

# Editorials & Comments

## Education's New Challenge

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.  
Post Executive Editor

In years gone by, before the "white flight" to the suburbs - at least in the quasi-liberal North, public education was characterized as having dedicated teachers; economically, socially, racially and at least semi-culturally integrated student bodies sufficiently motivated to the pursuit of knowledge; and school boards committed to quality education while being unimpaired by political ideologies or preoccupation with personal political ambitions. Last, but certainly not least, parents gave their wholehearted support to the educational system by encouraging discipline, participating in PTA activities that contributed to the learning process, and making "homework" a family learning experience.

Today, many believe such characteristics of our schools are the exception rather than the rule. Paraphrasing one writer, but more bluntly stated, public education is nearly a catastrophe. School boards cannot seem to cope with problems. Teachers have an "I don't care" attitude (which is partly justified). Too many parents are apathetic and "social promotion" has dampened the motivation of our youth to learn. Considering this state of affairs, is there any reason to wonder about the level of school vandalism, the high drop-out rate, teen-age pregnancy, drug traffic, teachers who don't teach and students who don't learn?

A concern over these issues has led Operation PUSH director Jesse Jackson to start a crusade to improve inner-city and largely black schools. "Everywhere I go, kids walk around not with books under their arms but with radios up against their heads," Newsweek reports. "Children can't read or write, but they can memorize whole albums." In his crusade, backed up by a \$200,000 Ford Foundation grant, Jackson has called upon parents to set aside two hours nightly for "serious study" and the return of

firmly enforced discipline in the schools.

Ironically, teen-age youth and their school administrators appear to accept Jackson's ideas, but some politicians, teachers and their union leaders object to what they call "conservative pedagogy" and argue that it takes more than "electrifying speeches" to achieve academic excellence. The attack on the so-called "conservative pedagogy" does stop with Jesse Jackson.

William Raspberry of the Washington POST reports that the principal of a Baltimore city high school has received praise for "the order, discipline and pride he has brought to his school." The students - black and white - like the principal by reasoning that while his rules are tough, he is fair and predictable. The teachers on the other hand, don't like the principal and his tough-minded autocratic leadership. A part of this leadership requires that teachers write on the chalkboard before each class precisely what the day's objective is for that class and teachers must make at least three homework assignments per week.

This kind of tough-minded leadership includes using national standardized test to measure student programs not on the basis of the tests' relevance but because, as Raspberry quotes him, "They are the yardsticks that are used" by society. One result has been that last year only 58 percent of the school's 11th graders passed a functional reading test. This recently ended school year 84 percent passed - fourth highest in the city. All the problems of this inner city school are not over but a good beginning is in the making.

If "conservative pedagogy" means strengthening the teaching of the three "R's," building character and discipline in our youth and improving our nation's human resources, it is good for black youth and the Post supports it. This is important too because education is not the last hope for black youth, it is their only hope.

## Walton Gives Issue Priority

The latest of the Walton-Booe alliances centers around the county budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Particular emphasis is on the issue of whether school teachers should be granted a pay increase of 5 percent on top of a 6 percent increase from the state while apparently other county employees are receiving no pay raises. The merits of the issue were lost in a rowdy debate, supposedly over the ethics of Commissioner Walton voting on the pay increase question because his wife is a school teacher. However, the real issue was apparently an effort by Chairperson Liz Hair to prevent a vote on the teacher pay question. She is apparently opposed

