

# Editorials & Comments

## The "Meeting Of The Mind" Meeting

Our first impulse was to applaud the news that Rev. Howard Campbell was calling a "meeting of the minds" of the top black leaders in the Charlotte area.

It seemed to us that the time was ripe for such a meeting. We felt that it would be an excellent move towards the organization of these super talented people into meaningful representation of the Black people in Charlotte.

It is hoped here that the mistakes of the initial effort will educate Rev. Campbell and other leading Blacks to the values of good organization.

Calling a public meeting with elected and appointed leaders in Charlotte was not a wise move. It's sort of like putting the wagon before the mule.

Black leaders should take all the time that is needed to have a "meeting of the minds" among themselves. Once they have reached an agreement on what is best for the themselves and their respective community organizations, an election of officers should be made.

This selection should be made with the good understandings that there will have to be only one Chief and that the others will have to be Indians.

We believe this type organization would best serve the interest of the total black community. The other Black leaders, community and governmental, should be elected chairmen of special committees, i. e., housing, education, welfare, employment, etc.

Once this has been accomplished, the Committee chairmen should call summit meetings with top elected, appointed and governmental officials in meaningful research to determine ways and means of developing

## Some Youths Give Blacks Bad Image

There are certain customs of courtesy and respect that we still need to observe, such as first come, first served and public decorum in eating places, auditoriums and libraries. But to our disappointment many Black youths are giving the race a bad image.

More and more, we have seen college blacks display signs of social inconvenience. It has been a social custom for men to remove their hats in churches, libraries, classrooms, cafes and restaurants, and at graveside ceremonies. But we have seen lately many Black youths with their hats on in libraries, restaurants, auditoriums and we have heard of youths with their hats on in church, although we are told that an usher solved the problem.

The fact that many of them keep

programs designed to resolve the numerous problems confronting Blacks in Charlotte.

The Black organization that represents the Black people ought not follow the patterns set by Black leaders of the immediate and distant past. It will have to find new and more meaningful directions.

Priorities should be established only after lengthy research of the mistakes of the past.

It is not an easy job to lead people. The job is even more difficult when the people you tend to lead are Black.

The Post encourages Rev. Campbell to take the next organization meeting of Black leaders away from the medias and to regroup behind closed doors for a private foot-

stomping, name-calling, fist-shaking session that will make each member fully aware of the fact that his chosen task of leading Blacks is a near impossible undertaking.

There is a critical need for finding the answer to the important question of what is needed to reach the Black majority. How are we going to alert them to the values of education, better housing, improved health and having respect for others?

We ought not stand on the top of the mountain and shout to all who will listen the good news that Charlotte's Black leaders have finally gotten together. That's not important.

It is more important to shout from the mountain top that Charlotte's Black leaders have finally found meaningful directions constructed to improve the lifestyle of Blacks who are being upgraded with better health programs, quality education, improved housing and, even more important, better jobs.

their hats on, breaking all the codes of courtesy, respect and good manners is grave enough; but their attitudes seem to be worse. Their hats or caps seem to be symbols of defiance—I dare you to say anything about it. There are mean looks in their eyes and they breathe airs of resentment.

Performance of these social graces make it easier for people to talk to one another with courtesy, say "thank you", because it is a sign of a socialized individual, whose social behavior is in keeping with the leaders of the nation.



**"BLACKS WHO WANT TO FIGHT CRIME BY BLACKS AGAINST BLACKS MUST NOT BE INTIMIDATED."**

DR. CHARLES COBB  
DIRECTOR, COMMISSION  
FOR EQUAL JUSTICE

## Blacks Should Help Each Other

## REPORT FROM



## Washington



### Oil Tariff - A Congressional Challenge

By Congressman Jim Martin  
9th District, North Carolina

When President Ford imposed the first one dollar per gallon tax on foreign oil, he expected a certain amount of opposition against the action, but he had no choice.

We have already seen that America needs to reduce its reliance on foreign oil consumption. The Arab oil embargo a year ago taught us that lesson. Most of us agree that reducing foreign imports should be our national goal. In my recent questionnaire, 75 percent of the respondents agreed with this objective.

Four months ago, in January, President Ford sent a comprehensive energy conservation plan to Congress and asked for results in 80 days. A month later, as a temporary measure to slow oil imports, he imposed a one dollar per barrel tariff on foreign supplies. At this point the President's action is the only move toward effecting a solution to the imported oil problem.

An earlier showdown between the President and the Democrat-controlled Congress was averted when he agreed to delay imposing additional tariffs for 60 days until Congress had time to design and approve its own energy plan. After 90 days Congress has still not acted, forcing the President to exercise his authority.

Four months have elapsed since the President asked Congress for approval of his energy plan. Congress has been in session for five months. The inaction on the part of

Congress shows that some of the foot draggers here have forgotten the Arab oil embargo.

Thirty seven per cent of our petroleum products come from imported sources. Unless we take substantive action that could increase in 10 years to where we would be importing 50 percent of our oil needs.

Congress is preparing to debate a bill that has just come out of the Ways and Means Committee. I voted against it in committee because it is primarily a 23 cents a gallon gasoline tax on consumers. The future of the bill does not appear rosey because of mounting opposition. Members of the House should decide quickly whether the bill should go back to Ways and Means for improvement or if another bill should be written, such as President Ford suggested back in January.

We should not continue in this holding pattern much longer because of the specter of another embargo remains. The last embargo was one of the contributing factors in the current recession. Another would have a devastating effect on our economy. Translated, this means the next recession would be much worse that we have experienced, costing many more jobs this time.

