

# Editorials & Comments

## Can We Solve Inner City Problems?

With all of our high powered know-how, we ought to be able to offer some practical solutions to the problems in our big cities where the minorities were thickly congregated. Instead of getting less, the problems seem to be getting worse. The National Urban League has proposed some solutions to the big city problems, and we concur wholeheartedly:

1. Create public employment service on a wide basis. The league notes that a majority of adult breadwinners are women heads of households.

2. Increase funds for foster care of children and expand day care facilities so that mothers of young children can be free to work.

3. Reduce taxes for low income persons, including federal income taxes and social security payments.

4. Declare the inner cities disaster areas and provide special funds for relief, the same as when other catastrophes occur, such as floods, tornadoes, earthquakes and fires.

This may seem not the answer, especially when we have been reading so much about the rising black middle class which always has been a myth. The league has found that the black middle class is really decreasing, that is, by 24 to 26

percent because of the inflation and energy crisis.

Moreover, 52 percent of the so-called black middle class, is at the \$6,000 standard of \$8,000 for a family of four.

Perhaps we should give serious attention to the recommendations of the National Urban League, which has been given serious attention to the job and income issues of blacks for a long time—beginning at a time when the breadwinners were either maids and cooks, or unskilled labor.

Let us not get the impression that most blacks are well off financially. The League says it is time for us to stop playing games with statistics and theories. A hungry person with no shoes doesn't need a computer or high level economist with fancy charts to analyze the economy. It is hurting the white and black poor. That's a fact, and you may lay to that!

Our new President, Mr. Ford has said he is committed to swift action to avert social disaster. We have the resources and the power and know-how. We just need a leadership that is willing to push the economic lever into high gear.

We need to get on with the task of human recovery quick and fast.

Guest Editorial

## Senseless Murders

In trying to comprehend the continuing rash of senseless murder and killing in the United States, on must point a finger at television, which, despite regular claims of a cleanup of excessive violence, continues to teach the young, impressionable and disadvantaged how to commit crime.

The killing of two persons in an Atlanta church recently, including the late Martin Luther King's mother, was a particularly senseless act of violence in the same insensitive pattern as so much glamorized, cold-blooded television crime.

The question is no longer really debatable. Too many experts have

testified before periodic congressional investigations to leave neutral observers in any doubt that the deluge of glamorized television crime is bad for the country.

There is money in crime and shock shows, which attract large audiences for sponsors selling products, and commercial television puts profits first. And no one has much control over the three monopolizing networks, which shrewdly claim they're part of the free press (which they aren't), and wave the free press and anti-censorship flag at every attempt to control them in the public interest. Guest Editorial

Guest Editorial

## Eating Chemicals

One form of "progress" Americans enjoy is that they eat more chemical additives in their food than other peoples. The original brainstorm is usually that of producer, packer or retailer. He adds a chemical to enable him to avoid recall of food which grows stale on shelves.

The classic example is American bread, loaded with calcium propionate so that it feels fresh a week. But, of course, it isn't fresh in the traditional sense, as is daily baked bread, still demanded by many European housewives. And though some communities and states have at last acted to require bakers, dairymen, poultrymen, etc., to clearly date their food packages, many super-

markets and producers still use codes and secret marks which prevent the customer from knowing when a product is stale.

Store personnel reply to criticism of the system by saying all old-foodstuff is removed on the right day, etc. But this is not done; nothing this intricate and massive works perfectly every time.

Recent information from the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition hints nitrates and nitrites so often added to meat and fish products could be harmful. Already various colorings, certain artificial flavors and other additives have been found harmful. Guest Editorial

Guest Editorial



LEST WE FORGET...

# roy wilkin's column

It could accomplish what Francis Barnard of the Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram wanted; that is, her revelations of racial discrimination in the hiring of office help by some of the Congressmen and Senators could cause what is politely called corrective action by disgruntled voters in some of the offending districts.

One result could be that minorities will come together and throw the rascals out. It is an axiom that voters forget incidents more than six months old. If it deals with an issue it will fade in less than six months. Since the revelations deal with direct and blatant discrimination against persons, they might stay in the consciousness of voters for a longer time.

