

Editorials & Comments

King Symbolizes Confederacy Too!

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

The Charlotte City Council's decision on Monday to retain a Civil War monument which it had not previously authorized is an insult to all black people and many white people in our city.

Furthermore, the POST believes that to keep the 6-foot-high monument on the front lawn of City Hall is to tarnish the Council's contribution to the Martin Luther King Memorial Statue effort and to cause anyone with a knowledge of American history to wonder what our local government's views are with regard to peace and justice.

Larry Walker, organizer of the drive to erect a Civil War monument in honor of 2,700 local confederate soldiers, said his aim is to preserve "our cultural heritage." This is a heritage characterized by institutionalized racism, violent physical attacks upon black people and disfranchisement. Walker's monument is simply a reminder of the sectionalism that divided the nation; the dehumanizing institution of slavery; and its aftermath of segregation and discrimination; and lingering psychological, wounds of war, hatred and confusion.

It was these kinds of conditions created in America over 100 years ago and their continuing impact that has given rise to the need for men like Dr. Martin Luther King.

Thus, in spite of the hate-producing forces that Walker's monument symbolizes, Martin Luther King preached racial tolerance, non-violence, love-thy-neighbor and peace. Furthermore, the late civil rights leader's closest associates said "his indictment of segregation, discrimi-

nation and poverty was a hurricane of fire that opened a new era of struggle for freedom." It has been because of these qualities that monuments have been erected across this land in honor of King. He has left a legacy and a heritage of how good men of courage and conviction can and do arise in times of chaos and hatred to bring about peace and understanding.

It is in truth, a historical fact that King symbolizes and reflects the heritage of the soldiers of the Confederacy too. What we mean is that without slavery and without the Civil War and its aftermath, there might not have been a need for a Martin Luther King to rise to the heights to puncture the consciousness of evil-doing men so that they might begin to perform more humanly. King's contributions are in essence reflected in the words of a historian who said, "There are no great men, but simply great events that demand great deeds from humble people."

The POST, therefore, believes quite strongly that the City Council was wrong in its decision on this matter and we applaud Councilman Harvey Gantt's comment on the issue when he said, "The symbolic effort of a City Council in 1977... glorifying a war that was fought to deny civil rights to a part of the citizenry, cuts deeply. I'm afraid I'll have to vote against this monument."

The POST hope that the City Council and the citizenry will think carefully about Mr. Gantt's words so that in the future we might erect markers that reflect the good that comes from the past since that best helps to build a prosperous future.

even when we can.

We must encourage our youth to enter the legal profession, patronize black businesses to help create jobs, support black elected officials, cooperate with the police and help the poor.

As you read this column we suggest that you ask yourself, what am I doing to assist the Martin Luther King Memorial Statue drive, what am I doing to aid the cause of district representation, how am I expressing my support for commissioner Bob Walton and councilman Harvey Gantt, how much of my income is spent with black-owned businesses and what am I doing of a positive nature to improve the quality of education and police protection in our community?

Think about what Ms. Benbow has said, then think about the questions we have asked, then do something.

**BLACK-ON-BLACK
CRIMES EXPLODING!
WHY HAVE MURDERS,
RAPES, AND ASSAULTS
BECOME SO COMMON
IN BLACK COMMUNITIES—
BOTH IN THE FREQUENCY
AND PATTERN—THAT
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CERNED ABOUT THEM
ARE THE RELATIVES
OF THE VICTIMS.**

HOUSTON FORWARD TIMES



Crime Must Be Curbed

United Presbyterians Face

Long Agenda In Assembly

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. - Issues ranging from a study of the federal tax system to the ordination of avowed, practicing homosexuals will be decided next month when the highest policy-setting body of the United Presbyterian Church meets here.

Commissioners (voting delegates) from throughout the country will debate on these and scores of other issues in the 1977 General Assembly (1977) which opens in the Civic Center, June 21. Among other questions due to be dealt with by the Assembly are:

How should the 2.6 million-member denomination intensify its work in evangelism?

Should the whole mission policy of the church be redefined?

What actions should the Assembly take on behalf of the needs and rights of children?

Should the church approve proposals toward aligning the work of its national agencies with similar work in the southern-based Presbyterian Church U.S. as a step toward the reunion of the country's two largest Presbyterian bodies?

What, if any, changes should be made in the raising or administering of the denomination's sometimes-controversial legal aid fund?

Should new church structures be designed to make special provisions for handicapped members?

Is it time to consider changes in the regional organization of the church, or to move its headquarters out of New York City?

Should the regional units be asked to support the rights of employees in the stormy dispute between members of a union and a large clothing manufacturer?

