

Editorials & Comments

America Needs The NAACP

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

A Mississippi court ruling on August 11 ordered the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to pay 12 merchants over 1.25 million dollars. The award was the outcome of a 1966 boycott led by the NAACP. The merchants charged that the boycott violated restraint-of-trade laws. While the trial judge noted that the boycott as a tactic to press for political change was "laudable, commendable and highly praiseworthy," it was nevertheless illegal.

Since Mississippi law even requires an appeal bond of 125 percent of the award—approximately 1.6 million dollars—the 67 year old civil rights organization is facing a serious financial crisis.

Crisis and financial problems are nothing new to the nation's oldest civil rights organization. Born in

1909 following the crisis that led to the Springfield, Illinois, race riot of 1908, the NAACP has had to cope with laws in every Southern state designed to limit its activities and harass its members.

The organization's success in fighting racial segregation through the use of existing institutions—legislation, voter education and registration, law suits, economic self-help and, in more recent years, selective buying campaigns—has made it a landmark example of what makes American democracy what it is.

This means too that the NAACP has helped change a backward, racist, segregated Southland into a beginning progressive and racially tolerant region. For this reason, both blacks and whites should come to the aid of the NAACP in this, its greatest hour of need.

Ronnie Long And Dual Justice

Ronnie Long, a 20-year-old unemployed black youth, was convicted last Friday in Cabarrus County Superior Court by an all-white jury of eight men and four women of first degree-burglary and first degree-rape. The alleged victim in this case was the 54-year-old widow of a Concord textile executive.

Since Mr. Long's attorneys chose not to have him testify, it appears to the POST that the jury's decision was based largely on whether to accept the testimony of the alleged victim or Long's mother, who said that her son was at home at the time of the reported burglary and rape.

While the South has made substantial progress in the area of race relations, there is still strong reason

to suspect that in a crime involving a black man and a white woman, regardless of which is the victim, the black man will come out the loser.

The point is that considering the myths and psychological fears that white men continue to have about relations between black men and "their" white women, it appears to us that Mr. Long had little or no chance of getting a fair trial. Furthermore, in addition to the jury being all white, none were Long's peers in terms of age.

The POST wishes Long and his lawyers much success in their appeal and request for a new trial because we agree there is little likelihood that this case resulted in equal justice before the law.

Butz Should Have Been Fired

Agricultural Secretary Earl Butz, who should have long-ago been fired as the holder of a Cabinet post, has tarnished his office again with the lowest form of racial remarks about black Americans.

As quoted in the New Times magazine, Butz said the reason "coloreds" could not be attracted to the Republican Party is because of their preoccupation with sex and living a care-free shiftless life. President Ford reportedly gave Butz a "severe reprimand" last Friday for uttering the highly offensive remarks. Just under two years ago, Butz made similar derogatory remarks about Italians and the Pope.

While the President has accepted Mr. Butz's resignation, the Post still feels, as has been expressed by some elected officials, that Mr. Butz should have been fired without the opportunity to resign at his own pleasure. By doing so, the President has failed to fulfill his responsibility

to take appropriate action when 12 percent of the nation's population has been insulted publicly by a cabinet member.

While Earl Butz certainly has no monopoly on derogatory remarks about blacks, we believe he has demonstrated once too often his low respect for nearly 12 percent of the nation's population that his office is supposed to be pledged to serve fairly and impartially. We believe that the attitude expressed by the secretary is such that he can not properly carry out the duties of his office. Therefore, President Ford should have ceased immediately playing politics with the dignity of black Americans by wasting time trying to assess the impact of Butz's comment on the presidential election and fired the man immediately.

It was one of President Ford's own top aides who recognized these weaknesses in the Secretary when he said, "Butz, He's got to go."

