

Editorials & Comments

Affirmative Action, Which Way?

BY HOYLE H. MARTIN SR.
Post Editorial Writer

The 1968 report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder - better known as the Kerner Commission - said quite bluntly, "This is our basic conclusion, our nation is moving towards two societies: one black, one white - separate and unequal."

Today, more than 10 years later, many are wondering whether there has really been any change away from the "two societies." The report itself causes continuous wonderment as it says further, "race prejudice has shaped our history decisively in the past; it now threatens to do so again."

One such threat has been in the uncertainty of the Allan Bakke 'reverse discrimination' Supreme Court decision. Another has been in the high court's refusal to rule on an alleged racial discrimination suit brought by blacks against J. P. Stevens and Co., even though the appellate court agreed the textile firm had violated civil rights laws. In yet another case, Brian Weber, a white worker at a Kaiser Aluminum plant in Louisiana, is suing to remove the plant's affirmative plan by alleging it's a form of 'reverse discrimination.' Furthermore, White House attempts to create a single job-bias agency to enforce all equal employment laws and regulations has been strongly resisted by most federal departments and agencies.

On the other hand, many-black and white - have begun to see the charge of 'reverse discrimination' as the fraudulent charge that it is. For example, a U. S. District

Judge has dismissed a Sears Roebuck and Company lawsuit challenging the federal government's authority to enforce laws against job discrimination. And recently the Supreme Court upheld the 10 percent 'set-aside' for minority contractors under the Economic Development Administration's local public works projects.

These differing views expressed by the federal courts might lead to the question, 'Affirmation Action, which way?' Nevertheless, the Post does not agree with the view of the recently formed National Anti-Weber Mobilization Committee that if the Supreme Court upholds Weber's 'reverse discrimination' charge, 'it could signal the end of affirmative action programs affecting millions of workers.'

Our point is that as significant as the Brian Weber Case is, likewise the Bakke Case before it, the struggle for equality and justice will continue no matter what the outcome of Weber is. This is evident by the fact that the Bakke Case, and all the civil rights and voting rights laws and executive orders before it, did not reduce the need for a strong civil rights movement rooted in community organizations of largely minority populations.

Therefore, no one law, executive order or court decision, even if in the affirmative, can serve as a panacea for all the efforts to deny blacks and other minorities their equal rights. Thus, the struggle for equality will continue for an eternity or at least until all mortal men begin to realize that in the sight of the Almighty God all men are equal.

Blacks Criticism Of Blacks

The Post was pleased to run a story (May 24) about City Councilman Charles S. Dannelly being selected 'Man of the Year' by the Sixth District of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at a recent meeting in Charleston, S. C. A spokesman for the fraternity said Dannelly was chosen for his 'outstanding record' in the fraternity on the local, district and national levels, civic and public school affairs and his total commitment to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area."

While reading this good news about our District 2 councilman, we were also reminded of a very sad state of affairs. This indicates a growing movement by blacks to oust black elected officials from office. This is being done by political apathy - failing to register and vote, failing to offer moral support on crucial issues by attendance at council meetings and failing to keep abreast of current political issues.

Furthermore, black elected officials and other political leaders are often accused of being unresponsive to community needs when too often they are given unrealistic demands.

For example, Carl Stokes, a former mayor of the city of Cleveland, has said that while serving in that city's highest elective post many blacks assumed that he had unlimited powers to do anything. When this does not occur many blacks become disillusioned. Ironically too, some black leaders contend that when a white leader is unresponsive the black constituency remains silent.

Is there any wonder that blacks still comprise less than one percent of all the elected officials in the nation?

This phenomenon was very evident during the city's last mayoral election when an influential black political leader endorsed a white candidate with a questionable city council voting record over a black

candidate. We are not suggesting that black candidates should be endorsed just because they are black but we are saying that they should be given just as much opportunity for service as anyone else.

Another example of a black leader put-down occurred when the Rev. Jesse Jackson began his 'Operation Push for Excellence' among high school students.

THE KKKLUX KLAN IS TURNING 12-TO-17-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN INTO GUN-TOTING, CLUB-WIELDING RACISTS IN ITS OWN VERSION OF ADOLF HITLER'S INFAMOUS YOUTH MOVEMENT.

"WE DON'T HAVE TO TEACH THEM TO HATE NIGGERS - MANY OF THEM DO ANYWAY," SAID KKK IMPERIAL WIZARD BILL WILKINSON BUT OBVIOUSLY WE WANT TO BRAINWASH AND TO INDOCTRINATE THESE KIDS TO CARRY ON OUR WORK," WILKINSON, WHO SOLD HIS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING BUSINESS TO RUN THE KLAN FULL-TIME FROM ITS HEAD-QUARTERS IN DENHAM SPRINGS, LA., SAID KLAN YOUTH CORPS ALREADY EXIST IN 15 STATES - BUT A MASSIVE RECRUITING CAMPAIGN IS NOW UNDERWAY. "THE NIGGERS THINK THEY CAN TAKE OVER," SAID 13-YEAR OLD ANGELA FAULK, WHO JOINED THE CORPS WITH HER MOTHER'S BLESSING "THEY'RE TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE SCHOOLS AND STUFF, AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S RIGHT."

