

Editorials & Comments

Carter Is No Miracle Worker

By Hoyle H. Martin, Sr.
Just four and a half months after assuming the presidency last year, Jimmy Carter was attacked by many black leaders, congressional liberals and organizations for his failure to have found solutions to all the problems affecting blacks and other minorities. We noted these criticisms in this column in June of last year and suggested that four months was hardly ample time for the President to have fully defined many of the nation's domestic problems much less having solved them.

These criticisms were, as it turns out, simply the beginning of an ongoing attack on the President, and even his family, about every conceivable issue from daughter Amy's behavior to Billy Carter to the Panama Canal treaty. Furthermore, Carter has felt the wrath of special interest groups over his urban policy, the minimum wage rate, farm subsidy, business taxes, human rights, Bert Lance, his son's marriage, arms sales and so on.

Commenting on these criticisms earlier this year, Carter added to his own criticism when he said publicly, "My biggest mistake has been in inadvertently building up expectations too high...I have dashed some hopes and disappointed people that thought we might be quicker." Following that statement Carter was accused of attempting to respond too quickly by "overloading the circuits" in his dealings with the Congress.

The Post feels, as it did a year ago, that the American people are expecting too much too fast. The real problem with what Carter is or is not doing has been out of focus since he entered the White House. That is to say, the Nixon-Ford administrations were so far out of line with the needs of the nation that we have expected Jimmy Carter to be an instant miracle worker in solving the nation's domestic and foreign problems.

We are glad to see that others in the media have begun to share our thinking about what Anthony Lewis of The New York Times called "the savagery of the attacks on him (Carter)." For example, a recent Wall Street Journal editorial concluded by noting that "behind this administration's troubles stands not some failure of personal capacities but the bankruptcy of an idea. And many of those who've screamed loudest at the President might almost be doing so to drown out the broader and more important charges. Maybe it really is time to lay off Jimmy Carter and start examining the kind of political thinking that produced him."

Inconsistencies

Thus, while Jimmy Carter has short comings his inconsistencies on

some matters and his alleged greater concern with style than with substance-he was elected to the presidency using the same kind of political rhetoric that others have used but with increasing expectation that he'd be able to fulfill to the letter the rhetoric offered. Thus, Carter's major failing is that he has not been the miracle worker president that the American people have expected from the occupants of the White House at least since Franklin D. Roosevelt, of whom we expected to wave a magic wand and end the Depression of the 1930's. It took ten years and World War II to make that magic work.

Sweep Of History

Following the sweep of history, Harry Truman, the little guy from Missouri who was nobody's favorite to become Roosevelt's successor, changed the new Deal to an instant Fair Deal in the post-war boom years. Dwight Eisenhower gave America the instant father image it desperately wanted in the 50's and John F. Kennedy conformed to the instant youth cult of our changing national needs. It was during the Kennedy years that the instant miracle worker presidency phenomenon gain its legitimacy as the first of the so-called "100 days" contemporary historical reports appeared. Such reports have become common place and they are read eagerly by those searching for clear proof of the miracle work of change for the better by the president regardless of who he may be at a given point in time.

In short, Jimmy Carter is our president, and he has strengths and weakness just as we all do. However, for him to be a successful national leader we must labor to be successful as willing tax payers, workers, consumers and voters. In the final analysis, increased employment for example, cannot occur simply by an instant monetary and fiscal policy of the Carter Administration, we as citizens must work to produce goods of quality that will be consumed in sufficient quantity that new jobs will be created. Thus, if the miracle is to take place we, the citizens of this great nation, must share the criticism as well as the glory if Carter is to be able to make rhetoric instant substance in moves toward resolving the nation's ills.

Jimmy Carter is often all one of us and with us not against. Therefore as we continue to exercise our freedom, speak freely and offer criticism, let us at the same time balance our criticism with words of encouragement and ask, could I do any better if I sat where he sits. It may make you a better person, Carter a better president and America a better Nation.

BLACK AMERICA ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES



"BLACK FOLKS THEMSELVES ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK OUT MANY OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, INSTEAD OF LEAVING IT UP TO THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS."

