

Editorials & Comments

Freedom Rights Hustler

This newspaper has repeatedly warned that the battle for first class citizenship is too important to be used for personal gain. The right of a defenseless people too sacred to be played with by money-gougers. The future of the next generation of Blacks, is in too much jeopardy for anyone to speculate with.

It is rather ironical that many daily newspapers carried a disparaging column about Jesse Jackson's seeming vacillating on crucial issues, especially politics, just as a book, depicting his purpose, was released.

This newspaper has watched the events in the life of this young leader ever since he led the sit-down strike, while a student at North Carolina A&T State University. We knew him as the quarterback on the football team at the Greensboro school.

We have admired his generalship and have every reason to believe that he would use the same guide-

lines in calling the plays of life, that he did in calling the football plays. We felt that there would be times when he would have to use deoys. We did not believe that he would call plays, in his role as a national Black leader, that would cause him to get in bad repute with his followers and to become the prey of his adversaries.

We do not know how much authenticity there is in the accusations, read in the column. We hope there are none. We say, however, that all leaders, of just cause, should be like Ceasar's wife, above reproach. We know Jesse has to live and we feel that any servant is worthy of his hire. We say "tainted money and "Taint" people. Don't be like the fellow who had eaten three "helpings" at a friend's table and remarked to his host, "this food is tainted." The exasperated host replied, "What do you mean?" He replied, "Taint enough!"

Strange Phenomenon

It is a strange phenomenon that Black people in most low income communities can purchase Mark IV's and Cadillacs and other luxurious automobiles in great numbers from local dealers, the great majority of whom do not put anything back into the Black community—and is unwilling to make an appeal to the Black consumer.

Isn't it about time for Blacks to find better directions for their misplaced values? Are we going to forever beg for what we need while purchasing what we want?

There is no better demonstration

Inflation - Recession - Hard Choice To Make

President Ford's Fiscal 1976 budget proposal calls for extremely tight spending and massive cuts in current programs which provide basic benefits to the nation's poor and elderly. The budget, together with the annual report from the President's Council of Economic Advisers, strongly suggests that the Administration will seek to fight inflation and recession simultaneously and that neither will improve this year. Thus unemployment and high prices are here for a while.

The Adminstration projects that the unemployment rate for this year will be around 8.1 per cent, reaching a peak of 8.5 per cent by mid-year. Moreover, unemployment is not expected to dip below 6 per cent before 1980. With the unemployment rate for March already at 8.7 per cent, it is evident that the projected rate for this year will be revised upward.

That means a lot of people will be out of work for a long time, and that unemployment compensation probably will not last as long as unemployment. To make the picture even more uncomfortable, prices will continue to rise. The Adminstration expects inflation to increase this year by 11.3 per cent. Not since the Great Depression has the U. S. economy experienced double-digit unemployment and inflation at the same time. Virtually every econo-

mic indicator, except the cost of living, is moving towards depression levels. We can not continue to sit back and let this happen. We must accept the fact that recession is our primary enemy, and give top priority to reversing the downward trend of the economy.

It is clear that inflation is a serious problem and that measures needed to stimulate the economy may very well increase the cost of living. But that pill will be a lot easier to swallow on a full stomach than on an empty one. I agree with the most unanimous view that a quick stimulant to the economy through a tax cut is necessary to halt the spreading economic decay. This view was reflected in the vote of Congress when it passed the Tax Reduction Act of 1975. The intent of the bill is to encourage consumer spending through tax cuts, and encourage business production through increases in their investment tax credit. This tax reduction is one step in the right direction. To be effective, other steps must also be taken. The bill provides a rebate on 1974 taxes of 10 percent for most taxpayers with a maximum of \$200. Eighty-five percent of the 1974 rebate and ninety-five percent of the relief on 1975 taxes will go to families with incomes of less than \$20,000 a year.

One of our goals is to have many more black parents send their children and actively participate in the school programs. Together we can build a school in which children,

IT IS UP TO US, BLACKS WHO CARE ABOUT THE BLACK FUTURE, TO IMPOSE ORDER WHERE NONE EXISTS TODAY.—



= WE HAVE TO DO IT BECAUSE WE CANNOT ASK OUR OLD PEOPLE TO SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES PASSING THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF MUGGERS.

ORDE COMBS
N.Y. MAGAZINE

PWMS

Time For Blacks To Do Something!

Letters to the Editor

Open School Offers Positive Benefits

As a parent of a child at the Elizabeth Open Optional School I have become more and more concerned at the negative presentation given by the media of the optional school. Having tutored in five schools beginning at Hawthorne Junior High School 10 years ago and working at Elizabeth this year, I feel the open school offers many positive benefits not found at the conventional school.

In the last week I have talked with many parents, teachers, and administrators to try to understand why the community is critical of these programs. In these discussions we talked of the value to the child of individualized instruction when he has a learning problem. If Johnny cannot add 3+5 to get 8, he certainly cannot subtract or multiply. So the teacher or an aide helps him learn addition and then progress to more difficult math. In the same way basic reading skills are worked on until they are mastered. But another type of learning occurs. The teachers treat each child with respect giving support and encouragement in weak areas and recognition of his strengths-enabling him to grow as a person.

Why doesn't the community recognize the value of this type of learning? Partly because mistakes have been made in establishing these schools. But, we also have failed to clearly state the purpose and goals of the schools. The purpose is to see that Open Schools offer the best educational experience possible. To be truly open we must represent the community in all of its diversity. This means we can be a really good school only if we have strong black support.

