

Editorials & Comments

Is There A Presidential Alternative?

by Hoyle H. Martin, Sr.
Post Editorial Writer

In the annual State of the Union Message, President Jimmy Carter continued what was evident earlier in his proposed "lean and austere" budget for fiscal 1980 by declaring that inflation is the nation's No. 1 problem. He added that extravagance in government, while often with good intentions, is nevertheless a part of the inflation problem.

Carter used a catch phrase within the tradition of the Democratic Party like "Roosevelt's New Deal," "Kennedy's New Frontier" and "Johnson's Great Society."

He told the American people that we must build a "New Foundation" for the future. The "Foundation," the President said, would have to have its roots in austerity. "We cannot afford to live beyond our means to create programs we can neither manage nor finance," Carter said.

Ironically, Carter's speech appears to have moved him to center stage politically and thus angered both Democrats and Republicans. He upset his own Democratic Party members, particularly the liberals, by abandoning his earlier commitments to national health insurance, by reducing the jobs programs that have kept unemployment to reduced levels and by cutting funds to aid the urban centers and social security.

Republicans applauded Carter's efforts to offer plans to reduce inflation. However, many were angry that the President had in effect seized the GOP's initiative by presenting a budget and state of the Union Message that appeared to come from their notebook.

While many Democrats privately praised the President for trying to curb inflation, some were openly critical of cuts in social programs, especially when increases are plan-

Black Colleges Attended By Choice?

The long verbal war between the 16-campus University of North Carolina System and the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare appears to have centered on the status of the five predominately black state universities.

HEW wants to eliminate course duplication that will encourage white students to enroll for some degree programs at the formally all-black campuses and black students to enroll at the white campuses.

While these concerns may be of merit, there are two overriding issues in this dispute that have been overlooked or ignored. First, is the fact that the 5 historically black universities - even without the 10.2 percent of white students they currently have - are not as such segregated institutions. To "segregate," Webster's Dictionary tells

ned in defense spending. House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill (D-Mass) said, "I didn't become speaker of the House to dismantle programs I have fought for all my life." Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass) criticized "wasteful increases" in defense spending and said, "The budget asks the poor, the black, the sick, the young, the cities and the unemployed to bear a disproportionate share of the reductions."

Kennedy's words were consistent with a study called "The State of Black America - 1979" drafted by The National Urban League. In reflecting on the content of the study, League president Vernon E. Jordan said, "It is our grim duty to inform you that the State of Black America today verges on the brink of disaster. 1979 promises to be a year of crisis for American's black people."

