

Editorials & Comments

Who Is Being Hurt?

Sojourner Truth's story as portrayed on American Parade Sunday night, depicted what one can do who is motivated by the desire to help troubled people. A recent story told of how Frederick Douglas came of age and decided in his heart that he would do something about the wrongs perpetrated upon an enslaved people. This brings us around to the JoAnne Little squabble.

One must ponder these things in his heart and ascertain who is being helped in the squabble and who is being hurt? Will the actions result in Miss Little receiving justice when her case is tried? We can understand why she had to furnish such outlandish bonds. We can also understand the feverishness that attended the raising of the money. What we cannot understand is why so much more money is needed to insure the proper presentation of the case.

The first unanswered question is what will become of the bond money after Miss Little presents herself for trial? It is our understanding that a bond is a guarantee that is put up to indemnify the state if the indicted person does not show up for trial. We also understand that once the person is tried, in a court, the bond, whether cash or personal responsibility, is no longer needed and reverts to the surety. We do not know what the form of the bond is, but we do know that appeals were made for cash. We understood that \$115,000 was reported as having been raised and bona-fide officers of the law are said to have been satisfied to the extent that JoAnne was released.

The next question that is not clear is whether the money put up as bond money will be returned to those who furnished it.

We happen to know that many dollars were collected in small su-

The Welfare Program

Everybody's Whipping Boy

If the welfare client is female, we draw a horror picture of repeated illegitimate births for the sole purpose of increasing her welfare benefit. She's a loafer, too.

What are the facts? People wind up on welfare not because they are cheats, loafers or malingers, but because they are poor. They are not just poor in money, but in everything. They've had poor education, poor health care, poor chances at decent employment, and poor prospects for anything better.

We are advised that welfare provides such opulent living its clients would be crazy to give it all up and go to work. We hear repeatedly that welfare clients are cheats and welfare programs are rampant with fraud.

What are the facts? But even most of the poor are not on welfare. Some 15 million Americans receive some form of welfare benefits. There are more than 25 million officially below the poverty level of \$4,000 a year for a family of four. Another 30-to-50 million are just barely above it. And \$4,000 a year, as everyone knows, does not afford extravagance.

Of the 15 million receiving wel-

ms, some as low as \$1.00. It is going to be a problem to send many of the persons who gave in response to the appeal, their money back. The next question is why does it cost so much to try the murder case? No state nor defense witness is known to have witnessed the murder. The defendant has said that she was guilty. That being true, the burning question is how will the jury accept her testimony and what the judge will say after it makes its report?

Another non-understandable question is why any person would enter into an agreement as to how monies given for the defense of the young woman would be distributed? Newspaper reports allege that there was an agreement between certain interested parties that the monies would be distributed in different ways. It is hard for this newspaper to bring itself around to believing that persons sworn to uphold the ethics of jurisprudence would enter into collusion with anyone, where the life of an individual is at stake.

We know that immorality is the vogue in many places, but we cannot understand how anyone would become so immoral until he or she would stoop so low as to commercialize on one's potential death for personal gain. We know the lawyers should be paid. We do not understand why there should be a need for money to propogandize the case. We hasten to say that any person or persons who form a combine to profit off the misfortune of another is perhaps more guilty in the eyes of public opinion than the person who finds himself or herself the victim of misfortune.

We will wait to see where the \$115,000 will end up and who was hurt or helped.

Guest editorial from the Carolinian

THE LEVEL OF FEAR IS SHOCKING!



To The Elderly, The Street Has Become A Jungle!

Letters to the Editor

Black Caucus Responds To Two Editorials

March 31, 1975
Editors, The Charlotte Post.

Dear Sir:

I should like to respond to the two editorials which appeared in the Thursday, March 27, 1975 issue of the Charlotte Post entitled: "The Fictitious Assumption of Black Leadership" and "Black Political Caucus - As I See It" by Gerald Johnson.

First, I would like to say that persons who share leadership responsibility in the Black Political Caucus are in good company for I see you are also very critical of Reverend Jesse Jackson, National President of Operation PUSH in his efforts to get the National Invitational Basketball Tournament Committee to extend invitations to predominantly Black Colleges in the future.

