

# Editorials & Comments

## NAACP Seeks Excellence

by Hoyle H. Martin Sr.  
Post Editorial Writer

Be active in your schools, avoid the "politics of indifference" and set meaningful priorities for yourself. That is the underlying message the Rev. Jesse Jackson, president of PUSH (People United to Save Humanity), a national human rights organization, has been traveling across the country telling youth, especially black youth. He adds that it's time to become more disciplined and thus more able to take advantage of today's opportunities. Recently, Jackson said, "as for blacks, we must be superior, just to be equal."

As if taking a page from Jackson's note book, Dr. W. Montague Cobb, one of the keynote speakers at the four-day NAACP state convention held the 300 delegates in Charlotte last week, "blacks should emphasize self-discipline, intelligence and co-operation."

Cobb, national president of the NAACP told his Radisson Plaza Hotel audience that blacks should emphasize education with particular support given to elementary school students and their parents. "Where does the motivation to excel begin? In the individual. And there is no better force to accomplish this than the family." He added, "unless we motivate children while young... they will likely not develop to their full potential."

## Mergers Threaten Black Business

The principle of "black ethnicity" a major key to the survival of black business and black economic self-sufficiency, according to George E. Johnson, president of the Johnson Products Company.

In a speech to the National Beauty Culturists League's annual convention held in Detroit, Johnson said giant corporations, conglomerates and multinationals are vigorously competing for and seeking every available dollar in the black community.

Black business has, in effect, suffered from the onslaught of competition but not exclusively from the forces of free market competition. Johnson illustrated this in his speech when he said, "the free enterprise system in this country is not yet a two way street for blacks." Whereas, white firms vigorously compete for the black consumers dollar, white people traditionally don't buy anything from blacks that they can get from whites.

The competitive disadvantage referred to here deals with the elimination of competition through giant corporations, conglomerates and multinationals-or mergers as they are often called. This results in the lessening of competition and thus higher prices. Black business is hurt by this practice too, however, most

State NAACP President Kelly Alexander Sr., may have set the stage for Dr. Cobb's remarks when he held the delegates earlier, "we are facing an unfinished agenda in civil rights."

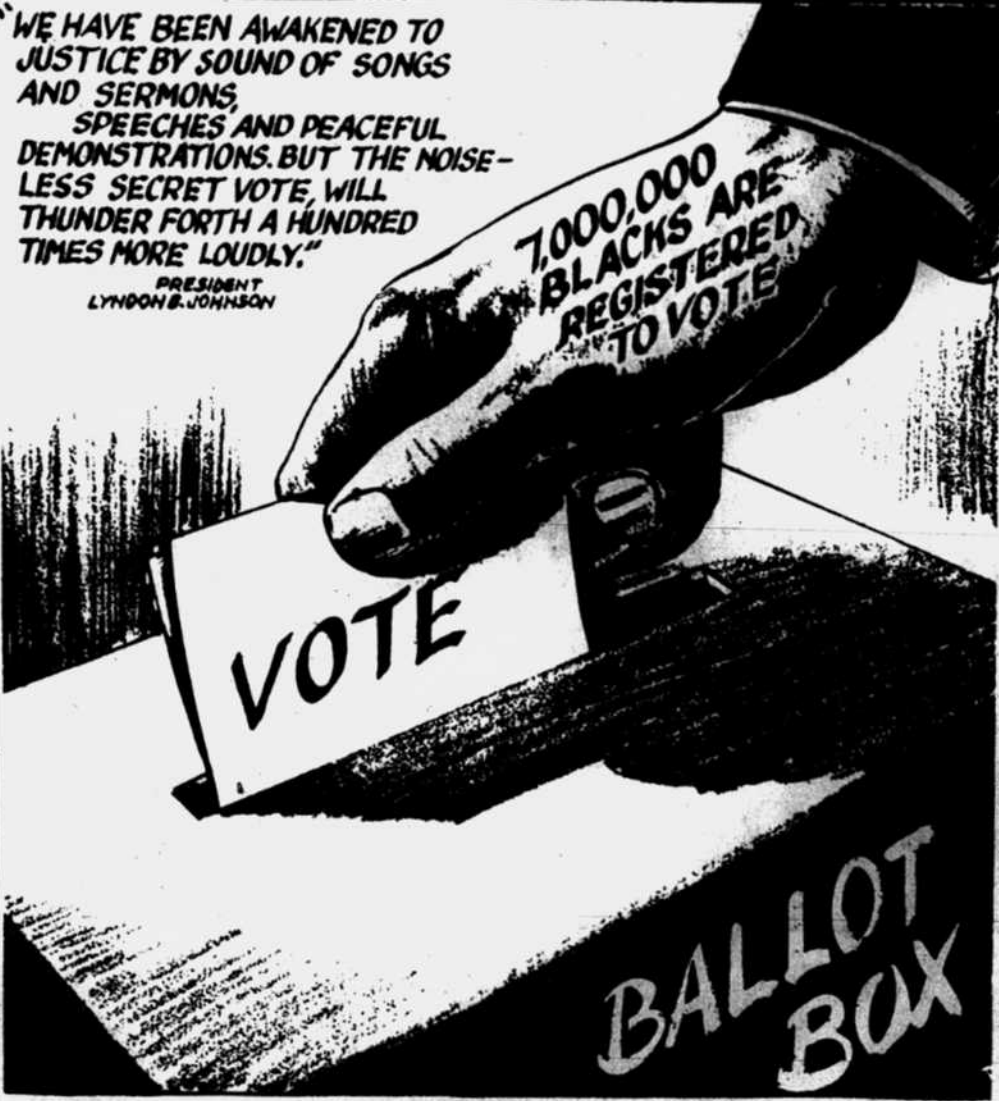
Because of the major role of the NAACP in completing this agenda, Alexander said that the state organization should seek to double its membership and raise \$100,000 in 1979. "It is important," he added, "for the organization to remain strong in the continuing struggle, particularly for equal education and housing opportunities and more black public office holders. In order to achieve these ends, it will be necessary for blacks to exercise self-discipline, intelligence and co-operation."

