

Editorials & Comments

1978: A Mirror For 1979

by Hoyle H. Martin, Sr.
Post Editorial Writer

"Whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past," wrote the 14th century political philosopher Niccolo Machiavelli, "for human events resemble those of preceding times." Thus, if we hope to begin the New Year with some understanding of things or events to come, we must start with a review of things and events that have recently past-1978.

Among the triumphs and tragedies that highlighted 1978 were the emergency of a Polish Pope, the birth of a test-tube baby and the training of three black astronauts; the mass suicide-murders of 921, largely black Peoples Temple cult followers, the defeat of the U.S. Senate's only black member, Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan.

Black Americans were further interwoven into the events of 1978. Most pronounced in these developments were the U.S. Supreme Court's long-awaited, if somewhat disappointing, Allan Bakke "reverse discrimination" decision; the passage of the weakened Humphrey-Hawkins "full-employment" Bill; U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young's continued push for human rights; and Muhammad Ali's loss and regaining of the Heavyweight boxing championship from Leon Spinks.

Furthermore, death claimed Gen. Daniel (Chappie) James (Ret.), the only black four-star general in the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Rep. Ralph Metcalfe, Senator Hubert Humphrey and baseball superstar Lyman Bostock.

In other sports developments, Houston McTear set a new world indoor record when he ran the 60-yard dash in 6.11 seconds; Larry Doby had a short stint as manager of the Chicago White Sox; Darryl Stingley, an outstanding wide receiver for the New England Patriots, was paralyzed from the waist down from a football related neck injury; and Reggie Jackson led the N.Y. Yankees to their second straight World Series Championship.

Political Scene

Returning to the political scene, blacks re-elected Congressman Charles Diggs, despite his conviction for mail fraud. On the other hand, Calif. Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally and Calif. state attorney general candidate Yvonne Burke both lost in the general election; another black Lt. Gov. George Brown of Colorado, did not seek re-election; and Ernest Morial was elected as the first black mayor of the city of New Orleans. In addition, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, chose not to seek re-election. These developments however, left unchanged the number of blacks, 16, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the entertainment field, Eartha Kitt led the smash Broadway

musical "Timbuktu" on a tour of the U.S.; a new three-some, "The Emotions" won a "Grammy" award; and Diana Ross led an excellent cast in the \$30-million movie production of "The Wiz," now playing to packed movie houses across the U.S.

On the international scene, black Americans demonstrated against the U.S. visit of Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith, the policies of his nation as well as that of South Africa. Blacks were also dismayed by the act, meaning and implications of the Jonesville, Guyana suicide-murder of 691 blacks out of a total of 921 Americans.

On the national scene, taxes, inflation and unemployment were issues that were of concern to blacks in 1978. Specifically California's Proposition 13, a property-tax rollback, threatened many social programs aiding blacks and the "13" plan has spread to other states. In addition, while many national black leaders were opposing President Carter's anti-inflation plan because it might affect job prospects for blacks, a CBS-N.Y. Times survey concluded that blacks also listed inflation as the nation's number one problem.

In other developments in 1978, Richard Nixon reappeared on the national scene, Betty Ford had a face-lifting; the City of Cleveland slid into default; the flamboyant president of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta, died; and the U.S. renewed diplomatic relations with mainland China.

Historical Events

This summary of the historical events of 1978, should help us, to use Machiavelli's words again, "to foresee the future" at least in part. They should enable us to recognize that during 1979, the Carter Administration will continue to struggle against inflation and unemployment, while attempting to mend some political fences in planning for the 1980 elections.

Blacks will also be particularly concerned about these issues because of their implications for unemployment, already twice that of white Americans. Furthermore, since the anti-inflation fight will have serious implications for the Carter urban policy and program, if any, blacks will be watching these developments too.

Using the past to consult on the future too, has led many economists to conclude that in 1979, the U.S. will experience a mild recession beginning in mid-summer. This also will be of particular concern for blacks because it could mean substantially higher black unemployment.

Finally, each of these events in 1978 will in some way influence, guide and direct many events of 1979. What is important is that we as a nation have the skill and ability to learn from the past so that we might have a better and more prosperous future.

DOING IS THE GREAT THING.
FOR IF RESOLUTELY PEOPLE
DO WHAT IS RIGHT, IN TIME
THEY COME TO LIKE DOING IT.

THE KEYS!

SELF-HELP
SELF-IMPROVEMENT
SELF-DETERMINATION
COMMUNITY CONTROL
POWER TO THE POWERLESS



This Is One Job That Can Be Done Only By You

U.S. Economy Reaches Turning Point?

by H. Jack Runyon

The U.S. economy reached a turning point in the fall of 1978, when the Federal Reserve and the Administration mounted an all-out effort to protect the declining value of the dollar by raising reserve requirements and short-term interest rates, and by raising the groundwork for the U.S. Treasury to borrow foreign-denominated debt. These initiatives followed other inflation fighting steps announced by the Administration.

