

Editorials & Comments

The New School Superintendent

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Staff Writer

As the newly elected Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board members prepare to take their seats along with incumbents Phil Berry; Tom Harris and the three carry-over members, it would appear that a considerable amount of their immediate concern should relate to the selection of a new school superintendent.

During the heat and drama of the school board and run-off elections, a great deal was said about the type of man and the kind of qualification any proposed candidate should have.

In our view the candidate should be, first and foremost, a good administrator. He or she should be possessed with an educational philosophy that is consistent with what national trends show is both good and workable in both traditional and progressive education.

Furthermore, the new school leader should be able to apply his philosophy to the Charlotte community in a manner that is consistent with the changing social scene as well as certain traditional values that make Charlotte the unique community that it is. Equally important too, should be the ability of the new school leader, as out-going

school board chairman, Bill Poe, reportedly said recently, to "articulate a philosophy of education that people all over the county can understand and respond to...he's got to be a person who can communicate...in a precise way."

In addition, we believe that the new superintendent must be able to transmit, in a personal yet professional way, his ideas, program proposals and management style to the business, civic and political leadership of the community. Again, from a personal yet professional view, the new educational leader should be compatible with and sensitive to the viewpoints and concerns of the school personnel.

Finally, we believe that if the new superintendent has the kind of philosophy mentioned here and the ability to communicate it to the groups noted, he will have little difficulty in communicating and working with the school board.

Therefore, the first major step of the newly formed school board should be to begin to make peace with itself. It was just such a failing of the out-going school board that contributed to Dr. Rolland Jones' inability to articulate his philosophy and programs, if it can be said at all that he failed.

Black African Rule Now

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's plan, worked out jointly with Prime Minister Ian Smith of Rhodesia, to end white rule in that country within two years has brought loud objection from the Congressional Black Caucus and five "front-line" African presidents.

In Rhodesia as well as South Africa, where a small minority of whites hold all political and economic power, blacks are now demanding a right to determine their own destiny. With some reluctance, and out of fear of Russian and Chinese influence in that part of the world, the United States is following Mr. Kissinger's lead in the belief that unless we encourage and assist in a peaceful transfer of power from the whites to the blacks there will be an all-out racial war in Southern Africa.

American black law makers and black African national presidents are objecting to the current planned transfer of power because it will take two years with whites retaining ultimate power during this interim period. Further objection arises from the fact that it is believed Kissinger made promises to the white that they would receive American dollars in exchange for black power. Black American tax payers would certainly be opposed to paying such black mail money to white racists who have for too long oppres-

sed blacks in Southern Africa.

The Post applauds the expressed concern of black Americans in this matter because too often in the past Americans of color have shown little interest in African affairs.

The plight of black Americans and black Africans is closely related. The sooner we recognize this common bond the sooner full equality will be a reality for men of color everywhere in the world.

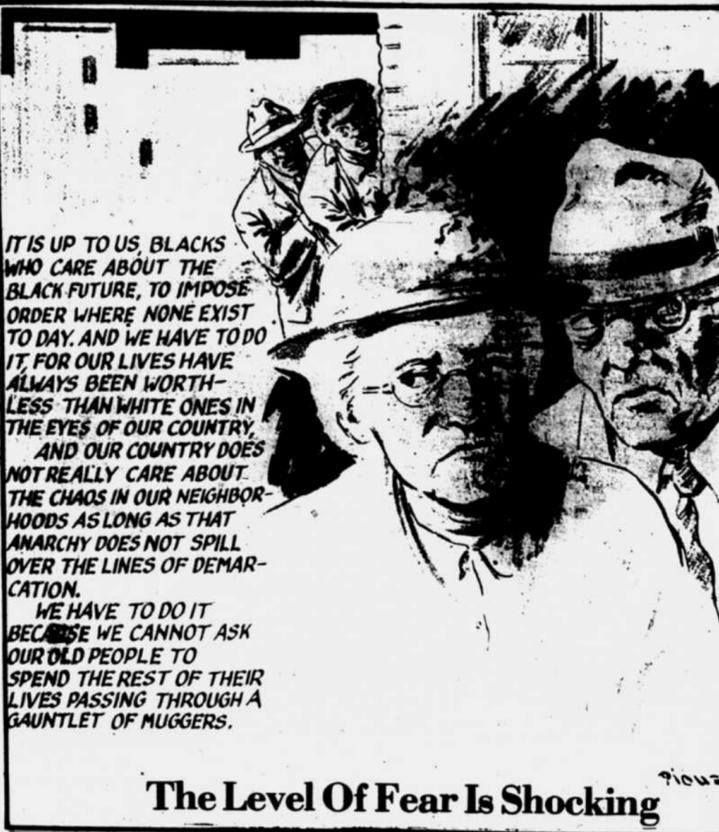
Is There Something On Your Mind?