These comments by Jackson, Cobb, and Alexander are consistent with the views of many of the nation's black leaders who contend that a "new negativism," that is, a basic abandoning of the civil rights promises of the 1960s is evident. Thus, there is a need for blacks to pursue excellence through self-discipline, educational achievement and political involvement. These pursuits and membership in the NAACP should reverse the trend of the "new negativism."

Yes, the civil rights agenda is unfinished; join up, help finish the fight. If you don't, we'll all lose. Do your part!

"WE HAVE BEEN AWAKENED TO JUSTICE BY SOUND OF SONGS AND SERMONS, SPEECHES AND PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS. BUT THE NOISE-LESS SECRET VOTE, WILL THUNDER FORTH A HUNDRED TIMES MORE LOUDLY."

PRESIDENT  
LYNDON B. JOHNSON



Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands...

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Democratic Unity Rally

Mr. Bill Johnson, Editor  
The Charlotte Post  
Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Editor:  
At the October 13 Democratic Unity Rally 13 members of People United for Justice demonstrated their unity and dedication to the human rights of the Charlotte 3 and Wilmington 10. We held a prayer vigil in front of Governor Jim Hunt during his speech.

We blocked the view of some in the audience and maybe we owe an apology. But we owe no apologies to the many Democratic hypocrites in that room who were afraid to take a public stand for human rights in front of the Governor. We owe no apology to the many members of the Democratic Party who support Jesse Helms. We owe no apology to the Blacks that were present and did not have the courage to stand with us in support of our young Black men who are political prisoners of this state.

In the struggle for equal and human rights for all, we pledge our allegiance to the poor and oppressed, not to any political party. We wear one face, not two.

I wanted to scream out to all of those present who stood and applauded the lies being told, but could not applaud human rights. Unity will be when on Nov. 7 all good Democrats will throw out their personality hang-ups and support John Ingram instead of Jesse Helms.

Unity will be when the poor, oppressed and minorities see what's happening and stop being used for an edge. We must stand together publicly for those same people and

issues that the fearful want to discuss only behind closed doors. We will not alienate ourselves from being involved and being true believers in our people. We know we have supporters that are true and sincere.

Our true supporters will continue to have respect for us. I found out through my bout with the Housing Authority who mine were. I will always cherish those folks

### Scouting For The Handicapped

Dear Sir:

In-school Scouting for the handicapped is now part of the program of the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System in a very real way. Endorsed by the State Board of Education, the local council of the Boy Scouts of America has already formed a pack and a troop to meet the needs of those for who Scouting might not have been possible otherwise.

