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viewpoints

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Black Publisher's Association

Member North Carolina

Article X, Section 2 of the By-Laws of the Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Company, Inc. The Winston-Salem Chronicle shall strive, as far as possible, to be a fair, objective and independent newspaper. It shall stand for the oppressed, to bring

hope to the forsaken and be an advocate for good and noble causes. It shall use its might to bring hope to the hopeless and light where there is darkness. And in doing this, hope to contribute to the general well-being of humanity.

John W. Templeton

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Passing Judgment

It is never a delightful moment when a person who has the spectre of Russell being imprisoned been held in high regard by an entire community falls upon hard times.

That fact is all the more apparent in the case of Carl Russell, possibly the one person who has stood out head and shoulders as a black political leader in Winston-Salem.

alderman from the Northeast Ward. Russell dared to think that his experiences qualified him to be mayor.

In 1977, he came ever so close to fulfilling that wish. He won the first primary, but lost a runoff to Mayor Wayne A. Corpening. Russell was then the rallying force the public knowledge that he or she has been found guilty behind a dramatic campaign during which more than 10,000 voters were instructed to go through the laborious procedure required to cast a write-in ballot.

Russell's appeal was still apparent when he was nominated by the Black Political Awareness League as a candidate for the vacant State House seat left open last year.

However, that record of leadership has been interof Russell on the charge of income tax evasion. Court testimony has indicated that the accused had not paid the there a winking at certain acts and by whom? taxes for 17 years.

full explanation for the many questions raised by this incident.

There are a number of ethical questions presented by

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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President

Robert Eller

Sports Editor

Should elected officials be held to a higher standard of morality?

Do health and other personal factors have a valid role to play in the determination of sentences for violations of the law?

Are blacks unfairly singled out for prosecutions of He served for 16 years, longer than any other black, as crimes winked at among other segments of the community?

> Does any circumstance warrant breaking laws which so many people painstakingly adhere to?

> Can a, prominent figure be punished enough by simply of a crime?.

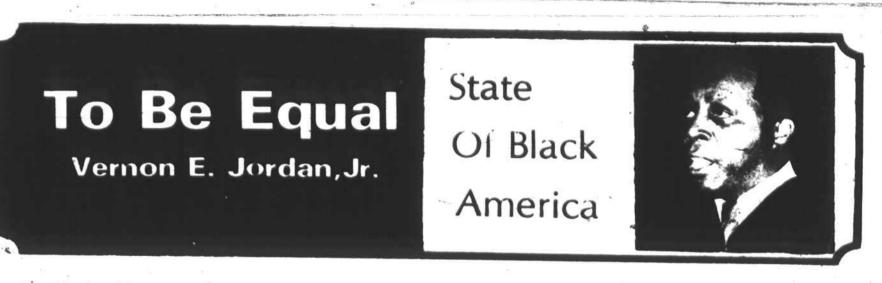
> The answers to the questions must be found in the hearts and minds of those who assess the meaning of the Russell case.

> Few can fail to adknowledge that situations present many difficult dilemmas. It is not a question which can produce a quick jingoistic answer.

Some forum needs to address the ambiguities left by rupted by the indictment, conviction and sentencing the current court case. Is there more distinct pattern of abuse for which one person is being singled out? Or was

Answers to those questions will enable interested per-The way in which the case was handled has ruled out a sons to help resolve some of the ethical dilemmas presented by this case.

Whatever the outcome, no one should be allowed to ignore or obscure the accomplishments of Carl Russell.



The National Urban League recently released its annual report, The State of Black America. As in past years, it presented a grim picture of black disadvantage. The past decade saw a widening of the yawing gap bet- their aspirations, invisible. ween blacks and whites. Black family income fell from over 60 percent of white family income at the beginning of the decade to barely 57 percent at the end of the seventies. Over a half million more black people were poor in spear from national debate. 1979 than in 1970.

Many apparent black gains in the seventies fail to withstand close scrutiny. The increased numbers of blacks attending college in the ten years since 1970 for example, masks the fact that disproportionate numbers are in community colleges or other institutions that do not grant BA or BS degrees.

The growth of the numbers of blacks in professional and managerial jobs leads some to assume that these higher status positions mean middle class incomes. But the report finds that three-fourths of black professionals and managers earn less than the national median family income.

