

Editorials & Comment

HEW Order To UNC Is Poor

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Staff Writer

The University of North Carolina 16-campus system was ordered last week by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) to identify some specific programs of study duplicated at historically black and white campuses and either eliminate the programs of the white institutions or transfer them to the black ones. These latest guidelines proposals by HEW exclude nine basic liberal-arts undergraduates subject areas. These are math, the social, physical and biological sciences, foreign languages, literature, physical education, psychology and fine and applied arts.

Furthermore, HEW's latest order is insisting that the original federal guidelines calling for a 150 percent increase in the number of black students enrolling at predominately white campuses by 1982 be compiled with.

In the final analysis, the federal guidelines for increasing the pace of integration in the UNC 16-campus system calls for making the five traditionally black campuses considerably stronger. Thus, the real issue revolves around the role and place of the traditionally black schools in the UNC system.

The HEW order in our opinion is

poor, unrealistic and appears to not consider the wishes of blacks, the very people that, in the last analysis, the integration of higher education supposed to help.

We take issue, for example with the views of UNC board of governor member Katherine Crosby, a local public school administrator, who reportedly said, "Why should you have a law school at N.C. Central and at Chapel Hill? Why not have one big, good one? (What we have is just a continuation of the unequal treatment."

If we assume for the moment that Mrs. Crosby's view represents thinking of HEW our problem is quite simple. All we need to do is shut down N.C. Central's law school or carrying this argument to its logical conclusion, all we need to do is shut down the five predominately black schools, and half of the white schools too, and just have five or six big but supposedly good branches of the university to meet the diverse needs of our state for higher education.

This is far from what North Carolinians either blacks or whites want or need. If the integration program for higher education in the state needs improvement this is not the way nor the method. We think HEW needs to go back to the drawing board for another look.

Motion Confirms Allegations?

At its weekly meeting on Monday night the Charlotte City Council voted 7-to-4 to approve a \$100,000 contract with a local non-profit housing developing firm Motion, Inc. The contracted sum was \$35,000 less than the amount recommended by a committee composed of council members and city employees.

Reading from a prepared statement, district councilperson Minette Trosch asked that the Motion contract be reduced by combining some staff positions because "in my opinion the jury is still out" on Motion's level of competency.

Councilperson Trosch's statement alluded to the apparent wide range of criticism leveled against Motion to the effect that dual interest, high administrative cost and questionable performance have seriously affected the creditability of the non-profit firm to produce housing for the poor.

Councilman Harvey Gantt argued strongly against the \$35,000 budget cut on the grounds that Motion had not been consulted about the effect of the cut and the fact that the city needs such a firm to promote the construction of low-income housing. Gantt said further that the council should fund Motion for the full \$135,000 or not fund them at all.

While few councilpersons appeared to take seriously Mr. Gantt's suggestion to not fund Motion as the only alternative to funding at the full \$135,000, we wonder whether Motion's failure to respond to this suggestion in itself is an indication of the firm's management ability. That is, if Motion had agreed in

planning sessions with a committee of councilpersons and city employees that it would perform certain services for \$135,000, we wonder how they - board chairman Kelly Alexander Sr. and director Ernie Alford - could sit silently and therefore imply that they could perform the same level of services even with a 26 percent cut in the budget. While Alexander stated that he had "mixed emotions" about the proposed budget cut neither he nor Alford spoke on the questions of budget size and level of performance. There failure to do so appears to have confirmed councilperson Minette Trosch concern about Motion's ability to perform and shown sense of awareness to councilman Gantt's concern that an arbitrary budget cut would affect the level of performance.

We hope Motion has the good sense to consider this matter before actually signing its \$100,000 contract with the city.

Blacks And The Republicans

By Bayard Rustin
Special To The Post

The Republican party is showing a new interest in black voters, until now the most solidly Democratic group in America politics. The most dramatic indication of this is that the Rev. Jesse Jackson was invited to address a recent meeting of the Republican National Committee. In addition, party chairman Bill Brock has announced a well-financed program to recruit black candidates and convert black voters.

It is my conviction that blacks should always be ready to re-examine our political behavior, to explore new alternatives, and to entertain novel ideas. We can only benefit from a serious discussion of every conceivable political strategy. If this Republican initiative helps to spark such a discussion, it could make an important contribution to the development of an effective black political strategy even if, as I suspect, the initiative is rejected as offering very little to blacks.