Miss Barnard has done something that in these kinds of matters are not customarily done. She deals with written orders. She says that Representative Blank's office ordered, in writing, "no blacks," "no Catholics," "no minorities," "white only."

Some congressmen's offices went to ridiculous lengths. The specifications for a clerk typist barred all people, black or white, born on certain dates. Those under the signs of Scorpio, Pisces and Cancer were banned. Hiring by horoscope, as it were.

Southerners dominated the racial designations, but the Middle West, the East and the Far West had their share.

One congressman from Massachusetts took the cake with his: "No Southern accents, white only." One New



York man (brave!) went into dress with "no pantsuits." Several mentioned age and some specified, naturally, "Virginians preferred."

For black Americans, some of whom are convinced that there exists a giant conspiracy to hold them back, the most serious aspect of this newspaper article is that one denying them entrance, which means denying them promotion as well.

One request for referral had this notation, "If shows initiative, will advance to more responsibility." One request from a North Carolina representative asked for an applicant for a \$16,000 to \$20,000 job, "White only." Officials said such requests mean that no minorities are even considered in the first phase.

For some time, it has been the pretense that Negro Americans are getting too much help from the federal government and are getting too many "breaks" in the

scramble of life. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram article proves that even where the law declares against racial bias, the Congressmen who pass such laws are the very ones who violate them. New York State passed a law banning employment discrimination in 1945 and a simple code appeared soon after which allowed violations.

Some voters will remember that blacks were denied jobs even if they don't remember the statistics. Blacks may not constitute a majority in some districts, but when they combine with Catholics and other dissident elements they become a real threat.

Campaigns to register to vote will be stimulated. If this is one way to get at that so-and-so who believes minorities ought not have jobs, then register and vote.

Affirmative action, as was charged in the Defunis case, may receive a shot in the arm, though not by that name. The Congressmen who thumb their noses at bias laws may change one aspect of the civil rights movement. The charge against affirmative action is that it may be unfair. Well, there is nothing more unfair than "No blacks."

For years the overwhelming majority of Negroes has sworn by the law. Others have seen the entire white society as "racist," with no person other than white destined to get very far. The reports from the Congressmen's offices come at a good time for further dividing America racially.

# as i see it

## On Pardoning The President

Whoever said no man is above the law obviously hadn't reckoned on last Sunday night. A historic moment occurred last Sunday night when President Ford pardoned ex-President Nixon of all the wrong doings he had been accused of upon taking office for his second term.

The consequences of such abuse and misuse of power by President Ford may lead to more serious problems than Watergate itself.

First, because Mr. Nixon was never taken to trial for his alleged criminal acts make the pardon seem out of context. Since Mr. Nixon has not pleaded guilty for any wrong doings, what is he being pardoned for? According to Webster's Dictionary, to pardon means "to release one officially from legal punishment." Well, if he



hasn't done any wrong what legal punishment is he being released from having to answer for his conduct while in office. This puts the man above the law.

Why then was he pardoned?

Well, our President said to avoid having Mr. Nixon go through more suffering. "He's suffered enough" President Ford said. When has personal human suffrage been payment for crimes. If suffering was a prerequisite for pardoning then our jail cells would be empty. What President Ford meant, As I See It, was that he was appointed by Mr. Nixon and not the American people and he owed his allegiance to Mr. Nixon and the Republican party.

By making his decision the way he did President Ford has set precedence in a dual justice system. As Mr. Nixon hammered the nails into the coffin of Democracy during his days in office, President Ford has started covering the coffin with dirt. The entire democratic system is in deep trouble.

# What's happening!

by Bob Johnson

ISLEY BROTHERS disappointing..... Happening spoke to many brothers and sisters last week about the September 6, rock concert at the Charlotte Coliseum .75 percent of whom went mainly to see the famed ISLEY BROTHERS. These people, who prefer to remain anonymous, stated that the Isleys performance left alot to be desired. Fortunately, however, THE OHIO PLAYERS and BLACK HEAT were well worth the money spent. Maybe next time will be better people.....Let's hope so!

ADRAIN MCCASKILL from Washington, D.C. was visiting in the BIG TOWN last week along with her sister CYNTHIA MCCASKILL, who lives in Cornwells Heights, Pennsylvania. The sisters were here visiting relatives and friends and enjoying some of the mellow entertainment this city has to offer.



