

# Editorials & Comments

## Blacks On Brink Of Disaster

by HOYLE H. MARTIN SR.  
Post Editorial Writer

"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 America's black people."

These disturbing words were uttered last month by Vernon E. Jordan, president of the National Urban League, as he released the results of a comprehensive study of the health, educational, economic, political and social welfare of the nation's black citizens.

Ironically, the study, which is titled, "The State of Black America - 1979," was released just one week before President Carter made public the Federal government's "lean and austere" budget for fiscal year 1980. In fact, Carter's budget cuts so deeply into the traditional Democratic party's domestic social programs - built up over the past 45 years - that the study's documentation and predictions of a declining life style and a growing economic plight for blacks is even more evident.

Jordan stated categorically that black Americans can't afford a recession, a recession that most knowledgeable economists say will surely happen by the fall of 1979.

While reacting to the same basic concerns expressed by Jordan, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) severely criticized the budget cuts in health, jobs, housing and aid to the cities. He has argued that Carter has placed the burden of the anti-inflation fight on the backs of the poor, the elderly, the blacks and the unemployed. Furthermore, Kennedy has suggested that the budget cuts should have come in defense spending requests and from reductions in programs and tax benefits benefit the business community and the wealthy.

## Economic Priorities

What Jordan and Kennedy have said is nothing new. Throughout the history of this country, every time some adjustment, some re-ordering of economic priorities has to take place, blacks are brought to the "brink of disaster," if not disaster, and poor whites and the elderly join them in having to carry the burden of the economic changes taking place.

Ironically too, is the hard fact that inflation is harmful to blacks too, so much so that during the summer of 1978 a New York Times survey revealed that blacks too felt that inflation was the nations number one problem.

Rioting in the streets of America, as Jordan suggests may occur, is certainly not the solution to the "brink of disaster" that Black's face. What blacks and whites too must understand is that America is in need of a new economic order, an order committed to an equitable tax structure, welfare reform, a sensible defense budget and the absence of discrimination in the market place.

An economic order with these characteristics, and a new definition for the term "profit," will avoid the need for blacks to live with the

threat of the "brink of disaster," or to resort to rioting in the streets to draw attention to their plight.

With the continued eroding of the dollar by a nearly uncontrollable inflation, the newly emerging gas crisis and the growing inability of our government to administer its financial affairs, we need to look to a new economic order to save us all, and we don't mean a form of warmed over socialism.

Recently released reports by the Civil Right Commission stating that nearly half the nation's minority children attend segregated schools and that most segregation occurs outside of the South should come as no surprise.

## Segregation Patter

There are in fact clear political, social and economic reasons for this development. First, because of the historical record of known and boasted about - "segregation forever" rhetoric - segregation pater of the Southern states, the federal government tended to zero-in more heavily on the South to achieve desegregation than it did on other regions.

Secondly, and particularly in the past 15 years, the rise of the industrial South led many to see the economic waste associated with segregation in school and other public facilities.

Thirdly, even in a segregated southern society blacks and whites maintained a better sense of communication between themselves than did blacks and whites in the alleged integrated North. Thus, when desegregation came, Southerners, both black and white, were able to more adequately adjust after some initial conflict.

On the other hand, thousands of Blacks were immigrating into the industrial north, that is, they moved into urban center as whites were moving out to the suburbs, thus creating new forms of segregation in schools and other facilities. The courts largely ignored these conditions in the North and instead made the South - with the help of people like George Wallace - the focal point for school desegregation.

Thus, whenever people thought about success in school desegregation they thought about the South while the North was quietly becoming more segregated.

## Black History

On our pages in our special Black History Edition we have singled out only a few of the Black men and women who were true chroniclers of Black history.

Today's Black newspapers are still dominating the Black market with news-news of community events and services, advice to homemakers, travellers, the weekend do-it-yourselfer's as well as what's for sale in the marketplace. It is in this climate of total editorial involvement, that the Black press is celebrating Black Hi History Week (February 11 through the 17th.) This year's theme is "History of Blacks In Business."

## BLACK HISTORY



**FREDERICK DOUGLASS**  
1817-1895  
EX-SLAVE WHO BECAME A GREAT ABOLITIONIST ORATOR, ADVISER TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN.



**BOOKER T. WASHINGTON**  
1856-1915  
WASHINGTON WHAT IS THE ANSWER. WHITE ACCOMMODATION ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY.



**W.E.B. DUBOIS**  
1868 PHILOSOPHER EDUCATOR PUBLISHER ORGANIZER.



**MARCUS GARVEY**  
BLACK NATIONALIST RACE WITHOUT AUTHORITY AND POWER IS A RACE WITHOUT RESPECT.



**ADAM CLAYTON POWELL**  
WE MUST GIVE OUR CHILDREN A SENSE OF PRIDE IN BRING BACK THE GLORY OF OUR PAST AND THE DIGNITY OF OUR PRESENT MUST LEAD THE WAY TO THE POWER OF OUR FUTURE.