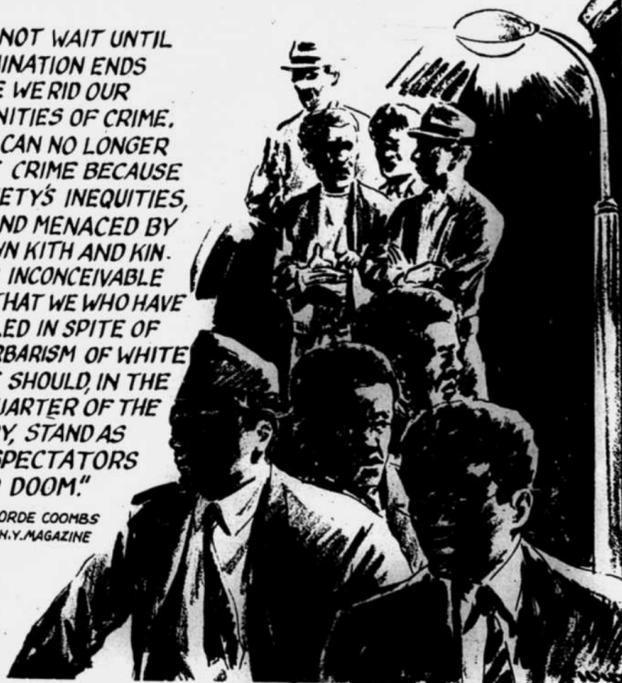
"IF THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PROTECT US AND IF THE POLICE CANNOT, IT FOLLOWS THAT BLACK CITIZENS MUST PROTECT THEMSELVES."

"WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL DISCRIMINATION ENDS BEFORE WE RISE OUR COMMUNITIES OF CRIME."

WE CAN NO LONGER EXCUSE CRIME BECAUSE OF SOCIETY'S INEQUITIES, WE STAND MENACED BY OUR OWN KITH AND KIN.

IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT WE WHO HAVE PREVAILED IN SPITE OF THE BARBARISM OF WHITE PEOPLE SHOULD, IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE CENTURY, STAND AS MUTE SPECTATORS TO OUR DOOM."

ORDE COOMBS
N.Y. MAGAZINE



Time For Community Action...Now

Blacks Turn Out For NAACP Rally

Special To The Post

In Jackson, Miss., black folks turned out for an NAACP sponsored rally. The affair was designed to raise \$100,000 towards a massive nationwide fund-raising goal. By the time you read this the Mississippi blacks may or may not have attained this goal, which is designed to offset the \$1,250, 599 damages a Mississippi court assessed against the NAACP.

The court declared that 12 white merchants in Clairborne County (Port Gibson) were damaged to that extent by an NAACP-led boycott from 1966-1970. The NAACP believes it can win this battle on appeal. But under Miss. law, the organization must first post not 100 percent, but 125 percent of the total in bonds before the case can be appealed to a higher court.

It will take money, money from hands of blacks folks to help raise this bond. To that end, NAACP chapters throughout the country are mobilized, staging neighborhood drives, church rallies, street solicitations before downtown stores, in suburban shopping centers; raising money to buy commercial advertising spots on television and radio; staging phone-a-thons.

At New York NAACP headquarters, officials have dropped all but the most essential duties in order to put all their efforts behind the fund-raising drive. A number of top offi-

cial volunteers to man phones on weekends in the headquarters office to receive calls from the organization's branches—calls that detailed

branch drive goals and amounts of money raised.

The NAACP is still reeling from a \$240,000 libel judgment awarded a Jackson, Miss. policeman against the organization's field director and national office in February of this year. Before that, the organization's financial coffers were all but empty. They were briefly replenished by a \$300,000 fund-raising dinner in honor of the venerable Roy Wilkins, in Washington, D.C., last fall.

During those heady days when civil rights fever was at its height, black organizations could and did count heavily on financial support from liberal white individuals and organizations.

Today, given a different racial climate, interest and sympathy have shifted to environmental issues, thus these sources of financial support have, for the most part, dried up.

Black folks, then, are thrown back on their own resources. Ultimately, this is the way it should be. No one can earn another's freedom. He must do that for himself or herself. It is a lesson that blacks will learn and it is best we learn it sooner than later.

In the libel matter, the NAACP had to put up \$262,000 cash in order to appeal. In the boycott judgment, using once more the 125 percent figure, the organization must post \$1.6 million.