In the meantime, we continue to remain at the mercy of others.

We no longer have a severe oil crisis situation because the recession has helped ease fuel consumption. As we come out of the recession, gasoline and other petroleum products will be in greater demand.

## TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

## Pushing Kids Out Of School

A recent study by the Children's Defense Fund reveals that about two million children, almost half of them under the age of 13, are not enrolled in school.

That's not all. The Fund reports this staggering figure reflects "only the surface of how many children are out of school."

And the national figure hides even higher numbers of out-of-school kids in some states and among black children. Ten states have more than 6 percent of their school-age population out of school, and in Mississippi it's almost ten percent. Almost twice as many blacks as whites in the 16-17 age group were out of school in Michigan.

Why aren't these kids getting the education that is their right? The Fund reports:

"We found that if a child is not white, or is white but not middle class, does not speak English, is poor, needs special help with seeing, hearing, walking, reading, learning, adjusting, growing up, is pregnant or married at age 15, is not smart enough or is too smart, then, in many places, school officials decide school is not the place for that child."

In some cases school officials set up barriers to exclude poor children. Fees and book charges keep kids out of school as their families face the heart-rending choice of feeding them or educating them. Many children in a Maine housing project were found to be dropouts because they couldn't afford the bus fare to high schools.

In other systems, minority children are often labeled "retarded" without proper testing, and excluded from the public school. Spanish-speaking children are special targets for such victimization, especially in districts where the school claims it has no Spanish-speaking teachers and denies children their right to go to school rather than hire teachers who can communicate with them.

School disciplinary codes are often used as a device to exclude children who might otherwise respond to schooling. Hundreds of thousands of children are expelled each year for disciplinary reasons, and black children form a disproportionately large percentage of them.

Contrary to myth, the overwhelming majority of such suspensions have nothing at all to do with offenses connected to school safety or protecting property. The Fund cites one case where a student was suspended because he could not pay \$5 to replace an item he accidentally broke, and another student, a Japanese-American, was suspended for replying to a racial slur from his teacher. Some students are suspended for truancy, as if such exclusion is a cure for skipping school.

The arbitrary and discriminatory use of suspension came under attack recently when the Supreme Court ruled that students have a constitutional right to an education and the right to a hearing before such punishment is imposed. It also indicated that more formal hearings may be necessary before lengthy suspensions or expulsions can be made.

## as I see it

### The "Great White Hope" Went Phhhh

By Gerald O. Johnson

Sunday night at 11:30 p.m. I settled down in my chair to watch "The Great White Hope" on television. At approximately 11:43 James Earl Jones, The Movie's Black star laid a kiss on Jane Alexander the movie's white co star. At 11:46 the T.V. went blank.

Now it was 11:50 and my T.V. was still on the blink. I put on my Kojak Hat. Another case needed solving. At 12:00 I started phoning WBTV to get to the bottom of this case. The Hat. Another case needed solving. At 12:00 I started phoning WBTV to get to the bottom of this case. The line was busy. I continued my phoning until 2 a.m. with no luck. The line was still busy. At 2:10 a.m. I decided to break for coffee. The thought of the idea put me to sleep.

It was now 7:10 a.m. I got up and phoned WBTV. I got an answer. Not wanting to blow my cover I proceeded with my smooth interrogation. "I was watching the great Hope last

night and all of sudden.....phhhh!!!!" "What Happened", I asked. The gentleman that had answered the phone replied "a transmitter blew in Spencer Mountain and knocked everything out". A likely story I thought to myself. Knowing the Charlotte area as well as I do, I was sure that the movie was purposely blacked out. Some bigot at WBTV pulled the plug on the movie. But I had to prove this. I thanked the man for his time and hung up. My plan was to call back later and trap



the station in a contradiction. I learned all this from the number one detective school in the country..... television.

It was 3:30 p.m. I called back to WBTV. A lady answered the phone and transferred me to the programming department. A lady from this department answered. "May I help you". "Yes", I said. "Why was the Great White Hope interrupted last night". She replied, "a transmitter blew out in Spencer Mountain and we were unable to repair it before 2 a.m. last night." "So we cancelled the movie". A lucky guess I thought to myself or maybe they have been schooled to give this answer. "Thank you" I said and hung up.

My plan wasn't working so I had to switch to my gestapo tactics. The next call would bring out the truth. 6:10 p.m. I called back. The receptionist answered and informed me that everyone was gone but she would be glad to help me. Finally, WBTV was at my mercy. "Yes", I replied, "I was watching the movie last night and I got cut off". "Why",

I retorted. "A transmitter blew and we had to repair, the movie will be shown at the time next Sunday," she quipped. "Where was the transmitter", I immediately asked. "Spencer Mountain" she responded. "Why didn't you show the movie at the regular Thursday night time when most CBS stations showed it", I continued. She replied "We show most of CBS movies at 11:30 on Sunday nights because 9 o'clock on

Thursdays is reserved for WBTV movies." "Hold the line please" I said. I ran down stairs to get all my back issues of T.V. guide to verify her claim. As I returned to the phone I knew I had her because the T.V. guide would disprove her statement. I could close this case and label WBTV for unfair communication practices. I looked through 6 T.V. guides and the receptionist was absolutely correct. CBS Thursday night movies were indeed shown at 11:30 on the following Sunday on WBTV. I picked up the phone and thanked the lady for her time.

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