The same holds for the much-vaunted shift to white collar jobs. The bulk of the increase took place in lowerrung clerical jobs, and half of black sales and clerical workers earn poverty-level incomes or less.

The report finds the outlook for the eighties bleak. Blacks never recovered from the recessions of the seventies, and another recession this year will further widen the black-white gap.

Growing competition for jobs is another threat. Between 1974 and 1977 blacks obtained only five percent of the new jobs in private industry. Black men suffered a net loss of jobs. Other emerging groups, especially white women, made gains while black workers lost out.

Black gains in the eighties will be largely dependent on new job opportunities for female heads of families. Over a third of black families are headed by women and most are poor because of the failure to provide full-time employment, a situation likely to continue and even

worsen in the decade ahead.

If the seventies were a decade of benign neglect, the eighties threaten to render black people, their needs and

Closing the black-white gap has been a matter of national indifference for over a decade, and current national obsessions indicate the issue may virtually disap-

The President's State of the Union address, in sharp contrast to the State of Black America report, ignored the continuing disadvantage of America's largest minority. Candidates in both parties refuse to address issues of black-white disparity, poverty, and a new deal for the nation's disadvantaged.

Instead, a deteriorating international situation has resulted in calls for a renewed cold war and increased military spending.

Despite the obvious need for a strong defense, substantive improvements in our military posture are not always identical with splashy new weapons systems and their inevitable cost overruns and malfunctionings.

So we enter the eighties with the nation's attention focused on military weapons, energy and inflation to the neglect of racial equality, full employment, and urban revitalization. The inevitable result will be further deterioration of the living conditions of poor people and black people.

But the state of America is interwoven with the state of black America; a strong, economically healthy and just America is a essential to national security as any missile arsenal -- even more so.

It is vital to have a balanced national policy that includes important domestic initiatives such as full employment, welfare reform, and health, education and urban initiatives designed to secure parity between the races. Such measures would also benefit the nation as a whole, improve the lives of all its citizens, and heal the wounds that weaken our nation domestically and internationally.

Time For A Change

One of the most important steps toward increasing one is interested in something being done at both the city citizen input in local government is about to be taken by and county board, or even the school board. the Forsyth County Board of County Commissioners.

The commissioners are being open-minded enough to join Mrs. Hopkins and others such as Mrs. Mary Sloan consider a change in their meeting time from the first and Jones, Walter Marshall and H.B. Goodson in attending third Mondays of each month to the second and fourth Mondays.

This would change a situation in which the commissioners, the city Board of Aldermen and the city/county Board of Education all meet on the same day and at the same time -- first and third Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

All three bodies have been aware of the situtation for a long time, but have passed the buck among themselves when approached about the idea of staggering their meeting times.

The commissioners have decided to act, finally, thanks to the tireless efforts of persons such as Mrs. Velma Hopkins.

Mrs. Hopkins, president of the Citizens Neighborhood Council Inc., is generally at some meeting, somewhere commissioners aware of the need for a change in the each Monday night.

She has seen first hand the problems that occur when meetings. You do have a say.

Changing the meeting times will enable more people to those meetings.

There is the mistaken impression that what county government does is not as important as the functions of city government.

Nothing could be further from the truth. County government includes animal control, environmental protection, health services, Reynolds Health Center, libraries, home economics and agricultural extension, social services and detentions for both adults and juveniles.

The county commissioners also have to approve the budget request of the school board. In short, most of the services which directly deal with people handled through county government.

You will find it in your best interest to, first, make the meeting dates; and second show up regularly at the

Feelings on **Russell's Sentence**



à.

Carl Russell, the man who has represented the goals and aspirations of many, has now been sentenced to jail on income tax evasion charges: How does the person on the street feel about it. Chronicle Camera went to the corner of Fourth Street and Liberty Street to ask?

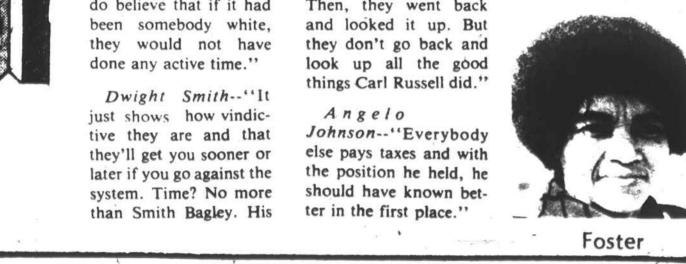
Here's what people said. Ronald Carlton--"1 believe it was right because it took him so long. There's really not anything you can say. I do believe that if it had

sentence is not because he's guilty but it was given to punish him and to break his credibility in the community. Look who sentenced him. He was neither sentenced nor judged by his peers and that is what is wrong with the whole criminal justice system in N.C."

