

Editorials & Comments

A Profile In Courage

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

The POST applauds Lewis C. Coleman's decision to remain a candidate for the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners despite disclosures of his financial difficulties last week by the Charlotte News. Coleman said this week the disclosures have made him "More determined than ever" to remain in the September 14 Democratic primary run-off.

In an interview with the POST before his decision to remain in the race, Coleman expressed concern about the sudden interest in his past and said, "I feel confident I can win in the run-off; however, I question why I am the only candidate who has been investigated to-date and why not before the primary (two weeks ago)?"

As we said last week, the POST shares Coleman's concerns in this matter. Of greater significance, we are concerned with the degree of ethics used in this form of apparent investigative journalism.

According to Mr. Coleman, The Charlotte News told him that if he dropped out of the race they would not publish the facts concerning his financial problems. Coleman's decision to not withdraw led of course to the News publishing stories last week about his financial status.

The editors of the News disputed Coleman's version of their discussion explaining they routinely investigated the personal lives of all local political candidates, particularly for facts that may influence the judgment of such persons once elected to office.

Lee's Best For Lt. Governor

Prior to the August 17 primary most of Howard Lee's Democratic opponents believed he would be the man most likely to be faced in the September run-off primary. This view was based on the assumption that as a black, Lee would get the support of blacks in North Carolina, an estimated 20 percent of the state's voters.

Whether intentional or not, this assumption by Lee's opponents has injected the race issue into the campaign. While Lee himself has said, "I am not running as a black man, I'm running as a man who happens to be black," he has expressed disappointment that the turnout in black precincts across the state on August 17 was less than 50 percent of what he had hoped for. In fact, had Lee received 50 percent of the state's black votes on August 17, he might have been able to win the party's nomination without a run-off.

Nevertheless, with strong voter support in black precincts and many white urban precincts, Lee received 27 percent of the vote while his nearest rival, Jimmy Green got 26 percent.

In spite of Mr. Lee's lead, his

ment of such persons once elected to office. However, the editors of the News admitted that had Coleman withdrawn from the race they would not have published the stories about his financial problems. Whether intentional or not, this sounds like intimidation and it certainly is not the proper role of the news media.

As we have said in previous editorials, we believe that all tax payers should pay their taxes on time if at all possible. We further believe that any one seeking public office should certainly be among the first to fulfill all civic obligations, therefore, we cannot condone Mr. Coleman's shortcomings. However, the POST accepts the view that no one is perfect and the evidence is there to show that Mr. Coleman, in spite of his shortcomings, would probably be a better candidate and a better commissioner than most of the existing crop of primary run-off candidates. By "evidence" we mean Mr. Coleman's outstanding record of community service.

Coleman's involvement in civic and community affairs shows that "he is one who gets things done for people" said one campaign aide. As we have noted previously, Coleman's local endeavors have been of such a magnitude that Governor Holshouser saw fit to appoint him to not one, but two health boards.

Again, the POST appeals to the community to demonstrate its support of Coleman by voting for him on September 14. He is, in our view, a true representative of the people. Give Coleman your support and elect a people's representative.

opportunity to become the first black in modern times to win a primary for a statewide office in North Carolina is going to be difficult. In order to win the Democratic Party's nomination for the state's second highest office, Lee must receive strong vote support from black voters and substantially increase his appeal among white voters.