"SOME PEOPLE MAY THROW UP THEIR HANDS IN HORROR AT WHAT WE'RE DOING," HE GRINNED, "BUT WE FEEL IT'S THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE."

BY JOSEPH CASSEY
NATIONAL ENQUIRER



Black Leadership Will Not Let This Go Unanswered...

Down To Business Curbing Inflation

By Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell
President
National Business League
Special to the Post

Problems with inflation have become common-place in the American economy in recent years. Just a few years ago, we were told that inflation seemed hopelessly stuck at 5.5 percent. Now we're being warned that inflation may be frozen at 7.3 percent. Bringing current inflationary patterns under control is essential if we are to address such major problems as unemployment, urban revitalization and minority economic development. Important federal initiatives cannot be implemented so long as the rate of inflation continues its upward movement.

President Carter and his Administration have recognized the importance of controlling inflation, and have elevated that issue to a top economic priority. We applaud the President for confronting this issue, and pledge our support to a sound anti-inflation fight. Those of us in the minority community, particularly in the minority private sector, know full well the immediate dangers of continued inflationary pressures. Real disposable incomes shrink, and consumers find themselves struggling simply to cover essential expenses.

When that happens, businesses find out in a hurry which of their products or services the people consider essential. For a large number of minority firms, that spells trouble. The reason is simple. Most minority firms are engaged in retail trade and the services. Their livelihood depends, in no small measure, on the level of disposable income in their market area. If the level is low, their products don't move from the



Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell

shelf, and their services go unused. Consumers find ways to cut corners by either providing the services themselves or going without them. In either case, business suffers.

While Americans of all income brackets have become accustomed to higher prices, they have also developed an instinctive sense for limits. There is a limit to their willingness to pay higher prices for what they consider less than essential products and services. Unfortunately, for many minority firms, that limit is reached even in good economic times. During high rates of inflation, they teeter on ruin.

That is why in examining the President's options in controlling inflation, we do not find imposing wage and price controls as objectionable as many have labelled it. The alternative is voluntary controls on business and labor. Past experience has proven this system to be unworkable. Wage and price controls are no long-term solution to inflation. At best, they are temporary, stop-gap measures. But they have proven to be the only effective measures for halting the inflationary spiral and stabilizing prices.

The last point is critical. If we do not stabilize prices, we cannot hope to achieve the other important element in any anti-inflation program: public confidence. The consuming public is perhaps the single most important element in any anti-inflation program. The public must have confidence in the integrity of our Government leaders and in their ability to devise programs that are equitable for all segments of the nation. Without that confidence, the fear of inflation will nullify even the most imaginative anti-inflation program.

Thus, if we are to turn our economic policy around, we must not only fight inflation, but inflationary expectations as well. This is not a new message. Many of us have offered the same advice to previous Administrations. But it should carry weight for many minority business firms if they remember that the higher the rate of inflation, the less essential their products and services become to a skeptical public. It is in that light that we should get down to the business of joining the President in the anti-inflation fight.

MAA Raffle

The Metrolina Athletic Association will hold a raffle and membership drive on Saturday, June 9 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Tryon Mall.

A 1 1/2 gallon ice chest will be raffled off to benefit a Police Athletic League football team.

Raising money for youth sports is the purpose of the two-year old Metrolina Athletic Association.

For more information contact Dexter Hayes at 373-1490 or Don Robinson at 376-0947.



Randolph: A Man For All Seasons

The death of A. Philip Randolph at the age of 90 removes a strong link with the past. The civil rights movement is often so preoccupied with its daily battles that it can ill afford to forget its roots. Mr. Randolph's creative presence, even in his long and honored retirement, was a constant reminder of those roots, and a spur to excel as he did.

His career spanned over sixty years of intense activism, of unrelenting efforts to bring equality to black Americans.

His career was studded by confrontations with three Presidents, with industrial giants, with the labor movement, the army, and the Klan. And he emerged victorious from all of them.

The man President Woodrow Wilson described as the most dangerous man in America was responsible for some of the most important breakthroughs black people have made.

He is perhaps best known for spurring unionization of black workers. At a time when blacks were strictly segregated, barred from many unions, and forced to work for menial wages at whatever jobs white workers didn't want, Mr. Randolph won a bitter, decade-long struggle to organize the railroad porters.

The creation of that union, in the face of incredible obstacles and against the opposition of the Pullman Company, then one of the most powerful industrial giants in the country, helped shape black strategy and tactics for a generation.

It also opened the largely segregated American labor movement to black workers in a way it never had been before. By the time the AFL and the CIO merged in 1955, Mr. Randolph was one of the most prominent labor leaders in the country.

In 1941, with the nation rearming and blacks barred from lucrative defense factory jobs, Mr. Randolph planned a march on Washington that horrified the Administration. President Roosevelt pleaded with him to call off the march. Randolph refused. At the eleventh hour the President capitulated and issued an executive order opening defense jobs to blacks and created a Fair Employment Practices Committee to enforce it.