ROY WILKINS



Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands

Public Payment For Private Privilege

Special To The Post
During the next few months, the black community must pay careful attention to a well-intentioned but dangerous piece of legislation that

threatens the continued viability of public education in America. If adopted, the so-called Tuition Tax Credit Act—commonly known as the Moynihan-Packwood bill—would signal the beginning of a potentially harmful redistribution of public funds away from public education. In providing new financial "blood" to non-public schools, the bill would leave the already battered public schools seriously weakened, and dying from financial anemia.

Why is this particular bill so objectionable, especially to black people? As presently written, the Senate version of the Moynihan-Packwood bill proposes that the government provide annual tax credits—not simply tax deductions—to parents who decide to send their children to private schools. According to objective estimates, such credits will reduce federal revenues by as much as \$2.5 billion per year, a staggering amount by anyone's book.

If the bill is adopted by Congress, as seems likely at this time, taxpayers will be shouldered with the additional burden of paying half the tuition of every youngster attending private schools, including elite and upper-class institutions.

But the bill contains another feature which is even more

objectionable: the tax credit plan will almost certainly be a financial bonanza for upper-income groups. Since many private schools have traditionally catered to the educational needs of America's more affluent citizens, the relatively well-off—who can already afford private education—will enjoy a significantly reduced tax burden at the expense of poor and working people.

Even with the proposed \$500 tax credit, I honestly doubt that many working-class blacks could easily finance a private education for their children.

To further illustrate the anti-egalitarian bias of this proposal, it is worth noting the results of a recent study. If the bill passes, the study concludes, nearly 60 percent of the tax credits will end up in the bank accounts of families earning over \$25,000 per year. With this in mind, it is quite clear that the Moynihan-Packwood proposal is hardly a "Poor Man's Bill."

Considering the horrendous injustices of our tax system, it seems foolish—even immoral—to propose additional tax breaks for those who already escape their fair share. But the bill even goes beyond

that: it threatens to erode the already precarious tax base which supports local public schools.

number of middle-class students will transfer to private schools.

As more students attend private schools, taxpayer support for public education will rapidly decline. With their children attending classes in

private schools, middle-class voters will become even more reluctant to support local school bond issues which entail property tax hikes. As a result, blacks, and other low-income groups will be forced to use under-financed and inferior public schools while

middle-income students flee to well-funded private institutions. Education in America once the main agent of equal opportunity and minority advancement, will soon evolve into a "two-caste" system—public schools for the poor and dispossessed; private schools for the moderately affluent and rich.

As terrible as the legislation is, we must remember that some of the bill's most outspoken supporters, including Senator Moynihan, are men of good will and long-time supporters of the civil rights movement. Their motives, I believe, reflect a genuine concern for the many hard-pressed urban families who have traditionally sent their children to local private schools. Such concerns are

understandable, even commendable, but the present version of the Moynihan-Packwood bill simply goes too far, and, in many instances, will provide assistance to those who need it least.

TO BE EQUAL



N. C.'s Segregated University?

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare is locked in a dispute with North Carolina's state university system over the continued segregation of the 16 state-run institutions of higher education.

Separate black and white colleges and universities were rooted in the South's dual education system that was declared unconstitutional. Despite repeated court rulings, many states continued to maintain segregated institutions. Last year, after a federal court ordered HEW to draft guidelines that would desegregate those state systems, many states negotiated plans for compliance with HEW.

But North Carolina, despite its reputation as one of the more progressive states in the South, is still a holdout. About nineteen percent of students in the state university system are black, but only about six percent attend the formerly all-white colleges. The figures are even worse for full-time students.

Blacks far worse when it comes to faculty and administrative positions—less than five percent of the system. In North Carolina's university system, blacks teach at and attend the traditionally black schools, whites, the traditionally white institutions.

Talks between the state and HEW are still going on, and HEW, which funnels about \$70 million in federal aid to the state university system, will have to end that aid if the state fails to come up with an adequate compliance plan, as other states have done.

The issue in this case should not be obscured. It is nothing less than whether North Carolina will comply with the Constitution of the United States. State-supported segregation is illegal, unconstitutional, and immoral.

The state's hold-out stance has many supporters who have managed to muddle the basic issue. One line of attack has it that desegregation means the end of black institutions.

No one is more concerned with strengthening black colleges than I, but the issues related to state-supported black colleges are very different from those concerning private or denominational institutions. There is no reason why a unitary, integrated state university system should not maintain the traditions and special qualities inherent in black institutions.

