

# Editorials & Comments

## "Big Brother" Settles Bus Strike

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.  
Post Executive Editor

As bus riders, the striking drivers, downtown merchants and city officials rejoiced over the ending of the 36-day long bus strike, lingering in the aftermath is the fact that the Charlotte community could not, on its own, find a solution to the dispute.

Following the latest in a series of breakdowns in negotiations last week, which, according to one source, reached the lowest point as tempers flared and suspicion arose, federal mediator R. Hunter Phillips took the initiative to find a workable settlement. Phillips, who was applauded by both disputing parties for his efforts, offered a compromise proposal that finally moved each side from their previous inflexible positions.

The compromise settlement gave the bus drivers and mechanics less than their original demand but considerable more than the bus company (the city's agent) had offered. Specifically, the compromise settlement gives the drivers and mechanics an immediate, and retroactive to October, 50-cent per hour wage increase, plus an additional 35-cents an hour raise in October of 1977. This means that Charlotte bus drivers and mechanics are now paid \$5.06 per hour

and this rate will be increased to \$5.41 an hour in October of next year. It is important to note that these hourly wage rates are equal to, but not greater than, the rates paid bus drivers in other cities in North and South Carolina and at the same time compatible with the rates paid other public employees in the Charlotte area.

Equally if not more significant than the settlement agreement, is the fact that Charlotte, like so many other communities, constantly complains about federal intervention in local affairs. Nevertheless, the city's failure to take the initiative to end the strike that was affecting over 10,000 Charlotteans resulted in a federal mediator doing what our public officials should have had the courage to do.

While we recognize that federal law prevents the city from offering alternative transportation during a bus strike and state law prevent the signing of collective bargaining agreements, the City still has a responsibility to offer the kind of leadership that will keep the community from having to face the kind of agony and inconvenience it experienced these past 36 days. If we must wait for the federal government to solve all our problems, what do we need local officials for?

## Community Action Spearheads Districting

The Charlotte City Council's slow pace in drafting a plan for district representation has led to their recognition of a citizen's plan having the same objective.

A petition filed with the City Council on Monday by a coalition of neighborhood groups and organizations calls for a vote on district representation. The plan proposes an 11-member City Council, with 7 district representatives and 4 at-large representatives. The Council's own plan, considerably more conservative with regard to the number of district representatives, has been deferred until action on the citizen's plan has been completed.

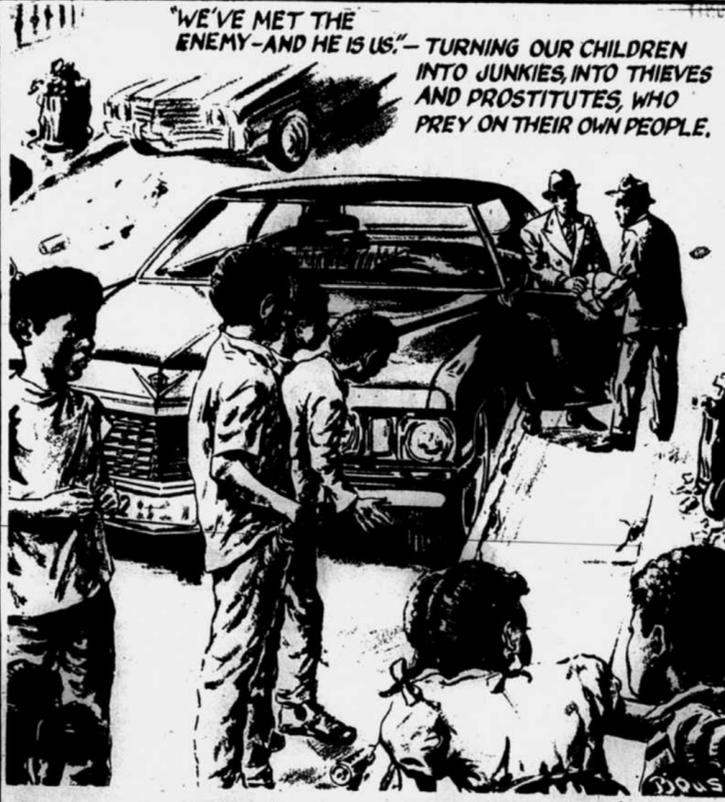
With all the rush to get district representation it is very easy to forget or take too lightly the real purpose of districting. The purposes of districting, or more accurately, district representation, are to (1) enable council members to better represent their constituents by having greater knowledge of a more manageable geographic area, (2) reduce campaign cost so that more people can run for public office, (3) insure greater accountability of the representatives to their voters and (4) to break the near-monopoly of any one geographic area and economic group in dominating local government as currently exists with 5 of the current City Council mem-

bers living in the southeast section of the city. (An equally large or greater number of the CM School Board members and County Commissioners also live in southeast Charlotte.)

