

Editorials & Comments

Some Underlying Issues

By Hoyle Martin Sr.
As Mecklenburg County moves closer to the September 8 liquor-by-the-drink vote, the battle lines appear to be more clearly defined as each side in the campaign gear up to spend substantial sums of money on radio, TV and newspaper ads in a last week to blitz to capture votes.

While these developments are going on, a number of related and equally significant underlying issues have surfaced that may have an impact upon our community long after the mixed drink issue has been settled. First is the question of what will be the rules under which mixed drinks will be served? It consistently concerns us that we don't know what we're really going to vote for other than to know that in some way, some where mixed drinks will be served. This might mean, for example, finding a new place to purchase your liquor-by-the-drink because your favorite club may be one of those not permitted liquor sales under the new regulations. This fact alone may influence how many may cast their vote on Sept. 8.

A second issue, nearly overlooked in spite of its importance, involves the moral overtones of any kind of liquor vote. Nearly ignored, the issue was brought to light when anti-liquor spokesman Henderson Belk reportedly said that people supporting liquor-by-the-drink sales risk facing the wrath of God.

Ironically, the Rev. Coy Privette - himself a minister - and leader of the anti-mixed drink forces, disassociated himself from Belk's comments and allegedly said "I can't play God." The Rev. James Palmer said his organization was remaining neutral on the vote and the Rev. James Frieson said his ministers' group would announce their position at a later date.

Strong Drink

It appears inconceivable that any minister would find reason to support the Sept. 8 pro-vote when there are so many Bible statements that speak against the use of strong drink. For example, in Leviticus 10:8-10 we find these words: "And the Lord spake...Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee...that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean."

A third issue involves the vague and unanswered question of the economic impact that mixed drinks may have on the local economy. In spite of a lot of talk about mixed drinks stimulating the economy and creating jobs there is reason to doubt this will happen. For example, it was announced last week that the Kemper Open is going to leave Charlotte's Quail Hollow Country Club for a new location in the

Washington area. The announcement about this move appeared to be totally indifferent to the Sept. 8 liquor drink vote.

A fourth issue arises out of the role, if any, that black voters may play in the liquor vote issue. This appears significant because of a too-little too-late effort by some black leaders to suggest that blacks stay home on Sept. 8 in the hope of using their voting, or non-voting, as a leverage to achieve goals of greater significance to blacks. There is, we believe, a great deal wrong with this approach.

As we look back to the general election in November, the June Airport bond election and now the liquor vote we see a common pattern. In each of these elections the

Poorly Planned

(1) news media revealed division among the so-called black leadership; (2) the calls for greater leverage to get responses on other issues affecting black were weak, fragmented, and poorly planned; and (3) some attempting to suggest that blacks not vote.

These developments appear to be a pattern established by blacks even before the three elections referred to above. The most dangerous and damaging part is any suggestion that blacks not vote. The time, effort and energy that has been used to get blacks to register and vote has been well worth the effort, however, there are still thousands not registered and voting. Furthermore, many of those registered won't vote. Thus, whether for moral, economic or other reasons each black should vote on Sept. 8. Vote your convictions.

We have said repeatedly in this column that the only way blacks will gain leverage, economic parity and political respectability is by banning together under a single philosophical theme that will allow and encourage dialogue among ourselves on the more vital issues that affect our lives. These would include crime, education, health, recreation and public service.

We are not suggesting that we as blacks must always agree on issues, simply because we are black. What we are saying is that the broader issue that affect the quality of life of our loved ones should be something carefully planned and thought out before such issues are made public and through much misinformation and misunderstanding little of real value occurs to aid black people.

If we of the black community can develop a common sense of purpose through the building of bridges of communication, then, and only then, will unity occur, leverage be established and blacks in substantial numbers will register and vote.

"BLACKS' RETICENCE TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE THEIR COMMUNITIES" SAID DOUGLAS G. GLASGOW, DEAN OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, IS A MAJOR FACTOR AND AN IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITIES' UNDEVELOPED STATUS"

- POLITICAN
- BUSINESS MAN
- DOCTORS
- LAWYERS
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- MINISTERS
- WORKERS
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
- SOCIAL WORKERS
- FRATERNAL GROUPS
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- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- INSTITUTION ADMINISTRATION
- ENGINEERING
- PLANNING
- ARCHITECTURE
- BLACK PRESS



Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands

CETA:

A Program Worth Defending

By Bayard Rustin
Special to the Post
As I listen to the arguments of those who are so committed to gutting the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), my thoughts return to a memorable passage from the New Testament: "For everyone who has will be given more than he has; but for the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

Those few lines of Scripture, I think serve as an exceptionally appropriate epigram for the social and economic policies espoused by the resurgent conservative movement, and its allies in the business community. Whether it be tax policy, welfare policy, educational policy, or labor policy, one dominant idea reigns supreme - every failure of our economic system is blamed on the alleged greed and laziness of the poor, the young, and the supposedly "unproductive" public sector.

