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OUR OPINION

Pendleton's folly

IT SEEMS somehow only fitting that the leading black mouthpiece for President Reagan's insensitivity toward minorities and social programs benefits from his own special brand of social program.

Civil Rights Commission Chairman Clarence M. Pendleton Jr., who revels in telling anyone who'll listen that programs that help the poor be damned because they are tantamount to handouts and quota systems go to hell because they discriminate against white males, doesn't seem to be so strident when he or his friends get the handouts.

According to reports last week from the Media General News Service, Pendleton pays his assistant at least \$60,000 a year for work she does not do.

The Small Business Administration is investigating that arrangement, says the report.

To add insult to injury, Pendleton also made \$60,000 as Civil Rights Commission chairman during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 for a job that traditionally is a part-time job and which paid his most recent predecessor, Arthur Fleming, only \$15,000 during Fleming's last year in office.



Clarence Pendleton

Moreover, Pendleton claimed travel expenses of \$23,200 for the fiscal year 1984, while his assistant who does no work, Sydney I. Novell, received \$8,546.

But that's not all. The report also reveals that Pendleton, the great black opponent of welfare, apparently does not mind the concept when he is the recipient, even from a self-help, agency that sorely needs all the money it can get.

On his last day of office as president of the San Diego Urban League, Pendleton wrote himself 10 checks for \$999. Why \$999? Because otherwise, says the report, he would have needed to consult the league's board of directors, which must approve checks that amount to \$1,000 or more.

Pendleton, who, during a visit to Winston-Salem in November, boasted that he's got it made and asserted that "affirmative action creates beneficiaries from non-victims," also used Urban League money to pay for expensive restaurant meals, lease a Peugeot automobile, pay for season tickets to San Diego Clippers basketball games and make a contribution to the United Way.

Incidentally, when he left the San Diego Urban League in March 1982, Pendleton left it \$179,000 in debt and struggling for its financial life.

What remains to be seen is the aftermath of these revelations, which so far has included only a terse, arrogant response from Pendleton that there is no SBA investigation -- only "a compliance review" -- and that the report is merely the media's "annual criticism."

To be realistic, that could be all. Had it been Jesse Jackson or Walter Fauntroy or someone else whom the Reagan administration and the country's media would love to persecute in print, you'd have heard resonations of righteous indignation from sea to shining sea.

Instead, Ronald and Nancy continue to smile and wave and board helicopters, and Pendleton, who allegedly once told an Urban League official, "As long as my folks are in the White House, they ain't gonna touch me," may be right.

Unless somebody somewhere demands otherwise, starting with this newspaper.

It's never too late

THE UNITED Negro College Fund held its annual telethon last weekend, both locally and nationally.

Though the nationwide effort fell far short of last year's totals in monies pledged to help the UNCF's 43 member institutions -- and the Triad campaign comparably shy of its \$78,000 goal -- it's never too late to help preserve these wellsprings of black knowledge and talent.

If you missed Dec. 28's festivities because you were visiting relatives for the holidays or cheering young athletes in the Frank Spencer Classic basketball tourna-

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The behavior of two-legged animals

TONY BROWN
Syndicated Columnist

It penetrated so deep that her liver and internal organs were as severely harmed as internal damage received from the impact of a high-speed car accident. Politely, the coroner pronounced death from "multiple blunt-force" injuries.

"Timothy Catlett, 20, called

"With a crowd of 30 watching, pushing and shoving to see better, about 12 were trying 'to get their licks in' and their share of the coins. A six-foot-six, 235-pound, 26-year-old black man, assisted by two others, grabbed and held her legs open."

"Snot Rag," admitted, "I only beat and kicked the lady" Witnesses say that he also said, "Levy stuck that thing up her because she wasn't acting right." Eight of these animals have been convicted.

Some may get about 20 years in jail (16 actually). Their parents are crying all over television about what good boys, and in one case, what a "Christian" lady, they are.

The next wave of experts are going to explain their unemployment, their underclass status that deprives them of hope, the drugs that made them do it, the babies they have fathered out of wedlock and the racism that is ultimately responsible for any

unexplained behavior of the black-poor.

Most poor people are law abiding.

There is not enough space for me to explain how little I think of those and other ready-made excuses we have for the behavior of two-legged animals.

There is not appropriate justice for carnage of this type in the court of law. And too many know it. Which is one reason they

rob, assault, rape and impale in broad daylight before cheering throngs.

We've lost our way as a people.

Benjamin Banneker, the African-American who laid out Washington, D.C., weeps for the blood of this black woman that was spilled on his streets.

Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King did not fight -- and die -- for our new immorality.

Tony Brown is a syndicated columnist whose television series, "Tony Brown's Journal," airs on Sundays at 6:30 p.m. on channels 4 and 26.

NEW YORK -- On a drizzly Monday afternoon in Northeast Washington, D.C., 48-year-old Catherine Fuller, the wife of David Fuller, and the mother of six, went to the store to buy medicine for a sore ankle.

