

Editorials & Comments

Robert Williams Has Wrong Approach

Perhaps history has dulled our memories but for some reason, we fail to get excited over the plight of Robert Williams. We have no doubts that Mr. Williams sought refuge in foreign countries during a time when it was important to certain white leaders to keep Blacks in their place.

It was the safe thing to do, we suppose. However, we are also somewhat leery about Mr. Williams alleged actions during his flight. With that in mind, we'd like to ask several questions of Mr. Williams and his supporters.

Where was this gentleman during the time when most Blacks were involved in the civil rights movement? Was it necessary for Mr. Williams to run all the way to Cuba, China and Tanzania?

We do not agree that "there is still no justice in North Carolina." Nor that "all Blacks face unfairness in this country."

The Post acknowledges that North Carolina has a long way to go towards the improvement of racial justice. We also have firm opinions that improvement of racial justice will not come about as long as the people of this country continue to think in terms of the color of one's skins.

We believe that true justice will come only when we start thinking in terms of what is right or wrong rather than in terms of what's white or black.

Calling attention to the wrongdoings of one race or the other as Mr. Williams did so eloquently here Sunday afternoon is not the answer. We agree with Mr. Williams that "we really have to get together." Togetherness is vital to the spiritual and the physical growth of this city, as well as the state of North Carolina

Thoughts On Civil Rights Movement

Several events in the news recently calling attention to the Civil Rights Movement of the past two decades remind us of when the Movement received front coverage on a daily basis.

Twenty years ago, Rosa Parks sat down on that bus in Montgomery, Ala., and challenged the entire system of segregation of public transportation facilities that placed blacks in the back of the bus. This slightly built, mild mannered black woman's action put America on notice that a new day was not only coming, by had arrived in race relations.

Headlines recently were also full of stories of the sordid treatment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the abuse, harassment, and factual warfare that was waged against him and his family personally by the late J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This compounded by the reported collaboration of an effort to destroy not only Dr. King and his associates, but the entire Civil Rights Movement.

and the United States of America.

The togetherness we're calling attention to is a blending of both white and blacks in meaningful, constructive approach to the imperfections in our communities, whether it be white or black.

Perhaps in his return to the south Mr. Williams will immediately realize that this is not the 1960's where

raving, ranting and marching were popular. Mr. Williams has confided that when he left this country the black youths "were talking about revolution," but when he returned he found the youths involved in drug problems. Mr. Williams dumps the entire blame on the White community, stating that "they (the whites) want us to devour ourselves in our own community."

Perhaps if he had stayed and fought in the middle of the battlefields as so many Blacks have done, Mr. Williams would be more aware of the fact that his talent as a community organizer is more needed now than it was in the 60's.

Maybe the fact that only 50 people were interested enough to show up for the meeting is an indication that history may have dulled the memories of most Charlotteans.

This is a new day and the Post believes the area Black leaders, Rev. Coleman W. Kerry Jr., Lewis C. Coleman, Rev. Howard Campbell, Robert Davis, Kelly Alexander Sr., Kelly Alexander Jr., Rev. Norman E. Kerry, Mrs. Carries Graves and all of the other dedicated citizens who are making a tremendous effort to improve the Charlotte community and the plight of blacks in the area, would be more than happy to have a man of Mr. Robert Williams talent to join the movement.

Wiretapping, invasion of privacy, running roughshod over individuals' constitutional rights and infiltration of respectable and even moderate organizations with the intent to disrupt and discredit them was the order of the day.

We also witnessed, this month, the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, an agency that folks look to as a resource to eliminate discrimination and racism in the labor market. Although many dedicated individuals have labored hard and tirelessly, one doesn't have to scratch very far below the surface to see that racism in the job market is alive and in our nation.

These facts demonstrate how complex the problem in America really is along with how much more difficult it is for racial and ethnic minorities to really overcome. In retrospect, the problems of the 1960's that the Movement focused on although symbolically important and necessary to address, actually were characteristically simplistic in nature.

BLACK HISTORY

"A RACE IS LIKE A MAN-UNTIL IT USES ITS OWN TALENTS, TAKES PRIDE IN ITS OWN HISTORY, AND LOVES ITS OWN MEMORIES. IT CAN NEVER FULFILL ITSELF COMPLETELY."

JOHN W. VANDERCOOK



Give Them A Sense Of Pride

REPORT FROM

Washington

Angola-What Is Our Commitment?

Congressman Jim Martin
9th District, North Carolina

Angola - What Is Our Commitment?

In recent weeks the civil war in Angola, to establish political control among the hostile tribal factions in that freshly liberated land, has begun to dominate the news. What role if any should United States play in it?

Certainly, the best solution would be for everyone else to let Angolans decide. No one else is justified in sending foreign soldiers there to do the fighting for them. And yet the dominant military force there is the 7000 or so Cuban troops brought there and armed by the Soviet Union to fight on behalf of one political group that represents a minority of Angolans. The other factions have troops from South Africa and Zaire, but in much smaller numbers.

Our first objective in Congress is the same as that of President Ford: to get foreign forces out of Angola and let them resolve it however they choose. That will take the cooperation of Russia and Cuba, and if we unilaterally cut off weapons aid to the factions resisting the communist-backed group, as the Senate has done, the Cubans will probably sweep Angola in short order while we debate the niceties of Congressional prerogatives in foreign policy.

I do not want the United States to send troops to fight in Angola. But if the Russians and Cubans continue their activity there, I do not want the United States to abandon the other side and leave them unarmed and at the mercy of the communist-backed

minority.

I continue to believe that we should provide weapons for any free people to defend themselves if they choose to resist having communism imposed on them against the will of their majority - "regardless of race, creed or color," by the way.