To remedy our chronic economic ills, conservatives smugly tell us to forcibly tighten the belts of the poor - "the man who has not" - while simultaneously enriching the wealthy with tax breaks and business subsidies. While asserting that business needs more "incentives," the same political leaders and economists call for a lower minimum wage, lower living standards for workers, and lower wages for public employees. In line with this Victorian economic reasoning, the "anti-Big Government" forces have set out to cripple the CETA program.

As they see it, the current debate about CETA offers a highly lucrative opportunity to

attack and threaten other social welfare and employment programs as well. Every week, newspapers and magazines uncover some new instance of CETA-related corruption or waste. Some politicians, especially those who hope to exploit the "tax revolt," enjoy characterizing CETA, according to many of its most outspoken critics, is another obvious cause of runaway inflation, burdensome taxes, and general economic malaise.

The steady attacks and distortions have taken their toll. CETA is, I believe, perhaps one of the most unpopular and misunderstood federal programs in existence. However, a careful look at the facts can quickly dispell some of the more troublesome anti-CETA arguments.

For one thing, CETA is hardly the gargantuan monster as portrayed by its opponents. Compared to other federal programs, CETA is relatively small. During fiscal year 1978, CETA received only \$9.6 billion. By contrast, tax loopholes that benefit business - and only business - cost the United States Treasury \$1.8 billion, three times the cost of CETA. In overall terms, only about 2 cents of every tax dollar went to CETA.

Despite CETA's small size, many critics contend that even this stingy expenditure for training and public service employment should be drastically curtailed. CETA programs, they argue, have outlived their usefulness because we have now supposedly achieved "full employment." Such an argument is persuasive only for those who consid-

der 6.2 percent unemployment as "full employment." I, for one, soundly reject such reasoning.

While it is certainly true that unemployment has decreased during the last year and a half (President Carter deserves some credit here), the moderate decline hardly justifies scrapping or reducing CETA. In fact, the scandalously high jobless rates among blacks, teenagers, women and unskilled workers strongly suggest that we need to expand rather than trim the CETA program.

Some CETA opponents, especially those concerned with persistent unemployment suggest that it would be far more efficient to subsidize low-paying jobs in the private sector. While such an approach seems attractive, it ignores some fundamental economic realities, including the highly selective impact of unemployment on specific groups of workers, such as minorities, young people, and the unskilled.

Unlike the "trickle down" strategies which emphasize investment tax credits and lower tax rates for corporations, CETA provides effective and immediate relief to special "target groups," which, in all probability, would gain little even if the overall economy experienced a sudden upturn. By selectively assisting groups like young people, migrants, women, minorities, and workers with obsolete skills, CETA provides job and training opportunities which the private sector alone cannot produce. Moreover, without a program like CETA, thousands of workers would be

See Bayard on Page 10

By Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

TO BE EQUAL



Can America Be Governed

There have been times when political leadership has been incompetent, corrupt, or otherwise incapable of governing wisely, but only in the past five years or so has there been any question about government's ability to administer this complex nation.

That questioning has come about partly because of the duplicity in the way the war in Vietnam was foisted on the public, and partly because of the revelations of the Watergate scandal, which saw high officials spending their time scheming to commit illegal acts and to escape punishment.

Both of those developments coincided with a time of deep, social change within the nation. Later, recession and its aftermath shook people's confidence in their leadership.

President Carter is reaping the results of a decade of cynicism, and we have to recognize that his low standing in the polls, and the relative weakness of today's Presidency is in large part due to that negative cynicism.

The press has been full of speculations about the ability of this Administration to govern the nation. Those speculations are unworthy, for the Administration is, by and large, made up of people more competent and more committed to doing right than those in previous Administrations.

When healthy skepticism turns to destructive negativism, the integrity of democratic institutions is called into question. That's a dangerous development. The government is weakened in its dealings with other nations, and it becomes more difficult to do what needs to be done here at home.

The Administration is rightly concerned with its image, and with the way it has been perceived as drifting and confused. But it cannot simply assume that this is just a public relations problem that can be dealt with through PR devices.

To a degree at least, the Administration's difficulties are self-inflicted. It may have indulged in over-promising during the campaign, and its delay in fulfilling some of its promises bred cynicism and distrust.

Polls taken at the time of the 1976 election indicate that President Carter's majority was drawn to him because they wanted an activist President who would undertake domestic reforms, who would end high unemployment, and fight for the interests of minorities and working people.

