

Editorials & Comments

Who's To Suffer And Who's To Blame?

The appeals for sacrifice and self-denial evoked by the current crisis are heard by black people with a mounting sense of frustration, and anger. We are assured that all are being asked to make equal sacrifices, but it is painfully apparent that the lower your income and the darker your skin, the more you will have to give up.

There is a great deal of difference between requiring a yacht owner to forego a season's boating, and telling a black auto worker that he faces indefinite unemployment. We have endured inflation, and recession, and high unemployment, and now, we are told, a critical shortage of fuel, and with each new crisis blacks learn, with renewed poignancy, the truth to the saying: "Last in, first out."

One wonders just who the government's public relations campaign, which implies that a wasteful society is to blame for the energy shortage, is directed at? Black families, even the upwardly mobile, very often don't have the resources sufficient to provide for their basic necessities. By suggesting that they and other working Americans have created this situation, the Administration is simply trying to disavow the responsibility for its own failures.

Mistrust of the President's ability to resolve the energy problems with justice and equity is universally shared by working people. And Watergate is not the only reason for their suspicions. For they remember that every other period of economic slump has elicited from the Nixon Administration policies which have only worsened their plight.

As we enter a new year, economists are almost unanimous in predicting a sharp increase in unemployment; job loss will be the most severe, moreover, in industries which have traditionally employed large numbers of blacks. As of yet the Administration has not proposed a public employment program massive enough to soften the impact.

The Administration's answer to the shortage of gasoline is to permit prices to rise until, it is hoped motorists will be persuaded to use some other means of transportation. Once again it is poor people and working people who will suffer — the privileged can well afford the in-

creased prices.

The question of who is in fact to blame has not been adequately answered. It is apparent, however, that the oil companies have contributed to the current shortage, and many believe that they bear the heaviest burden of responsibility. In 1972 oil firms reportedly donated staggering amounts — \$5 million by one account — to the re-election campaign of former President Nixon. Thus no one can be blamed for doubting the Administration's ability or force of will to deal effectively with the oil firms.

Black people have already suffered from the policies of this industry. Last year thousands of small, independent service stations were forced to close because of the refusal of the major oil dealers to supply them with gas. Many of these were owned by blacks; there was a time, in fact, when operating a service station represented one of the few entrepreneurial opportunities for poor blacks. Now this option is closed.

Congress, as part of its investigations into the current crisis, should give careful examination to the role played by the oil industry. The AFL-CIO urged Congress last year to consider regulating oil firms through a form of nationalization, such as public utilities function. Such a proposal would be a justifiable and effective means of regulation, and should be adopted if there is strong evidence that industry policies are largely responsible for the shortage.

Something else is also necessary if a shortage truly exists—there must be equality sacrifice. We have already witnessed one shameful attempt to exploit the nation's fuel problems to thwart school integration. The proposal to amend the Emergency Energy Act to forbid fuel allocation to public school busing was one of the most cynical and outrageous acts in a year which produced a great deal of talk about the need to restore confidence in government.

Black people are no different than other Americans. They are willing to sacrifice in times of emergency if government is honorable and just. But there is no justice for those without jobs, and there is no honor in trying to cripple racial integration in the name of energy conservation.

Guest Editorial By Bayan Rustin)



PHOTOS POLICE SAID A NOTE WAS LEFT READING "NIGGERS BEWARE."

"We Shall Overcome"

Down To Business

It's That Time Of Year Again

Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell
President, National Business League

Taxes! Taxes! Taxes! What can you say about them other than they hurt and they have to be paid.

It's not enough that your pocket book is looking just about like the Sahara Desert and all signs show that a dust storm may be moving in to stay.

Thank God Christmas comes but once a year. Unfortunately that's before taxes are due and you've already bought or committed your next two pay checks to a 100-man battalion of Big Jim's and a 50-car fleet of customized Evil Knivel stunt cars.

Too bad the timing isn't better. At least if taxes came earlier or Christmas came later, you might know the odds on your ending in the poor house by January 1.

But this is the traditional smiling face-empty pocket book time of year and most of us anticipate the holiday season and the new year with some reservations at best.

What it all boils down to is planning. Not just planning for Christmas but financial planning - which includes tax planning.

To the average person, financial planning represents a complex system of investment in stocks and bonds or the ownership of large amounts of personal property in land or money reserves.

That is precisely what I'm NOT talking about. What I do mean is planning so that at the end of every pay day you are not looking at a high stack of bills and obligations and a much lower stack of money to attack them with.

I'm talking about that family man or woman who either together or individually makes what can be a living wage but must hold their breath in hopes that the unexpected does not occur. That would be like the family car conking out or the TV or something else going on the blink

just when there's no money for emergencies, much less necessities.

That also applies to the young professional who doesn't understand why other people can fly around the country for fun, while making the same salary, and they are grounded because they don't have the cash or the almighty plastic money card - because their credit rating is shot. Planning is for those people whose money is always shorter than their month.

What all of these people are lacking is a consistent flow of cash. That means the amount of spendable money as it relates to their ability to cover obligations with their actual income.

Here is where planning makes a difference between the have's and the have-not's.

If you know that you must pay personal property tax, personal income tax, or for that matter, any obligation that will reduce the amount of cash that is available for you to spend...you plan to be minus that money.