That can be achieved without ghettoizing those institutions. Acceptable compliance plans in other states make allowances for upgrading black institutions without destroying their heritage. Enhancement of traditionally black colleges would draw more white students to them, but that is not inconsistent with providing quality education in a setting that recognizes the special attributes of those schools.

The state claims that the imbalanced student population merely reflects free choice, but that is dubious since the state has maintained black and white institutions with overlapping programs serving the same geographical area, while expanding and improving some of the traditionally white schools. Freedom of choice thus becomes something guided and directed by state educational policies.

When nothing else works, supporters of the state's segregated system imply that desegregation would mean a loss of quality and lower academic standards.

as i see it

What A Balanced Budget Means To You

By Gerald O. Johnson
North Carolina Senator Robert Morgan in a recent TV interview made some interesting comments. The one I was most taken by was that the country's budget could be balanced once the people decided that they wanted it budgeted. The problem is that every attempt in balancing the budget is fought by lobbyists whose programs would be cut. The Senator commented that everybody is in favor of getting rid of the other guy's program. He closed this segment of the discussion by saying that once we are willing to make some sacrifices then the budget could be balanced.

I couldn't agree more with the Senator and I was quite pleased to hear his comments. For you who aren't familiar with this country's budget and what it means to you, you will learn something today.

Currently, the U.S. spends approximately 65 billion dollars more than it takes in. This obviously creates a serious dilemma. All of us prudent household managers have learned the hard way that spending more than you make can make life a headache instead of a joy. But

what makes government spending different is that what the Government spends comes from our pockets.

The Government's main means of Revenue gathering is through income taxes. It should be clear that as long as the budget does not balance the threat of increased taxes looms over our heads. Relief in taxes can never become a reality until the Budget is Balanced. What has caused such a massive unbalance of spending? The answers are many including wastefulness, inefficiencies, high administrative costs, and corruption. But not to be undermined is the fact that the Government is trying to be all things to all people. There are programs to aid the elderly when they are sick. Programs to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Programs to create jobs for the unemployed and houses for the homeless. There are programs to help the handicap and programs to educate the poor. Programs to help minority businesses get a start and programs to subsidize state programs in a variety of ways.

There are programs that overpay businesses for contractual work.

subsidizing businesses, schools, farmers, and states the spending is astronomical. In order to balance the budget some drastic cutbacks in some or all of the programs is necessary. Attempts have been made to do just that. But whenever these attempts have been made to balance the budget, strong opposition came from those that would be affected by the cutbacks. Since Congress is a tool of the people, the opposition manipulates the spineless fiends into passivity.

I have nothing against any of the factions that are receiving funds. However, I don't think the Government can afford to be big mother to everyone. It is time for massive cutbacks in Federal spending to be made. All programs could use some reformation, especially in defense spending, congressmen salaries, welfare, Governmental agencies, education, and transportation. It doesn't take a genius to realize that there are unnecessary expenses in government spending. For instance, it is nice to have special education programs to help slow learners. However, it is not a

When you add the cost of

necessity for the federal government to pick up the tab. Likewise, the Government is picking up the tab for a lot of nice things that are not necessities. It is past time that the priorities be set and the necessities be funded and the nice things be scrapped.

A balanced budget requires

such precise actions by congress now. If not then your take home pay will continue to dwindle while your taxes will continue to rise. It is time for us to let it be known that we are ready for massive cutbacks in federal spending. A letter to your congressman will help.

Agency Opens Three Offices
The Mecklenburg County Veterans Service Office has opened three satellite offices in Neighborhood Centers as part of its service expansion program. The offices are located at: Amay James Center, 2415 Lester Street, 374-2196, meeting from 9:30-11:30 a.m. each Thursday; Belmont Center, 700 Parkwood Avenue, 374-2652, 9:30-11:30 a.m. each Tuesday; and Greenville Center, 1330 Spring Street, 374-2877, 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Services of the Veterans Office include: (a) advising and assisting veterans, their dependents and survivors, present claims for compensation, hospitalization and medical care, insurance, education, home loans and other benefits to which they may be entitled under federal, state or local laws and regulations. (b) assisting claimants in assembling necessary evidence to prepare applications for presentation to the appropriate agency. (c) requesting and arranging personal appearances before boards or agencies when necessary. (d) preparing formal appeals for disallowance of benefits on behalf of claimants when warranted. (e) maintaining and updating records on all claimants.

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