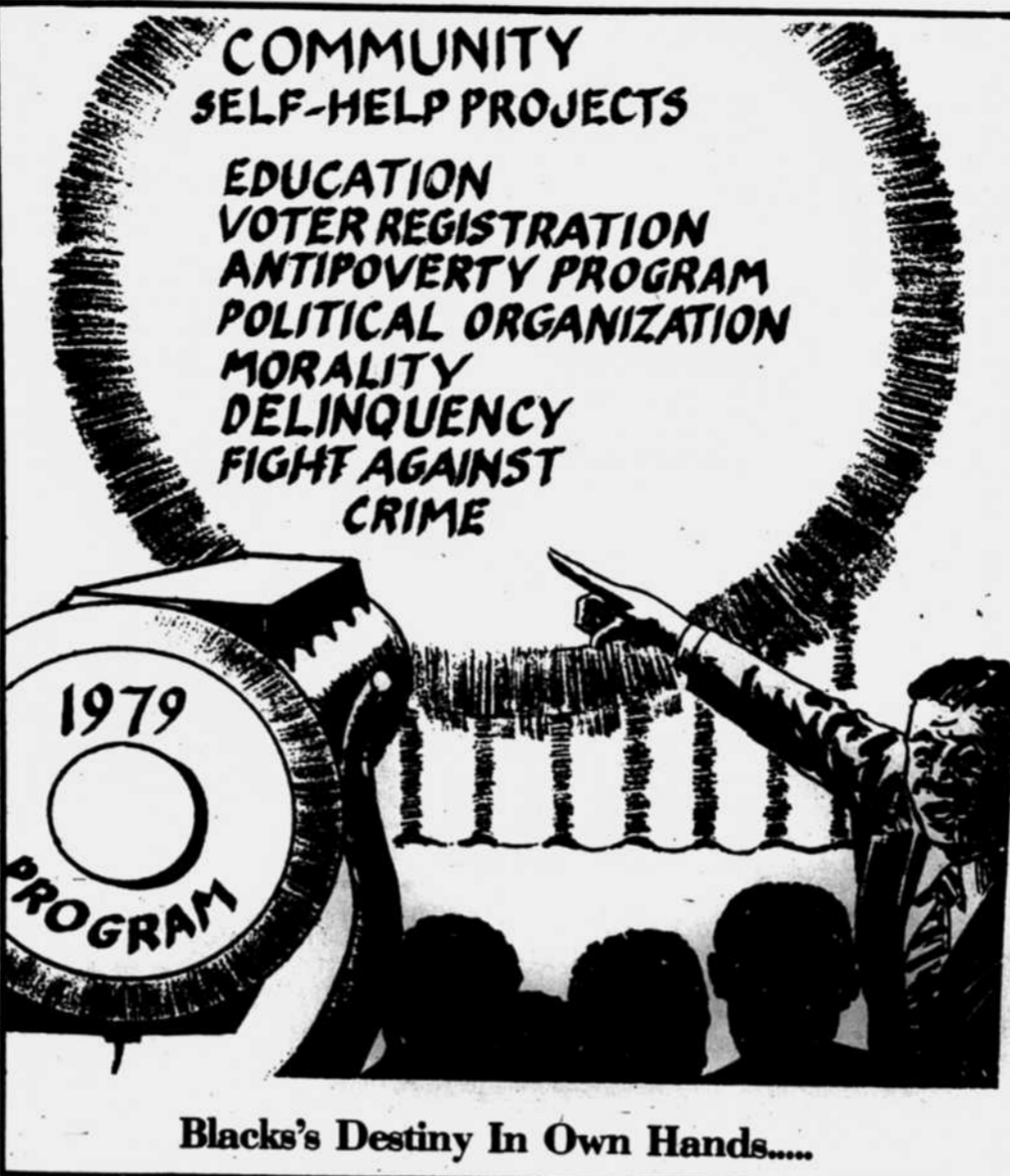
Thus, with the Carter Administration setting forth as fiscally a conservative budget and "State" message as might any of the Republican Presidential hopefuls of 1980, black Americans must ask the question, Is there a Presidential alternative?

This question is particularly significant because much of the nation's black leadership has already expressed a feeling that blacks should not support Carter in 1980. However, such pronouncements have usually been without any reference to the alternative Presidential hopeful and his party's philosophy. Therefore, blacks may find themselves with a dilemma on the next Presidential election day. This points out again the need for blacks to pool their resources and plan a political strategy that calls for encouraging the support of that party and candidate that best responds to community needs and interest.

us is "to compel racial groups to go to school apart from each other." Fortunately, in public higher education in North Carolina there is longer forced separation of the races

The majority of the state's black college students attending the 5 so-called black colleges do so out of personal choice, not because they must. Furthermore, these students, their parents and the alumni of these institutions are as proud of their heritage and contributions as are others who have attended UNC Chapel Hill. Because of this heritage these institutions may be predominately black for years to come by choice not by command.

Secondly, as the casual observer looks at the phenomenal growth and development of some of the younger campuses - UNC Charlotte, UNC Wilmington etc. - it becomes quite evident that insufficient funds have been and continue to be spent on the 5 black schools.



Ben Brown:

"Blacks Made Tremendous Investment In Jimmy Carter"

by John W. Templeton
Special To The Post

RALEIGH - Ben Brown, deputy chairman of the Democratic National Committee, sees himself as somewhat of a stockbroker for black Americans.

"Blacks made a tremendous investment in Jimmy Carter," said Brown during an interview following his speech to the N.C. Association of Minority Public Officials last week.

"I want to make sure they receive their share of the dividends," said the architect of Carter's successful black vote strategy in 1976.

Although there are many who think that the 95 percent black vote on Carter's behalf has not yet been adequately repaid, Brown remains staunchly behind Carter.

"There is some dissatisfaction, Brown acknowledged, because the administration can not possibly meet all the expectations of our constituencies.

"If you look at the positive side, the record of the Carter administration had been applaudable," he said. "There have been significant gains made as a result of action by this administration."

He cited the 15 blacks working as professional staff at the White House and blacks appointed to non-traditional jobs such as under secretary of the interior and U.N. ambassador.

However, he acknowledges some bias on his part. During his speech, Brown told the officials, "I'm on the Carter

team; I will defend the Carter team. When it gets too hot for me to defend them, then I'm going to find myself a new team."