A good example of simple financial planning is the now popular Christmas Club accounts. The same theory can be used with a lot of other needs and necessities.

If you can project the amount of money you expect to make next year, it is a simple process to estimate what taxes will be drawn against that income. Just plan not to spend that money.

Fortunately we have growing numbers of skilled Black public accountants who can assist us in this type of financial planning. But what every individual and particularly small business men and women should be sensitive to is the need for financial planning and the knowledge that that process does not just apply to the wealthy or big business.

If we plan to survive "that time of year" financial planning should be the first step we take in getting down to business.

TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

Revenue Sharing Future

That grandest of all boondoggles, the general revenue sharing program, is scheduled to expire at the end of 1976 and a massive lobbying campaign is already under way to extend the program as well as to increase the money for it. The present program spreads over \$30 billion to state and local governments with a minimum of restrictions over a five-year period. Its supporters are trying to get that extended through 1982, and want the kitty sweetened to a total of \$40 billion.

Not surprisingly, one of the key backers of the lobbying effort is the National League of Cities, whose convention I attended last month. Most of the mayors and city officials I met there insisted on the need for an extended program, while at the same time refusing to pass a resolution urging use of revenue sharing money for social service programs.

Therein lies the reason why the general revenue sharing program should be scrapped. It amounts to a deficit-ridden federal government shoveling money taken from federal social service programs into localities that use them to cut local taxes and to beef up police forces. The program thus far amounts to a waste of scarce resources.

General revenue sharing was supposed to do several things. It was supposed to put additional monies into the cities; it was supposed to encourage local governments to put money into priority areas, and it was supposed to increase local citizen participation in government decisions.

It has accomplished none of those goals. For every federal dollar under revenue sharing going into the cities, another dollar was taken away in the form of cuts in federal social service programs, so the money was not "new" or additional funds, it was just recycled cash.

The money has not gone into priority areas. The poor and the aged have received only a tiny fraction of the funds, while the bulk of the money has gone into uses that ought to be funded through local taxes, if at all.

And the much vaunted "citizen participation" that was supposed to "bring government closer to the people" hasn't materialized. Not only has there been little citizen consultation on local use of revenue sharing funds, but there appears to have been considerable violation of the civil rights provisions of the law.

The city of Chicago enjoyed the dubious honor of being the first city to have its revenue sharing funds suspended because it is charged with using them in a discriminatory fashion. Other cities are lining up for similar court actions.

Anyone who still clings to delusions that the masses of local governmental units are more capable of spending federal money than the federal government is, ought to look at the scandal of the national public service employment program funded through local governmental hiring.

Although Congress appropriated enough money to hire well over 100,000 people last year, far fewer were actually put on payrolls or given training. New York City, for example, hired only a fourth of the unemployed it was entitled to hire and provided services to about half of its entitlement.

All this at a time of sky-rocketing joblessness and increased need!

Let Us Hear From You

For the last 6 weeks the editorial page has consisted of articles which are contrary to the belief of some, agreeable with others, and erroneous to others. The editorial staff welcomes this patronage and we are extending an invitation to all to "Let Us Hear From You." We welcome the chance to print your opinion.

We, the staff, are only airing our opinions on particular situations and we don't expect complete compliance. We only ask that comments,

corrections, and-or criticisms be forwarded with your name and address. When your letter is received it will appear in the next edition of the Post. Letters need not pertain to articles of the Post. Any opinion on any meaningful topic will be printed. Just mail your letter to:

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as i see it

Black Students Were Wrong

BY GERALD JOHNSON

The recent dispute over black students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill denying Mr. Duke, a renowned Ku Klux Klan leader, to speak on campus is indeed an unfortunate incident.

The UNC black students have infringed upon one of the basic rights of our constitution — the Freedom of Speech.

The quote "I might not agree with what you say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it", is quite appropriate in this case.

I personally feel that the group of black students felt insulted by what Mr. Duke represented and that they wanted Mr. Duke to know they were insulted. The students were wrong. Furthermore, the public demonstra-



tion amplified their wrongness. Mr. Duke is not infringing upon the rights of others when he spreads his racist propaganda to any who want to listen. He is just as free to spread his ideology as Angela Davis

is to spread hers and he should be allowed the right to do so. To deny Mr. Duke this right signifies that some blacks must think he speaks the truth. I say let him speak for all will then know he is a fool. I quote the Old Testament "Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness. The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness," Ecclesiastes, II, 13.

Finally, I think a lot of black

people are hung up on having whites like them. The idea that some whites are racist or hate Blacks and Jews is quite disturbing to some Blacks. The Ku Klux Klan still bothers, a lot of

blacks. Well, I can guarantee one thing as long as you are black and as long as some people are white you will not be loved by everybody. The point is Mr. Duke's will always be around; hopefully over-reacting blacks won't.

Mrs. Williamson Is Tickled Pink

Continued from page 1

ago. Mrs. Dye told me how to root it (the African Violet)", said Mrs. Williamson, "and I now have seven plants and

many leaves rooting," she added.

Mrs. Williamson's husband, Robert - a professional house cleaner and supervisor of the House Cleaning Department of Community Hospital - is

very proud of his wife's progress in plant growing and shares her love for plants and flowers. He said, "I would like to have 50 or more of these plants so I could give them to the sick and shut-in."