

# editorials & comments

## It's Our Turn To Aid NAACP

Our National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which has been working for 66 years to achieve first-class citizenship status for us black Americans, "is in grave financial trouble," according to the New York Times' Charlayne Hunter whom the NAACP helped to get into the then segregated University of Georgia a decade ago.

Elaine Welles of the Philadelphia Tribune reports that the NAACP has a deficit of nearly \$250,000, and is said to be "reaching a point where it could imperial critical programs that are the life-blood of the organization."

To put it bluntly, our NAACP is in debt, bills are going unpaid, lawyers are awaiting their fees, and the payroll for the New York national staff is in danger. In years past, the organization turned to the wealthy Joel and Arthur Spingarn who put in their own funds and raised additional monies from their friends. At other times, the NAACP called on labor, especially the United Auto Workers, for financial aid; and still later it depended heavily upon its late millionaire President Kivie Kaplan who increased the number of Life Memberships from a few hundred to more than 50,000, as well as contributed out of his own pocket.

Today, the NAACP is rightly turning for funds to us black folks whom it has aided enormously through the years. Here's a small sample of that aid:

It fought lynching for 30 years, shaming Americans out of the barbarous practice; it succeeded in getting abolished white primaries in the South which for years nullified the black vote there; it fought restrictive covenants in housing through the courts until these were outlawed and we, like everyone else, are free to live wherever our check-books would allow us.

And the NAACP, figuratively, snatched away the humiliating railroad dining car curtain that used to segregate us as if we were carriers of some deadly disease. Its crowning achievement was the 1954 Supreme Court decision which began remov-

ing our children from the indignity of segregated schools. But still further, the NAACP worked with other organizations in the 1960's to end jim crow public accommodations, as well as secure the passage of the important "Voting Rights Act" through which the number of blacks elected officials has increased to more than 3,500, including 140 mayors.

But the work of the NAACP is not finished. Job discrimination is rampant in government as well as in private industry; too many blue collar unions are keeping us out; equal opportunity is too much of a sham; and contract compliance is a shara. Even equal opportunity in education is far from a reality. So we have a long way to go, and only the NAACP has the capacity and the expertise to help us travel the road.

If we appreciate the past achievements of the NAACP, and we want its assistance in the future, it's time to reach down in our pockets and come up with the money to keep the NAACP going full speed ahead. And we have the money. Dr. Andrew Brimmer says blacks last year earned nearly \$58 billion or \$58,000 million. The NAACP owes only one-fourth of a million, or \$250,000, and they are saying it is in deep financial trouble. Why?

We spend billions on high-powered cars, cigars and cigarettes, Scotch and bourbon whiskey, rouge, lipstick and eyeshadow, but not nearly enough toward achieving equal opportunity for ourselves.

The local branch of the NAACP is at 237 W. Trade st. Go by today and take out a membership. They start as low as \$4.

There are 10 million of us blacks who can send \$5 and not feel it; 3,000,000 who can send \$10 or more; and 500,000 who can take out \$500 Life Memberships. Let's take our NAACP out of the "hand-to-mouth" status and give it the financial support it needs to finish the fight against racial discrimination in America. If we don't, then maybe we are phonies and don't deserve the NAACP. (NNPA)

## Policy Of The Post

The Charlotte Post is a weekly newspaper devoted to the black community of Charlotte.

It is not nor will it ever be the policy of this newspaper to cover news outside of the realms of this locale. Our commitment is to you - our news is about you and yours.

The Post makes no attempt at covering world-wide or international news. Any newspaper on the stands offers this. We pride ourselves on being the only one on the stands where black people in Charlotte don't have to kill or steal to make it in print.

It is past time for the unheard of news in Charlotte to be heard. The Post welcome the challenge.

The Charlotte Post has been under new management since June 1, 1974.

Since this time, we've been trying

our "gosh darndest" to bring you the best weekly newspaper in the area. And with your support we have done well.