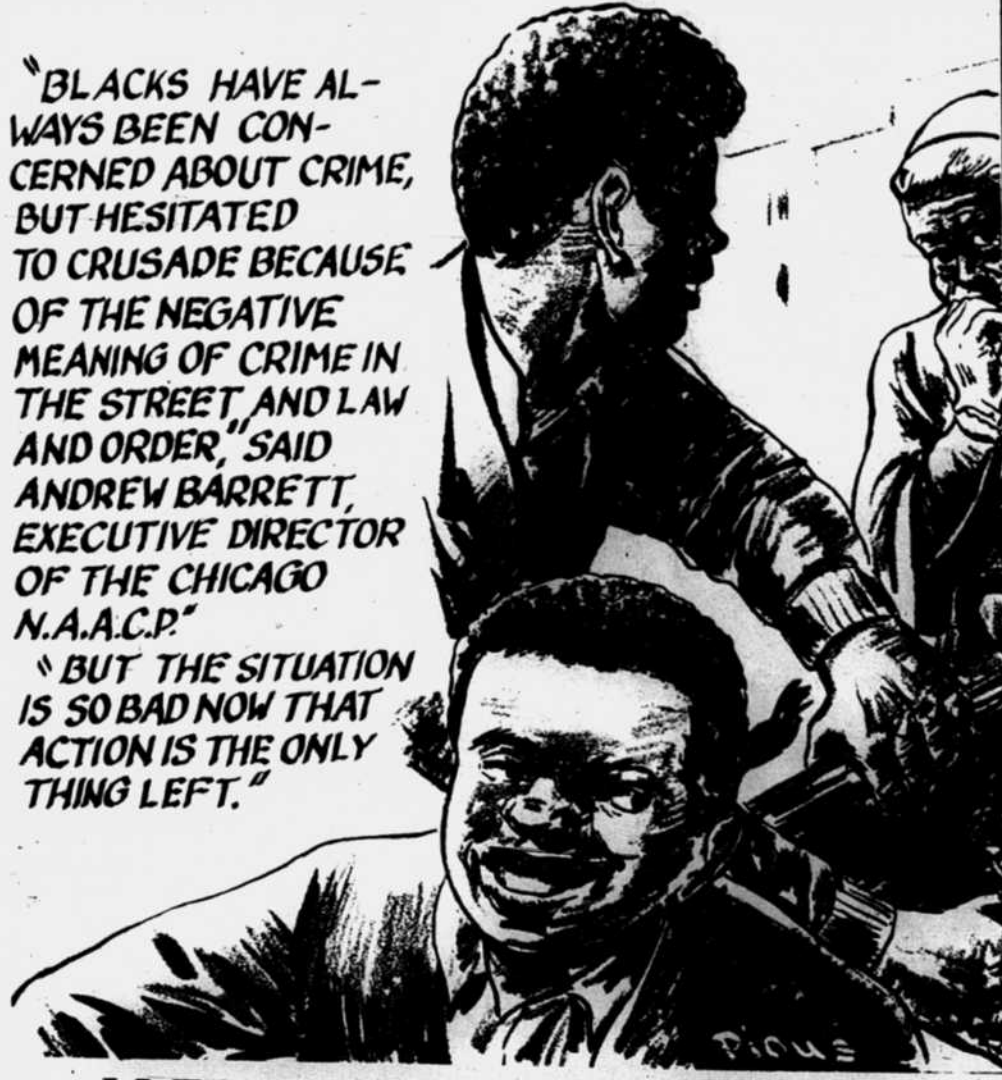
The POST believes that Mr. Lee has made a good start in his effort. While he has remained aware of the race issue, he has campaigned on substantive issues that are of interest and concern to people irrespective of skin color. He has campaigned on the issues of crime control, job training, industrial development, tax reform and education.

Furthermore, as the three-time major of Chapel Hill, Lee, in the words of one writer, "transformed a ceremonial office into a powerful base for shaping and improving local government."

We believe that Mr. Lee can also transform the vaguely defined lieutenant governor's office into the same kind of power base for better service to the people of North Carolina - Give Howard Lee your vote.

"BLACKS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME, BUT HESITATED TO CRUSADE BECAUSE OF THE NEGATIVE MEANING OF CRIME IN THE STREET, AND LAW AND ORDER," SAID ANDREW BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHICAGO N.A.A.C.P.

"BUT THE SITUATION IS SO BAD NOW THAT ACTION IS THE ONLY THING LEFT."



It Is Time For Blacks To Do Something About It

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jones Controversy Rages

Letter to the Editor
Charlotte, N.C.
August 31, 1976

On August 20, 1976 the local news media indicated that a certain Black Ministers' organization had expressed specific negative opinions concerning (1) the firing of school superintendent Rolland Jones and (2) School Board Member Phil Berry's abstention from voting on the matter. I would like to state that I am a member of the Ministers' organization referred to. This organization is in Summer recess. To my knowledge, there has not been a meeting of the members to discuss and give an opinion on these matters, nor has its members been effectively polled by telephone. I was informed by telephone of an attempted meeting, but the specific purpose of the meeting was not discussed with me. However, due to a conflict in schedule, I could not attend the meeting with a 3 hour notice. I have been informed that the same was the case with most of the other members.

Therefore I am fully convinced that the Ministers who presented their opinions in the news media, were not speaking for the members of the Black Ministers' Conference, and certainly they were not speaking for me.