**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING**  
"HE DID NOT EMBRACE NON VIOLENCE OUT OF FEAR OR COWARDICE, HE CHALLENGED INJUSTICE WITHOUT A GUN."



**DR. BENJAMIN MAYS**

## Planning Of The Future Generation

by Maggle Lamb Nicholson

Now that the competency test is over for this time let us get on with the planning of the future generations, our children. I have tried to get every one to see that cross bussing has failed, and since Charlotte does not want integration for our children throughout the system it certainly ought to let its little ones have a fair chance.

I feel that those persons who think of themselves as a minority did very well because they had been taught that being beautiful was enough and they did not have to compete. They knew the quota system would give them a token to look up to and others didn't matter. So quota and cross bussing over-powered the ability to strive for perfection.

It was proven a few years ago when the majority and minority were placed together and both made similar grades.

This brought on the desegregation law in fifty-four. No sooner the minority began to think they had it made because the quota system was instituted, which was an added evil to cross bussing.

The children are not all to blame but the whole system all of us who have given in to gossip and prejudice. When I began to tell people where they were headed I was ignored because I was colored and they would not vote for me.

Charlotte has never had neighborhood schools. Yes, separate schools, but never integrated. This is the



Dr. Nicholson

salvation of the minority races in this multi-race world, there is no such thing as a black and white world.

Our pupils, schools, homes, news media all teach an inferior and superior race. Two kings can not rule one throne but both can see it that the proper rule is made. Let's see

## "Thank You" Sincerely For Article

LETTER TO THE EDITOR  
Mr. Bill Johnson  
The Charlotte Post  
Charlotte, N.C. 28202

Dear Mr. Johnson:  
In recognition of the newspaper article featured in the Charlotte Post on Thursday, January 11, 1979, about my class and me as we prepared our newspaper about Martin Luther King, Jr. in honor of his birthday, may I say "Thank-You" most sincerely.

It is good to know that the local news media consider children's school endeavors as newsworthy.

to it that cross bussing and quotas are thrown out and teach blacks that they are Americans and they can be whatever they want to if they apply themselves.

The proper time is while they are young. Their minds are open and one child can do what ever the other can do. Guidance is so important.

Let's spend more time with them while they are little. Keep them in your prospective churches and all the organizations like YWCA, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and your home training should be healthy so when they go to school they will be receptive to learning, knowing that all people are created equal. God our Father and Jesus Christ, our elder brother. From one man, Adam, the seed of life came.

The children were very pleased and have shown even greater motivation toward research work to gather information about famous


people that many of them knew little about previously. There are other projects that the children will endeavor and we would appreciate your contact occasionally.

Again, may I say thanks to you.

Most Sincerely,  
Lionel O. Brown  
and Class

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

# TO BE EQUAL



## Ford Foundation's New Head

When the Ford Foundation went into the closing weeks of its intensive search for a new President, rumors circulated about the identities of the short list of finalists.

They were, as might be expected, an unusually distinguished group of people. And on that list was the name of Franklin Thomas, a prominent black lawyer who became nationally known through his successful leadership of the community-based Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation.

Skeptics said Thomas wasn't a serious possibility. The Ford Foundation, a mainstay of America's elite establishment, would never turn over its reins to a black man, they said.

Well, they were wrong. The Foundation did indeed choose Frank Thomas to be its next President. And that move has enormous implications for our society.

The first of these is that it signals to all black people that our aspirations are indeed attainable. Black people have never been satisfied with tokenism in any of its forms. As blacks made their way into middle management positions, they continued to aspire to the top.

Frank Thomas' appointment as head of a major bulwark of American institutional life heralds a new era of black inclusion, not only as soldiers in our society, but as generals commanding its heights.

That's a message that needs to be absorbed by all our young people. Doors are not merely open now, but black people are beginning to go through them. The Thomas appointment means that blacks with the intellect, experience and talent can aspire to the top. And it means that black youngsters now have the positive examples and incentives to make the full use of their abilities in the knowledge that they too, can make it to the pinnacle of our society.

It would be hard to exaggerate the importance of Frank Thomas' new position. The Ford Foundation is at the center of power in America. It not only controls several billion dollars, but it wields an influence far beyond the monetary value of its grants. And its board is drawn from the cream of America's elite. They - and the Foundation they administer - frequently set the tone for other leadership groups in America.

Herein lies another important message in the choice of Franklin Thomas. The leaders of the Foundation are signalling America's leadership that the time for blacks at the top is now. The implicit meaning of the Thomas appointment is that there is a cadre of skilled black leaders capable of heading any of our important institutions, including major leadership roles in the private sector.