That did more than open thousands of jobs to black workers, important though that was. It set a precedent, a small opening in the wall of discrimination that was broadened in later years.

Mr. Randolph's refusal to accept a Jim Crow army and his public urging of black youth to refuse to be drafted led directly to President Truman's orders desegregating the armed services.

Everyone remembers Martin Luther King, Jr. and the 1963 March on Washington, but too few recall that the March was Mr. Randolph's idea. That massive outpouring of blacks and whites led directly to the civil rights laws and the removal of legal segregation in America.

So A. Philip Randolph left his mark on America. He leaves it a far better nation than the Jim Crow, racist state of the turn of the century.

I could go on for pages more about his vast contributions to the cause of racial equality, and about his specific accomplishments.

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Background On Why Sears Should Be Supported

By Dr. Nathaniel Wright, Jr.
Human Rights Activist
Part III of a 3-part series

The concepts of great thinkers throughout history like Aristotle, Plato and Socrates, along with the Word of God as revealed through inspired men, always have been sources of direction, strength and wisdom. All of us, including the greatest minds of today, rely daily on the great truths both developed by—and revealed "unto"—others of ages past. For a brief moment, let's review a bit of that "wisdom" or principles of old as they may apply helpfully to us—and our present black leadership—when assessing the value of the "Sears Suit." We shall begin with the established principle of equity since it is affirmative (corrective) action or equity (parity) which the Sears suit seeks to bring about rather than equal opportunity which never will make up for the past injustices to us as black Americans.

The Principle of Equity
—Plato
It was the Greek philosopher Plato who, in his classic treatise, *The Republic*, Book VIII, disparages the goal of equality for the underprivileged or the oppressed by speaking of, and dismissing, on its surface, an "equality of a sort, distributed to equal and unequal alike."

It is perhaps one of the greatest tragedies of the whole civil rights movement here in America that we get into a kind of "rut," with the best of intentions, and waste our time and defeat our real purposes by being grooved, or programmed, by many of those in power into staying in that rut. Sears, undoubtedly, is an exception.

By equity (or equitable opportunity), which the Sears suit seeks to bring about, for black Americans and others, is meant the taking of some portion of undue advantage from one who holds it, and the giving of a portion of that undue advantage to the one from whom it was denied or has been handicapped in the first place by the very denial of that opportunity. Hence, in many sports traditionally, those involved share what is called "the benefit of a handicap." Let's now examine what another philosopher tells us on the same subject.

Principles of Equity
—Aristotle
Yes, "equitable opportunity" is what, in part, the Sears suit seeks. Equity, as we note in the passage quoted below from another Greek philosopher, Aristotle, seeks equality as an end result. Equality, as

Plato noted or implied, cannot be achieved through "equal opportunity." Equitable opportunity, with a restitution of advantages denied in the past, leads securely to the end result of a status of equality.

Aristotle notes in *Ethics*, Book V, Chapter 10: "Equity, though a higher thing than one form of justice, is itself just and not geometrically different from justice. Thus, so far as both are good, they coincide, though equity is to be preferred. What puzzles people is that equity is not the justice of the law courts but a method of restoring the balance of justice when it has been tilted by the law."

"We see now what equity is, and that it is just and superior to one kind of justice. And this lets us also see clearly the nature of the equitable man. He is one who, by deliberate choice, has taught himself the habit of doing equitable things, who is not a stickler for his rights to the disadvantage of others but refrains from pressing his claims even when he has the law on his side. It is a disposition of this kind which finds its expression in equity—equity which we have just shown to be a species of justice and not a disposition of a different genus altogether."

Principles of Equity
—The Word of God
"For he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity." Psalm 98:9. Throughout the rich Hebrew tradition of the Old Testament, there is a principle known as "equity and restitution." We have but to read the passages *Leviticus 25:9-55* concerning *Jubilee*, and continue into the *New Testament* with *I Corinthians 12:4-31*, to see that same principle at play, even though we have "different gifts" and different roles to play.

racial plight—have sought to bring about a condition of "equal opportunity" for black and white Americans. Since black Americans have been handicapped and denied for centuries, justice would dictate that we are due a compensatory remedy in the form of equity. The Sears suit, rightly, for us as black Americans and the nation as a whole, seeks equity and not equality. On this point alone, we feel all black Americans should be saying "Praise the Lord for Sears!"

The goals of equity (parity) and of equality are not the same. Yet, tragically, many black Americans—led by benevolent white liberal thought in the past—have adopted equality of opportunity as their immediate goal, when this only confuses and subverts the issue. One who has been held back in any race or contest can never catch up with "equal treatment." We as black - or Third World people - here and in Africa must not confuse social equality with economic and other forms of equity which are our just due.

Blacks Need Equitable Consideration
Black Americans should, doubtless by now, realize, as the Sears suit contends, that they are entitled fully to equitable and restitution damages

