

Editorials & Comments

The Futility Of Black Leadership

If futilities is what local black leaders seek, they are guaranteed to achieve it with overwhelming success.

It is asinine for someone to believe that he could effect the outcome of the next week's bond referendum one way or another without an organization that is supported by the masses of the black community.

But, if the publicized spokesmen for the black race in the Charlotte area are serious about their relative value in the leadership position, they must first understand their roles within the larger context of community economic development.

Black leaders alone cannot alleviate the problems confronting the masses of black people. If we consider that it is the uneconomic environment of our communities which stunts our growth and stifles our potentials, we would have a clearer understanding that the roles of those who choose to lead us in a no-win proposition if they continue their piece-meal and one-dimensional approach to the problem of advancement of those they tend to lead.

In short it is naive to believe that a black leader can resolve in a few minutes the problems that a government has taken more than 200 years to create.

What Is A Municipal Bond?

While many people are fussing back and forth as to the pros and cons of the bond referendum, the Post was surprised to find out that few people know what a bond is. Therefore, we are taking the time to clarify the question What Is A Bond?

A bond is a certificate of a loan made to the issuer of the bond. Basically it is an I.O.U. with each certificate generally carrying a face value of \$1,000. A bond promises to pay a specified interest rate for a specified time period, plus the face value at maturity.

A municipal bond is simply a loan certificate issued by a city, in this case Charlotte. What is happening here is the city of Charlotte needs money to implement several programs that it deems necessary for the well being of its citizenry. The city has determined that a cost of \$59.5 million is necessary to pull off the program. Therefore, it can issue 59,500 bonds at \$1,000 face value to get the money.

Something On Your Mind?

Something on your mind is the name of a column devoted to you-the young at heart reader of this newspaper-as long as it relates in some way to young people, regardless of age.

It will be written by you and about whatever is on your mind!

So, if you have something to say.... WRITE ON!

THE CHARLOTTE POST

"THE PEOPLES NEWSPAPER"

Established 1918

By A.M. Houston

Published Every Thursday

By The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.
9139 Trinity Road - Charlotte, N.C. 28216

Telephones (704) 392-1306 - 392-1307
Circulation 11,000

Bill Johnson.....Editor - Publisher
Gerald O. Johnson.....Business Manager
Robert L. Johnson.....Circulation Manager

Second Class Postage Paid at
Charlotte, N.C. under the Act of March 3, 1878

Member National Newspaper Publishers
Association
National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

45 W. 5th, Suite 1403 2400 S. Michigan Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10036 Chicago, Ill. 60616
489-1220 Calumet 5-0200

.. We must accept the implications of our plight.

.. The Post does not intend, indeed would not dare attempt, to present the specific problems confronting all groups, interests and enterprises in the black communities. We do, however, feel that each leader should address himself to those specifics in his individual area of expertise.

.. It is also our belief that the minority population should not stand by while the white majority does the planning and revitalization for our future. Blacks should have a voice in the planning of their own future.

.. Altering this situation requires an expanded commitment from the people and their leaders. That commitment must include recognition of the need for a broad-based community economic development program, encompassing jobs, housing and business development and improved educational facilities. This group could then mobilize itself to support of those members of the political community who will enact the vital legislations and appropriations.

.. Collectively, it could also defeat those elected officials who are not responsive to their program.

.. This means that people, considered investors, companies, banks, and what have you will purchase these certificates from the city thereby creating the necessary funds. However, these certificates must repay the money back to the certificate holders. Furthermore, the city agrees to pay so much money (interest) for the usage of the money.

Bonds are given a grade such as AAA, A, B, etc., which indicates the ability of the bond issuer to pay back the money at the end of the designated period. AAA is the highest grade and Charlotte carries an excellent rating to receive such a grade.

On Tuesday, April 8, 1975 we are going to the polls to vote whether or not to give the city of Charlotte the right to issue these bonds. A vote of "yes" will also allow the city to levy taxes against you as a means of paying back the face value amount and the interest of these certificates.