Thus, when the Administration's priorities came to be seen as balancing the budget and postponing domestic reforms, dissatisfaction was encouraged. The Administration has compiled a fairly reasonable record on creating jobs, targeting urban development monies, and other important steps.

But it has also shown a distressing tendency to trim its sails when faced with Congressional intransigence. Instead of fighting against a tax cut for the affluent or a tuition tax credit, it simply comes up with a compromise proposal for a slightly lower tax cut or a student loan program that would lessen funds available for the economically disadvantaged.

And when the President himself raises doubts about government's ability to end poverty, inflation and other problems, he just encourages the kind of attitude his Administration is trying to counter.

as i see it

As I See It Congratulates WGIV On "Point Counter Point"

By Gerald Johnson
The other day while cruising around the city I flipped my radio to WGIV. To my surprise the station was airing a new thing called "Debate" where Cheryl Gantt gave her opinion on the church's role in Black Leadership and Jim Black gave a counter opinion on the topic. It just so happens that the topic is one of my favorites and both of them were wrong putting it mildly.

But the idea of point, counterpoint on local issues of today is an excellent one. I think WGIV should be congratulated.

Let's get back to the debate topic. Cheryl Gantt pointed out that if the Black churches of Charlotte took as much time preaching on why Black's fail competency test and other prime issues as they did on liquor by the drink and airport bonds then the prime issues wouldn't be prime. She feels that the church holds the key to solving Black problems and that the church should take a more active leadership role.

Jim Black countered this by saying that the responsibility of Black leadership can't be

placed on the shoulders of the church. The Black community at large has the problems and therefore its leaders should be from the community at large. He continued with church and state separation and that the more the church got involved in politics the more separations would occur - interesting, to say the least.

Neither point has any backbone and both points could be torn to shreds in 5 minutes. But with the limited time they had to give their points it is understandable. Why their arguments were shallow. Let's pose a question. Is there a need for Black Leadership? No.

The need for "Black" leadership is gone. There is no common goal that Black people as a group would want to reach. Oddly enough, the only common bond among Black people was discrimination. Blatant discrimination drew us together as a people because rich or poor, young or old, doctor or pimp, our color was used to deny us civil rights. Historically the times did breed Martin Luther King.



Gerald Johnson
Malcolm X, and Stokely Carmichael and each in his own way helped us out of the bondages of open racism. They helped us eliminate the only common adhesive we had as a people.

Consequently, since as a people we are moving in different directions there is no need for a Black leader.

But there are a disproportionate number of Blacks suffering from a variety of problems. The unemployment rate among Blacks is higher than that of whites. More Blacks fail the competency

test than whites. There are more Blacks in prisons than whites. The list goes on but I think you get the idea.

The bottom of the problems facing Blacks is education. The more education Blacks get the fewer of these problems Blacks will have.

But to motivate Blacks into wanting an education is not a leadership problem. No leader can motivate a person to want to learn. Moreover, getting people to learn is not a group process it is an individual, "one on one" if you will, process.

Motivation starts in the home. A dumb kid is the product of a dumb parent. Dumb in the sense that the importance of education is not instilled in the children. I know parents that aren't educated who insist that their children get a good education. These are not dumb parents even though they are not formally educated.

There is no answer to this problem as I see it. Those that want to make it can, those that don't, won't.

An interesting assumption that I am willing to bet on is

this: the majority of competency test failures are products of welfare homes. I am sure a study on the subject will prove me right. Consequently the welfare programs aids in de-motivating and removing the initiative from people. But that's another story.

But the point is where a leader comes from is of little importance when a leader is not needed. Times make the man and when times become critical enough a leader will emerge. Who knows I might press my "leader suit" when the time draws nigh.

Football Mania
The time is here when bar room talk turns from girls to the old pigskin. As usual when this season comes, my good buddy Ole Ned the Nigger comes out of the woodwork. Ole Ned as previewed the CIAA and MEAC and as come up with his usual wrong assumptions. But here is how Ned picks them. In the CIAA look for Winston-Salem, Hampton, Norfolk State, and Virginia Union to fight for the title. Look for a much improved JCSU team to be the spoilers.

The big surprise comes from the MEAC where Ned says S.C. State will not make it to the Gold Bowl this season. In fact, Ned says, you can see a preview of the Gold Bowl this weekend when the surprising Aggies meet the Rams in Winston-Salem. The Aggies will dethrone the Bulldogs.

Well, that's how Ned sees it and I kind of agree with the ole fool for a change.

Mint Museum
The Mint Museum of Art, 501 Hempstead Place, is looking for volunteers to give tours and help in educational areas of the museum. Volunteers should be interested in art and enjoy working with either school children or the general public.



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