Is it time to hold only biennial meetings of the General Assembly?

Reports from several councils and agencies, as well as overtures (petitions for action) from regional church units will go first to committees and potentially to plenary session of the 663 commissioners at the General Assembly.

The Task Force to Study Homosexuality, with specific reference to the ordination of avowed, practicing homosexuals, was authorized by the General Assembly last year but does not plan to present its final report until 1978. Two overtures to this year's Assembly, however, ask that the church declare itself now as against such ordination, and that the work of the committee be curtailed.

A Special Committee on Federal Tax Reform, while not advocating a General Assembly position on the subject, calls for widespread study in the church and asks that local and regional units of the church make their own decisions on what action should be advocated.

A paper entitled "The Needs and Rights of Children" urges that the church give high priority to such needs and proposes ways that programs could be carried out.

Set-up two years ago, a Special Committee on the Theology of Liberation and Rene-

wal will make its final report at the Philadelphia Assembly. It deals at length with understandings of theology that have grown out of work by Christians in developing countries and in racial minority settings, emphasizes the importance of lay participation, and proposes that a permanent Committee on Theological Reflection be established to help the whole church undertake new ways of thinking about God.

New approaches to the nature and practice of the Lord's Supper will be suggested by another committee's report, made after an extensive enquiry into the meanings of the sacrament and Presbyterian's practice of it.

Increased cooperation with the southern-based Presbyterian Church U.S. will be sought by the Joint Committee on Union, which suggests that the national agencies of the two churches do all their work together except that which is barred by church constitutions or legal restrictions.

Several resolutions will be presented before the Assembly. Among them are: A request that the Assembly call upon the United States government to support the United Nations formula for Namibian independence and end any further loans or investments from the United States Government or private firms to South Africa.

A request that judicatories and members of the United Presbyterian Church work to abolish the death penalty and prevent executions.

TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

Republicans' Future

The Republican Party, stung by the role black voters played in electing President Carter, is engaged in an internal debate between those who would seek additional black votes and those who want to write blacks off and go after the Wallace legacy.

Former Nixon aide Patrick Buchanan is spokesman for the latter view. He actually believes that deceptive programs like Nixon's "black capitalism" and the bloc grant urban aid programs that benefitted suburbs represent concern for black aspirations. Thus, he sees blacks as ungrateful for all Nixon and Ford did for them. Significantly, he doesn't mention astronomical black unemployment rates, erosion of economic gains of the '60's and other legacies of misrule.

Fortunately, other leading Republicans recognize the hollowness of Buchanan's argument and have indicated their intention to woo black voters. No one thinks they can win a majority of black votes in the near future, but all it would take to put a Republican candidate in contention for the White House would be a small shift in black votes in key states.

So, wisely, the Party is funding an effort to recruit black candidates and enroll black voters. But just opening the Party's doors a crack isn't enough. If blacks are to believe that welcome mat is real, they'll have to see other blacks in visible positions of real power within Party councils.

The lack of blacks in policy-making positions helped lead the framers of the 1976 election campaign into conducting a national effort that all but advertised "no blacks need apply." Leading Republicans now recognize this lily-white campaign helped elect Jimmy Carter by alienating black voters.

Wooing blacks into the Republican ranks will not be an overnight process, and it will depend on concrete actions, not rhetoric. The Party's image is projected by its acts, and its Congressional delegation has the opportunity to demonstrate that it can act in the interest of America's economically disadvantaged.

Will Republican Congressmen choose to sabotage job-creation legislation or will they choose to expand and strengthen Administration proposals for putting people back to work? Will they come up with a welfare reform package that establishes a minimum income floor beneath which no family will fall, or will they just fight whatever reforms others propose? Will they take the initiative in devising ways to aid hard-pressed urban areas with large poverty populations, or will they remain indifferent?

So the Republican desire to attract more black voters will mean a serious drive to make its policies responsive to black needs. Black voters are sophisticated and know that they can't benefit if one party takes them for granted while the other ignores them. They want a choice, and the fate of the Republican Party is dependent upon its ability to change enough to give them a choice.

Time To Stop "The Dance"

"It is time for black sororities and fraternities to stop dancing, pool their monies, and BUY (the buildings) what they are dancing in!" said Lillian P. Benbow in Ebony magazine recently.

"Funds realized from moratoriums on the annual dance for just one year could actually save numerous black businesses that fail annually, could feed thousands of pot-bellied babies who die each year, and could purchase some of that real estate that is being subsidized through rental fees and food costs for a four-hour fantasy," she added.

Having quoted liberally from Ms. Benbow it would appear that nothing else needs to be said. However, as we look around in our community, the state and the nation, we must become conscious of the fact that too often we as black people are not lifting ourselves by our boot straps.