Kathleen Foster -- "1 do think it wasn't fair. They did it to him because he ran for mayor...Somebody had probably told him years ago, that it was alright. Then, they went back



Johnson



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Chronicle Letters

Inmates Express Their Views

Found A Mission

Dear Editor:

some time. I was paroled in out. October 1967, but while out, I was convicted of arm-

ed robbery in Salisbury and received a sentence of 10 to 15 years.

I've watched guys come in and out of prison. I with my idea, the attitude would ask them what hapwas, "Hey, are you kidpened? They would say ding?" But, I knew where I 'Can't make it work.' was.

At times you try to catch up with the world outside ter of caring for people and but there's nothing out there that can help you catch up. You have to do people ... ' I've been there what you can in here to stay human.

out, to reach out and hurt With a little motivation, for help. I'm able to combat the anx-

So here at the Baskerville iety of being caged like an animal; not in a physical Correctional Center, I assist sense but in my head, I in Adult Basic Education, I know I can only go so far, have a cooking and baking then I have to stop. In some instances, the mental barclass and do individual riers are far more effective counseling with inmates than the physical. who have problems. I am

Before being paroled now writing a manual on back to Virginia for parole suicide prevention for the violation, I did attend Sandhills Community College Virginia Department of as a mental health associate Corrections which has high and did social work training rate of suicide. with Moore County Middle

District School while in training. I also counseled part of myself and parts of youth at the Samuel other people I never saw Leonard Training School at before. If I am lucky in year McCain. or two, hopefully I'll be

paroled and I want to con-This, I believe, was the tinue to do counseling with turning point in my life young adults on drugs

He's Lonely

istence. Is there anyone out

Leonard Leon Wilson Jr.

Miserable,

No. 143-701

life. I look forward to the Dear Editor: day when I'll be able to I am a very nice person, there who will hear my

I once heard, "It's a mat-

wanting to help someone

who hurts and yells out for

so I know how it feels to cry

Henceforth, I got to see

I have been in the walk until my legs get tired but I have no friends; plea? If so, will you offer to Virginia prison system for and not until the space runs nobody with whom to share help?

my feelings. I am writing this in hope a friend will come forth; one with whom

Center, I met some nice help fill my empty life, and people. I'd like to do bring a bit of joy to an

something for them, I said. otherwise unhappy ex-When I approached them

When I came to Baskerville, Va. Correctional I can relate, and who will

Lucasville, Ohio 45699 P.O. Box 45699

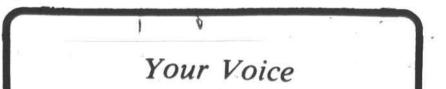


CONGRESSMEN STOP WAFFLING

As the new session of Congress gets underway look for most of those members running for re-election to take more positive stances of issues that they have waffled on in the past few years - the draft, national defense items, energy, transportation and the general economy.

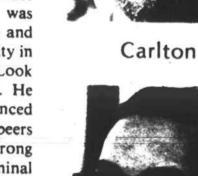
DEFICIT GREATER THAN EXPECTED

The deficit will be greater than projected in the President's budget message because of increased defense spending and maintaining or expanding social programs. Increased demands on the money market will result in higher interest or at best they will stay within the present range.



The Chronicle welcomes expressions, comments, criticisms and letters to the editor. We encourage you to speak out on any issue raised on the editorial page or any issue that you feel is worthy of comment. The Chronicle is your newspaper...Use it.

The Chronicle cannot return letters, manuscripts







which gave me something to alcohol and crime. achieve out of life as a human. Prison is a place you go when you do wrong. Hubert R. Brawley You have to pay your taxes, Baskerville Correctional but instead of paying with Center money, you pay with your Baskerville, Va.

or the like. Address your comments to: The Editor Winston-Salem Chronicle P.O. Box 3154 Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102