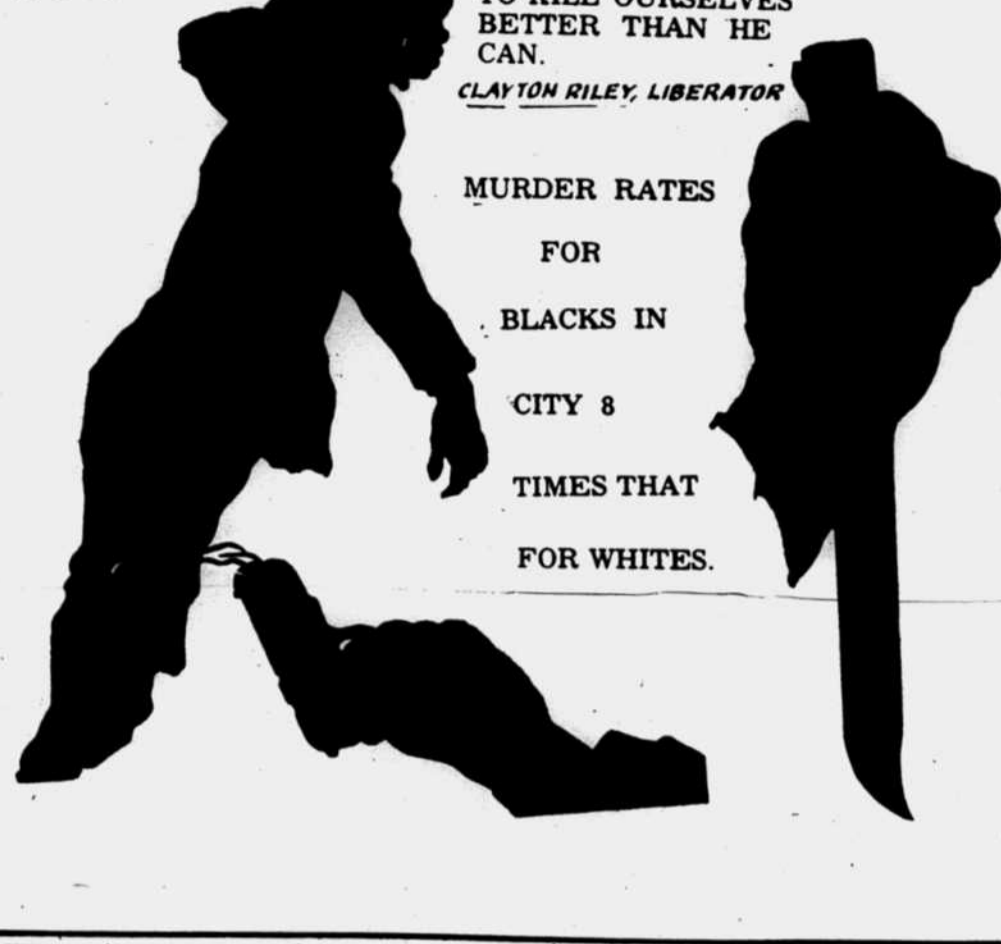
to the pay increase but does not want to vote on the issue because "of its possible impact on her congressional aspirations." Since Walton and Booe were known to favor the pay raise it would take a motion by one and a "second" by the other to force a vote on the issue. Thus, one way to nullify the vote was to raise the ethics question with Walton and keep him from voting.

While the POST deplors the manner in which this matter has been battered about by the Commission, we applaud Mr. Walton for his integrity in standing by his convictions instead of playing partisan politics at the expense of our school teachers.

66 percent of murders in 17 cities committed by blacks killing blacks.

FROM A STUDY

BY THE N.Y. TIMES



## THE POWER & THE GLORY

By Dr. G.E.A. Tooté

### The Silent Invasion

Do illegal aliens compete effectively with and displace large numbers of American workers? Is the social cost of illegal aliens residency counter balanced by their availability as needed low cost labor? Will the new influx of illegal aliens remain here, and impose increasing long-term burdens on municipal and federal budgets, to which they are not proportionate contributors?

#### CHEAP LABOR

Inflation - deflation has caused many industries to relocate to areas of cheap labor, such as Mexico or the American side of the Mexican border.

For \$2.30 an hour, thirty five women sort and box shrimp on the Texas-Mexican border. They can package for freezing and grade six thousand pounds of shrimp an hour with machine help.

