

# Editorials & Comments

## Federal Buck Passing Must Stop

The federal government has passed the buck on Black America for the last time.

When Black America asks for equal employment - we get the Title VI - affirmative action disclaimer. When we ask for economic development, Black America gets the Title VI - affirmative action disclaimer. When we seek equal opportunity to succeed, we are reminded that title VI guarantees us that right which is "augmented by the government's commitment to affirmative action."

It's a certainty that only black folks really know how Title VI works or doesn't work for them. And America can rest assured that despite the great hoopla and gnashing of teeth that accompanies the institution of Title VI regulations, it has produced far more attention and effectiveness in foster-a hatred of quota systems and the charges of reverse discrimination. The folly of it all rests in the fact that the instrument that is charged with the implementation of the regulations has not been provided with a mechanism to enforce them.

Another sad commentary on the American system of justice is the actual length of time it has taken this country to understand what Title VI should mean to the restriction of discrimination against black people. Indeed, there has been a preoccupation in finding ways they could get around the regulations.

Compare that with the time it has taken for everyone in the nation to hop to the tune of Title IX regulations which guard the rights of this country's majority female population. That comment is not chauvinism rearing its head. Certainly black women do stand to gain through the implementation of these new guidelines. The unfortunate part is that these new federal "initiatives" have attracted more attention in the few months since their inception, than in all the years we have sought justice for the black community through this same type of mechanism.

All of this bears out one fact. That is, discrimination - in all its perverted forms - is very much a part of the contemporary scene. Black America is going to have to stand up and tell this country what it will and will not stand for, and the time is NOW!

What this country must understand first is that Black America cannot be treated as a monolith. Monolithic means simply that something exhibits uniformity or is perceived as undifferentiated or as a single unit.

Whether it is the federal government or the corporate-private sector, the majority community addresses Black issues, concerns, and requests as just that - BLACK. Regardless of the internal structure of the agency, department or company which can channel white America's requests to the appropriate component which handles specific requests according to their content. Believe me, ALL Black issues are dealt with in a single category by the resident token black or by the resident in charge of blacks. That practice in itself is discriminatory in that it confines our

ability to draw our equitable share of the action. It is these practices which have forced NBL to the rooftops of our ghetto slum highrises and into the gutters of the barrios and reservations of this nation; to demand parity for the people.

We must attack the federal government for passing-the-buck in response to demands by minority America. One of the most blatant examples has been in the fed's response to our call for the formal establishment of minority economic participation in the nation's proposed plan for the reorganization of the bankrupt railway systems in the Northeastern sector.

While the nation chastises those on welfare and actively seeks the demise of that system, the government has created an even greater breadbasket. America's multi-billion dollar plan to revitalize the nation's railway system has become this country's newest welfare line. Rank and file big business has already declared their squatter's rights. The fact is that the government proposes to sink billions of public dollars in subsidies to the majority business sector. Camouflaged welfare by any other name.

At least one U. S. Senator has estimated nearly \$100 billion, yet the plan provides no provision for a guarantee that minorities can participate in the profits to be accrued or the aspects of investment and employment potential which spell economic development.

This government would be very content if we were to spend the rest of our lives supporting such ventures as consumers, dropping the coins in the meter to benefit the coffers of the majority.

This would be a different issue if we were talking about white money or corporate money that would be spent in this railroad project. But we are not. We are talking about taxpayers' money - yours and mine. And there is no way we can sit by and let the tide of oppression sweep over our people again. We must demand what is rightfully ours.

As it stands now, the plan for the rehabilitation of the bankrupt railroads is called the USRA (United States Railway Association) Final Systems Plan. The plan has been completed and sent to Congress for action. Under the present design, the Congress is without changing their content. That fact I find unbelievable - mond-boggling.

What the federal government is saying to Black America, or any other minority, is that this plan is more sanctified than the Constitution of the United States. Even that protector of freedom and justice is not so revered that it cannot be changed to meet the needs of the people. But the country's railroad plan has no means for amendment.