Brown is a fortyish Georgia State Senator and former SNCC organizer who joined the Carter campaign early and became part of what some termed the "Atlanta Black Mafia." As the highest ranking black in the Carter transition team, he was said to have wielded tremendous power in deciding which blacks got which posts in the administration.

But now, as a party official in the middle of a presidential term, his role is one of bringing administration policies out to the grassroots level.

So, when Brown spoke to the officials, he didn't talk about grand new programs, he picked up the theme of a number of administration officials during the Carter anti-inflation campaign.

The deputy chairman spoke of "hard, new realities" facing the black officials. His list of five included the inability of the federal government to pick up the tab for all social services and the tax-cutting mood sweeping the country.

Brown said the anti-tax mood "simply means reordering priorities for government. People are not so much concerned about how much government is spending as they are about whether resources are properly spent."

He told the officials, "We cannot let bigots take the ball and frighten people into

massive cuts in social services. We have to be smart enough to have an alternative."

Looking across the crowded ballroom at the Raleigh Holiday Inn, Brown noted approvingly the more than 150 black officials.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mrs. Holmes

Is Totally

Professional

As former P.T.A. members and teachers of Wilmore school, we wish it known that we agree with the transfer of Mrs. Holmes; however, we do not agree with the manner in which it was done.

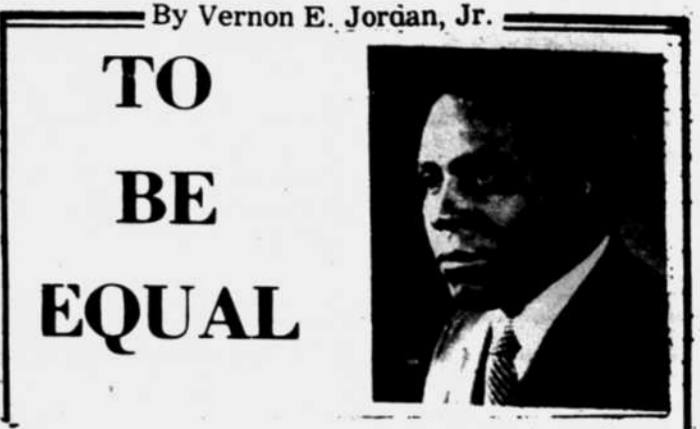
It is true that Mrs. Holmes is totally professional, so professional that she tries to carry out every facet of Board policy.

Mrs. Holmes' first concern is the education of the child. After all, isn't that what education should be?

Working with Mrs. Holmes over the years we never found her inadequate. She was always willing and eager to hear what parents and teachers had to say. Children always received individual attention from her in spite of her busy schedule.

We know Mrs. Holmes' capabilities and we wish for her the very best in her new assignment.

The Wilmore School Family



Federal Budget Slows Growth

Living up to its advance billings, the administration has proposed a tight and austere Budget. Too tight. Too austere. If Congress passes it in all its particulars, chances of a recession by year-end will be increased, and our social problems will worsen.

But the Administration does deserve credit for its emphasis on targeting programs. Given the President's mandate for a relatively low deficit and for slashing the domestic side of federal spending, the budget-makers acted with a degree of compassion often missing in Washington.

A serious attempt seems to have been made to keep services to the poorest citizens intact. Spending has been cut, but programs have been reshaped to try to make maximum use of the available funds for those most in need.

For example, while trimming expenditures for education the Administration is planning increases in subsidies to schools with disproportionate numbers of poor children. Public service jobs are being cut back, but those aimed primarily at the neediest will be preserved.

As austere Budgets go therefore, this one could have been worse. But that doesn't mean it is good. In fact, the opposite is true.

The Budget is based on the assumption that federal spending has to be trimmed to get inflation under control. But the Budget's impact on the inflation rate is minimal. And even if a tighter Budget was necessary, why does all the trimming have to come out of necessary domestic programs?

There's no belt-tightening at the Pentagon, for example. Defense spending will get a ten percent boost in the coming year. And this is on top of an enormous backlog of unspent appropriations from previous years. In fact, there's a real danger that the Pentagon will start spending some of that huge backlog of funds, with the result that inflation really might heat up.

The Administration prides itself on a zero-based budgeting process that puts all federal spending on a priority basis, elimination and cutting where priorities are lowest.

Then how come funds for jobs, housing, and urban programs will shrink while military spending goes up? Almost \$600 million will be cut out of public service jobs for example, less than the cost of the new MX missile expenditures in fiscal 1980.

That reflects distorted priorities. So too, does the deep cut in the number of subsidized housing units. So too is the failure to initiate new programs needed by the poor. The Administration won't renew its plan for soft public works projects - the kind of labor-intensive public jobs that puts unskilled workers on the payroll.