I also note with great concern the tremendous amount of space given to Republican, 9th District Congressman Jim Martin who is ultra-conservative and in my view, callous in his views and efforts toward the plight of the black and the poor in our nation; and finally, I applaud your newspaper as being the first to get one concrete fact on the upcoming Bond Referendum A real picture of the "Map of the Proposed Bikeway System."

The Republican Party has certainly found a friend in the Charlotte Post because two headlines on your front page give credence to the big lie that "Black Jobless" rates are unchanged and that the "National Welfare Rolls Remain Fairly Stable". All of us know including you that the "last hired is the first fired" and there is eventually no other place for the unemployed but the welfare roll; if unemployment continues over a long period of time.

Forgive me, I have strayed from my intent. Now for the business at hand. In your leading paragraph you stated that

"It should be an elementary observation that, in our black neighborhoods, there is an alarming need for a black leader who could command the majority support of blacks in the Charlotte Community."

Black people are not monolithic. Why one leader? I ask you "does Charlotte's white neighborhoods have one leader who can do all these things? The day has long since past for anyone to speak for everybody. We know from past experiences that the one leader gets "assassinated as did Dr. Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968. Only lesser known leaders get unemployed and/or financially killed".

Members of the Caucus are Representatives of our various Democratic Precincts. We were elected to those positions. So contrary to your allegations, the communities did have an opportunity to elect us. We are not pawns of the Democratic Party, though our leadership emanates from that party.

More importantly the average representative in leadership responsibilities in the Black Political Caucus was born and reared in Charlotte, North Carolina over 45 years ago. We are not transplants. We have grown but our neighborhoods have not. I was born in First Ward in the last house by the railroad at 944-A North Alexander Street. A community still yet without sidewalks, parks or anything else that would make it a desirable place to raise children. The last vestige of pride, the Alexander Street School, died several years before its principal, Mrs. Jayne B. Wallace Hemphill, a staunch educator who taught thousands of black boys and girls we could be somebody in spite of circumstances.

Reverend Howard Campbell of the Northwest Community Action Association is a product of "Newton". Jim Richardson came from Third Ward. I would go on.....

Contrary to young Gerald

Johnson's claim, who is more entitled to speak? Our thoughts, feelings, and actions are based on a commitment each of us made in our own ways while we endured the deprivation, discrimination and hardships as young black men in a totally segregated society. I vowed as a teen-ager that I would have a voice in "my city" one of these days. I have not forgotten where I came from and the debt I owe to other blacks and poor people of this city.

Young Gerald attacks the organization structure of the Black Political Caucus. I ask him to go to the file of your own newspaper, if you have one, and check out a story that your paper did on the Black Political Caucus. The date is: Thursday, October 3, 1974.

Also check the record of the last two elections. We know we were responsible for getting out the vote of 2,000 or more people during the last election. Ask the candidates who won seats after seeking our endorsements. Ask County Commissioners Lis Hair, and Rowe Motley, ask Fred Alexander, Herman Moore and Robert Morgan.

The Black Political Caucus feels that it is time to call to a screeching halt the "rubber stamping of bond referendum that are put before us with high sounding promises."

As a responsible newspaper when are you going to question? Have you stopped to think that Charlotte passed a \$30 million dollar bond in 1969 which included the Civic Center (a white elephant), fire stations, sidewalks, parks, and streets.

In 1973 Charlotte passed a \$23 million transportation package. Why then two years and \$23 million dollars later have bus fares gone out of sight?

Would not \$55 million dollars go a long way in improving human services in our city?

Robert L. Davis, Jr.
March 31, 1975

TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

The Black Economic Depression

Statisticians have discovered a remarkable way to move people in and out of the labor force. They call it "seasonal adjustment." And one way to make the unemployment figures lower is not to count people as unemployed if they've given up looking for work in a job market where no employment opportunities exist.

The Labor Department's February unemployment figures showed a rate of 8.2 percent, or about 7.5 million people out of work. Those are seasonally adjusted figures, theoretical constructs to account for shifts in work patterns that occur from month to month.