I personally regret that Dr. Jones was fired, and especially the manner in which it was done. But I have not authorized any person or persons to speak for me on the matter. Why should Board member Phil Berry be condemned for abstaining from voting? His vote, whether yea or nay, could not have effected the

outcome. As black ministers, we have always been especially disturbed by black-on-black bodily injuries, black-on-black murder and stealing of property and other kinds of riffs.

Certainly black ministers cannot afford to become instigators of black-on-black destruction of Political achievements. For after all, blacks were just born politically in the Charlotte community less than a dozen years ago. Rev. Preston Pendergrass, Pastor, Antioch Baptist

The Charlotte Post
2606-B West Boulevard
Charlotte, N.C. 28208
Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: In response to "Berry's Silence Angers Blacks" The Charlotte News August 20, 1976

Mr. Berry's abstention on the firing of School Superintendent Rolland W. Jones was not based on the Board's reasons for firing Dr. Jones, but instead, on the manner in which the Board was handling his dismissal.

Obviously, Rev. W. M. Cavers did not view the entire program or he would have gained a better understanding of Mr. Berry's stand. Mr. Berry did address the Board and make a motion that they go into Executive Session before voting. This was not done. I wonder how many of those 50,000 Blacks that Rev. Cavers and his Ministers' Conference represent voted for Mr. Berry. Mr. Berry, having served on the Board since 1972, is cognizant of the fact that Dr. Jones has served this Community

well. If the 50,000 Blacks that Rev. Cavers speaks of are registered voters and do not exercise their voting rights, they have no voice. If the Rev. Cavers and his Conference can get that same 50,000 Blacks to the polls during the November, 1976 election to cast their votes for the candidates of their choice, that will be one of the greatest contributions they can make to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community.

I ask Rev. Cavers where those 50,000 Blacks were when the capable Rev. Coleman W. Kerry and Mrs. Lena M. Sammons ran unsuccessfully for the School Board? These two personalities would have served the entire Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community well if they had received those 50,000 votes.

The Black Community has struggled hard and long to elect a Black to serve on our governing boards and we have finally succeeded; therefore, I prayerfully solicit the support of Rev. Cavers and my other Christian citizens to join hands and continue in that direction.

Mr. Berry, you can be assured that you have not lost the support of the entire Black Community. As you already know, no one person or organization speaks for all Black people in this or any other community. The fact that you received 19,628 votes which keeps you from having to run again, tells you unequivocally that the community (White and Black) supports you. It would be disastrous to lose your steadfast and patient experience on the Board at this time.

We do appreciate you. Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Catherine M. Wilson

TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

The Black Worker

The coming of Labor Day is a good time to take stock of the role black workers have played in our history, and of the key role they play today.

Labor Day is the traditional time for the labor movement to wave its flag and celebrate the contributions of working people. And in this process, a central role has to be acknowledged for blacks.

For this nation was largely built on black labor. The agricultural wealth that laid the basis for the industrial revolution of the nineteenth century was made possible by unpaid forced black labor.

Off the fields, blacks were found in nearly all skilled trades for much of our country's history. Had natural talents been allowed free expression, the coming of the twentieth century would have found an enormous number of blacks solidly entrenched in the skilled occupations and well on the way to economic prosperity.

This did not happen because of racial discrimination. As early as the 1800s there are stories of blacks being run off of good jobs by white competitors. Frederick Douglass tells how he was refused a shipyard job because the white workers would put down their tools if he were employed.

In city after city, blacks were dominant in some occupations only to be denied opportunities in favor of white workers, often newly arrived to these shores. Sadly, the development of labor unions often accelerated the process by which blacks were frozen out of traditional skilled jobs. In the early days of labor movement, with some exceptions, blacks were denied membership and keeping skilled trades lily-white was an aim of some unions.

As early as 1869 black workers organized the National Negro Labor Union, indicating both the black commitment to unionism and the reality of white discrimination. Although the NNLU tried to forge links with the white union movement it was rebuffed and many black workers, except for those in some unions like the miners, were thus left outside the mainstream labor movement until the 1930s.

That's when A. Phillip Randolph finally won admission to the AFL for his Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters Union as a full-fledged member of the American labor movement. Before this, blacks were herded into segregated locals attached to larger all-white unions that dictated conditions of affiliation and helped employers keep black workers in inferior jobs.

The rise of the New Deal, industrial-unionism, wartime employment booms and civil rights laws helped change that. Today racial discrimination in the labor movement is no longer official policy but an aberration increasingly hard for white unionists to accept.

More blacks than whites belong to unions in proportion to their representation in the labor force, and in general, unionized blacks made more than non-union workers.