THE VIEW FROM HERE

Our Silence Is Eloquent?

By Gary Gregg

One has to often wonder about our dedication to ourselves. We talk a good fight about progress, about freedom, about moving into the mainstream of this society but often when it comes time to put up or shut up our silence is eloquent.

We're especially noncommittal when it comes time to put up some money.

Consequently, we're still struggling with problems that should have been solved a long time ago. Problems such as inadequate housing, abnormally low wages, spiraling unemployment and attitudes of defeat and despair should not plague us now. But they do.

We're still wrestling with this problem, I contend, because we don't look out for ourselves first, and because we'd often rather shut up than put up.

Let's consider a hypothetical situation.

There are roughly 100,000 black people in Charlotte. For the sake of my point, let's assume that 35,000 of those blacks are employed adults, making between \$5,000 and

\$18,000 annually. If each of these persons would donate \$1 a week to the Black Community Development Fund, that fund would generate \$35,000 a week, or \$1,820,000 annually.

It is my contention that this fund, were it established, could become a catalyst for improving the black community.

First of all, let me say that this idea isn't mine. It was first voiced nationally by Earl Graves, publisher of BLACK ENTERPRISE MAGAZINE.

Graves envisioned a national fund to which more than one million blacks would contribute regularly, producing the kind of funds that can rebuild both the ghettos and our minds.

Just think what could be done in Charlotte to erase many of the devastating conditions which stalk our community. Housing, medical care, supportive educational programs, support for our cherished institutions, economic and political progress could be greatly enhanced by such a fund.

Can it be done? First of all, I'm sure that the local association of black accountants can develop a system of collecting, reporting,



Ernest Alford
...Motion president

and using the money that would meet our approval. Every payday we exchange our wages for a bank receipt only because we believe that the system can be trusted whether individuals can be trusted or not. Each pay period those who've signed up for their fair share give one dollar or more to a system that functions with very little accountability to individual supporters.

Certainly, if we can find the will to trust the banks and give consistently to the United Way, then we should be able to develop our own system, support it and trust it. If the accountants will deve-

lop a system, I'm almost certain that N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company can develop an insurance plan for the new system for developing the black community. It further stands to reason that Mechanics and Farmers Bank could find a way to be the depositing and issuing bank for the fund.

In other words, I contend that we have the resources currently available in the community to develop, implement and utilize such a plan to our advantage.

What could be done, for example, with \$500,000 a year in the area of housing?

Access to a half million dollars annually could produce about 500 units of multi-family housing a year in Charlotte, according to Ernest Alford, Executive Director of MOTION, a non-profit housing development corporation.

Alford says that a Black Community Development Fund (BCDF) that would allocate \$500,000 a year to housing could mean that the Fund could guarantee 25 percent of a lender's investment in, say, a \$1 million project. Since apartments in Charlotte are running about \$20,000 per unit now, according to Alford, a \$1 million project would be about

50 apartments.

"On an average," Alford said, "a lender will invest about 75 percent of the project cost and this is covered by the worth of the project. What we could then do with the Fund is insure 25 percent of the project. But instead of putting up \$250,000 cash, we could find an insurance underwriter that would provide the insurance and the Fund simply pay the premium, which might run as high as \$40,000, or \$50,000. But if by investing \$50,000 of the Fund's money, we can produce 50 units of housing, then it follows that having a guaranteed \$500,000 a year means 500 units of new housing for low and moderate income people in Charlotte."

It is Alford's opinion that the advantage of having such a fund is that it provides an extra selling point when it comes to interesting investors in putting up the money for housing.

"If black people in Charlotte could develop such a system and support it," Alford concluded, "having that kind of capital establishes a cash flow that makes a lot of positive things possible in the black community."

While I chose housing as an example to explore, there are

many other areas which would benefit from such a fund, the guaranteed money it would produce.

For example, such a fund would have produced the \$50,000 needed for the Martin Luther King Jr. statue in one day.

On a national basis, such a fund would have easily bailed out the NAACP when it faced bankruptcy because of a Mississippi judge's decision.

Not having the Fund meant that two-days in Marshall Park a couple of weeks ago reaped about \$4,000 in pledges for a memorial to a man who has done so much for America, who believed the dream when for everyone else it had long ago turned into a nightmare.

Not having a national Fund sent the NAACP scurrying to the Labor Movement for survival. We all should hang our heads in shame!

While this idea of a Black Community Development Fund sounds good in theory, how do we know if its practical?

We don't. But we can certainly find out easily enough. I challenge a team of black accountants and economists, bankers and insurance ex-

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