

# Editorials & Comments

## It's Time For The New Politics

by Hoyle H. Martin, Sr.  
Post Editorial Writer

Last November's general election resulted in one of the lowest voter turnouts in the nation's history. Only 37 percent of the registered voters nationwide went to the polls. In North Carolina the voter turnout was even lower, only 29 percent. Among black Charlotteans, only half of those eligible to vote were registered and of the 28,000 who were registered only 11,000 actually voted in 1978. Thus, only 20 percent of the potential black voters in Charlotte voted in 1978.

With this kind of poor response to the political process, most people have no right to criticize the Carter Administration for what it has or has not done. Furthermore, the alleged crisis of confidence President Carter is supposedly experiencing is as much, if not more, the fault of politically apathetic voters.

While the number of black elected officials at the national, state and

local levels has remained about the same through the last two national elections, black youth unemployment continues to increase, allegations of "reverse discrimination" threaten Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action gains and the Carter administration has disappointed many, yet black political apathy still prevails. Thus, as long as political apathy, disorganization and ineptness continue we face the hard fact of losing the gains we've made through the years. The Rev. Jesse Jackson put this in perspective when he said, "We are the ones who must change our situation. No one's going to do it for us..."

To add to that, Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson told a Charlotte audience last year, "Public policy controls everything we do...every

facet of our lives. We'd better understand that politics is serious business."

The hard fact is that black Charlotteans have shown by their usual pattern of failing to register, or if registered, failing to vote, that they have not understood that "politics is serious business." Failure to understand this continues to be a contributing factor to poor neighborhood public services, poorly educated children, racism in the market place and the emerging threat to district representation. In order to reverse these trends we must begin a planned systematic attack on black voter apathy and offer vocal support for voter registration and voting.

We said in this column ten months ago, "The 1980 election is upon us now; now is the time for hundreds of black volunteers from every socioeconomic and educational level to begin soliciting voter registration throughout the black community." Now is the time to begin the new politics if blacks want elected officials - blacks and whites who will respond to their needs.

The new politics is vital to our survival today and for a better tomorrow for our children. The new politics or the new political strategy must include (1) long term planning, (2) an investment in money and time by blacks, (3) getting more black business and professional people involved in politics and (4) to create an awareness that an improved quality of life for black Americans must begin and be developed by black people.

Like a sleeping giant, it is past time for blacks to awaken and begin to flex their political muscles for their own self-interest. To repeat the words of Maynard Jackson, "We are the ones who must change our situation." Register today, vote tomorrow!

## "No" To Black English

By Benjamin L. Hooks  
Special to the Post

Once more, the question of whether so-called "black English" is a distinctive language that should be taught in school is rearing its ugly, destructive head.

Pushed by a number of blacks in the late 60s and early 70s as a form of cultural expression, and not surprisingly supported by some whites, the ostensible idea behind the drive to use this language form in public schools is that poor black children in predominantly segregated urban areas would learn more rapidly if they were taught in the vernacular with which they were most familiar.

Now, U.S. District Judge Charles W. Joiner is being asked to order the Ann Arbor school system to require black English as a standard learning tool. Two years ago, 11 black children who attended Martin Luther King Junior High School sued the

local Board of Education in an attempt to force it to impose black English on the system.

They claimed that the system violated their civil rights by failing to take appropriate action to help them overcome their language barrier.

The very idea that black children will be further handicapped by any imposed requirement to learn their "three R's," which they so desperately need to compete in a highly developed society, cries out for resounding protest against the black English drive.

The effort to require black English in public schools is a sin and a crime that should be condemned in no uncertain language.

No doubt, some of the black English promoters will make bundles of money from books and the development of teaching materials.

## BLACK COMMUNITY



# as i see it

### Energy Crisis:

## Real Or Contrived?

by Gerald O. Johnson  
Special to the Post

The recent increases in oil prices has continued to make already soaring energy prices soar even higher. Consumers, already distrustful of the government and big business, tend to feel that this energy crisis is a ploy to get oil prices higher. To understand the crisis one must look beyond the long gasoline lines and high prices and begin to look at the broader picture of energy.

This country is oil dependent on other nations. Approximately 65 percent of all oil used in this country is imported. The nations that supply this oil recently (early 1970's) formed a cartel and called themselves O.P.E.C. (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries). Realizing that the majority of industrialized nations depended heavily on their oil, OPEC did what any red blooded capitalist would do, that is to get higher prices for their product. In 1974 they used an oil embargo, today they are using cutbacks in production. By producing less crude oil there will be less crude for the industrialized nations to buy. Consequently, these nations will pay higher prices for the black gold.