Labor Day should be the occasion for not merely recognizing the black worker's contribution to our past and present, but for committing the nation to a full employment policy that assures everyone of decent jobs at decent wages.

as i see it

Bicentennial Bang!

By Gerald O. Johnson
Post Staff Writer

In 1892 the first football game between the Black colleges was held. The game featured the Livingstone Blue Bears and Biddle College. Of course Biddle College is now the great Johnson C. Smith University. Johnson C. Smith won the game by the score of 4 to 2, or some such ridiculous score.

Well, to commemorate such an occasion the Golden Bulls and the Blue Bears will meet head-on on October 16, 1976. The game is being hailed as the Bicentennial Game and it should be an interesting as well as a festive occasion.

I heard from reliable sources on the Smith campus that there will be more to the date (1892) than meets the eye. I was told that that date will be the score of the game, Livingstone 18, JCSU 92. Sorry, Bob Wiley and James Turner

Presidential Campaign. Isn't it funny that the Ford administration is using amnesty as a campaign issue? Senator Dole, President Ford's running mate, blasted Governor Jimmy Carter for

saying that he would give draft evaders a pardon. Dole said that the Ford administration "will not give blanket amnesty or a pardon" to draft evaders.

Yet, the Ford administration gave ex-president Nixon a pardon. They said that it was the Christian thing to do.

Here is a man who tried to cover up an act that had serious repercussions on millions of people being pardoned. But those people who were conscientious objectors (co-wards) can not get pardons. This is a clear case of dual standards in this country. Standards which citizens of this country will no longer tolerate. Ford, I have a better idea; Jimmy Carter.

Exceptions To Hoyle Martin's Opinion

Mr. Hoyle Martin, Charlotte Post Editorial writer, has made some fine contributions to the POST, by presenting his thoughts. However, last week Mr. Martin brought out a point that I must take exception to. That point was, the problems with stressing winning. Mr. Martin felt that we as Americans are pre-occupied or obsessed with winning. I



gathered that he felt this was wrong.

I think being pre-occupied with winning is essential. This country was built on such positive attitudes.

If we show too much attention to losers, then we tolerate losing, we will lose our motivation to want to win.

Being obsessed with winning is what makes losers winners. It is what made bronze medal winners 4 years ago Gold medal winners this year in the Olympics. It is what keeps us going. Being satisfied with giving

your best effort is not good enough, because your best effort is not measurable. To say I gave it my best is really saying I have no more to give. This is no more than giving up.

Yes, I am obsessed with winning and I think we all should be. Even with the psychological pressures taken into account there is nothing like winning, except more winning.

Womens Liberation Give it to them. Let them have equal everything. The days of ladydom have gone forever. Anybody passing JCSU campus can attest to that while watching the girls jump over the brick wall.

Jeans have replaced mini-skirts, long dresses have replaced hot pants, headachies have replaced sex. My rule of thumb now for handling ladies can be gotten from a song: Lady: Why ain't you out there in the forest hunting a gred' big old grizzly bear? Man: Why ain't you out there in the forest hunting a gred' big ole gizzly bear? Lady: Why I'm a lady. Man: They got lady bears out there.

What did all of this have to do with anything, you're probably asking yourself. Don't feel bad I am asking myself that same question.

FOOTBALL Remember that the winners of MEAC and the CIAA conferences will meet in Memorial

Rolland Jones Firing

EDITORS THE CHARLOTTE POST 2606-B West Boulevard Charlotte, N.C. 28208 Gentlemen:

The recent firing of our School Superintendent, Dr. Rolland Jones is a shameful act by our School Board. The time has come for us to give the Board our feelings. Dr. Jones has done so much to improve relationships among teachers and students alike. I feel. He has tried to implement programs whereby each child-retarded, disturbed, accelerated, teenage parent, etc.-could receive an education at his or her own pace, in order to cope with problems in our ever-changing, complex society.

Stadium on December 4. This game is the bi-centennial bowl not to be confused with the bi-centennial game. Prediction: JCSU vs. S.C. State. I got this straight from Las Vegas from Ned The Nigger. The Greeks got Jimmy, so, we needed somebody. Ned's a good ole boy!

All I can say is that the handwriting is on the wall. It is clear for all of us to see. If some strong, affirmative action is not taken, we will not have a school system, and certainly some blacks will not have top-level positions. It is time for all of us to speak out for this cause and be on hand when the call is issued for support.

Anna M. Hood
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