Together, these two judgments amount to less than \$2 million. If each and everyone of America's 30 million blacks put up a piddling 15 cents, the NAACP would be home free. It

is unfortunate that some NAACP officials do not believe they will be able to raise the money.

Recently, the organization had \$200,000 in cash in the bank, the phone-a-thon to its national branches, garnered \$300,000 in pledges. The NAACP said it would just have to float a loan for the balance of the \$1.6 million (the \$262,000 has already been posted).

This is a crying shame. Some folks say that black people always have money enough to buy what they want, but turn around and beg for what they need. If this were ever true, and sad to say it certainly appears to be so in too many cases, it is surely time to shed this shabby and needless old burden.

We must step out smartly now as free men and women, chin up, head high, putting aside for a time, the Saturday night "party time" fever and that impulsive bent to invest in a new set of "threads". We must divert that money to support our timeless institutions: the church, civic groups and a beleaguered organization like the NAACP, all of which have been our Rock of Ages in time of need.

I am confident that black folks will rise to the occasion, that the "party time" label has never been a true, overall assessment of our character.

So that even though the hour is late, the note past due, we will continue to send our money—more than that 15 cents each, hopefully—to help bail out the NAACP in these difficult times. Won't you help? PLEASE!! (NNPA)

TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

Ripped-Off Society

It seems that every passing day brings new scandals about bribery, tax evasion, pay-offs and misuse of power in high places. The alarm about "crime in the streets," is now joined by dismay over "crime in the suites."

In a society that appears at times to be saturated with wholesale exploitation of the law's loopholes, it's no surprise that some scandals have hit governmental programs in the social arena.

A Senate investigation reveals that some doctors and Medicaid clinics have ripped-off the Medicaid program of hundreds of millions of dollars through fraud or unnecessary medical services.

Before that the nursing home scandals revealed that operators were bilking public funds of millions. Recently, a man was indicted for allegedly stealing \$1 million that customers paid for food stamps bought at his check cashing company. Meanwhile, the government is sitting on thousands of homes it took over because of the operations of real estate interests in a subsidized housing program.

This sort of thing isn't too unusual in vast spending programs like the defense program, where over-runs and contract add-ons invariably make new weapons twice as expensive as they're supposed to be when Congress agrees to them.

No one proposes the answer to abuses in that system be the dismantlement of the centralized defense procurement procedure. But the revelations about rip-offs in social spending have led to new calls for decentralizing, for having the federal government turn over its responsibilities to states and cities, and for massive cuts in the programs themselves.

But what such critics overlook is that they're proposing to punish the victims of shady operations and incompetent administrators. They're forgetting that while they've been screaming about "welfare chiselers" the various welfare programs were being ripped-off not by the poor, but by middle and upper class people.

The scandals in Medicaid, food stamps and other programs were caused by the "respectable" elements in our society, and the real victims, along with the public treasury, are the poor themselves, whom the programs are supposed to help.

Shifting control from Washington won't end scandals; it will just make them more widespread. Most people forget that many social programs gravitated toward Washington in the first place because local power interests abused the poor, the weak and the powerless.

Part of the reason the current scandals have taken place is because of decentralized authority. Medicaid, for example, is a state program. The answer to its abuses is not in doing away with the program, which will hurt poor people, or in increasing state and local authority, which is where it's gone wrong in the first place, but in strengthening federal controls and expanding legislative and administrative oversight.

Social programs need to be made more effective and immune from white-collar-rip-off artists who prey on the poor.

as i see it

"Colored" Issue Forces Butz's Resignation

By Gerald O. Johnson

Ex-Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz was forced to resign his position in President Ford's cabinet because of a derogatory statement he made about black people's voting habits. Butz was quoted as saying that blacks don't vote because blacks are only interested in three things: "A tight ---, loose shoes, and a warm place to defecate". Of course Butz used worse language in places but the idea is the same.

Butz's statement horrified many people because this is an election year. If the same statement had been made in an off year, it would have gone practically unnoticed.