Something on your mind is the name of a column devoted to our readers of this newspaper—as long as it relates in some way to young people, regardless of age.

It will be written by you and about whatever is on your mind!

So, if you have something to say...WRITE ON!

Some subjects that may be of special interest to you are: Drugs, Generation Gaps, Welfare, Gangs, School, Going Steady, Police Revolution, Whites, Blacks, Integration, Busing, Draft, God, Negro churches, etc.



IT IS UP TO US, BLACKS WHO CARE ABOUT THE BLACK FUTURE, TO IMPOSE ORDER WHERE NONE EXIST TO DAY. AND WE HAVE TO DO IT. FOR OUR LIVES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WORTH-LESS THAN WHITE ONES IN THE EYES OF OUR COUNTRY. AND OUR COUNTRY DOES NOT REALLY CARE ABOUT THE CHAOS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AS LONG AS THAT ANARCHY DOES NOT SPILL OVER THE LINES OF DEMAR-CATION. WE HAVE TO DO IT BECAUSE WE CANNOT ASK OUR OLD PEOPLE TO SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES PASSING THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF MUGGERS.

The Level Of Fear Is Shocking

BLACK EMPOWERMENT

The Quiet Passing Of Dr. Mordecai Johnson

By Dr. Nathaniel Wright, Jr.
Human Rights Activist

The quiet passing from among us at the goodly age of 86 of Dr. Mordecai Johnson, the fiery, flamboyant, brilliant and always eloquent former president of Howard University, comes as the reminder of a bygone age. Of Mordecai Johnson's era, of which he was a sterling exemplar, it might be said truly: "In those days there were giants in the earth."

Like the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he was the son of a Baptist Minister and he followed his father's footsteps into the Baptist ministry. Educated at Morehouse College, the University of Chicago, and the Rochester Theological Seminary, he became in 1926 the first black president of Howard University.

A fair-shinned black man, in what was then the long-established Howard University tradition, he never denied his color, but rather capitalized upon it. On one occasion, when being introduced to speak to the Chicago Chamber of Commerce, his presenter spoke of Dr. Johnson as "the first colored this" and "the first colored that" to such an extent that Dr. Johnson was visibly annoyed. When he finally got to the podium, Dr. Johnson looked dramatically at his all-white audience in all directions. Then after a moment or two of silent scrutiny, he addressed his audience as follows: "My color-less friends!" This picture changed dra-

matically in what some called the Nabrit-Lyndon Johnson era. While Dr. Mordecai Johnson was a statesman—and had to be—his immediate successor was an astute politician... and had to be. Dr. James Cheek has been permitted the privilege of resuming the building which Dr. Johnson earlier had advanced.

Leaders of the nation gathered at Howard University's Rankin Chapel on Monday, September 13th, to pay their last respects to a great, noble and truly gracious man. But in their paying of respects to Dr. Johnson, they paid tribute also to an era.

It was an era of hope and of recollection, symbolized so well by the Howard University-produced words of James Weldon Johnson in what quickly came to be called "The Negro National Anthem." "We have come," says the anthem, "filled with the hope which the dark past has taught us." Then, in words which Mordecai Johnson said repeatedly to distraught black

Americans in his own way, the hymn ends with a confident note of impending victory: "Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won!"

Such was the determined spirit of the age which Mordecai Johnson represented. When we look at the Howard University of today...and that which is emerging for the black youth of tomorrow...one sees a monument, a living testimonial to a peerless educator, preacher of the Word of God and statesman for the

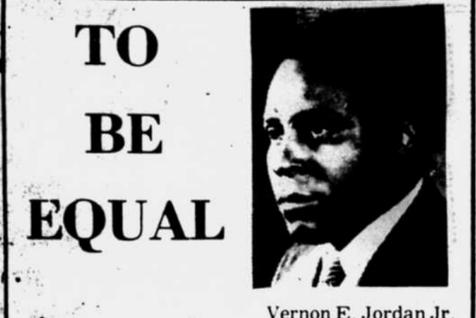
survival and freedom of his race, Dr. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson.