The appointment is also eloquent testimony of how much America has changed. Blacks moved from near-total powerlessness to a stage of moderate gains. Their relations with major power blocs in our society though, remained marginal. Real power remained concentrated in other hands.

Now, at the Ford Foundation at least, a black man controls money and policy to a degree unprecedented in our history. And since Ford is a pace-setter, other institutions should not lag far behind.

A word is due both Frank Thomas and his distinguished predecessor, McGeorge Bundy. Frank Thomas grew up in the streets of Bedford-Stuyvesant. He knows what it means to be poor, and he knows what it takes to renew urban communities. At a time when many Americans have reached an ugly consensus of indifference toward cities and minorities, he can be expected to act with compassion and with hard-nosed initiatives to revive our communities.

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## The Impact Of Black Votes Black Candidates Suffer Some Major Losses

Washington, D.C. - The impact of the Black vote in last November's elections was clearly seen in key races throughout the nation, according to a survey by the Joint Center for Political Studies.

Black candidates suffered some major losses with the defeats of Senator Edward Brooke in Massachusetts and of Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally and Attorney General candidate Yvonne Burke in California, but scored gains in statewide races in Wisconsin, Illinois, and North Carolina.

Wisconsin voters elected their first Black statewide official, a woman, Vel Phillips, who will become Secretary of State. Roland Burris was elected state comptroller in Illinois. Richard C. Erwin was elected to the North Carolina Court of Appeals by a margin of 200,000 votes, thus becoming the first Black North Carolinian to hold a statewide position since Reconstruction.

Other statewide office-holders were re-elected: Richard Austin as Secretary

of State in Michigan; Henry Parker as Treasurer in Connecticut and Wilson Riles as Superintendent of Public Instruction in California.

The Joint Center survey showed that the Black vote, though for the most part remaining Democratic, did go to Republican candidates in significant numbers in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Michigan. In 10 wards, that were 80 percent Black or more, in Philadelphia, Blacks gave 52 percent of their vote to winning Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Thornburgh.

In 4 wards in Chicago, incumbent Republicans Senator Charles Percy and Gov. James Thompson, received 33 percent and 24 percent of the Black vote respectively. Sample Black precincts in Detroit showed that Blacks gave 29 percent of their vote to incumbent Republican Gov. William Milliken, who was re-elected.

Blacks also provided significant support to Republican congressional candidates Paul Tribble in

Virginia, and Ed Bethune in Arkansas. Tribble drew 29 percent of the vote in sample Black precincts; Bethune, 44 percent. Black Republican candidates running for congressional seats, however, did not fare well. Although 14 ran for office, 13 lost by lopsided margins, and one won in the Virgin Islands.

All 12 members of the Congressional Black Caucus who sought re-election won their races. In addition, William H. Gray, D-Pa., was elected in Philadelphia to replace Robert N.C. Nix; Julian Dixon, D-Calif., was elected to replace Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; Mickey Leland, D-Texas, was elected to replace Barbara Jordan; and Bennett Stewart, D-Ill., was elected to replace the late Ralph Metcalfe. Dr. Melvin Evans was elected as the non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives from the Virgin Islands. Evans is a Republican who formerly served as Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Although most incumbent Black state legislators across the country won re-election, the total number was reduced from 294 to 284. The change came as a result of incumbents being defeated, retiring, or running for other offices. A total of 13 states lost Black state legislators. However, legislatures in Alabama, California, Florida, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Tennessee, added Black members.

Although precise overall Black turnout could not be measured, overall voter turnout in congressional districts with Black majorities ranged between 12 and 49 percent. Nationwide, in all 435 Congressional districts, turnout among all voters was estimated at 34 percent.

In hotly contested races, Black turnout was very high. In Philadelphia, a proposed change in the city charter to allow Mayor Frank Rizzo to seek re-election next year, was defeated. The proposed change was opposed by Black leaders. In the predominantly Black Pennsylvania Second District in Philadelphia, turnout of the voting age

UNCC

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Establishes

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Lectureship

A lectureship has been established at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in memory of Dr. Dale Arvey, former chairman of the Biology Department, who died Jan. 29.

The first lecture, which had been scheduled before Arvey's death was held Feb. 2 and named in Arvey's memory. It featured Dr. Harriett Barclay, a professor emerita of the University of Tulsa.

The lectureship is sponsored by the UNCC Wildlife Club and is expected to be an annual event. Dr. Arvey was a widely known ornithologist.

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Most Home Fires

According to authorities, most home fires start at night.

At that time, smoke and poisonous gases can overcome and kill members of a sleeping family before they become aware of fire, say specialists with the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.

A smoke detector is a small investment, but it can save your family's lives.

If you limit yourself to one detector, the best place to install it is on a hallway ceiling in the bedroom area.

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Start At Night