But because this is an election year, the Democrats announced such statements are unheard of. The Republicans acted in awe and requested Butz's resignation.

The truth is Butz's statement probably expressed the sentiments of most white Republicans and Democrats. It is obvious that neither party cherishes the black vote. No black journalist has been invited to participate in the Ford, Carter debates. Very little money is spent in black communities to encourage blacks to vote. Neither presidential

candidates has addressed himself to the major issues facing the black community.

Hence Butz's resignation has no meaning whatsoever. So, the other day when I was asked what did I think about Butz's statement, I replied "It didn't bother me because as long as I can get a tight ---, loose shoes, and a warm place to defecate, I am happy."

GASP IS A GAS There is a group against smoking in public that calls itself GASP. The group has become more of a public nuisance than the smoke that they are trying to stop.

The group claims that non-smoker's rights are violated when smokers smoke in public. In an attempt to be heard they have gone so far as using fire codes to stop smoking in certain stores. Moreover, they have used minors to purchase cigarettes from vending machines to prove that minors can buy cigarettes.

The trouble with GASP is the same problem that most lobby groups have. They become victims of their cause. In fighting for what they think is right they simply forget about other people's rights. Regardless of how absurd they become in their de-



Gerald O. Johnson

mands, they just keep pushing.

The latest episode in GASP's adventures was to try to ban smoking in public schools. It wasn't enough that schools only allow smoking in certain areas of the campus, but they wanted it banned altogether. How ridiculous. I think GASP has abused the responsibility of freedom and as a group I would like to see their rights go up in smoke.

NCC LAW SCHOOL CRITICIZED In an attempt to get North Carolina Central's Law School moved to a white campus, a

strong lobby group is forming. The heads of this group are using statistics to try and prove the incompetency of NCC. The most used criticism of NCC Law School is that since its existence more than 50 percent of its graduates failed the North Carolina Bar Exam.

This point is true, but it should be pointed out that it is true for a reason. The Law School at NCC is not supported properly by the state of North Carolina because they want it to fail.

The Law School was granted to NCC by the Federal Government in hopes to upgrade the quality of schools in North Carolina besides those in the ACC. However, NCC's inability to draw whites in great numbers has greatly impeded its progress. The lobby groups are going to see to it that the Law School is moved. The site most mentioned to accommodate the Law School is UNCC.

The state of North Carolina has been very unfair in expenditures per student to a lot of schools in the North Carolina network.

It is because of this unfairness in monetary appropriations that the federal govern-

ment threatened to cut off federal funds to North Carolina for Higher Education. The state of North Carolina has proven that N.C. State and UNC merits the bulk of higher education funds. But everybody in North Carolina desiring a college education can not go to these schools. So, is it fair not to allow them the same opportunities simply because they get accepted at N.C. A&T or NCC and can't get accepted at N.C. State or UNC?

It is a fact that practically all new acquisitions of sophisticated equipment goes to N.C. State and UNC. These schools in turn give their hand-me-downs to East Carolina and the like, who in turn give their hand me downs to Winston Salem State and Fayetteville and the like.

This injustice must be stopped.

The moving of NCC Law School is just another attempt by the state of North Carolina to keep the scales of equality tilted towards those of fairer complexion.

BULLS BLAHS!

"Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz, oh what a relief it is" has become the Sunday morning theme

song for Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls' football team after suffering through the last three Saturday night fiascos.

What had been predicted as a most promising season for the Bulls has been every thing but promising.

But behind every dark cloud there is a silver lining. In this case it turns out to be the Bull Band. The band, though not completely in step, sounded respectable. Even the officiating was decent for a change.

The football team, however, left a lot to be desired. The lack luster offense played as if it were the first time they had seen a football. The play selection was poor, the execution was even poorer. The defense showed signs of determination at times, but seemed to lose enthusiasm after spending so much time on the field. What amazes me more than anything else about the team is

how three teams can use the same play against the defense and score consistently. Virginia Union, Hampton, and A&T used the half back flair pass against JCSU successfully. After seeing that play for the last three weeks I know that that is the one play the Bulls will be able to stop. I know this.

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