Given the public mood about spending and taxes, the federal Budget has to be air tight, with every penny targeted to programs that deliver essential services. Few would argue that even this austere Budget has programs that might be trimmed or eliminated with no great loss to the nation.

So, calling for a more pronounced tilt toward programs that benefit the poor, the sick, the jobless and distressed cities isn't a plea for budget-busting; it's a call for minimum efficient use of our nation's scarce resources.

Some voices of protest are being heard. House Speaker O'Neill complained about cuts in summer jobs for youth, cuts in job programs.

Issues Order To Aid Black Colleges

President Carter Responds To Minority Private Sector

WASHINGTON, D.C. - National Business League President Dr. Berkely G. Burrell acknowledged today that President Carter has issued an Executive Order to all federal agencies to take affirmative action to increase the share of federal procurement and research and development dollars to Black colleges and universities. The order, tailored after the President's 1977 order on minority business procurement, was viewed as a positive response to the urgings of NBL's National Council for Policy Review (NCPR).

In a statement today, Dr. Burrell, NBL's tenth President and Chairman of the NCPR, said: "On June 7, 1978, the National Council for Policy Review met with top Administration Officials and called for a more equitable distribution of federal resources to the minority private sector. Of particular concern then was the evident disparity in the level of resources being channeled to our Black colleges and universities. This gross disparity places our Black colleges at a competitive disadvantage with their white counterparts. Of the billions of dollars that

flow from the federal government to educational institutions annually, only a minute percentage reaches our Black institutions.

"These federal funds represent the kind of capacity building resources so desperately needed in our Black institutions. Council representatives challenged the Administration and the Department of Health Education and Welfare to do a better job of allocating resources to Black educational institutions by going beyond the traditional Title III funding source. The President's action indicates that our message did not fall on deaf ears and that the movement to strengthen and expand our Black colleges may now receive some much needed impetus from the federal government."

Dr. Burrell indicated that in the Fiscal 1980 budget, more than \$90 billion will be expended by the federal government through procurement search and development funds. With implementation of the President's order, Black colleges and universities may now have an opportunity to access these capacity building resources in the same manner as Harvard, MIT and other

major white institutions.

He added: "Black colleges continue to produce the majority of educated Blacks in this country. By accessing the vast pool of federal resources, our colleges will be able to

Dr. Dudley:

"Good Nutrition Is Base Of Healthy Bodies, Teeth"

SPECIAL TO THE POST
RALEIGH - "Good nutrition is the base of healthy bodies and healthy teeth," Dr. George Dudley, head of the Dental of Human Services Program, Division of Health Services, North Carolina Department of Human Resources, said.

"But what most people don't realize is just how damaging constant intake of sugar is to teeth and gums. An individual, particularly a child, would be better off eating all of the sugar he or she is going to eat during the day at one time rather than eating small amounts of sugar several times during the day."

"So many things have sugar in them - cereals, juice, soft drinks, canned vegetables, etc. In fact, people don't realize that sugar is added to many things they eat includ-

ing, in some instances, table salt. "People can recognize the hidden sugars in foods by reading labels. Sugar is listed under several names such as sucrose, glucose, corn syrup, coconut oil or dextrose. All of them can be changed to acid in the mouth producing, over a period of time, dental diseases."

"What happens when people eat sugar is that it breaks down rather quickly in the mouth to form acids which cause dental cavities and gum diseases," Dudley said. This can be counteracted to a great extent by proper brushing and flossing.

"The problem can be particularly severe in very young children. One dental health problem we see often in North Carolina is a condition

called bottle decay. This may happen when a mother leaves a bottle in her child's mouth for a long period of time to comfort the infant. The bottle may contain juice, soft drinks or even milk. Soon the upper teeth have decayed because the bottle containing liquids with sugar is repeatedly left in the baby's mouth," Dudley said.

"This causes several problems. Secondly, since the child's baby teeth guide the permanent teeth, the child with bottle decay may develop problems with the formation of permanent teeth. This could lead to speech problems and later socialization problems," Dudley said.

Sound dental health nutrition education is a major component of preventive dentistry programs in schools and health departments

across North Carolina. The National Council for Policy Review is a coalition of more than fifty national minority business, trade and professional associations.

Sewing Machine

A balky sewing machine may just be a machine that needs oiling.

Using an oil made specifically for this purpose, oil the machine in areas specified by the sewing machine manual, suggest specialists with the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.



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