Happening would like to say "HAPPY BIRTHDAY", TO ALL Queen City residents born in September, and "HAPPY ANNIVERSARY," to all September marriages.

The Ebony Fashion Fair is coming.....This grand event is sponsored each year by the Delta Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority whose members consist of: MRS. ALMETTA ALEXANDER; MS. EDDIOLA ALEXANDER; MRS. ELLA ASBURY; MRS. BOBBIE BERRY; MRS. PHILISTINE DUNLAP-Basileus; MRS. LELIA BLAKENEY; MRS. OLEAN HACKETT-Tamias (treasurer); MRS. MARGARET HOOD; MS. ELIZABETH HUTCHINSON-Corresponding Grammateus, (secretary); MRS. HELEN KIBLER; MRS. CLARISSY KNOX; MRS. ELOISE MORTON-Recording Grammateus; MRS. ELIZABETH MURPHY; MRS. MARGARET PATTERSON; MRS. EVELYN PHARR; MRS. PEARL PHILLIPS; MRS. JANE REID; MRS. SARAH SCHOFIELD-ticket chairman; MS. MADIE SIMPSON; MRS. MARYN STREATER; MRS. WILLIE TOWNS; MRS. EMMA WADE; MRS. NELLIE MYRICK; and MS. BRENDA SLADE. The show is Wednesday October 23, at Charlotte's Park Center. The tickets, which will be \$8 will enable you to enjoy a year's subscription to Ebony magazine or a 6 months-subscription to Jet.

CHESS enthusiasts..... We are getting it on!!! Call Bob Johnson at 392-1306 for more detail.

A very mellow set was given by MS. YVONNE GARY at 1401 Pressley Rd. for a friend of hers MS. SYDELL HARRIS of Brooklyn, New York, who was visiting here last week-end. Among the participants who feasted on some good ole soul food, which was only one of the evenings enjoyments were: MS. BRENDA MASON; MRS. ELLA MAE DOW; MS. KATHRYN JACKSON; RONALD PHILLIPS; MS. GWEN MAXWELL; MS. DELORES GARY; DARYL POWELL and others.

Happening would like to say..... Good Luck to MRS. HATTIE ARDREY; MS. EMMA BELL; MRS. SHIRLEY MOORE; and MS. GLENDA PYANT. These four lovely sisters are competing for the Johnson C. Smith University "Miss Alumni Title."

September 14 is the date for the Johnson C. Smith, Maryland Eastern Shores football clash. Come out and start the fall season off right. Remember 8 p.m. the action gets underway.

MRS. BILLIE JOHNSON surprised her husband GEORGE with a birthday party last week-end. This social function was given at their beautiful home at 709 Georgetown Drive. A number of brothers and sisters bumped, ate, drank and had a very good time. Among them were: WILLIE and EDNA JOHNSON; SHEDRICK WILLIAMS; DORIS MASSEY; ALVIN and PATRICIA ROBERTS; GWENDOLYN MILLER; LEVI MERCER; BILL ROBERTS and his lovely lady; LEON and DEBORAH CROWELL, and the Johnson children Stefan; Chequita and Tracee.

For you Jazz buffs.....The Frog and Night-gown Club in Raleigh will have the No. 1 Jazz group in the world for three days only Monday thru Wednesday, September 16, 17 and 18. "WEATHER REPORT"!!! Happening will be looking for you face at the place. For reservations call (919) 829-9799.

EDGAR'S PART SUPPLIES.....2412 Beatties Ford Road.....Brand new and very groovy, too. Check it out, I'm sure he has something that you want. If EDGAR BILLINGSLEA is not there, his sister AUNDREA BILLINGSLEA, his wife FAYE BILLINGSLEA or his sister-in-law SHIRLEY JOHNSON will be there to serve you.

Having a party? Enjoyed yourself at a party? Week-end guests? Going out of town? Maybe something else happened to you. If you want to read about it call Bob Johnson at 392-1306 or 334-9826 and lets rap.

Until our next rap session.....You Beautiful Readers.....ROCK EASY!

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