

Editorials & Comments

A Feeling Of Familyhood

..Certain events which take place throughout this time of year cut through the particular religious, economic, political and other beliefs we may hold individually, carrying with them messages meaningful to all Black people.

..Looking beyond the surface of these messages can offer us substance and direction totally relevant to the times and conditions in which we live.

..The family is very important this time of year, as all those fortunate enough to be together generally are granted the warmth so longed for by those drawn apart, often by circumstances beyond their control--sickness, imprisonment, poverty, work, misunderstanding, etc.

..An important family to be remembered during this time should be our larger, extended family--The

Black Community--a family too often torn by internal strife pitting brother against brother, husband against wife, gang against gang, one against another.

..This family too has been drawn apart by external forces, but not by forces which cannot be changed through our own continued efforts.

..The greatest crime committed against this family, it was once said, was teaching it to hate itself. And with that in mind, the most universal Black gift this time of year--in a tradition of the family--might be the rekindling of respect, pride, concern our undying love--for one another as a people.

..Such a gift, manifest in concrete deeds and terms throughout the year, could go a long way in warming that many more Black family circles--large and small--in years to come.

Christmas Greetings

..It is once more that time of year - CHRISTMAS - the time when chimes are heard, carols sung, joy, wonder, and even that little lady standing outside of stores (no matter how cold) begging for alms for the poor. Often we give but all too often, we are in too big a hurry getting to where there are many things about this particular time of year that none of us understands nor are we suppose to understand.

..Do we understand the magnetism of love or why on occasions we humbly say "Heavenly Father, Help us," and we receive help, no matter how unworthy we may feel? Do we understand the mystery of birth or the magic of sleep - the effect of death or the rebirth of spring, with all of nature's flowers bursting forth in glorious colors? The answers to all of the above questions are an emphatic "NO." Man has been searching for such answers for centuries, but God tells the answers to all of these questions to those who know and trust Him.

..The 25th of December has been set aside to observe the celebration of

our Savior's birthday. Do we really need a date for such a celebration?

I think not because knowing Jesus is really a glorious celebration everyday if we truly love and serve Him.

..This Christmas, 1974, let us all resolve to rededicate our lives to Him who came and died for us so that we might have the opportunity to be with Him throughout all eternity. Loving Him means loving our enemies, the poor, the unwanted, and all others that we might classify as "undesirables." Our economic situation is critical now, so give Him a present this year by sharing with some of His "undesirables." You will receive a true blessing, I can promise you.

..Now, as you face your many holiday festivities, Mrs. Battle and our son join me in wishing for all of you God's richest blessings. May His love guide you safely throughout the holidays and into the New Year. MERRY CHRISTMAS, especially to the CHARLOTTE POST PUBLISHERS who have been so gracious to us throughout 1974.

Yours in Christ,
by Rev. George E. Battle, Jr.

Public Officials Must Live Above Suspicions

..We have pro and con arguments about the issue of capital punishment. We have had two recent accounts of crime covering several states. One started in the far-west, bloomed into several killings in the mid-west and it did not end until a highway patrolman and a citizen were kidnapped and killed in Florida. And he was a released out-of-state felon.

..Some questions are, what must be done to get our state legislatures, Congress and the courts to end this kind of thing, either by reinstating capital punishment, or tightening parole practices? As has been seen in the first phase of the Watergate

incident, the convicted persons lived in air-conditioned, carpeted, playground-equipped, TV lounges. But we think this is not satisfactory rehabilitation.

..Suppose ex-President Nixon had been convicted for his alleged part as an undicted conspirator and placed under confinement. Would he have been put in cell with an ordinary felon? No, indeed, he would have had air-conditioned comfortable quarters. At least, this is our belief.

..Must citizens again bear arms for protection?

Guest Editorial from The Carolinian
The Carolinian



"PRESIDENT FORD IS PROPOSING A 30% INCREASE IN THE COST OF STAMPS FROM THE LOWEST INCOME AMERICANS" IN HIS "EAT LESS" CAMPAIGN

VERONICA CAHILL
N.Y. DAILY NEWS

Drafting America's Poorest

REPORT FROM

Washington

Foreign Aid

By Cong. Jim Martin

..As the 93rd Congress rushes toward a December 20th adjournment, it should be noted that some significant legislation has seen final action, or should, before the Members go home.

..Included in that last minute surge of action are Foreign Aid Assistance, (which I opposed, but which passed by a vote of 201 to 190).

..While I voted for some of the amendments to the Foreign Assistance Act, I voted against the complete package. I think my position on the subject is known to my people, but I want to reiterate a couple of points.

..The American taxpayer is tired of putting money down a rat hole and getting nothing in return. Other nations owe this country nearly \$60 billion, and there is little hope of getting much of the money back.

..American tax dollars have heavily subsidized our adversaries for many years. Time and time again, we have made loans or given outright grants to countries which have declared and maintained an anti-American stance in world diplomacy.

..Foreign aid can be justified in many areas of the world on the basis of a buffer to Communist expansion, which military aid has provided; or on humanitarian grounds in the case of timely disaster relief. But I think it is time the rest of the world gets the message that a strong growing tax paying minority is tired of footing the bills. The one-way street is going to have to carry two-way traffic.