But when real people are counted—bodies, not theoretical constructs—the picture changes somewhat. Then we have an unemployment rate of 9.1 percent and 8.3 million workers—real people with bills to pay and families to feed—out of work.

And even these figures are grossly misleading. In February, some 580,000 workers gave up looking for jobs. So long as they registered each week that they were actively looking for work, they were counted unemployed. In February, after weeks of fruitless job-hunting and no leads or interview possibilities they gave up the search. They thus became, in the official statistics, non-persons, no longer part of the labor force and no longer counted as unemployed.

Seen from the vantage point of a person who wants to work in a society that has no work for him, these statistical exercises become a sort of shell-game deceiving the public, legislators and the Administration about the seriousness of the Depression.

I'm not calling it a recession any more, because we are currently living through an economic Depression. For black people, there isn't the faintest doubt about this.

One of the biggest barriers to getting the kind of federal action to end this Depression is the public's ignorance of the seriousness of the situation. The National Urban League's Research Department has released its quarterly economic report on the black worker, and, along with up-dating to cover the last month or so, it presents a devastating picture of the black economic Depression.

It estimates true black unemployment including those out of work, working part-time when they want full-time work, and those who have given up trying to find jobs, at about 25 percent, one out of every four black workers!

For black teenagers, the official rate is over 40 percent. In some urban ghettos, up to half the people are without full-time jobs they want.

And that's not all. There are as many blacks out of work today as in the darkest days of the Great Depression. About a quarter of the black unemployed have been out of work for at least four months. About 700,000 of the black unemployed are not eligible for unemployment compensation benefits, because their unemployment did not result from direct job lay-offs, a requirement for such benefits.

And one striking finding is that blacks, who comprise 12 percent of local government employees, make up almost half of all local government workers who were unemployed, offering striking testimony to the disproportionate lay-offs of blacks by local governments, demonstrating lessened commitment to affirmative action.

Some people, noticing the concentration of black workers in the laggard auto industry, think that alone accounts for high black jobless rates. Not true.

as i see it

The New Slave Trade

As black people oppression is nothing new to us. Though some people don't know it, black people being oppressed by black people is nothing new. It was Africans who sold us into bondage. Then, of course, came the nights of the masters down in the slave huts and all shades of NEGROES were born. Well, I guess you know the rest.

Today slave trade has taken a new form. Self acclaimed black leaders are selling our votes for the almighty dollar. Nationally well known leaders are no exceptions to the "Hustle". Take heed to the following situations taken from the "New Times Magazine:"

During the 1972 Florida primary, the head of one black ministerial association informed the Lindsay campaign that he could organize and turn out the blacks of a major city in Florida for the tidy sum of \$175,000



cash money. The Lindsay campaign counter-offered with 30,000. The minister did not buy it and was later seen at a press conference endorsing Hubert Humphrey.

Rev. Jesse Jackson toured the country for nine days on behalf of George McGovern for a cool \$36,000. The late Adam Clayton Powell

used a rate structure. For gubernatorial Elections \$40,000, senate seats \$20,000 mayoral elections \$15,000.

The cases go on and on, and get much more involved. Julian Bond and Ron Dellums were the only two well known black leaders that were spared of the hustling insinuation.

What is happening, my friends, is that black people are approaching campaigning camps promising to deliver votes to the respective candidate. Of course to do this will cost the candidate so much money. The candidate pays the black entrepreneur the sum of money.

It is generally understood that votes can't and won't be gotten from this pay off but the candidate pays it as hush money. By this I mean the candidate can't afford to have negative impressions rumored about him.

Again, few if any organizers have ever been able to make an impact on voter turn out. Few if any even try. Moreover, the money is never fully accounted for.

The point is this, the very people pushing for your vote in elections have been paid to do so. The person or issue that is endorsed depends strictly on the highest bidder. The organizers and the organizations don't even have you, the voter, in mind.

All this is to warn you against following any self acclaimed piper to your doom. Find out the issues and the candidates for yourself and vote only on your analization of the situation.

It is time we stop letting people, both black and white, get rich for our cause. Instead, I think, the cause should get some of the money.

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