If we turn from that responsibility, no country in Africa, Asia, South America and perhaps even Europe will rely on us in a showdown. If we let our yearning for isolationism turn us away from the world's troubles, we will find little comfort in sitting here watching the parade of falling dominoes crash in succession, closer and closer to our own - the Last Domino.

Some say a loss in Angola would not give communism a foothold there. Some said the same thing about Castro's agrarian reformers in Cuba in 1958.

Food Policy

At the same time as this is developing, we are shipping billions of dollars of grain that our agricultural businesses have sold to Russia. So the question naturally arises as to whether we should use our grain surplus as political leverage to get Russia out of Angola.

As a practical matter, to cut off grain sales to Russia abruptly would suddenly dump too great surplus on our own markets. This would have a disastrous effect on the economic stability of farming operations and shippers. It would cut off the billions of dollars of national income from agricultural exports that helps to offset the dollar out-flow of buying foreign oil.

TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

Failure Of Angola Policy

Washington's efforts to intervene in Angola's civil war, through a massive infusion of arms, money and training support, is doomed to failure.

The reason lies not in the rights and wrongs of the contending factions but in a history of neglect of black Africa and indifference to its paramount concerns.

Our government has little influence in Africa today because it supported the European colonial powers up to the bitter end, and even today follows a conciliatory policy toward the racist South African government that maintains an apartheid system and oppresses its black majority.

In Angola, despite putting some nationalist leaders on the CIA payroll, Washington poured military aid into the old Portuguese dictatorship, aid that was quickly funneled into Portugal's African colonies, including Angola, to fight rebels battling for independence.

What makes the Angolan mess even worse is the presence of the South African army fighting in support of the faction we are backing.

Yes, the Popular Movement forces are supplied with advanced Russian weapons, Russian advisors, Cuban combat troops, and, it is alleged, with white mercenaries from Katanga. None of these groups has any business being there.

But from the African point of view, bad as these outsiders may be, they can't compare with troops from a South African regime that condemns its black majority to sub-human living conditions and strips them of basic human rights.

So in Angola, the U.S. is allied with South Africa against a black movement that has been recognized by many nations while the side we support has very limited support.

The point Americans ought to consider is whether we want to be in a position in which we are allied with an internationally-abhorred country and intervening in an African civil war that could become another Vietnam.

The lesson that must be drawn from American impotence in Angola is that our historic neglect of African liberation movements and support for colonial powers has left us bereft of the natural reservoir of goodwill that should have been ours on the Continent. Many African leaders were educated here, and many more admire the principles of democracy. But that potential goodwill has been thrown away by one Administration after another that refused to recognize African rights to independence and necessary economic aid.

The Russian and Cuban intervention should be condemned too. It holds the threat of turning the Africans themselves, not by the new imperialists in Moscow or their hired guns.

The near-hysteria surrounding the prospects of Russian domination of Angola's resources in the Popular Movement wins is impractical from many points of view. The nationalist fervor that led freedom fighters to resist the Portuguese for so many years will also operate to frustrate the Russians in any power they may attempt.

An American policy of non-involvement, assistance to African groups seeking a political solution, disavowal of South African intervention, and open diplomacy to establish ties of mutual respect with the government that emerges from the fighting is bound to do us a lot more good in the long run than being drawn into an affair that is none of our business.

as i see it

City Council Rather Fight Than Switch

By Gerald O. Johnson

The Charlotte City Council recently voted against an out of court settlement in job discrimination cases. Two blacks have filed suits against the city in its hiring practices.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was instrumental in drawing up an out of court settlement which included a meager sum of money and a minority hiring plan.

The council members in a vote of 4 to 3 voted to take their chances in court. The rationale behind this was that the council doesn't want reverse discrimination. By employing minorities by a plan would discriminate against whites.

The council in concluding with this decision has acted on

emotional impulses instead of logical thinking. Regardless of the court outcome the city will have to face either more suits or a minority hiring plan. Why waste time and money in courts when you can do what's right.

The cities hiring problems exist as I see it in the individual departments themselves. Most of the cities departments are staffed with unqualified personnel in management positions. As we all know poor management leads to a poor state of affairs for everybody.

Let me give you an actual instance that happened to me. In 1973 I moved back to Charlotte after an eight year experience in Philadelphia. I returned to Charlotte with a master's degree in Mathematics



Gerald O. Johnson

and a wealth of experience in Computer Science. I had worked as a system's programmer with a leading computer manufacturer, as a sys-

tem's analyst with a leading electronic firm, as a staff consultant for myself. I was hired by the Director of Charlotte's Municipal Information System (MIS) as a junior programmer with a salary within four figures. Unfortunately for me I had purchased a home here before I moved and I had

to take the job. Of course I spent all my time while employed by the city looking for another job. The Director of the MIS was an unimpressive white male by the name of Steve Watts who had worked

formed he got the job. The trouble is he wouldn't know a computer if he tripped over it. He had no formal training and no degree I was told. This is a classic case of municipal mismanagement if I ever saw it.

If a study was taken of the managerial personnel of the city many cases such as the one mentioned above would be unveiled. Your tax dollars are being squandered because of bad decisions being made at the top. You would be shocked at the number of non-trained, non-educated people at the top.

It is the non-trained, non-educated people at the top causing the hiring problem the city is now facing. A non-educated white is twice as apt to discriminate against a min-

ority as an educated white. The reason being, an uneducated white feels threatened by everyone and discrimina-

tion is his only tool for keeping him on top. He used minorities to give himself power and security.

So you see discrimination is ingrained into the hiring policy of the city, not because of the cities personnel department, not because of the city council but because of the departments within the city structure. Without a face lift where unqualified people now reside the city council will be fighting or switching for an eternity. It wouldn't bother me so much except they are fighting or switching with some of my money.

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