On the Mexican side of the border, one hundred and sixty women, peel and devein shrimp without machines, remove shells and back veins from two thousand pounds of shrimp an hour. Their base pay is 99c an hour.

#### MEXICO

Mexico is struggling to survive a serious economic crisis. More than half of the work population is unemployed or underemployed. At least twenty percent of its population depends upon wages earned in the United States.

The Mexican population has almost tripled from twenty million in 1945 to sixty three million today. As a nation it has one of the worlds highest birth rates. Next year, its population will increase by two million more people.

The Mexican government predicts a population in excess of one hundred and twenty million by the end of the century.

#### NATURALIZED AMERICANS

Four hundred thousand foreigners become legal residents each year. Most of them seek employment. Many seek welfare and unemployment benefits.

One out of every five persons who surreptitiously enters from Mexico, if caught, face little punishment other than deportation, which has proven not to deter their attempt to return the next day.

#### CONFRONTATION

Next week this column will discuss the abuse of travel visas by more than three hundred thousand Columbians.

The dismal plight of the black unemployed is compounded by the silent invasion of job seeking illegal aliens. We must help to forge a national policy that will reduce the number of illegal aliens who enter our country, before it becomes an issue of racial confrontation.

AMEN

## Burrell Calls For Greater Government Commitment

(Washington, D.C.)...At a taping of the nationally syndicated television program, America's Black Forum, Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell, 10th President of the National Business League, called for greater government in assisting the minority business community. On the program, to be broadcast this week in 12 cities, Dr. Burrell emphasized that only through increased government assistance could minority enterprise attain economic parity for the nation's 17 percent minority population.

Dr. Burrell stated that the prospect of future increases in productivity throughout the total national economy depends on boosting productivity in the underutilized minority business sector. But the NBL President was quick to point out that there was more to gain than boosting production and cutting inflation. Dr. Burrell contended that strengthening the minority business community was the only way to guarantee the survival of the free enterprise system.

In answer to reporters questions, Dr. Burrell explained that minority business has a lot of catching up to do. Minority firms grossed \$7 billion last year, while gross receipts for non-minority busi-

ness totaled \$1.4 trillion. The minority parity share should have been \$900 billion in gross receipts.

According to Dr. Burrell's analysis, minority business needs capital to expand and in so doing create new jobs and lower the nation's high minority unemployment rate. "There are 400,000 minority businesses in this country. If they could each hire just two more people, we'd have new jobs for 800,000 people in the minority community," said Dr. Burrell.

The NBL President explained that it was up to government to set the tone for the nation's reaction to the efforts of minority enterprise.

"The government provides the markets and climate for corporate business," Dr. Burrell explained. "What it has done for defense, airlines and railroads, it must do for minorities, make it possible for minorities to participate in large scale revenue industries like health maintenance, transportation and defense."

In response to questions about what the government has done so far, Dr. Burrell explained that since 1953 the Small Business Administration has provided only \$17 billion in total loans and loan guarantees, to minority enter-

prise, adding that SBA certainly does not have the required resources as a single agency.

"In order for the minority business sector to achieve parity by the year 2000, it will be necessary to invest \$440 billion in minority enterprise."

Dr. Burrell stressed the importance of government procurement policy in assisting minority business. "The government must commit itself to spending greater procurement dollars with minority firms while providing for a full range of support services in enabling minority business to fulfill each contract."

Dr. Burrell pointed out the minority procurement provisions in the Railroad Regulatory Act of last year which guaranteed minority participation in upgrading the nation's railroads. The NBL President restated his belief that time is running out for the government to take decisive action in assisting minority enterprise.

"Some Blacks hate the system," said Dr. Burrell "because they don't have a part in American business. And young Whites are asking me why do you support free enterprise which they feel hasn't done anything for minorities

in this country. They are using us as an excuse to attack the system," Burrell emphasized.

"But we must preserve the system and the only way to do that is by minorities participation in it. For the system to survive, a number of Blacks are going to have to be highly visible so that other Blacks can see that there are opportunities."

