem at Tanglewood, which sells beer, nor at private clubs. Why should the city assume that just because a golfer does not belong to an expensive country club, that he is a potential drunk? Golfers on city courses should be treated with the same respect and privileges as those who golf elsewhere -- otherwise the city might lose some very unsatisfied customers to other courses, which treat golfers like gentlemen and not like children.

True To Self

To a young man making his way in the world, a character in Hamlet advised: "... This above all, to thine own self be true. ..." Larry Little is one young man who seems to be following that advice.

Before his election to the North Ward aldermanic seat, Little was very much a "grass roots" leader, a critic of the status quo and the black "bourgeoisie." People wondered if his elections to political office would transform him into a briefcase-carrying member of the establishment. Apparently it hasn't -- not if the president's visit is any indication.

Wait Chapel was full of dignitaries awaiting Carter's arrival last Friday morning. Most of the city's black officials, and Little's fellow aldermen, were seated in places of honor, representing the city.

Larry Little was conspicuously absent.

While his fellow community leaders were mingling with visiting dignitaries, Larry Little was outside in the cold,

with a group of Wilmington Ten protesters. They carried signs criticizing the president's human relations policies, and asking him to pardon the Wilmington Ten.

Larry Little was where he has always been: with the people.

Now we are not suggesting that the city's other black officials should have been out there protesting. Their performance was very correct, and a credit to the city. We are saying that it is nice to see a politician who still identifies with the group he represents, even after he has "made it." Larry Little has been known as the champion of the underdog, and it is a refreshing political note to see that he is still with them.

The other leaders accomplish their goals in their own ways, which are different from Larry's ways. We are merely noting that Larry Little is not trying to be like anybody else. He is still "true to self."

It is a good sign to those he represents that they still have a friend at City Hall.

KILLING THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS...

ANGER, FRUSTRATION, HOPELESSNESS, IS THE PICTURE THAT EMERGES



Wanted.....Jobs

Congressional Black Caucus Reports to the People

By Rep. Shirley Chisholm
In the past 10 years, the cost of higher education has accelerated at an alarming rate. According to the College Entrance Examination Board, the average annual cost of a public university education increased more than 40 percent in the past five years, from \$1,782 to \$2,906.

The cost of attending a private university went up more than 50 percent from \$3,200 to \$5,000. Middle class families find the

cost of sending their children to college almost overwhelming.

In other words, the middle class is realizing for the first time what has been a fact of life for many poor and minority groups families for generations: Higher education may become the exclusive privilege of the wealthy unless the federal and state governments can provide financial assistance for these costs.

In the 60s Congress began providing direct grants for higher education for those

families who cannot afford the cost of their children's college education. That program, called Basic Educational Opportunity Grants, has been tremendously successful in increasing access to higher education.

Now, we find that the middle class is pressuring for their own form of higher education financial aid -- they have instituted a massive campaign for a tax credit

based on higher education. I believe that the tax credit is an ill-advised way to ad-

dress the admittedly spiraling cost of higher education. Furthermore, I oppose an inappropriate shift of federal attention away from the neediest segments of our society and towards those who are by any measure we can devise, better able to survive and prosper without this kind of federal support.

Not only are middle and upper income families by definition more financially secure than the poor, but the Congressional Budget Office reported last summer that

family income has been keeping up with rising school costs. According to the CBO, median family income rose 72.9 per cent between 1976 and 1975, compared to an increased in college costs during that period of only 65 per cent.

The tuition tax credit proposal would shift to the taxpayers at large a major expense for higher education assistance of the middle and upper classes.

We have more effective and more appropriate means of responding to the financial pressures middle class families experience due to the cost of higher education.

For example, we need a national cooperative effort among colleges and universities, governmental entities and financial institutions to improve the effective operation of federal student loan programs.

As part of the Education Amendments of 1976, Congress enacted many improvements in the Guaranteed Student Loan Program, improvements that were lobbied for heavily by the governmental and private agencies that deal with student loans.

In addition, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has announced a policy of vigorous enforcement against student loan defaulter. Therefore, the time is clearly right for a national effort to improve and expand these programs.

We must develop partnerships between the government, bankers and higher education so that more private loans are made available and families can defer payment of education expenses until the student is graduated and is earning sufficient income to repay.

HEW has stated that it will propose a massive infusion of new funds into the Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (BEOG) program so that more middle income families will be able to participate in that program.