However, there is still a lot to be done. A lot of news is getting past us because we don't have a full staff to cover it. We need your support.

Here is what you can do. Have your church or civic group contact us about setting up a program with your organization to get subscriptions to all of your members. This alone would enable us to hire more personnel to cover a wider range of Charlotte. To bring you the best coverage of the black news in Charlotte is our goal. With your help that goal is only a step away from reality.



## REPORT FROM Washington

### Perils Of Over-Spending

By Congressman Jim Martin  
9th District, North Carolina

Just as the Arab oil embargo alerted our nation to the perils of over-dependence on imported oil, similarly the perilous financial problems of New York City should alert our nation to the perils of over-spending.

Those of us who advocate a balanced federal budget now have New York's plight as an example. That New York City's balloon is about to burst has focused public attention on one of the major issues facing the country—deficit spending by governments. Recent elections made clear that the voters believe it is time for elected officials to get the government's financial house in order.

In New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Virginia, voters rejected bond proposals totaling billions of dollars. Without passing judgement on the merits of the various bond votes, it seems clear that the electorate resents what government spending is doing to their local, state, and federal governments, and to their own personal finances. New York City has been the catalyst for the anti-spending mood in the country. People do not want financial disaster to threaten their own communities as it has in Fun City.

In New York, the prospect of municipal collapse has prepared the public to accept a certain amount of austerity and fiscal responsibility. They are far ahead of the city's elected officials. New York City

voters approved 6 amendments to the city charter requiring balanced budgets, more authority for budget control officers, a ban on the use of capital improvements funds to pay for current expenses, and more complete disclosure of labor agreements. The city's mayor opposed all these amendments.

Congress should give careful attention to events of the past few weeks where voters have turned down new spending programs. The anti-spending votes are a clear signal to the big spenders beyond its means. New York is the perfect example of what can happen. The federal government is not immune from financial disaster. With the federal debt over a half trillion dollars or \$74 billion higher than it was one year ago, we are courting disaster by not making attempts to cut federal spending. After all, a balanced budget is no more unobtainable for the United States than for New York City. Even so, Congress rejected our efforts to limit federal spending and even raised the ceiling by another \$8 billion.

Consumer Agency  
Congress took 2 recesses during October. While I have opposed Congress taking time off when important decisions were delayed, I have to admit the October recesses may have been educational for some of my colleagues in Congress. They also learned that the American people are increasing their awareness about what government regulators have cost them.

## TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

### Setback For The U. N.

When the UN General Assembly passed the resolution declaring that "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination," I thought back to the historic day in 1936 that Haile Selassie went before the old League of Nations to ask for help in saving Ethiopia from Italian invasion.

The League of Nations refused to stand up to protect the integrity of small countries then. It rejected Ethiopia's plea and thus sealed its own death warrant, for it became irrelevant, a pawn in the hands of the Axis powers out to dominate the world.

I fear that by passing this obscene resolution the UN may be taking the same path of weakening its own integrity and becoming irrelevant to a world in need of international leadership and reconciliation.

Smearing the "racist" label on Zionism is an insult to intelligence. Black people, who recognize code words since we've been victimized by code words like "forced busing," "law and order," and others, can easily smell out the fact that "Zionism" in this context is a code word for anti-Semitism.

Zionism is the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, a movement the overthrew British colonialism and articulates the national aspirations of the Jewish people. Its drive for national independence was one of the models for African independence movements. Is the General Assembly majority saying that national self-determination is for everyone except Jews?

Proponents of the resolution insisted on defining racism as not only color discrimination but also ethnic and national origin discrimination. By that standard most of the states voting to condemn Zionism are themselves racist.

The Arab states that rammed the resolution through are among the countries most guilty of discrimination. Many are guilty of persecuting their own minorities, be they Copts, Kurds, or Jews. In fact, most Israeli Jews are dark-skinned people who fled oppression in Arab lands and the handful that remain there are forced into grim ghettos where they are ruled by terror. In the Sudan, blacks were victimized by Northern Arabs who killed many in a brutal civil war. Elsewhere black Africans face discrimination in Arab states, despite propaganda to the contrary.