These actions, while greatly needed, and which have succeeded in enabling the dollar to show moderate strength, also had the effect of increasing the dolls that this tightening of monetary policy and increase in interest rates will weaken the economy into a recession sometime next year. From the present perspective, this anticipated downturn in the business cycle—the first one in more than three full years of business expansion—may reach the level of a formal recession, but it would be of much less magnitude than the experience of 1974-75. This is primarily because there existed in the 1974 economy a number of imbalances, such as speculative based construction activity and excessive accumulation of inventories which aggravated the worsening economic conditions even further. These do not exist today to the same extent.

The recession of 1974 was a consumer-based recession, and to the extent that we have one next year, it will also probably be consumer-based, although we do not see the level of inventory accumulation that precipitated the downturn in 1974, when declines in final sales had a disproportionately large effect on production because there existed such a large supply of finished

goods which had to be used up before production could be tapped again.

The prospect of another consumer-led recession has special ramifications for North Carolina, with its dependence on textile and other consumer goods industries and its vulnerability to consumer buying patterns. In 1974, the state actually suffered more severely in terms of unemployment levels than the national average, for the first time in modern history.

The state also responded more quickly than the rest of the country as a whole when growth resumed, and as a result, today North Carolina has a lower level of unemployment than the national average. While some of this difference is due to structural unemployment—where there are segments of the population with very high unemployment levels, such as teenage blacks—North Carolina's employment picture remains favorable compared to the nation, even with the structural unemployment factor removed from the national average.

Industrial Development—The North Carolina economy has exhibited substantial growth and diversification of industries relocating into the state over the last two years. This special growth potential should cushion the effects of any overall business decline in 1979. During the past 18 months, North Carolina has attracted an impressive \$3.5 billion in new and expanded industrial investment. A number of these new facilities are currently in progress and can be expected to be completed regardless of the general level of the economy next year. Construction of such additional plants and regional headquarters buildings represents a permanent investment in the

state and is a good antidote for declining levels of business activity in other industries. Economists will be closely

watching the effect of Christmas sales on the attitude and morale of those in commercial and retail-commercial businesses, for these attitudes will have an important bearing on the timing of the downturn next year.

If Christmas sales are high this would tend to postpone a recession; if they are disappointing, the economic climate might be expected to give way sooner to other pessimistic signs, such as high interest rates and the squeeze on the mortgage market. The odds seem at this time to favor a moderate recession, probably beginning about the middle part of 1979. A severe winter bringing significant disruption of economic activity could cause an earlier downturn.

A good Christmas season combined with a not-too-severe winter could postpone such a drop but make the decline deeper when it does occur. An earlier recession would likely be milder than a later one, and therefore be preferable. Given the age of the current expansion which has been underway since March 1975, some contraction in the business cycle can be expected as a natural occurrence in the coming months.

However, it should be noted that the economic news of late has been mixed, with some good as well as bad reports. Employment continues at record and growing levels. Reports of Christmas season spending seem to be improving. Housing starts remain above the two million mark. Money seems plentiful if expansion. Such factors tend to contradict the more pessimistic forecasts and add to the air of uncertainty in the outlook.

TO
BE
EQUAL



Carter's Judge Appointments Due

President Carter is about to make the largest number of new appointments to the federal judiciary in history. Because of the horrendous backlog in the federal courts, Congress created 152 new federal judgeships.

That means the President will leave his mark on the judiciary as few Presidents have. Five years after Richard Nixon's resignation, the Supreme Court still bears his stamp and carries out his policies. Imagine the effect then, of so many judicial appointments bearing the Carter seal.

This is a responsibility the President cannot take lightly. Past Presidents, including John F. Kennedy, have used appointments to the federal bench bargaining chips for Senatorial votes. As a result, federal courts dealing with civil rights issues have included openly segregationist judges.

A President can be forgiven if he decides to trade off a few judgeships for crucial votes on key issues. But when a once-in-a-lifetime chance to shape the future of the federal judiciary comes along, normal political dealing has to be abandoned.

The President and the Attorney General have already indicated their selections will be removed from the political tradition of letting Senators nominate future judges in their states.

Citizen advisory boards are being set up and candidates for judgeships are supposed to be recommended on "Merit." Merit, as we should know by now, is an elusive qualification, almost impossible to define. Several of the citizen boards in fact, have indicated differing standards of "merit." And some lawyer's groups define merit as including fifteen years trial experience, as if ten or twelve years won't do.

Obviously, the new judges should be selected on the basis of their legal competence and their personal probity. But just as obviously, blacks and minorities with those qualifications should be included in disproportionate numbers.

Why disproportionate? Because minorities are rarities in the federal judiciary. By weighing his new appointments toward minority candidates, the President can make the federal bench fully representative of this nation's diverse population.

That's especially true of the appointments to be made in the South, where the exclusion of blacks is a national scandal. A recent report by the Southern Regional Council indicates just how widespread that exclusion is.