The results to you and I are higher prices and longer lines at the pump. Even though the international oil companies benefit from these high prices they are not to blame. Truthfully, OPEC can't be held liable for their greed either, because it's human nature. Most of us in the same position would do the same.

However, if you must blame somebody, blame the govern-



Gerald O. Johnson

ment, and politicians. One primary reason why we are so dependent on other nations for oil is because we have failed to develop our own resources. Note, I didn't say we didn't have them, I said we failed to develop them. Unlike Japan and Italy, who have no natural resources and therefore must rely on OPEC for oil, we have natural resources. Why then have we not used them? Because we told the government not to allow them to be used.

Oil companies drilling in certain locations were run out because of environmental damage. No one wanted to have the ugly rigs in their backyard. No one wanted the damage to the environment after drilling ceased in their backyard.

Coal production was cut back tremendously because environmentalists said coal burning polluted the air. Moreover coal mining was unsafe and damaged the environment. Shale oil has never been supported by the government because environmentalists said that the development

of shale oil would destroy the mountainous regions of Colorado.

Nuclear energy has been quelled because of the three mile island incident. Environmentalists have complained of the ever present dangers in nuclear plants. Moreover, nuclear waste has no formal way of disposal other than being buried.

Environmentalists didn't stop here. They took their fight to Detroit and told the big auto industries that the cars they made polluted the air and they had better clean up their act. The result was unleaded gas and emission control standards that caused gasoline prices to rise and automobiles that burned that gasoline inefficiently.

Utility companies added to this country's energy development stagnation by lobbying against solar energy. Utilities are heavily over-capitalized, industries that borrow all this money to build power plants. Since they wouldn't be able to control the sun solar energy would not be run by utility companies. Consequently, a heavy backing for solar energy would indirectly be a push against utilities. The more solar units that are built the more erosion of utilities rate base. Consequently, utilities would find themselves unable to continue to borrow heavily, and unable to meet their debt obligation. They would go out of business. Because of this solar energy will never find a place in our society.

The government, which has lived up to its reputation as being a bunch of bungling, babbling, baboons, has fueled the crisis by doing nothing as usual. In 1974 when the stage was set for the way of the future, the government should

See Energy on Page 7

## TO BE EQUAL



by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

### Salt Debate Will Be Bitter

If you missed last year's debate over the Panama Canal Treaties, don't worry. The scrap over the SALT II agreement with the Russians promises to send off at least many fireworks.

This attempt to de-escalate the arms race will definitely escalate the rhetoric about national security. Hopefully, the debate will be responsible and rational, but there are already signs that SALT's opponents will be playing on irrational fears and fanning old Cold War hatreds.

The most striking thing about SALT II is how limited it is. This is no disarmament pact. It leaves both sides with enough firepower to roast everyone on earth several times over.

What SALT does do is place some cap on offensive nuclear weapons and place limits on the makeup of each country's arsenal. I won't get into the details here, but in the coming months the public will be subjected to a barrage of detailed information about arcane subjects only the experts really understand. And they disagree among themselves!

The real importance of SALT is that it continues the process of detente and strategic arms limitations. It's a long, arduous step by step process, complicated by the fact that neither side fully trusts the other.

But SALT II, if it is approved by the Senate, will lead to further negotiations. And the result will hopefully be a real cutback in deadly weapons systems and in the possibility of nuclear war.

That's why critics of SALT II who reject it because it doesn't bring about immediate disarmament are wrong. They should understand their goals can only be met over a long period of time and through limited agreements of the SALT variety.

Stronger opposition comes from those who fear the treaties will weaken our national security.

There is no evidence the treaty will give the Russians an advantage over us. Most comparisons of the two nations' strategic weapons strengths show a rough parity, and if you throw the NATO allies' arsenals into the balance, there is an edge for the West. But it's an edge we probably don't need, simply because either side can destroy the other, with SALT or without.

Defense experts and military authorities have testified that SALT II will not weaken our security, is verifiable, and is sound. Getting into some of the technicalities doesn't change the big picture.

Most of the discussion turns around whether SALT should be ratified. We also ought to consider what would happen if it is rejected by the Senate, or if it is encumbered with restrictive resolutions that lead the Russians to back off.

First, the arms race would go out of control. With SALT's restrictions out the window, both sides would go on a binge of strategic arms development that would just take the world to a new, higher level of insecurity.

Second, relations between the superpowers would be destabilized. With detente dead, a new Cold War era would begin, more dangerous than the last one because it would take place between rivals more equally matched, and conducted against a background of disillusionment and distrust bred by SALT's rejection.

