

viewpoints

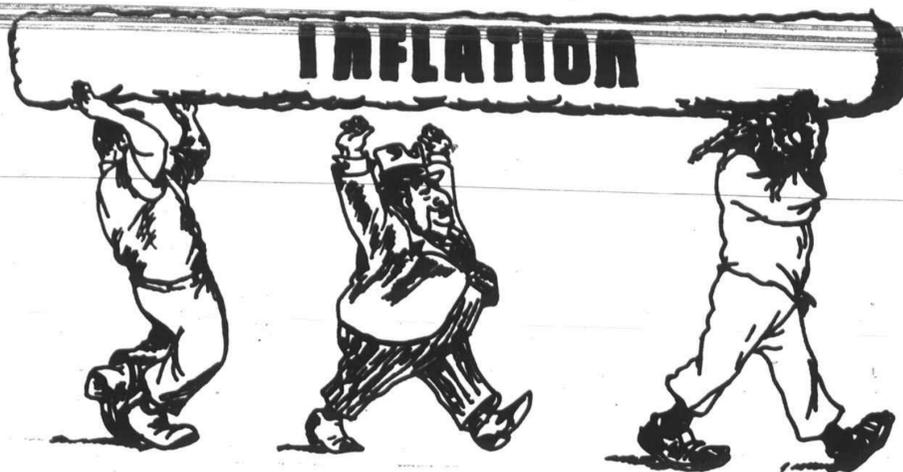


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The Patterson Ave. YMCA

If some members of the joint committee have their way black youngsters in Winston-Salem may have nowhere to play for the next three years.

For several months the members of the Patterson Ave. YMCA board have been discussing a capital funds campaign to construct a new YMCA in East Winston-Salem. But in the meantime a joint committee of the Glade St. and Central Y's have recommended that the existing Patterson Ave. building be sold at the earliest date possible.

Since the earliest date predicted for a new Patterson Ave. YMCA is 1984, that could leave youngsters in the eastern part of the city with no facilities for three years. And even that is the most optimistic prediction.

But shouldn't the Patterson Ave. board have something to say about their building? Why is a joint committee of the other two Y's deciding for us?

It would be a serious error of judgement to sell the Y out from under the people of our community so soon. What is the urgency of it? Surely the powers that be can

wait two or three years, until a new building is constructed, before evicting its present tenants.

The building has housed the Patterson Ave. YMCA since 1924. We need a new building, it is clear. But there is no other building in the community that can serve even as satisfactorily as the current one.

And with fashionable fiscal conservatism taking office with the new president, moving the Patterson Ave. Y into temporary quarters, as the joint committee has suggested, may very well mean they will occupy temporary quarters permanently.

We should keep the old building until a new one is ready to occupy.

The Winston-Salem Foundation holds the deed to the Patterson Ave. YMCA in trust. As a community foundation we hope they will make the same considerations in handling this situation as they would if the Glade St. Y were being displaced.

Is the wealthier class doing its share of carrying the burden?



William Raspberry

The Revitalization of Obsolete Industries

Washington--If I hadn't just bought a new pair of gloves (having ruined the old ones bringing in firewood), it probably wouldn't have sounded like such a grand idea in the first place.

But the temperature was in the teens (Fahrenheit), the gloves were in the forties (dollars) and the price of firewood was not fit to print in a family newspaper. And so I was prepared to embrace the proposal of a new urban policy to encourage a population shift to the Sun Belt.

Indeed, I wondered why someone hadn't come up with this wonderful idea before the President's Commission for a National Agenda for the Eighties got around to it.

Population growth in the Sun Belt and decline in the North are merely the opposite sides of the same coin, the commission pointed out in a leaked report. The government should wake up to reality and stop trying to save the shrinking cities of the North, said its brilliant conclusion.