..The Foreign Aid Assistance Act, which won approval this past week does carry one strong measure

which I co-sponsored. It allows the United States to exchange (or barter) its foreign aid for the minerals and critical raw materials this country will need in the future. Now, more than ever, this country needs to get something in return for military and foreign aid. Recipients of our aid must not turn around and refuse us their mineral resources at a fair price.

..In another serious matter, final action on a proposal cutting off importation of chrome from Rhodesia may come before December 20th. Sponsors of the measure would have this country follow the lead of others and the United Nations, by imposing complete sanctions against Rhodesia because of their racial policies. I cannot support this proposal. Lest my intentions be misunderstood, my position is not based on affection for the Ian Smith government, but on some hard economic realities.

..Rhodesia has 67 percent of the world's reserves of chrome. Another 22 percent is in the Republic of South Africa. That doesn't leave much, with the remaining 8 percent divided between the Soviet Union with 6 percent and Turkey with only 2 percent. Turkey's limited production is already under contract. South Africa's is of lower quality. It would be a grave mistake for us to rely solely on the U.S.S.R. as our only source of supply. And I will tell you they have already raised chrome prices in anticipation of a U.S. ban on Rhodesian chrome.

..The chrome issue could be considered a sleeper issue by today's mass communications standards.



TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

Goodwill To All Mankind

..Christmas is the time for joy, for neighborliness, for goodwill to all mankind, but this Christmas just doesn't fit the bill.

..All the forced gaiety in the world can't obscure the hunger and misery rampant on the globe of this season of joy.

..All neighborly will in the world won't cover up the fact that neighbors, here and abroad, are now more concerned with their own survival than with lending a helping hand to the fellow nearby.

..And we sing "goodwill to all mankind," but what most of mankind needs more than goodwill is food, and hundreds of millions won't even get that.

..Yes, it's a sorry world this Christmas season. It's a world torn by strife, stalked by hunger, facing global recession or Depression, and apparently without the leadership to see it through.

..This Christmas half a billion people--the number is almost beyond our ability to comprehend it--will go to bed hungry. In huge parts of the world, and especially in the African Sahel, in South Asia and in Latin America, people, hundreds of millions of people, are near starvation.

..Here at home everyone's living standard has been reduced by inflation. But the worst Christmas of all awaits the over six million people and their families who are out of work. And each day's newspaper brings news of more plant shut-downs, more lay-offs, and more homes whose Christmas is plunged into deep shadows of despair and want.

..All-in-all, that adds up to a pretty gloomy Christmas season this year. From the outside things don't look all that bad--the lights blaze away, shop-windows are full (when they're not boarded up), and laughter and good cheer is still in the air.

..But underneath these external trappings of the season we can hear the low, bitter rumblings of a nation adrift, fearful of the future and losing faith in its ability to surmount present difficulties.

..Perhaps this is the season to try to recapture that faith. The age-old Christmas story may still be able to inspire within us the determination to overcome national and global misery. The star that rose over Bethlehem almost two thousand years ago foretold of new hope for mankind and this year more than most, we need to see the symbolic star of brotherhood and faith rise within each of us.

..This is the season to try to overcome the awful privatism that has ensnared our countrymen, the placing of private self-interest above the needs of all. It is the season to stress the brotherhood and charity toward all that is the necessary basis of civilized existence.

..It is the season to renew our faith in the equality of all men, and to pledge ourselves to work all year long for equality and the dignity of all.

..It is the season to find the joy of living and the pleasure of friendship, even in the face of hard times and struggle for existence. Every Christmas has found many millions without their Christmas baskets and gifts, but this year finds more without them.

..Under such conditions it's hard to be thankful, hard to replace bitterness with joy, anger with forgiveness.

as i see it

The '75 Sports Scene

By Gerald Johnson

..In wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I am closing this article for 1974 with a sports prediction that will make Jimmy the Greek look like our own Sports Editor.

..To start with the Super Bowl will feature Oakland and Washington with Oakland edging out the Redskins for the much heralded bowl game.

..USC will beat Ohio State by at least 8 points in the Rose Bowl, and Notre Dame will surprise an over-rated Alabama Team.

..Norfolk State will again dominate



the C.I.A.A. Tourney. Winner of that tourney can't be projected at this

time.

..N.C. State will be upset by Maryland in College Park in January. Clemson will surprise a faltering North Carolina.

..The unconditioned Golden Bulls will be lucky to do as well as the unconditioned football team.

..That just about does it. For those disbelievers I will save this article until spring as evidence.

A MUCH SADDER NOTE:

..Unfortunately as 1974 comes to a close, 1975 looks as bleak if not bleaker than 1974. A much larger number of layoffs with soaring

prices is in store for 1975. All economic indicators are not showing signs of a reversal.

..However, this needed economic slowdown builds strong hopes for future years. The next three or so years will be hard ones for all of us, but by 1978 the economy will have

stabilized enough for a modest recovery. How bad things get from here on will partly be determined by

each of us, but mainly on the government's reactions to this crisis. Here is hoping we will all live to see better days. Keep on Keeping On!

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