As we look back upon his era, we may rest as confident as those in the Genesis period who could say with singular pride: "In those days, there were giants in the earth."

Dr. Johnson had the rare knack of making the most of any potentially bad situation. Appointed president of Howard in an era of the nation's highest rate of lynchings, Dr. Johnson went to a Washington, D.C., of recently desegregated public toilets and of gross indifference to the needs of black Americans. But much in the same fashion as Dr. Booker T. Washington, he turned adversity to his advantage. White schools did not want black students or professors, so he persuaded the Congress to appropriate the monies to take this potential grief off the backs of white colleges by enabling these black men and women to have a chance at Howard.

Under Dr. Johnson's administration, all of the universities, schools and colleges became accredited and 20 campus buildings were constructed. The university's budget grew from \$700,000 to \$8 million and student enrollment increased by 250 percent.

A gifted orator, he held audiences spellbound in much the spirit of a William Jennings Bryant and a Frederick Douglass. Not until the advent of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has America experienced such combined charismatic and oratorical powers.



TO BE EQUAL

Busing And The Election Campaign

It remains to be seen whether political candidates in this year's election will restrain themselves from using busing, a tool to desegregate the schools, as a political football to win votes.

The only role busing should play in the Presidential campaign is for all candidates to agree to support the Constitutional mandate to desegregate the schools and to pledge their support to the courts and to communities engaged in desegregating.

The sooner this is done the better the country, and for its children who are all too often made pawns in the ugly battle against desegregation waged by their elders.

The candidates ought to be honest in telling the country that there's no constitutional way to avoid dismantling segregated school systems. The courts have ruled definitively that districts where segregation survives due, to official actions, including such dodges as gerrymandered school districts and racially-inspired pupil assignment plans, have to desegregate.

Where those districts refuse to do it voluntarily, the courts must step in and order it. That's the origin of the so-called "forced busing." It's "forced" only to the extent that communities in violation of the law are forced to comply with the law. No one complains he's "forced" not to commit a robbery or otherwise to obey laws.

And courts aren't frivolous in ordering busing as a remedy. It's often the absolute last resort and busing plans invariably bus the minimum numbers of children to effect desegregation. In some cases, implementation of busing orders meant fewer children bused than before those orders were formulated.

All of this makes various legislative proposals to restrain busing less than honest. For example, one proposal under consideration is a law mandating the courts to use busing only as a tool of last resort if all else fails. But that is exactly how the courts now handle busing -- it's ordered as the last, not the first, of possible remedies.

The Administration has proposed a limit of five years of busing orders, and limitations on how and when courts may order busing. But putting a time limit on court orders is only a promise of resegregation when they expire and will clearly tell a community they just have to go through the motions until the time limit is up. Further, everyone knows that legislative attempts to limit court jurisdiction or restrictions on remedies for illegal situations are doomed to be ruled unconstitutional in and of themselves.

For too long political leaders have been manipulating fears and emotions instead of coming right out and supporting desegregated schools as a vital building block for a racially-just society. Because of their failure to lead the nation in this effort to overcome the racism of the past, busing and desegregation have had a rocky road.

But a recent report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights indicates that desegregation of the schools is proceeding, and that for every publicized case of illegal resistance, such as in Boston, there are dozens of communities that desegregate their schools without tension and without disruption.

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as i see it

NAACP Supports Mrs. Betty Reddick

Editor's Note - Gerald O. Johnson's As I See It Column will not appear in the Post this week. Mr. Johnson is ill. His popular column will return when he returns to work.

The assault with a deadly weapon trial of Mrs. Betty Reddick of Littleton, N.C. has gained the support of the Halifax County N.A.A.C.P. and is being investigated by the North Carolina Human Relations Commission. Mrs. Reddick's accuser, Frank Warren of Halifax, is also charged with breaking and entering Mrs. Reddick's home. Warren owns the land and double-wide trailer in which Mrs. Reddick resides. The trial, set for September 21, 1976 in Halifax County District Court, was continued until November 17, 1976 at 2 o'clock.