Plans are underway for the program to be introduced in eight other schools where both physically as well as mentally retarded young people might participate.

The program calls for a one hour in classroom session per week wherein Scouting is offered to those wishing to participate. Approved by the Superintendent of Schools, Jay Robinson, this program supplements "Main Stream" Scouting where the youth is a member of a regular pack or troop and "Special Scout Units".

Teachers and aides who are involved in this program will be participants in a seminar on November 13, 1978 at the Staff Development Center. As

who helped keep a roof over my family by giving us moral, spiritual and financial support.

Charlotteans, be for real! Stand for something, even if you have to stand alone. Justice is going to be made a reality. Sacrifice, hope, love and faith are the answer for today, tomorrow and always.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Graves  
People United for Justice

part of their "in Service" training and because of their extra participation in this program "Special Services" has made it possible for those who are assisting in this program to receive additional recertification credits. The seminar will be conducted by trained volunteers of the Boy Scouts of America.

Bob Bartlett, Field Director for the Mecklenburg County Council states that there are about 4,000 handicapped boys in our area who could and should become a part of this program either in a troop or pack nearby their home or through the "In-School Program." He invites concerned parents to contact him and encourages those who would like to help in this program to do so. He stated that when these teachers return to their schools to begin this program, that approximately 125 young boys will be involved in a program that only began with the first training last April for local leaders.

For further information, contact Thurston St. Clair at 377-9611 or Bob Bartlett at 333-5471.

By Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

## TO BE EQUAL



### Black-Brown Election Turnout

The case is clear for the absolute necessity of a massive voter turnout by minorities this election year.

Congressional intransigence has meant that many federal programs essential to urban revitalization and to improving the opportunities for minorities and the poor are in deep trouble.

Congress has compiled a record awesome in its neglect of the interests of the nation. It has been unresponsive to popular feelings.

Tax revolt, for example, is a popular response to an unfair and inequitable tax system. Congress' answer is to broaden the loopholes and make the tax system even more unjust.

On a whole range of issues, Congress has become a barrier to progress. Energy and other key issues have been left to wither on the vine. And instead of acting constructively, the Congress has gone out of its way to bring up deceptive issues such as the tuition tax credit and amendments to destroy affirmative action compliance.

Congressional committees are gutting the Administration's urban policy and welfare reform is nowhere in sight, a year after the President announced his welfare reform plans.

One remarkable aspect of Congress' callous behavior is its persistent and willful neglect of the interests of its minority constituents.

Last spring, for example, the Joint Center for Political Studies analyzed the voting patterns of Congressmen whose districts include sizable black populations.

The JCPS found that 59 members of the House of Representatives represent districts in which over 25 percent of the population is black. One would expect people representing such districts to be more responsive to black needs than other Congressmen. After all, blacks form a sizable portion of their district's population. Few politicians would dare ignore the interests of a quarter of their constituents.

Well, the arrogant disrespect some politicians feel toward black people and their interest becomes evident in this JCPS STUDY. The JCPS identified key legislative issues in which black people have a major stake, issues such as child nutrition, Vietnam-era veterans benefits, the minimum wage, and others. The Black Caucus position on these issues was taken as the standard against which the Congresspersons would be judged.

The basic result-21 of the 59 voted against the Black Caucus position more often than not on 16 key roll call votes. Since 14 of the Black Caucus members are included among the 59, that means that 21 out of the remaining 45 representatives with significant black constituencies voted against black interest most of the time.

And some of them voted against the Black Caucus position all of the time.

The message to black people is clear. We have to assume the responsibility to reward our friends and punish our enemies. We have to register in massive numbers, and then turn out to vote.

Any group that constitutes a fourth of a Congressional district's population, ought to be able to influence the way that Representative votes. At the very least, it should be able to make sure that Representative votes right on key issues.

So long as blacks register and vote in lower than average proportions, this sort of Congressional misrepresentation will continue.

## Our New Day Begun

### Smith's U. S. Victory

by Benjamin L. Hooks  
Special To The Post

Recognizing that a primary cause of his pre-Camp David summit slide in the polls was due to the public's perceiving him as weak and indecisive, President Carter resolutely moved to shore up his image.