"There is a fundamental problem in attempting to halt the shrinkage of metropolitan areas or the revitalization of obsolete industries which in the past have been expected to adapt themselves to changing circumstances," the report said. "In our view, the moral and material resources of government would be better expended in planning for the future and helping people to adjust to future imperatives in ways that derive from an understanding and acceptance of change."

In other words, government should encourage Americans to do what the latest Census figures show them to be doing already: Pack up and move to such growth areas as San Jose and Phoenix, Houston and El Paso. The South Bronx is dead? Then give it a decent burial and head for the Southwest.

This isn't callousness, the commissioners said; it's common sense. "When the federal government steps in to try to alter these dynamics, it generates a flood of demands that may sap the initiative of urban governments via the expectation of continuing support. There must be a better way."

The commission found the better way. Since the old industrial cities are dying anyway, and since the continuation of the migration to the sunny Southwest is inevitable, the smart and benevolent act would be for government to subsidize the upheaval. Go with the outflow.

Beautiful. Help Buffalo move to Phoenix. Ship Detroit to San Diego and Boston to Albuquerque. Who wants Cleveland? Don't all shout at once.

But before I could even start packing, I heard from a wet-blanker friend.

"What about water?" my friend said.

Water? "Well, yes, water. The far Southwest already pipes every precious drop of the stuff down from the high snowfields far to the north, and the high snowfield states are already restive about not having enough left for their own use."

"Texas drills for it, rapidly depleting the underground reservoirs laid down eons ago. See how cleverly it reports each new engineering triumph: We used to strike water at 300 feet, but now, thanks to modern technology, we are able to drill the umpteen thousand feet necessary before we strike enough water to keep the crops and golf courses irrigated and the swimming pools filled."

"Throughout the Sun Belt, air-conditioners chew up more electricity than the Frost Belt uses for heating. But never mind. Just move the populations, problems and water-guzzling industries to the sunny Southland and abandon those old, tired, wornout Northern cities."

"But don't worry. When the Sun Belt runs out of water, a benevolent government will provide the subsidies to move everybody right back to Dayton, Chicago and Minneapolis. If there's anything left of them by then."

Okay, so maybe it wasn't such a brilliant idea after all. I'm willing to settle for a presidential commission to investigate the cost of gloves.

No Money for Renovation

When are black citizens in this city going to be used for more than bait to help whites gain federal grants?

We refer to the suggestion by the advisory council of the Experiment of Self-Reliance that the city re-apply for a federal grant to renovate the old Spruce street YMCA. The idea is at best, unrealistic since the request has been turned down by federal officials, three times previously.

The last time the request was denied, officials from the Department of the Interior said that the grant request did not have the backing of the black community, which it didn't and still doesn't.

Black people are tired of seeing their hard-earned tax dollars being used for things that do not directly benefit them. Often times being spent for things that improve conditions somewhere else while their own buildings and institutions go neglected.

Money should be recycled back into the black community at approximately the same rate as we are taxed. The need to strengthen the economic base in the black community is apparent when you look at the number of black-owned businesses operating in our community.

For years, blacks in Winston-Salem have been used to obtain grants for industry and other projects. A perfect example is the UDAG grant used to build the Radisson Hotel. Because of the "Pocket of Poverty," downtown will have a new \$35 a day hotel, which will have many openings for maids and bellhops. That seems unfair for their part that black citizens played in getting the loan.

We find it hard as the dickens to believe that anyone would try to revive the idea of spending \$1.5 million to renovate the Spruce Street Y in the name of the black community.

Is anybody listening to us?

Chronicle Letters

Youth Oriented Programs

Dear Editor:

A new radio program will be aired on January 14, 1981 on station WPAQ in Mount Airy due to the efforts of Ms. Martha L. Joyce, who is very much concerned with the young people in the Mount Airy area.

Ms. Joyce stated that she had discussed a program for youth and by youth with Mr. Blair Eubanks of WPAQ radio station, and he was very much interested in the program and has offered his advice, and the use of the facilities at the station.