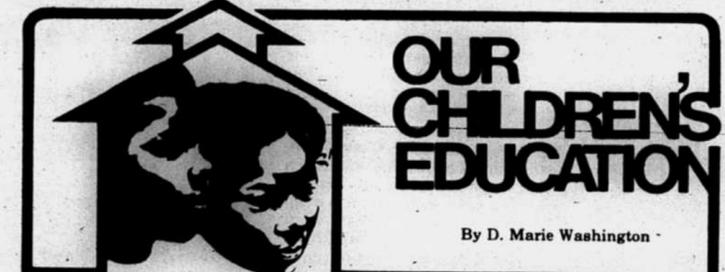
In the final analysis, district representation means that the citizenry of Charlotte will have a greater chance to participate in the ideal of democracy. However, it is important to note that with this opportunity goes the responsibility to get involved in civic affairs to insure a meaningful representative form of government. District representation in and of itself means nothing unless citizens are interested enough to participate in the political process and demand that those who are elected be accountable to their constituency.

If the kind of political apathy that is still quite evident among approximately 46 percent of the American voters, and an equal percent of blacks in the Charlotte area, is not ended quickly district representation will mean very little.

To continue to be a relatively free people we must carry out those responsibilities that add to freedom. Citizen responsibility in a district representative form of government is in the end, the foundation of the freedoms we possess, cherish and must have if black Americans are to realize full equality as we approach the end of another decade.



## Factor In The Increase Of "Black On Black" Crimes Working For The System



## Working For The System

Human relations courses, sensitivity training, and workshop sessions on teacher-pupil relations are all a part of an effort being made by many school boards to correct the attitudes of school personnel toward Black children and other minorities. Such efforts are certainly to be applauded because the need is great, but the attitudes of individual teachers and administrators are only a small part of the problem. The larger and more pervasive problem often lies with the institution itself. Policies, practices, standards, and organizational structure all provide a certain setting in which failure is inevitable, and those who work within it can only move within its context, regardless of how they may personally feel about the children.

An example of how the institutional setting can steadily but forcefully change a teacher around is detailed in an article by Estelle Funchs, "How Teachers Learn To Help Children Fail" which appeared in the September, 1968 issue of TRANSACTIONS. The article describes a study in which new teachers were told to

tape-record accounts of their experiences in a New York school. In the reports of one of the teachers who was sent to work in a school serving Black children, we can see that the teacher was very positive in her approach to children. Her attitude was warm and friendly; she respected and admired the abilities of the students and she was puzzled as to how they could grow up to be fifth and sixth graders and still be reading on the second grade level. But she soon got an explanation for this from an 'experienced' teacher, who gave her a list of children's 'deficiencies' by telling her that some of the children never see a newspaper, have never been on a subway or visited a museum. She was also told that the children's parents were so busy having parties that they have no time for their children and that the parents are the ones who have to be educated. A change in the new teacher's attitude can be detected as she records that it is a shame that the children suffer from these things. But she still does not blame the children and their parents totally, as she worries

## TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

## Ban The Death Penalty

Strange, isn't it, that the approach of the Christmas season should be the setting for a revival national debate on the death penalty?

Last July the Supreme Court issued a set of rulings that tried to make legal and constitutional sense of state executions. Some kinds of death sentences were approved, others barred. Everyone knew more cases would follow, and that the Court's refusal to ban the death penalty as an unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment would lead to confusion and unfairness.

That has come about, and the Court is becoming even more deeply entangled in the results of its July decisions. Within a period of days it overthrew the death penalty where citizens opposed to the penalty were barred from juries in capital cases; issued stays of execution in some nationally publicized cases, and moved to reconsider some issues it thought it settled back in July.

Meanwhile the Death Row population grows - over 500 people have been sentenced to death. Lurking behind the sensational cases of Gary Gilmore and Robert White is the real threat of mass executions.

The Gilmore case is an example of what we are in for if the death penalty is not done away with once and for all. Convicted of particularly brutal murders, Gilmore says he committed the crimes and wants to be executed. This made him a hero overnight with sensational stories about him appearing in all the media.

Without going into all the tawdry details about the Gilmore case, there are two aspects of special interest to the question of the rightness of the death penalty. One is whether the state should set aside its moral scruples by executing one of its citizens, even if he requests it.

Gilmore's wishes are irrelevant to state action. The nature of his crimes justifies removal from society through incarceration. But the state has no responsibility to fulfill the death wish of a citizen.

A second aspect concerns the death penalty as a deterrent. One of the big guns in the pro-death penalty arsenal of arguments is that the prospect of execution will deter potential murderers.

But in fact it seems as if it acts as an incentive for suicidal personalities consumed with violent impulses. The history of crime is full of instances where people murdered in order to be executed. The death penalty is no deterrent to the Gilmore's of this world.

The possibility is very strong that an innocent person would be murdered by the state, that a life would have been snuffed out not by fate or illness or chance, but by the premeditated action of the government. That's not something we can square with the image of the society we would like to become.