He took on the powerful military establishment by vetoing the \$37 billion weapons procurement bill because it contained \$2 billion for a nuclear aircraft carrier, which he felt was inflationary; he hauled President Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Begin of Israel up to Camp David to hammer out a Middle East peace agreement framework; he scored a very impressive legislative victory when the House sustained by a comfortable margin his veto of the \$10.1 billion public works appropriations bill because he felt it too was inflationary.

Given this show of strength, many of us had thought Mr. Carter would have followed through and held firm to his avowed desire not to give Rhodesia's Ian Smith and other representatives of his illegal, breakaway government visas to visit the United States. After all, it was a foregone conclusion that



Benjamin Hooks

NAACP Executive Director Smith and his black coterie were only coming here to stage a last ditch lobbying effort to gain a privileged position for Rhodesian whites under black majority rule.

For these reasons, the NAACP expressed its strong objections to Smith's visit in a telegram to President Carter. We explained that: (1) The granting of such visas would be clearly illegal and violative of present United Nations policies to which the United States ascribed. U.N. Resolution No. 253 explicitly states: "All member states shall prevent the entry into their territory save on exceptional humanitarian grounds of any persons traveling on Southern

Rhodesia passports or on a purported passport issued by or on behalf of the illegal regime in Southern Rhodesia."

(2) Freedom-loving nations around the world have applauded your strong commitment to human rights and the incorporation of such principles into the Carter Administration's foreign policies. Any move, therefore, that would pretend to grant, or actually grant, recognition to the illegal Ian Smith regime would be violative of these policies. (3) The granting of visas to the illegal Ian Smith regime leaders would be a clear, unmistakable signal to Africa and the rest of the world that the United States has turned its back on its avowed policies of supporting the principles of majority rule for Southern Africa. Such an act by the Carter Administration would be an open invitation to the Soviets to enter the rapidly escalating conflict in that region. No action, we stress, would more invite communism into Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa than such recognition of a government which, until now, no nation has seen fit to recognize.

## Business In The Black

### Bank Of America, Bull And Blacks

by Charles E. Belle  
Special To The Post

Poets claimed in the spring a young man's fancy turns to love, pundits proclaim old men in the fall turn to just plain fantasy. Some weeks ago, A. W. Clausen, president of Bank of America, biggest commercial bank in the world, spoke to the 1978 National Urban League Conference, held in the far west. Los Angeles, long known as "plastic city" was the right place for the proper banker to blow off about both economic disparity and when Black Americans could expect something to be done about their desperate condition.

The American economy in general...not just the black population within it...has fared poorly, claims Clausen. "One important reason why is most Black Americans have not grown enough" continues the chief executive officer of the \$81 billion bank. The ivory tower office of its officers must indeed be in the clouds, because this country is at a record and climbing employment level, while Black Americans are caught at the bottom of the ladder with unemployment.

In spite of the big bank's

home base in a city with over 100,000 Black Americans, it employs no black middle or senior management loan officers. In fact, until recently, no Black American served on its board of directors. See this column one year ago, "Corruption in Capitalism."

Andrew Brimmer was placed on Bank of America's board of directors shortly after this column hit the scene. However, in spite of Mr. Brimmer's expense paid monthly meetings in San Francisco, he hasn't seen fit or been allowed to meet with the Black American community in the city.

Both Mr. Clausen and Mr. Bell, Senior Vice President, have been personally informed of the requests since February. The once-only high ranking Black has been run out of town and is now attorney for the port of Oakland. Another Black American unfortunately found a job with Betchel since Brimmer has been put on the board.

Local Black American community organizations receive none of the millions of dollars doled out each year by either of the bank's charity arms. The bank's lending policies to the city's black population is reminiscent of redlining with

flare. Any Black American junior loan officer found finding a way to work out a loan for Black Americans is either dismissed or diverted to another department.

Loans to any ethnic requires creative banking skill which has a sense of the people provided to loan. This sensitivity has too soundly been censored by the chiefs at the nation's biggest bank. Black Americans agree with Mr. Clausen incentives for private enterprise can go along way toward aiding everyone.

Clausen is quoted as saying, "I'm certainly not questioning the need for government programs to help the poor, we should use our public resources to help solve social problems."

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