Mrs. Reddick is represented by Attorney Charles Becton of Chapel Hill, from the law firm of Chambers, Stein and Ferguson. Rev. G.A. Gilchrist, President of the Halifax County N.A.A.C.P., said the organization was going to help pay the legal expenses of Mrs. Reddick and will provide other support for the mother of six children.

Mrs. Reddick said to a reporter that a shooting incident grew out of her being "swindled out of \$4300 paid for the land and trailer." She said in March, 1975 she bargained with Warren, a wealthy landowner, to purchase seven acres of land and a trailer in rural Halifax County for \$15,000; and that she was promised a contract which she never received. "Things got bad in August, 1976 when Frank Warren tried to charge me \$150.00 for an electricity bill that was only \$17.65. When I refused to pay he turned my lights off and started coming in my trailer with his key," Mrs. Reddick said. She stated that on the day she was accused of assaulting Warren he had come in her trailer without knocking and walked through her trailer with an unidentified woman. Mrs. Reddick said her son awakened her and she ordered Warren out of the trailer at gunpoint. She said the gun discharged after Warren got in the yard.

Warren, on the other hand, gives a different story. He didn't dispute the purchase price of the trailer but says he agreed "to give Mrs. Reddick a deed after she had paid 25 percent of the price of the



Gerald O. Johnson

trailer and lot." Warren said that everything was alright until she refused to pay the electricity bill. Then, "all of a sudden she started acting up. I went to the door that day and she pointed the gun in my face and told me to get off her property. I got in my truck and that's when she shot the gun." Warren said, adding that he was unsure whether she intended to shoot him or not. He denied entering the trailer.

Several other persons who are supposed to be buying trailers and lots from Warren in Halifax County are also

upset because they have not received contracts. Among them are Martha Horne and John Lynch of Littleton. Mrs. Horne said, "He is not going to give anyone around here a deed or anything else." She produced a receipt that was dated September 8, 1976 which indicated her account was \$7400 with a credit of \$100 being paid which left a balance of \$7300. Interest on the unpaid balance was computed monthly at the rate of 10 percent which was \$74. She was upset that only \$26 went to reduce the principal amount.

John Lynch also of Littleton said that he agreed to purchase a trailer and lot in April for \$7363.24. He showed a receipt similar to that of Mrs. Horne, but his receipt indicated that he was charged interest on his electricity bill by Warren. Lynch said that Warren was billed for the electricity for all of the trailers and that the only bill that a purchaser gets to see is a handwritten bill from Warren. Lynch said that he has tried to get the bill changed from Warren's account to his by giving Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) a \$50 deposit, but still the ac-

count has not been changed. When asked about the interest charges and the billing procedure, Warren stated, "It's perfectly normal for the electricity to be in my name, that's what they (the purchasers) wanted." Warren said that all of the persons buying trailers from him have the same billing procedure.

A.W. Spence, customer service supervisor for VEPCO, said that he had no complaints from anyone concerning Warren's billing. Spence refused to discuss the individual accounts of Warren's prospective purchasers nor any specifics of Warren's account with the VEPCO. "That's his private information and I cannot discuss it with anyone unless he consents," Spence said. Spence also said VEPCO could not enter into any relationship between Warren and his tenants, "and if his tenants feel they are getting ripped off, they should move somewhere else."

Herman Aldridge, specialist for the North Carolina Human Relations Commission said that a complaint had been made to that agency and has been forwarded to Leonard Wiggins who investigates for

the commission in the Rocky Mount area. He did not know when the investigation would be completed.

N.C. A&T State

Midwest Region

To Meet Here

The Midwest Region of N.C. A&T State University Alumni Association will hold its Western District Conference at the Heart of Charlotte Holiday Inn, 3815 N. Tryon Street on Friday and Saturday, October 1 and 2.

An Aggie Round-up Reception will take place on Friday evening from 8 to 11. Saturday's Business Session will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the Alumni Recognition Luncheon at 1 p.m., with Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy, Chancellor of N.C. A&T State University, speaking.

Following the J.C. Smith A&T State football game, the Aggies Scholarship Ball will be held at the Heart of Charlotte Holiday Inn. Matthew Wingate is District Coordinator.