The SRC study found that two-thirds of federal courts in the South employ five or less blacks. No black is a magistrate, district or circuit clerk. No blacks are numbered among circuit law clerks, librarians or assistant librarians.

Out of 138 federal judges in the South, only one is black. There is only one black U.S. attorney out of 29. Only three blacks are U.S. marshals. Only six per cent of assistant U.S. attorneys and eight percent of deputy U.S. Marshals are black.

Remember—this is a region whose black population is over 20 percent of the total. A lot has changed in the South, but not in the federal courts.

And this discriminatory pattern extends even to clerical and secretarial jobs, where fewer than eight percent of such employees are black. All together, out of 3,000 employees of federal district and circuit courts in the South, only six percent are black.

Happiness Through Health

Sexual Interest, Activity Can Continue Throughout Lifetime

by Otto McClarrin

Special To The Post

Recent scientific studies of sexual activity have shown that the sexual urge exists for many more elderly people than society realizes or acknowledges. Up to age 70, one-half to two-thirds of men remain potent and sexually active. Among women, most of whom are without partners by this age, one in three reports an interest in sex, one in four masturbates occasionally but only one in five actually has a sexual relationship.

The studies show that for healthy people, regardless of age, sexual interest and activity can continue throughout life. The best predictor of continuing sexual activity into old age is regular expressions of sexuality in the preceding years. Even if there is a prolonged interruption in sexual activity, possible because of illness or death of the spouse, full sexual functioning can often be restored.

In fact, for a number of reasons, the "golden years" may well be the Golden Age of Sex for some people. And if not for myths and misunderstandings about sex among the aged, many more people than

actually do might continue to be sexually active into their 70s, 80s, and beyond.

In their pioneering studies of the human sexual response, Dr. William Masters and Virginia Johnson determined the normal changes in sexuality with age. If people know what to expect, these researchers have found, their sexual functioning is far less likely to be impaired by the aging process. In men, these are the gradual changes with age that Dr. Masters and Mrs. Johnson and other sex researchers have elucidated:

—The penis takes longer to become erect and more direct physical stimulation may be needed. Whereas in young men erection may occur in seconds, often at the mere thought of sexual activity, in older men several minutes of direct stimulation, possibly with fondling of the man's genitals, may be needed to produce erection.

—Longer periods of stimulation are often needed to reach orgasm and ejaculation. For men who in their younger years reached orgasm before their partners did, this delay with age is often welcome. Some wives who never before attained orgasm through

intercourse are able to do so with their aging husbands who now have better control over ejaculation.

—There is decreased need to reach orgasm at every sexual encounter. Many older men happily participate in sexual intercourse once or twice a week but desire ejaculation perhaps only once every second or third time. The woman who believes that her partner must be "satisfied" every time they have intercourse may actually do them both a disservice. A man who feels pushed to reach orgasm may, shy away from sexual activity of any kind. If the man does not ejaculate, he is able to become erect again sooner

Watching Blacks Drown

"You Can Save Us," Jimmy Carter

by Charles E. Belle

Special To The Post President Carter might want to read an article in the Wilmington, North Carolina Morning Star newspaper. A 14-year-old youth helped pull a drowning woman to shore, and to his dismay discovered it was his mother. While Jimmy Carter is still early in his Presidential years (possibly eight he hopes), a serious problem of Black Americans who voted 90% plus for the President, should be shouted out to him for help.

While America's unemployment continues to go down, latest figures fell to 5.8% from six percent in

October, Black Americans and other minorities continue to grow grayer, up from 11.2% to 11.4% during October. Clearly the concern of those with a paycheck is to stop inflation in order to maintain their purchasing power. But Black Americans and others without a job sink even farther behind in the social order when there are no salaries.

Rumors running around Washington, D.C. is that the President will practice an old Nixon trick, hold up already appropriated federal budgeted money. Few people believe the brakes will be on the defense budget, betting is

and can have intercourse more often.

—The volume of the ejaculation and its force are diminished, and the man is likely to lose his erection within moments of orgasm.

A man who notices one or more of these changes and thinks they herald the end of his sexual ability may create a

self-fulfilling prophecy. Fear of failure is the greatest inhibitor of potency. According to Dr. Masters and Mrs. Johnson, "loss of erective prowess is not a natural component of aging." They found that, barring illness or psychological blocks, a man should retain ability to have erections well into his 80s.

on social, health and educational programs.

President Carter should get a copy of Proposition V approved by a wide margin of the voters of the city of Saint Francis. The San Francisco Transfer Amendment would require that a certain sizable portion of the nation's highly inflated budget for defense expenditures would be removed from the military budget and be used instead to support much needed domestic peace-time programs, such as job development, housing improvements, education and other healthy pursuits geared toward improving the quality of life in this country.

A.W. Clausen, President, Bank America Corporation, \$81 billion assets and parent of the biggest free world bank, wrote, "The most complex and deeply-rooted problem we face today is inflation." Pres. Carter concurs in this concept.



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