This 99-pound, 4-foot-11 black woman with pink rollers in her hair was spotted by a gang in this poor black area of a city dominated by black-elected officials.

Oct. 1, 1984, however, will not be a day to celebrate the victory of the first black mayor -- or any other notable event. Instead, it will burn the collective black psyche a dangerous benchmark in our perpetual sojourn for justice.

As this nightmare unfolded, the gang of young adults blocked Mrs. Fuller's passage home, shoved her into an alley, banged her with their fists, kicked her and robbed her of the \$50 she had hidden in her bra. Then they stripped her and dragged her, over broken glass, into an empty garage.

With a crowd of 30 watching, pushing and shoving to see better, about 12 were trying "to get their licks in" and their share of the coins. A six-foot-six, 235-pound, 26-year-old black man, assisted by two others, grabbed and held her legs open.

Levy Rouse, witnesses say, shoved a one-foot iron pole up the beaten, frail woman's rectum. Others screamed "let me see" and "push it further."

The wisdom of job-training programs

NEW YORK -- The only way America is going to compete in the world's markets is if it makes maximum use of a productive, trained work force.

Within a few years, a fourth of new entrants into the work force will be non-whites -- black, Hispanics and Asians -- including many without the basic skills and training needed in a post-industrial economy.

That should be cause for the declaration of a national economic emergency and an all-out effort to train and place today's unskilled disadvantaged in decent jobs. Instead, we're told that it's too expensive and that the huge budget deficits don't allow for such programs.

But the opposite is true. A better trained, more highly skilled work force would mean spending fewer federal dollars while returning higher tax revenues and cutting the deficit.

A look at just one partnership venture between the private and the non-profit sectors proves that such training programs are investments in our human resources, not just spending programs.

IBM sponsors training centers in cooperation with community-based organizations, including the National Urban League, among others.

IBM's analysis of the results of its training centers in 1984 demonstrates what a tremendous investment such programs are for the community, and leads to the inescapable conclusion that more

TO BE EQUAL
By JOHN JACOB

private and government programs of this sort are wise investments in America's future.

In 1984, the job training centers graduated 3,038 people, of whom 2,643 were placed in jobs -- an 87 percent placement rate.

getting those government outlays whether they were in the training program or not.

Now look at the results: After the trainees' placement in jobs they would not have qualified for without training, the government got back some \$7.7 million in taxes. The total economy gained by \$24.6 million.

The net gain to the public was \$30 million -- salaries and taxes



The average cost per placement came to less than \$3,000, not including the value of IBM's equipment loans and similar costs. About half of the people placed have been receiving some form of public assistance, either welfare or unemployment benefits, for a total of about \$5.7 million. Incidentally, they would have been

paid plus savings in public support programs, less training costs.

Put another way, each placement cost less than \$3,000 and earned more than \$11,000 in new entry-level jobs for an average net gain per placement of \$8,581.

That's a 300 percent return on Please see page A11

CHILDWATCH

All families get federal aid

By MARIAN W. EDELMAN
Syndicated Columnist

WASHINGTON -- Imagine two American families -- one well-off, one poor. Both are struggling with the costly task of raising children. Which of these two families is more likely to be getting more help from our federal government?

Popular myth -- and it is a myth -- would have it that the poor family obviously receives more support from the government. But that simply is not so.

For example: a family in New York state with a \$120,000 mortgage that is in a 40 percent tax bracket gets more help from the state and federal governments -- in the form of the mortgage tax break -- than a poor family gets in AFDC benefits to meet all of its needs for food, clothing, shelter, heat and other essentials.

How does this inequity come about?

The average American poor family is getting a small (and rapidly shrinking) share of government support. Only a fraction of such families receive any help at all from the biggest federal income support program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). Even those who do get AFDC barely receive enough to survive: in September 1984, the national average payment per recipient was only \$111.68 per month. All federal health, education and other assistance programs reach only a fraction of the poor.

Further, the poor family has been denied the recent federal tax relief which has helped the well-off family. On the contrary, poor families' taxes have actually shot up in recent years -- 58 percent from 1980 to 1982 alone.

In contrast, the well-off family is more likely to receive growing government support, sometimes in ways we don't realize.

For example, many comfortable American families acquire their housing more cheaply by getting subsidies through federal insurance programs. Millions more receive tax relief through property-related tax deductions.

The poor family is also more likely to be shortchanged when it comes to the public facilities and services our government provides, such as parks and police protection.

The well-off family is far more likely to live in a safe neighborhood, to be able to send its children to a better quality public school and to play in a pleasant park or playground.

Who is really getting more from our government?

The answer is clear, and only serves to underline the unfairness of further budget cuts in lifeline programs for poor families.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for youth.

About Letters

The Chronicle welcomes letters from its readers, as well as columns. Letters should be as concise as possible and typed or printed legibly. They also should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer.

Columns should follow the same guidelines and will be published if we feel they are of interest to our general readership.

We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and grammar.

Submit your letters and columns to Chronicle Mailbag, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27102.