There is as yet no rush of blacks to the Republican party. But that there is a willingness to consider the idea says something important about the present political situation. Blacks are disappointed with the performance of the Carter Administration. Many feel that the Democratic Party is beginning to take blacks for granted. Consequently, there is interest in discovering some means to regain political leverage.

Although it is a break with their recent past, the Republicans have reason to be interested in black votes. If they hope to compete on even terms, with the Democrats, they need to seek votes wherever they can find them.

With the passage of the Voting Rights Act and growing political participation, black votes have become decisive in more and more elections, most dramatically in the last Presidential election.

The possibility that Republicans might be able to win more black votes is not inconceivable. There have always been some Republicans, such as New York Senator Jacob Javits, who have won—and deservedly so—large numbers of black votes. And like other voters, blacks are increasingly willing to split their tickets.

The road from deciding not to concede the black vote to the Democrats to actually winning significant numbers of blacks to the Republican ranks is likely to be a long and difficult one. It will take more than an attractive candidate here and there. It will require more than the tokenism and public relations gimmickry of inviting a civil rights leader to speak to Republican meetings. The decisive factor will be the program, policies, and direction of the Republican party. It is only a slight exaggeration to say that the Republicans will be able to attract blacks only by moving closer to Democratic positions.

The prospects of this happening are not great. The Republicans have, if anything, become more, not less conservative in recent years and there is no solid indication that this course is about to be reversed. Even Republican National Chairman Bill Brock, who is spearheading the drive for black support, rarely voted correctly on any civil rights issues as a Senator from Tennessee. There is no sign that the Republicans have recognized the fundamental incompatibility between their traditional programs and the interests of their constituency, on the one hand, and the needs of the black community on the other.

It might even be speculated that the Republicans do not really hope to win a majority of black votes and that their goal is actually much more modest: to increase their share of the black vote from less than ten percent to perhaps twenty or twenty-five percent. With the declining importance of traditional civil rights issues, those blacks whose class interests largely coincide with the Republican philosophy may well be attracted to that party. It would not be surprising, if for instance, black businessmen join white businessmen in finding the Republican party's more congenial home than the Democrats.

For the overwhelming majority of blacks however, there are serious limitations to the Republican option. It would seem both counterproductive and foolish to attempt to punish Jimmy Carter for being too conservative, too much like a Republican, by embracing real Republicans who are likely to be even more conservative, even more unwilling to undertake the ambitious, activist programs necessary to overcome the problems afflicting black Americans. While we should welcome the newly discovered Republican interest in black voters and help them to understand our problems, our main hope for salvation is likely to lie in other directions.

As of now, the Republican party (though not all Republicans) is rightly considered the enemy of blacks in the working class and blacks who are economic outcasts.

as i see it

HEW Versus UNC System

By Gerald Johnson

HEW versus the state of North Carolina is a continuing saga that seem to have no end. HEW secretary Califano gave the UNC School System of Higher Education a 45-day ultimatum to either end its segregational duality or lose 80 million dollars in Federal Funds.

The UNC System consists of predominately white schools such as University of North Carolina, North Carolina State, Appalachian State, UNCC, and many others. The system also includes North Carolina A&T, Winston-Salem State, North Carolina Central, Fayetteville State and many other predominately black schools.

HEW with the prodding from the NAACP is claiming that the State of North Carolina is using double standards in the administration of the predominately white and predominately black institutions. Its recent mandates to the governing board of the N.C. system is an attempt to bring parity to the system.

The focus of the HEW argument has been on the low minority enrollment in the predominately white school

of the system and in the course offering dualities that exist in the system. The latter focus deals with two schools in the small vicinity offering the same courses. If both schools belong to the system it stands to reason that only one school need offer the course and students from accessible areas that are enrolled at other institutions in the system would attend the course at the designated school.

The problem seems cut and dry and it would appear on the surface that the board of governors are bigots and HEW is right and let's be on with what is right. Not doubting that the board of governors for the system are bigots, however, there are underlying circumstances that must be considered.

The most prevalent question that must be asked is "how will the abrupt change affect the predominately black institutions?" Since North Carolina has the majority of black institutions in this country, it stands to reason that changes to the UNC system will have an affect on black colleges, both, private and nonprofit. But no one is addressing this aspect satisfactorily.



Gerald Johnson
After gathering ideas from others and coming up with a few myself, it turns out that the affect will have both negative and positive consequences.

On the positive side it seems that by eliminating the duality that exists in the system now some resemblance of parity will be achieved. That is if some of the programs remain at the black institutions. If this happens white students from the predominately white schools will be forced to take classes at the predominately black schools. This will cause

money to be poured into the program at the black schools because the board of Governors would not want their white students learning with obsolete equipment in obsolete facilities. This approach is a tried and proven means of bringing about equality in education. The CMS system has proved this. Remember how West Charlotte used to be? Well, look at her now!