### The Black Beat

## Is Today's Klan Significant Threat To Black People?

by Milton Jordan  
Special to the Post

Around the country, including North Carolina, the Ku Klux Klansmen surge forth from shadows, recruiting and showing the film "Birth of a Nation," that extols the hidden empire's virtues and promotes racial hatred.

The new Klan burns crosses, conducts recruitment drives, and generally flexes their muscles anew after many years underground.

But the Klan today says it's no longer anti-black, but pro-white. That, of course, fools no one because traditionally, being radically pro-white has always meant anti-black.

What does all this mean? What should our reasonable response be as people? Is today's Klan a significant threat to black people?

There should be little question that the Klan represents a significant threat to the peace of the community, but not just because there's a Klan resurgence. No, most of the problem stems from our reaction to the situation.

I fear we're overreacting to the Klan, and because of that not seeing the work of our real enemy behind the scenes.

Though the Klan symbolizes and in many ways personifies

the sickening concept of racial hatred, the Klan has never been, nor is it today, the real force behind racist attitudes in this country.

Racism's roots have always been planted deep in the fertile soil of economics.

From the beginning, racist concepts were based upon the philosophy that blacks should be worked in this country without compensation.

Today, the Klan's resurgence is an excellent indication that some of America's powerful economists are apparently unhappy with the whopping growth of the black consumer market over the past decade or so.

Let's consider some data:  
+ In less than 10 years, black Americans have increased their purchasing power by \$40 billion.

+ Black income, while still below white income, has been rising about twice as fast, and projections indicate this trend will continue through the 80's.

There's another body of data:  
+ Times aren't good in America today, and it doesn't look like this country will have any economic booms anytime in the near future.

+ Blacks are increasingly



Milton Jordan

joining the crowd of more and more people clamoring for fewer and fewer resources.

In other words, the rapidly growing black consumer market, the increasing demand by blacks for a fairer share of the American dream is putting a lot of pressure on some whites in this country who don't want to see blacks move out of this ridiculous black seat status.

How best to accomplish that than to resurrect one of our worst fears - the Klan, night riders, burning crosses, beatings, castrations, etc.?

The Klan's resurgence is like waving a red flag before a bull. Those who would deny

our place in America's economic and social, and political sun understand that.

I contend they're banking on our becoming completely absorbed in our battle with the new Klan. I can contend that these racist economists want us to divert much of our energy and attention to the Klan and sacrifice our economic progress.

I also contend that these strategists feel certain that our preoccupation with fighting the Klan will lead us into seriously erroneous positions.

For example:  
+ Will we argue that the Klan should be barred from using public buildings for their various displays?

+ Will we ask school boards and elected officials to take extraordinary moves to curtail the Klan's public activity?

If we do, we do that to our own detriment. If the Klan can be barred from public buildings, then how can we argue that we should be allowed to use them? If we seek laws to curtail Klan public displays, why won't these same laws be used to restrict our own activities?

There are many, many hidden troubles in our angry reaction to Klan resurgence. But how should we react?

Understand that the Klan has a right to hate us. They have a right to organize around that hate. We shouldn't be trying to deny them that right. Rather, we should be fighting to gain the kind of economic and political power that prevents them from practicing racial hatred as a luxury item.

That has been our problem historically.

We've allowed racists to practice this idiocy with little or no cost. We must begin exacting economic and political sanctions against those persons who would deny us our progress.

There's no question that we have the clout to effect the sanctions, the only question is do we have the will.

Do we have the will to support only those politicians who battle in local, state and national elected office for concerns important to us?

Do we have the will to push up our sleeves and get involved in programs that will better our communities and lifestyles?

Do we have the will to put our money only where business operators evidence a concern for our concerns? Do we have the will to hold ourselves accountable for our progress?

If we can answer a resounding "yes" to these questions, then the Klan's resurgence means nothing more than a public bluster of an outdated idea with no substance.

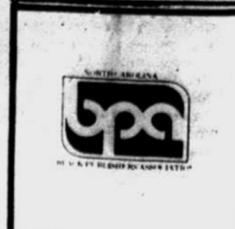
We need not fear the Klan. We need to fear only our unplanned, unreasoned reaction to the Klan.

My advice is to let's continue and escalate the business of progress and leave the Klan to its own childish devices.

### Susceptible Room

The kitchen is one of the most susceptible rooms in the house for fire. Never try to put out a grease fire with water. If you don't have a commercial fire extinguisher handy, generous amounts of baking soda, salt, or flour will do the trick.

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