This is not to say that the referendum is not worth paying for, but rather that you will pay for it. The choice is still yours.

Or any other subject you want to write about. Remember it's your column. Your article should be at least 250 words, type-written and double space preferred. Include your name, age, school, and a clear photo, and send it to the Editor, Charlotte Post Newspaper, Post Office Box 97, Charlotte, N. C. 28230.

Letter To Editor

Dear Sir:

.. Speaking for myself I am very much in favor of the Bond referendum. Planes and buses are my means of travel. And I shall do and say all in my power to get the issue passed. Then who knows I might get able to buy a bicycle some day.

.. In the mean time I shall do all I can to move some of the city councilmen. I wrote the next day after Mr. Alexander's election to the State Senate for consideration for the seat made vacant by his election. They discriminated against me because I am colored, and never let the public know that I was interested. I have nothing against Mr. Gantt, but his appointment was not done in a democratic manner.

.. So I am going all out for the Bond referendum. I've spoken to several small groups, but I am against the way the city council discriminates against its citizens because of race.

Rev. Maggie L. Nicholson
1225 S. Caldwell Street
Charlotte, N. C. 28203



No Job Changes The Hard Hat Tune!

as I see it

On The Bond Referendum

by Gerald Johnson

.. The pro-bond referendum faction misconstrued my recent objection to the Black Political Caucus as giving support to the bond referendum. I have neither publicly advocated or opposed the referendum. However, after carefully studying the referendum and after reviewing literature both pro and con about the referendum I have decided to remain neutral.

.. My reasoning is based on good arguments from both sides. Therefore, rather than suggesting to you on how to vote I have decided to enlighten you on situations which should be considered before you vote. I will cover each bond item both pro and con.

AIRPORT

The most controversial of all bond items is the Airport Bond. The current plans call for a new terminal being built, acquiring land for runways, and utilities, paving, and lighting of the expanded facility. The claim for needing the new facility is to be able to handle future air traffic and to have Charlotte play a more vital role in air traffic.

The obvious benefit from this bond is the number of jobs that could be produced with its passage. The jobs produced through construction and the jobs produced by an expanded airport facility are direct consequences from the expansion. What is not so obvious are the indirect consequences. A heavily industrialized community is dependant upon convenient transportation for several reasons. The importance of moving goods to and fro, of having personnel transitory, and of being able to schedule meetings and business transactions and have people arrive conveniently to them is not to be underestimated. As far as attracting new industry to this area and thereby creating more jobs it is extremely important that the excessiveness to the area be uppermost in everyone's mind. Hence effective air transportation is a mandatory requirement for Charlotte's economical growth.

On the other hand there are numerous objections to the airport bond proposal. The black community has reason to be skeptical about the proposal and the Northwest Community Action Association has more than substantiated the reasons for this skepticism. As far as employment goes the reasons given by the NWCAA are unfounded. Employment figures at the airport show a 38 percent minority employment, a figure that is above the minority population of Charlotte. However, discrimination in pay, positions, and promotions might tend to be discriminatory—a point that I can not defend at the moment.

.. But a serious objection to the bond is the overall cost. The figures that are being used were prepared by



Arnold Thompson Associates, Inc. in 1973. The total cost was approximated at \$82 million. The city plans for 55 million to come from the bonds and \$27 million from the Federal Government. Inflation has caused this figure to be quite inaccurate, a fact you will have to pay for. The rise in construction cost alone will push the figure to approximately 110 million. A vote of "yes" on the airport bond is also giving authorization to the city to levy taxes in any amount sufficient to pay the principal and the interest on the bond. This is where the under-estimation is made up.

In summarizing the airport bond the question is simply do I want to pay directly for Charlotte's economical growth? Your answer to this question should be the most influential input in determining your vote.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Charlotte Bus System is under consideration for purchase by the city. The Federal Government will pay 80 percent of this purchase price leaving the city with only 20 percent to pay. The proposal for this bond issue listed the following as a need for a sound bus system.