And the odd partners that made up the General Assembly majority included the Soviet bloc led by a Russia that persistently discriminates along ethnic lines, and countries like Brazil, a brutal military dictatorship currently engaged in destroying Amazon Indian communities.

The common denominator seems to be a cynical hypocrisy that is morally offensive. Perhaps the biggest reason for many states' vote was fear of Arab oil power and also the promise of aid from the oil-rich Arabs. While many African countries stood firm against these pressures, others succumbed.

From the African viewpoint, that was a mistake. Earlier Arab promises of aid have been broken and I suspect new ones will be too. More important, the struggle against racism is crucial and by turning the definition of racism upside down and diluting it with lies the real struggle becomes severely compromised.

It is also in the interest of smaller nations that the UN remain a viable force in the world.

## as i see it

### Dreams That Motivated NAACP Now Bursting Bubbles

By Sidney Moore Jr.  
Post Staff Writer

It is a joy to see kids blow bubbles on pretty spring days. If they are bright, they sometimes learn the lesson that bubbles only raise just so high before they burst.

When the bubble burst, at least kids do not get so upset. They know when fun is fun. They do not depend on just one thing for fun, they find another game or more friends.

Sometimes it would seem that adults could learn a thing or two from kids.

Take those adults who head up the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). For years, these among our leaders have claimed to be a prominent force active in securing for blacks their civil and human rights. No doubt they have done a thing or two for the cause, as most every

black has either by intention or accident, but what has been done by the NAACP is a curiosity.

A skeptic might say those who run the association have been the cheerleaders of the movement. They have spoken at rallies, represented blacks in the ceremonial meetings of white groups and served as a focal point for church activities in the community.

More avid NAACP supporter might want to give the association more credit than that. No doubt someone somewhere can list a series of accomplishments that might be credited to the NAACP.

But extreme ideas about this organization are just as much just soap bubbles and pipe dreams as those that motivated "super nigger" radicals to take up arms and demand freedom as they did in the late 1960's.



Sidney Moore Jr.

The truth is probably an idea some historian may perceive some years from now. Yet, if we critically consider our time, we might see that most blacks think of the NAACP as something we

needed in the past. We do not see it as something that we should depend on today.

NAACP organizers are quick to take such a point as

this and claim that the people are deserting the association. They love to appeal to our sense of duty and self-righteousness by saying a black person ought to be a member of the NAACP.

But today, NAACP organizers need a better argument than "how else can we fight Jim Crow."

Even with the current rise in police violations of alleged black criminals is not a strong enough issue to impress modern minded blacks that they need the NAACP.

And the low key but all too obvious relationship the association maintains with the

Democratic Party is probably the sorest point of all.

If the NAACP is to become an organization whose image is future oriented instead of past oriented in the minds of the overall black community, it is going to have to reformulate its basic organizational structure. It is going to have to move into programs areas that may not be traditional but are never-the-less of concern to blacks.

A useful approach would probably move the organization in more consumer relations type programs. Less attention should probably be given to black-white relations and more attention to black-black relations.

The association would do well to try to get more black businessmen as local branch officers and fewer

ministers and morticians. It should try and get more youthful leadership into its veins.

Most of all, the NAACP needs an executive director who is himself future oriented rather than past oriented. After all, Roy Wilkins is well into his seventies. He has contributed much, but the dreams

that motivated him are now bursting bubbles.

Note: This column is in no way an attempt to minimize or compromise the NAACP. I am president of the Rock Hill Branch of the NAACP and have every hope that the organization can continue to positively affect the quality of life of black people in this country. For this hope to be realized, I believe, it must be understood that criticism can be a positive shot in the arm to such a powerful body of an institution like the NAACP.

**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

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Charlotte, N. C. under the Act of March 3, 1878

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489-1220                      Calumet 5-2000