Perhaps those suggestions about televising executions are right - let people see the actuality of what state-sanctioned killings are like and the likelihood is that the public will be overwhelmingly against the death penalty.

But a wiser course is for the Supreme Court to reconsider its muddled decisions on the subject and to finally ban the death penalty as a cruel and unusual punishment that is unconstitutional and unfit for a Twentieth Century democracy.

**THE CHARLOTTE POST**  
"THE PEOPLES NEWSPAPER"  
Established 1918  
Published Every Thursday  
By The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.  
2606-B West Blvd.-Charlotte, N.C. 28208  
Telephones (704) 392-1306, 392-1307  
Circulation 11,000

---

57 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

---

Bill Johnson.....Editor-Publisher  
Sidney A. Moore Jr.....Advertising Director  
Rex Hovey.....Circulation Manager  
Gerald O. Johnson.....Business Manager

---

Second Class Postage Paid at  
Charlotte, N.C. under the Act of March 3, 1878

---

Member National Newspaper Publishers  
Association

---

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

---

Deadline for all news copy and photos is 5 p.m.  
Monday. The Post is not responsible for any  
photos or news copies submitted for publication.

---

National Advertising Representative  
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

---

45 W. 5th Suite 1403      2400 S. Michigan Ave.  
New York, N.Y. 10036      Chicago, Ill. 0616  
(212) 489-1220              Calumet 5-0900

## as i see it

### Christmas Just Ain't Christmas

By Gerald O. Johnson

It is Christmas time again and everyone is going through the hustle and bustle of shopping. To most people this is what Christmas is all about. It is not the people's fault. The society is a capitalistic one whereby stimulating the economy takes precedence over everything else. This fact has caused Christmas to be more unbearable than merry.

I would like to say though WGIV and other organizations are doing a fine job in helping those people who can't afford the hoopla of Christmas. I am one of them.

Anyway we have gotten so wrapped up in trying to appease those people on our shopping list that it makes shopping a chore rather than a joy.

Asking everybody what they want for Christmas takes the element of surprise out of the entire event. I mean, knowing what you got before you get it is "Merryless."

Who ever said that "It is not the gift but the thought that counts" should have my shopping list.

I think if foolish for people to force themselves to shop for items that someone said they wanted. If you don't like what I will give you this year, then I can remedy the problem for next year. I will give you my prayers.

As I said last Christmas, Christmas will not be Christmas until we put "Christ" back into it.

WBTV BIASED IN AIRINGS?

If you've noticed lately that you don't see that popular television program, "The Jefferson's," anymore. The reason is WBTV does not show it. "The Jefferson's" was switched from Saturday night to Wednesday night by CBS. However, WBTV, our local CBS affiliate, unfortunately, was showing "the Andy Williams Show" at that time slot. Consequently, "The Jefferson's" is not seen at all.

I personally can not understand why a nationally rated TV show like "The Jefferson's" has to take second bill to a show like the "Andy Williams Show". I am fortunate because I can get channel 7 from Spartanburg, another



By Gerald O. Johnson

for determining a nationally rated show not being seen over an unrated one, then there is no justification for such an act.

Whatever the reason, I suggest you get cablevision so that you can tune in on channel 7 from Spartanburg. Then you will not have to be subjected to the hangups of the local stations in Charlotte.

WHAT'S IN AN EDUCATION

A lot of people have been misled by the fact that a college education prepares one for the job market. Nothing could be further from the truth. A college education prepares you for nothing. If you can not be content with knowing that you know, then a college education will not benefit you. If you are considering being rich, then a college education is not for you. A college education does one thing. It provides a means of evaluating your learning capacity in an array of subject matters as compared to your peers.

The most educated people in the world can be found on a

college campus. The poorest people in the world can be found in the same place. QED.

What going to college will do for you is make you accessible to the job market. It is still the place where businesses go to select prospective candidates. But there is a big difference between being prepared and being pooled for the job market.

The former indicates that you are able to perform immediately whereas the latter indicates an aptitude to be able to learn to perform.

All of this seems simple enough yet it is precisely this difference that has caused turmoil in the education community.

This is the primary difference between a trade school and an institution for higher learning.

Many students graduating today and not finding jobs are blaming the schools.

The schools are only to blame because they tend to give people this impression. It is a drawing card; to tell people that you get a better

job if you are well educated. This does not guarantee a better job.

For example, a student majoring in Black Studies will be hard pressed for a job upon graduating. I mean who needs an expert on Black Studies?

This is a case of a well educated person who can not do anything. The school did its part. So who is to blame? This and other points about what is in an education will be exploited in future articles.

**Public Library**

**To Exhibit**

**Puppet Shows**

Children's Services is presenting a series of Christmas puppet shows December 13-22 at all fifteen branches of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

The shows will include dramatizations of "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" as well as Christmas songs and activities.