- .. (1) Rising Costs and Shortages of Gasoline
- .. (2) Environmental Effects of Auto Usage
- .. (3) Increasing Traffic Congestion on City Streets
- .. (4) Lack of Parking Spaces
- .. (5) To Be Able to serve the needs of a sector of people in Charlotte.

All these are extremely good reasons for having a sound mass transit system, but I question the ability of the city to provide a sound mass transit system. City ownership does not guarantee the soundness of anything, but it does have a few advantages.

.. City ownership will allow you as a tax paying citizen of Charlotte to assist in the management of the bus system. With city ownership you will be able to petition your way to the city council and voice your opinions on the bus system.

.. Also, special service programs such as the special rates for the elderly, and provisions for the handicapped will be more readily implemented.

.. City ownership of the mass transit system should make it a people oriented and not a profit oriented See BOND on page 6

TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

Illegal Aliens A Problem

Concern about illegal aliens has grown, with the federal government seeking additional funds and powers to locate and deport them, and others seeking ways to help them cope with the exploitation and terror which is the lot of the illegal alien.

But the most striking element of the whole controversy is how little we know about the problem.

We don't even know how many illegal aliens there are in the country. Recent Congressional testimony by the Justice Department estimates the total at "between four and twelve million." That's quite a spread, and the wide divergence of those figures suggests guesswork.

And we don't know what their impact is on the job market. The government insists that illegal aliens take away jobs from legal residents and provide unfair competition for low-skilled jobs.

There is some evidence that this may be so. Chicano groups on the West Coast have argued that illegal aliens from Mexico are used extensively in agricultural work, undercutting attempts to unionize farm workers. And given the shortage of laborers' jobs in cities, it is reasonable to assume that jobs held by illegal aliens would otherwise go to citizens or to legal aliens.

Here again, the unfair competition for scarce jobs hurts most those groups at the bottom of the economic ladder—blacks and browns. Some people claim that this competition has been exaggerated—that illegal aliens are doing work no one else wants, a large claim to make at a time when nearly any job looks good to million of unemployed workers.

In fact, part of the reason such jobs go to illegal aliens is precisely because of their vulnerability to exploitation. Knowing that if a worker gives him trouble, he simply can call the Immigration agents and have him deported, many employers pay their illegals below-minimum wages and force them to work longer hours in unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

Thus the illegal alien is victimized, and lives in daily terror of being discovered and deported. He also must forego work-related benefits and the freedom enjoyed by others for fear of being found out.

It's not a pretty situation, from either side of the fence. The illegal alien is trying to escape terrible conditions in his homeland and, like others to build a new life through work. At the same time, there is the danger that his presence here lowers labor standards and provides unfair job competition to the poorest segments of our society. And if our country's doors are to be wide open anyway, why bother having immigration laws at all, which provide for almost 400,000 legal immigrants each year.

The situation is bad, with humane instincts and economic justice competing with each other, but the possible cures could be as bad as the problem itself.

Increased police surveillance, for example, could infringe on the rights of citizens and legal aliens. Dragnet tactics by immigration officers have in the past caught Mexican-Americans, Haitians, Dominicans, and Asian-Americans in their net—almost anyone with dark skin and an accent becomes a target for questioning and has to present proof of his legal status or citizenship here.

Treating law-abiding American residents like law-breakers infringes on their rights and hasn't caught enough illegals to justify the practice.

And current suggestions that the burden of determining the legality of a person's presence here be the prospective employer's could easily lead to discrimination against blacks, browns, and yellows. Faced with a lot of forms to fill out, employers may well decide to stick to hiring native-born whites and not take a chance on anyone else.

So there is a problem. Something must be done about it. And the best place to start is to find out how many illegals there are, where they are, and if they actually are competing with citizens and legal residents. Once we identify the extent of the problem, we'll be in a better position to act rationally.