With that factor tucked in the back of their minds, the federal agencies who are major participants in the development of the proposal can turn to us and suggest that the traditional funding sources of minority economic ventures be approached in this matter. Buck-passing one more time.

WHITEY COULD FOR ALL INTENTS, AND PURPOSES PUT HIS GUNS AWAY. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO KILL OURSELVES BETTER THAN HE CAN. NOW WE SEND EACH OTHER DEATH IN SMALL BAGS.

CLAYTON RILEY  
LIBERATOR



Time For Action In The Black Community

TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT-IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

## TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

### Lester Granger An Unsung Hero

When Lester Granger died early in January, little attention was paid to the event and while some older people vaguely recalled the name, others knew nothing about the man and what he stood for.

That in itself tells us something about the shameful way contributors to our achievements and our heritage are shunted aside and forgotten, even in their lifetimes in the constant pursuit for new and ever more exotic people and issues.

It is especially important, then, that we take advantage of the Black History Week celebrations to recall not only Lester Granger's contributions, but those of other unsung black heroes, men and women who not only survived the days of blatant racist oppression, but led the fight to end it, a fight whose beneficiaries we all are.

And the fact that this is the Bicentennial year makes it all the more important for the Lester Grangers of our history to be brought out of the unfair obscurity of the past and restored to their rightful place in our nations history.

Granger was executive director of the National Urban League for twenty of the stormiest years in our history, from 1941 to 1961. He presided over that agency through a World War, the desegregation of the armed forces, the Korean War, and the beginnings of the southern civil rights movement, he did it with distinction.

In the 1930's, when all unions were suspect and blacks were prevented from joining them both by racists who refused to integrate their unions and by local forces that tried to stop blacks from organizing anything themselves, Granger led the fight for unionization of black labor.

Through the Urban League's Worker's Council movement he directed, he recruited black workers to join unions and if white unionists refused them membership, to set up union locals of their own. Often, such work meant risking his life.

When war loomed, he was one of the key men who backed Phil Randolph's plans for a March on Washington, leading to an executive order opening defense plants to black workers. And when war came, he helped set up placement programs that got blacks into those defense jobs.

One of his big targets was military segregation. How many young people today know that blacks were segregated into separate units up to the Korean War in the early 50's? It was largely through Granger's efforts that the armed forces became integrated; in 1945 he conducted a personal study for the Secretary of the Navy that resulted in breaking down racial barriers in that service.

When the Supreme Court ruled school segregation unconstitutional, Granger loudly backed the decision, bringing down upon his organization the full wrath of the frustrated southern segregationists whose locally powerful pressures resulted in a drying up of funds for some local Leagues. But Granger held firm and the organization weathered the storm.

He took over a debt-ridden Urban League and shepherded it through one of the most unstable periods in American history. At the end of his reign the League was stronger and more solidly entrenched than ever before, and black people had made significant advances, at least in some small part through his efforts.

Men like Lester Granger must not be permitted to fade into obscurity.

## REPORT FROM



## Washington



### Child, Family Services Act

BY Jim Martin  
9th District, N.C.

In recent years there have been a number of proposals introduced in Congress to establish child and family development programs throughout the Nation. They generally build on the model of the head-start programs approved by Congress during the rapid expansion of social programs in the 1960's.

One of those proposals introduced during the 94th Congress has created quite a stir as evidenced by the amount of mail I've received on the subject. The controversial measure is called the Child and Family Services Act, and to date, no one has written my office in support of it. I share the views of parents who wrote, "we feel the responsibility of raising children belongs to the parents, not the government". This Child and Family Services Act does involve too much government intrusion into child rearing, and should not be enacted.

The bill seeks the worthy objective of encouraging single parents to

get off welfare dependence and go to work, by providing day care centers for their children. This would require some reasonable amount of federal financial assistance as the parent first begins employment, but it should later phase-out government assistance as the parent's new job stabilized and paychecks started to become steady. This bill goes too far in dictating standards and oddly, would prohibit the use of federal funds at day care centers which use vacant classrooms in churches. That is an unacceptable perversion of Church-State separation.