Dr. Burrell asked for expanded government assistance

in providing equity capital, debt financing and technical assistance to the minority business community, calling for the kind of program that created the Alaska pipeline and revitalization of American railroads.

In answer as to whether the Carter administration will be responsive to minority enterprise, Dr. Burrell indicated it was too early to tell, but did say that being a small busi-

ness man, the President understood that you have to make an investment in order to get back a return...

NBL, founded in 1900 by Booker T. Washington, is the nation's oldest national business organization and serves as the national advocate for minority business enterprise.

Dr. Burrell was questioned by Glen Ford and Ben Frazier of the Black Forum and Lou Law of the Mutual Black Network.

## TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

### Southern Africa Policy Advanced

The Carter Administration is pursuing a revised Southern African policy that will hopefully liberate blacks there from minority rule. Given the rigidity of the South African government, it is hard to say whether change can come peacefully to the region, but American pressure is a vital ingredient.

South Africa's Prime Minister John Vorster is the key to change in the entire region. He's staked his policy on helping to achieve a settlement in Rhodesia. In return, he's banking on American gratitude that will leave intact minority white domination of South Africa.

That's an offer the United States can, and reportedly has, refused. Vice President Mondale has informed Vorster that nothing less than majority rule will do.

There are four major elements in the Southern African pot - Rhodesia, Namibian independence, South Africa's apartheid, and South Africa's policy of "separate development."

All are agreed that Rhodesia's break-away regime has to give way to majority rule. And Namibia, illegally held for years by South Africa, has to have UN supervised elections that permit free participation of all groups, not just those the South African government sanctions.

Rhodesia and Namibia are pawns in Vorster's game. He'll buckle under on those if he doesn't have to compromise too much on what he considers internal South African affairs.

The vicious apartheid system is probably negotiable. The South Africans have sent signals indicating they might relax some of the more objectionable features of the system. When I was there last year it was clear that some of the petty apartheid rules - especially those affecting blacks working for foreign businesses - were not strictly enforced.

But without massive foreign, especially American, pressure, South Africa is likely to persist in its separate development policy. This carves out parts of the country for so-called independence for tribal "homelands." With this, South Africa's black majority is fragmented into tribal groupings and denied South African citizenship.

The masses of unbanished blacks are still confined to black townships, are still forced to become an army of underpaid cheap labor, and still refused recognition as South Africans. In effect, separate development means making people foreigners in their own land.

As "citizens" of some fictional "homeland" they may never have seen, blacks are denied the right to vote or to participate in civic life. If they become involved in political or union activity, or even if they lose their jobs, they face being deported to the "homeland area."

Separate development is a shell game designed to pacify the international community while assuring permanent minority rule in South Africa. It's the real issue in South Africa. Apartheid, a serious affront to any concept of morality and human rights, is a system that supports minority rule. It makes it easier to implement, but even if apartheid were to vanish, minority rule would continue.

Separate development, though, is a policy that is at the core of the South African system of subjugating the black majority

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Mr. Bill Johnson:

I think that the paper that you have is real good. And some of the things that are in it are real nice to know about. But I would like to tell you something about a friend of mine that is just unreal but it is very true.

His name is Norman Bussey and he is a very smart black

male that I think that you should put in your paper and call it an "Outstanding Senior," because he will attend the University of Hawaii because he has received a four year scholarship to this school where mostly all smart people attend. Because this school is for people that want to major in the field of Air Traffic Control, and aviation.

He plans to attend this school in the fall. At school Norman has better than a 3.0 average. All the classes he has were advanced. Chemistry II and Analysis, Physics, English VI T.D. he plans to major in Air Traffic Control. Before

he does he will be in the U.S. Army and they found out about his plans so they will send him to the school for 4 years, and they will pay for his schooling. That is why I think that my brother is the smartest.

Thank you,  
LaVern G. Bussey.

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