It takes people like Mr. Eubanks to help make goals and ideas become a reality. Ms. Joyce is the president of the Socialettes Club in Mount Airy and the founder of Mount Airy's Black Jr. Miss Pageant. The Socialettes also sponsors a "Little Miss Spring" pageant.

for the program.

The hostess for the program will be Ms. Precious Allen, who is a student at Mt. Airy Senior High and is also the reigning Black Jr. Miss.

The format for the radio program will be to inform the audience of area events and we hope that we will receive information from

people who have suggestions and who might want some special event announced.

If things go alright, we will eventually have a special guest on at times and we ask that all information and suggestions be sent to the address below:

Outreach
c/o Ms. Martha L.

Joyce
1110 Granite Road
Mount Airy, N.C.
27030

We feel that the program will be of interest to all ages of people.

Again the first program will be on January 14, 1981 at 4:25 in the afternoon on radio station WPAQ.

Thank you,
Martha L. Joyce

Skating Accident

Dear Editor:

I felt a need to write this letter because I am concerned about children that may have an accident in the future at the Family Skate Center on Funtime Boulevard.

On last Friday, January 2, we were at the Skate Center. My 10-year-old daughter fell and broke her arm. She passed out and I went for a floor superintendent. He carried her in the office, where he put an ice bag on her arm. He tried to make her as comfortable as he could.

A policeman took her name, age, address and phone number. My husband took her alone to the hospital. I feel that more concern should have been shown by the owner.

I have not received any kind of card, letter or phone call from them to see how my daughter is doing. More concern should have been taken concerning the safety of the children at the Skate Center. We support the Skate Center and we enjoy it. I think people have gotten away from love and kindness. The only thing that matters to some people is "A FEW DOLLARS MORE."

Carolyn Gordon

Editorial Response

The Chronicle welcomes responses to editorials and columns. Please address all communications to:

The Editorial Page
P.O. Box 3154
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102

The Chronicle reserves the right to edit copy that may be deemed inappropriate for publication. Responses can not be returned.

To Be Equal

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

A New Administration, Old Problems



A new Administration and a new Congress face a lot of unfinished business in the weeks ahead. Several civil rights-related measures will be on the agenda.

One issue left unresolved by the last Congress was the long-overdue amendments to the Fair Housing Law that would give the government the enforcement powers needed to make the law work.

We've had a fair housing law on the books for over ten years, but discrimination in the sale and rental of housing is still rampant. That has been proved time and again by large-scale research programs and by simple anecdotes that can be related by every black person who has ever tried to move out of a ghetto.

Part of the reason discrimination in housing is so powerful is that the law has no teeth -- discriminators need not fear fines or license suspensions. Under the present law the Department of Housing and Urban Development can only mediate disputes, while the Justice Department can only sue in situations where a pattern of discrimination is shown.

The House of Representatives and the Senate Judiciary Committee both backed bills that would let HUD bring lawsuits against those charged with discrimination in housing. But it died in Congress' rush to adjourn, even

though supporters made important compromises.

Fair housing supporters will bring it up again. But we will start out with two strikes against us. Some of the Bill's Congressional supporters were defeated last November and their replacements may be less sympathetic to civil rights. And the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose chairman Senator Edward Kennedy led the fight for the bill, will now be chaired by Senator Strom Thurmond, a virulent foe of civil rights.

But that does not mean the effort to enforce the law is doomed. President Reagan can use this as an opportunity to send signals to the nation that he finds housing discrimination as abhorrent as do its victims. He can get behind the effort to work out a fair housing enforcement bill that puts the government squarely on the side of ending discrimination.

Another issue Mr. Reagan can capitalize on is one that he muffed last month. Then, he said he supported restrictions on busing. At the time the Congress had passed a rider to an appropriations bill that would have prevented the Justice Department from taking part in school desegregation cases involving busing.

President Carter was able to kill that blatant attempt to