While I understand the rationale for such an approach, I cannot endorse any proposal that will shift the focus of the BEOG program from the very needy students it was designed to assist.

The federal government's grant program should remain targeted on those who, without such assistance, cannot even hope to enroll in any institution of higher education.



THE SOCIO ECONOMIC LADDER

To Be Equal

by Vernon Jordan



Dealing With Inner-City Problems

President Carter had an educational experience recently, and hopefully it will spur him to revise his Administration's priorities and begin a head-on assault on the problems of the inner-cities.

The President went to the South Bronx, one of the most blighted urban neighborhoods in the country, but typical of many. The section is a symbol of urban neglect, of poverty, and of the wasted lives and blasted hopes of millions of people.

The President walked through the slum streets. He walked across desolate man-made urban deserts that looked as if they'd been pounded by B-52s. He saw burnt-out buildings standing amid the rubble. And most important, he talked to some of the people there giving them new hope that the President cares about their plight.

According to news reports, he was appalled by what he saw. He talked about rehabilitating the South Bronx's decrepit housing stock and of turning its open areas into recreational facilities.

But that's just part of the problem. It's not enough to

rebuild some houses or to pepper the area with playgrounds. The South Bronx didn't become what it is because of the state of its housing or the lack of play areas.

Like other urban slums, the South Bronx has decayed because the people living there don't have decent jobs at decent wages. As one young man called to the President and his party: "Carter, give us jobs."

With jobs, people will be able to afford to upgrade their housing. They'll be buying in stores and that will revive the area's economy, creating even more jobs. Their taxes will enable the city to provide more services, thus halting the further deterioration of the neighborhood. With higher tenant incomes, it would be possible for housing to be sharply improved instead of having landlords walk away from their buildings.

Then there are other steps that need to be taken -- measures to stop banks from redlining slum areas, better city services like

garbage collection and police protection and improved education.

Areas like the South Bronx don't just happen, they are made. And the manner of their making constitutes a national shame. Discrimination, neglect and artificially high joblessness all contribute to the making of urban blight.

The President must realize that the federal policies of preceding administrations helped create urban wastelands like the South Bronx, and has to make the connection between what he saw and the need for revising his Administration's priorities.

After walking through the rubble of the South Bronx he should now realize that full employment has to take precedence over balanced budgets, and that providing the human right to a job is as crucial as trying to extend other rights to countries that don't observe them.

The President's visit will have meaning if it becomes the first shot in a broad at-

tempt to educate the nation to the needs of the cities. Simply by making that one visit, the President did more to make the nation conscious of the plight of urban America than anything since Lyndon Johnson made his impassioned plea for social action.

Now he can follow up on that beginning by using the leadership capabilities of his high office to continue to press upon the American people the reality of the needs of those locked in our urban ghettos.

Along with symbolic gestures designed to shape public opinion, there must be solid programmatic initiatives from his Administration, with a national full employment program at the top of the list.

There are many hot issues and pressing problems the President faces, but his visit to the South Bronx should impress him with the fact that America's number one problem and his number one priority ought to be urban unemployment.

Higher Pay Offered

"What lies in store for my son after high school graduation?" If you're one of many parents asking that question, there's good news. You can head your son toward a job that will teach him a skill that will pay well while he learns. A ONE-MONTH VACATION is just one of the benefits of a job open to your son.

When a young man enlists in the Marine Corps, his starting base pay is \$4,770, which has just been raised from \$4,493. And, with the dollar value of all the other benefits he gets, the total comes to about \$7,768. That includes clothing, medical and dental care, clothing allowance, housing and food -- and 30 days paid vacation each year! That's pretty good for someone just out of high school.

The Marine Corps, of course, offers more -- a chance to learn a valuable job skill. If a young man qualifies, he is guaranteed special training in one of the Option Programs -- to get into a field that's right for him. For more information on what the Marine Corps offers the potential recruit, call, toll free, 800-423-2600 (in California 800-252-0241).

Spirit Of Easter

Just take a look around at the first spring flowers, and feel the warmth of spring sunshine, -- no special celebrations or dinners are needed. The whole world is adorned for the occasion.

For those who will take the time to appreciate the wonders of nature, the stone will indeed be "rolled away" for another year, and the earth becomes an Eden, as brief as the original, but still a paradise.