The negative side is equally traumatic. By removing the duality means you can do more with less people. For each program that is combined one less instructor is needed. It will be interesting to see how this dilemma is going to be handled. Moreover, most major programs will remain at the predominately white schools. Why? It only makes good sense. If the facilities and equipment already exist at a predominately white school just to get a program at the black school. Hence, the white institutions will absorb the black institutions. With no major programs to attract black students, then the black institutions have lost their need to exist. Yet, in talking

with students at predominately black institutions, most indicated a need to be a part of a predominately black environment after an integrated high school venture.

Philosophically speaking I think the long term gains for black people outweigh the short term losses if HEW succeeds in forcing the UNC system to an equal status. The exposure that the students will receive from up-to-date equipment, from recent publications, will get him much further in life than clinging on to an identity.

In closing I would like to relate a story that Judge Clifton Johnson told me. It was when Floyd McKissick took the state of North Carolina to court to obtain entrance in UNC Chapel Hill Law School. Thurgood Marshall, a

Lincoln man, was his attorney. The defense lawyer for the state stood up, told the jury how great North Carolina Central Law School was and that Mr. McKissick should go there instead of UNC. After a 10' minute spiel about the greatness of North Carolina Central, Mr. Marshall stood up and said your honor I know we have the wrong case here. The judge asked Mr. Marshall what he meant by that and Mr. Marshall replied that since the defense had made NCC so appealing that the state should close UNC and send everybody to NCC. Needless to say that the state is quipping the same arguments today about the effectiveness of the black institutions in the system. If it is so then there should be no problems implementing a HEW accepted program.

Rhodes Gets Warner Bros. Position

Alberta Rhodes has been named publicity manager, special projects, at Warner Bros. Records. The appointment was announced this week by Bob Merlis, Warner's publicity director.

Rhodes, based at the Warner Bros. New York office, will be involved in coordination press and publicity activities for Warner Bros. artists on a national basis with an emphasis on black and jazz oriented artist.

TO BE EQUAL

Rhetoric And Action On Jobs

The Administration's response to high unemployment is a mixture of rhetoric and action, with the words being stronger than the deeds. Despite high-sounding talk about the need for full employment, some recent Administration actions are bound to worsen the job picture for blacks and other minorities.

In his State of the Union Address, the president spoke clear and loud in favor of full employment. "Job opportunity - the chance to earn a decent living - is also a basic human right when we cannot and will not ignore," he said.

It's good to have that kind of ringing declaration. I've often said that jobs are a fundamental human right and while there's been a great deal of talk about that concept, it's good to have the president of the United States enunciate it in no uncertain terms.

What then, are we to make of the various statements in the tax message and the budget he sent to Congress just days after the State of the Union speech? Sadly, they contain some features that are bound to hurt the unemployed.

The Administration is proposing a freeze on public service employment slots. It wants to keep them at the 750,000 level, although well over ten times that number are out of work today.

Public service employment programs are the fastest and cheapest way to get people to work. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the net cost of a job in the public service program after two years is less than \$3,500. The net cost of jobs generated by stimulative tax cuts is in the \$20,000 range.

In other words, it takes less money to create more jobs through the public service route. So what does the Administration propose? A whopping \$25 billion tax cut and a freeze on public service jobs!

The tax proposal contains a sleeper that could drive unemployment rates higher for already distressed regions. It wants to extend the investment tax credit to new construction.

Industry already gets tax benefits from investments in new machinery, even where that results in less need for workers. Now it will get tax benefits for building new plants. On the surface that sounds all right. Encouraging industry to expand creates more jobs.

But many industries with old plants in the East and Midwest are already moving to other regions, resulting in job losses in older cities. Now, with federal incentives to build sparkling, efficient new plants, there may be a rush to accelerate abandonment of their old plants and move to the sunbelt.

How does this square with the effect to cut unemployment? It doesn't. If the Administration is really concerned with balanced economic growth, with revitalizing the cities, and with cutting high black unemployment, then it should limit the investment tax credit to new or rehabilitated plants in central cities or in high unemployment areas.

The budget for fiscal year 1979 does include some helpful items - expanded youth job programs and joint efforts with the private sector to hire and train the jobless.

But whatever good results from them is likely to be wiped out by downgrading public service jobs and offering incentives to industry to abandon the cities.