One idea that really troubles me is consigning the infants and toddlers to the guidance of a new cadre of social workers drawn from the "otherwise unemployed". Some in this category might be qualified, but "unemployment" should not be the principle qualification.

Many of my constituents who have written about the Child and Family Services Act mentioned that they were doing so because

of an unsigned mimeographed circular. The circular described the bill as proposing a Charter of Children's Rights, including the "right" to refuse and sue their

parents. As much as I oppose this bill, I must clarify that there is no such provision in it. Furthermore, the bill actually compels no one to put their children in day care. That notion and the so-called Children's

Bill of Rights appear to be the imagination of some of the opponents of the bill designed to scare up opposition to the proposal. It's an extremely risky tactic and could backfire. The danger is that legislators might be led to oppose the bill only because of publicity on the Charter of Children's Rights described in the unsigned circular. Then on learning that the bill actually contains no such feature, many may be disposed to vote for it. Rather, we should oppose this bill because it is too expensive, too anti-religious, too much like "make-work" and has too much government interference.

## as i see it

### Contributing To Charitable Organizations

By Gerald Johnson

The North Carolina Department of Human Resources recently released a report on charitable organizations in North Carolina. The report was quite revealing and it strengthened my convictions on not giving to charitable organizations.

The report claimed that soliciting for charities is the third largest industry in the U. S. with a 25 billion dollar operation. The Better Business Bureau said 10 percent of these operations are total rip offs and another 45 percent practice fraudulent or deficient accounting practices.

All this is to say that your gift to a charitable organization more often than not will

end up in some swindlers pocket instead of with the charity. As I See It all contributions should be delivered directly to the people in need or to established organizations. Never give to a door to door solicitor.

It is truly a shame when you think that the gracious art of giving has become a racket. What is worse I am not in that line of work. Oh, well.

BUY CENTENNIAL Speaking of rackets the whole country is being taken by the bicentennial rage. Everything, everywhere is pushing this 200th birthday down our throats. Bicentennial coins, bicentennial toilets, you name it and they've got a bicentennial of it. The trouble is the 200th birthday has no real significance to the people



Gerald O. Johnson

except for buying purposes. Businesses have used what should be a solemn occasion as a gimmick to boost sales. Hence the "bi" in bicentennial

should be "Buy".

No one is concerned with the history of the country, the meaning of this event, or anything but the price placed on the junk that is being sold.

But then what should I expect when this nation took "Christ" out of Christmas and replaced it with an unknown "X" for Xmas.

What all this means is that the country has lost its sense of values. The dollar bill has become the only in which we trust. "How much" has become a synonym for this country's worth. We all sat idly by while New York was going to the wolves. Why? Because of money. The persons elected to our highest offices aren't elected on a basis of ability, but rather on a basis of capital. How much capital they

can allocate for campaigning. Churches spend most of their time fund raising for bigger churches. Law enforcers are breaking the law. People are killing, stealing, selling their bodies.... Why? For Money.

Money is a means to an end but not the end itself. Life is about people loving people. Until people stop doing things for the love of money and start doing things for the love of people, then this country will continue to go to the dogs.

What we should be doing this bicentennial is getting our heads on straight. We need to learn our history because a man can't know where he is going until he finds out where he has been.

How about this for thought! Rome started slow, built itself into one of the most powerful

nations in the world then corruption set in and Rome fell. Look at Rome today. This is what we should be thinking about this bicentennial. Where have we been, where are we

now, where are we going. Until this sort thing is a priority we want celebrate a quad centennial.

THINK ABOUT IT!

Idea make this editorial page worth reading. If you have an idea, whether it agrees with us or not, write it down and mail it to us. We would like to let your friends know what is on your mind.

If your letter is in our hands by the time we receive our Tuesday morning mail, your idea will be given consideration for publication.

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