One of our goals is to have many more black parents send their children and actively participate in the school programs. Together we can build a school in which children,

black and white, can learn to live together, to learn together and to appreciate the richness of the background each brings to the school.

Children are different and they learn in different ways. For many children, black and white, the varied programs of the optional schools offer the best educational approach. I invite you to make the open schools your schools and to work with us in realizing their potential.

Flo Cobey
1620 Meadowood Lane
366-2041

Editors note:

Mrs. Cobey is a member of the Elizabeth School Committee. She has daughters at East Mecklenburg and Randolph Junior High.

Poor Rationale

6535 Hidden Forest Dr.
Charlotte, N.C. 28213

Bro. Johnson.

I defend the so called poor rationale that helped defeat the bond package. I used the same reasons you listed in your paper as my defense. The same reasons you rational.

(1) More pressing things needed attention.

(2) Blacks don't use the airport.

(3) Jobs created by the expansion would not help blacks because the work would be manual labor.

"Basically", I think this is pretty sound reasoning. The basis of your argument was the condition of the economy with emphasis placed on the unemployment situation. I understand that unemployment is very important in this situation. But jobs would be created with whatever the money would be used for. The majority of black people do not use the airport directly but most blacks are affected by the airport indirectly.

Howard Mungo

TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

Black Aged Hit Hard

Everyone's hurting in this Depression, but hit hardest are elderly blacks. They don't have the securities, bank savings and bonds affluent people sock away for a rainy day, and few have ever worked in the kinds of jobs that allowed them to plan a comfortable retirement.

In fact, they were explicitly barred from jobs that carry decent pensions and other retirement benefits.

All most of them have are social security checks, other government payments including supplementary Supplementary Income (SSI), or earnings.

That's not enough in these days of sky-rocketing prices. Stories of old folks buying pet food because its cheaper indicates the extent of their hardship.

SSI payments are less than half of what the federal government estimates as a moderate standard of living for a retired couple. They're even below the poverty level in most places.

Most older blacks are poor or close enough to being very poor to feel the pinch badly. And with growing unemployment, financial help from children is drying up too.

The thing to remember about the black elderly is that they are survivors. Most of them survived the Jim Crow system and low-paying, low-status jobs, and now they've got to try to survive further indignities instead of enjoying well-earned retirement years.

Compared with older whites, elderly blacks have less education, fewer financial resources, more have chronic health problems, live in substandard housing and have less access to private and public resources available to the aged.

They are survivors in a literal sense, too. Most of their contemporaries have passed on. The life expectancy for black males actually declined in the 1960s, from 61.1 years to 60.1 years. This means the typical black man will never live to collect social security benefits, deductions for which were taken out of his measly paycheck all through his working years.

Black women live fewer years than do whites—the typical black woman lives to the age of 69.3 years, while white women can expect to live to 75.6 years.

These life expectancy figures have given rise to suggestions that instead of limiting social security payments to those 65 and over (with many getting payments starting at age 62), a system of differential age eligibility should be instituted.

Under such a system the population would be broken down by subgroups and those subgroups, such as black men, whose life expectancy is below the national standard for social security eligibility, could begin to collect at earlier ages.

Such life expectancy tables could be computed regularly, with eligibility limits moved up or down depending on the actuarial figures. Other groups in our society, including Native Americans and many Spanish-speaking peoples, have low life expectancy and it seems only fair that such persons should get back money they've been paying for retirement.

It's an interesting idea that certainly deserves further exploration. It might even spur better health care efforts by the government, and that should be a major item on the agenda for helping old folks.

as i see it

Garbage Collection Problems

By Gerald O. Johnson

Redd Foxx used to tell a joke about his family's poverty. Foxx would quip that his family was so poor that they use to tell the garbage man to leave three cans. Well, with the Charlotte Garbage collectors you don't even have to ask. The cans along with most of your other garbage will be placed in strategic locations all over your lawn.

If this isn't enough the men in green will just leave your garbage where they found it. When this occurs, however, it is because your garbage doesn't meet city specifications. The garbage is either too heavy, too messy, or too dispersed.

Let me inform you of several occurrences that happened to someone near and dear to my heart....me.

After supervising a family project to have some blackberry bushes

removed from my yard, we discarded the bushes on the side of the house for the Wednesday pick up. Two weeks later the trash was lying in exactly the same place. I resorted to calling downtown to find out what was going on. I was informed by a rude lady that my trash could only

be picked up if it was bagged. I informed the lady that bushes with thorns are not exactly bagable. Then I proceeded to tell her what they could do with all the trash. She informed me that if I did that with my trash maybe they would pick it up.

Well, I bagged the thorny bushes and left the neat pile for local can man. You'll never guess what happened! The thorns tore into the bag and when the g-men picked it up the bottom fell out. Well, the mess was left there for another two weeks or so before the street cleaners finally removed the collection of garbage.

Another incident happened when I had my trees pruned. The leftovers from the pruning were placed in the regular pick up spot. After a month of waiting for someone to pick up this mess I again called downtown. The same lady answered and this

time was a little more agreeable. She had the supervisor come to my place with a truck to analyze my garbage for pick up. He decided that my garbage wasn't good enough for his truck so he left. Another month went by before the street cleaners finally picked up the mess.

I have had several other skirmishes with the trash people, but I don't even want to talk about those.

Now on July 1, 1975 the rules of the game are being changed again. The trash has to be put on the curb at a certain time and the cans removed from the curb by a certain time after pick up. All rule breakers are subject to fines.

To tell you the truth I would prefer retaining the portion of my taxes that goes into garbage collecting and use that money to hire a private garbage collector. Maybe that way the garbage will get picked up.

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