

Editorials & Comments

Let's Make A Silent Revolution

The three historic events that best characterize the 1960s - the Civil Rights Movement, The Vietnam War and The Nation's Youth Rebellion Against the Status Quo and "The Establishment" - were also the seeds that exploded under the foundation of many of the nation's most cherished values and historic concepts.

Unfortunately, nearly a decade after the upheaved 60s, we as a nation have not re-built our value orientation base nor reaffirmed our commitments to many of our most cherished beliefs. Instead, we have lived for a decade with a schizophrenic economy, a fractured family structure, sexual promiscuity, and an abandonment of reason as if adrift in a sea of uncertainty. We "Americans have," says Charles A. Reich, "lost control of the machinery of (our) society, and only new values and a new culture can restore control."

In order for the restoration of control to occur, America needs a silent revolution, a "revolution (that) is the movement to bring man's thinking, his society, and his life to terms with the revolution of technology and science that has already taken place," says Reich.

We have called this a silent

revolution because it is a battle to capture man's mind from the trite and nonsense of television, pornography and the after-dinner cocktail by the use of the printed word leading to the restoration of values that have been reshaped and refined for the world of the coming 1980's.

Black poet Nikki Giovanni offered a sense of direction for the silent revolution when she told a group of librarians in Charlotte last week, "You should be happy when a child steals a book from you. You can buy another book. You're not there to keep order. You're there to start a revolution. A revolution starts with books."

Ms. Giovanni's point is that from books we get ideas and from ideas we can build the foundation for a new social order - hopefully one of justice and equality. However, we must hastily add one note of caution, that is, we must be sure that when we read, we read with our minds and not with our emotions and our prejudices. To do the latter is to defeat the very reason for reading.

When we have developed the courage to read in a quest for ideas as a basis for new or restored values, we will have begun the silent revolution leading to making your America a great America.

Space Endangers System?

Opponents of the district representation system have consistently charged that districting has led to "ward politics" and thus the overall needs of the city have been sacrificed for narrower interests. Evidence indicates that there is no justification for these allegations. The fact is, local government has been more responsive to the broader needs of the City under the districting system that it was under the at-large system.

Ironically, the new danger to district representation arises apparently from some of the same forces that oppose the system. We are referring here to reports that through the Shelter Provides Action Committee Enterprise (SPACE) the homebuilders, realtors and developers plan to give some City Council district candidates up to \$3,000 for their election campaigns.

Economic Racism

The five suits brought by the federal government charging Sears, Roebuck and Co. with race and sex discrimination is a hard reminder that racism is still very much a part of the American scene.

The suit is particularly important because Sears is one of the nation's largest employers, with a work force of over 400,000 in 850 retail stores and nearly 3,000 other selling outlets. As such, Sears is an em-

ployer-leader in the nation. The suit is also important because it deals with a basic form of the new racism-economic racism. This kind of racism can deny to a black American all - I repeat, all - of the gains made over the last 17 years in the quest for justice and equality. Therefore, a win for the government in the Sears suit will represent a victory for black Americans and the cause of justice.

THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST RATS IS A GARBAGE CAN WITH THE LID ON TIGHT!



This Is What We Can Do Now.

as i see it

WBTV Fails Viewers Again?

By Gerald O. Johnson
Special to the Post
WBTV took it upon itself to censor a recent television episode of "One Day at a Time" because the episode dealt with pre-marital sex among teenagers.

WBTV, you remember, is the same station that had a power failure a couple of years back while showing "The Great White Hope" during prime time. It later showed the movie the following Sunday at 11 p.m., with little or no advertisement on the time change.

WBTV is Charlotte's CBS affiliate that falls to show NBA Basketball on Sunday evenings because of poor rating. Instead it shows 1920 reruns of once-famous cowboys. The ratings must soar with such a great substitution. So, one shouldn't be too surprised when this great station takes it upon itself to play "Big Brother" to the area viewing audience. After all the mental turpitude of the citizenry of the Charlotte area is questionable, isn't it?

Well, two years ago I would have been thoroughly UPSET. Two years ago I didn't have cablevision or HBO.

But even though I could care less about what appears on commercial television in this area, I think the principle needs addressing.

I could agree with WBTV's views of censorship if it had any degree of consistency. But the station uses commercials that stop short of the act of copulation. They also show



Gerald O. Johnson

such sexual exploiting series as "The Dukes of Hazzard," and "Dallas." The soap operas cover every immoral act ever conceived. So, it is inconceivable to me to reason why this episode that didn't show some "peek-a-cheek" was censored.

In fact I was told that the episode maturely and humorously dealt with a subject that every teenager will face sooner or later.

Since WBTV seemingly has no policy or standard to determine what we should see and what we shouldn't see, then they should either show us everything or nothing.

This inconsistency by WBTV has caused viewers to lose faith in the station. It is obvious that good viewer relations cannot be maintained if the station uses at Ouija board to determine what the viewers will see.

The gripe I have is not with

CBS. CBS has continuously provided consistently fair programming. However, WBTV, CBS' local affiliate, has used poor judgement on several occasions.

I would strongly suggest that WBTV get a grip on the profile of its audience and address itself accordingly. Because of the rapid growth and changes in the Charlotte area, it is not a safe assumption to believe that the area is too immature or too religious to deal with current issues.

In conclusion a television station should reflect the attitudes of the community and not try to dictate them.

Drug Education

If you never seem to have enough time the Charlotte Drug Education Center has a workshop that may help you. Examining ways to manage time more effectively will be the objective of a workshop held on Thursdays, Nov. 1, 8, and 15 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at the center. Call 374-3211 for reservations.

Learning to deal positively with loneliness from being unattached, uncommitted or a single parent will be the goal of a workshop sponsored by the Charlotte Drug Education Center. This workshop will explore ways to meet others and how to spend time creatively. It will be held on four consecutive Wednesdays beginning Nov. 7 from 7-9 p.m. at the center. Register by calling 374-3211.

From Capitol Hill

Black People Are Not Spineless Parasites

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Bayard Rustin in his criticism of black leaders who met with the PLO in an attempt to get them to stop terrorists' attacks on Israel and to recognize the Jews right to a homeland seems to be following his same course of alignment with black opposition forces that he has done some times in the past. The 1968 New York City school strike, which erupted over a black Brownsville principal's dismissal of some substitute teachers, who were dismissed according to the regulations of the school board, the United Federation of Teachers which was Jewish controlled, since around 85 percent of the city's entire school personnel was Jewish, was called by the UFT. This being New York City's largest business, with its inferior school conditions for blacks and Puerto Ricans, was an educational and economic fight. Being a teacher in New York City during that time, I've never seen more ethnic hatred generated. It was proved that more than 5,000 pieces of antisemitic literature, which was attributed to

blacks, was actually put out by the UFT.

Yet notwithstanding, all of that Bayard Rustin heartily supported the anti-black and Puerto Rican movement and issued long written papers supporting Al Shanker and his UFT. The minorities were only seeking a chance to have the laws administered justly to them. After the UFT support by Bayard Rustin, he admitted that he had never been so severely criticized in all his life.

I've heard sharp criticisms of Mr. Rustin's television praise for the April election in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, while Dr. Maurice Woodward, an observer, called the entire election as being unfair to majority rule.

So there is no wonder that Bayard wrote this long article, recently, criticizing black leaders who met with Yasser Arafat. Perhaps Mr. Rustin doesn't know that many of our country's leaders, as well as U.N. officials are saying that there should be talks with the PLO. He said that Rev. Jackson and SCLC leaders wanted a news media play. What did he want when he



Alfreda L. Madison

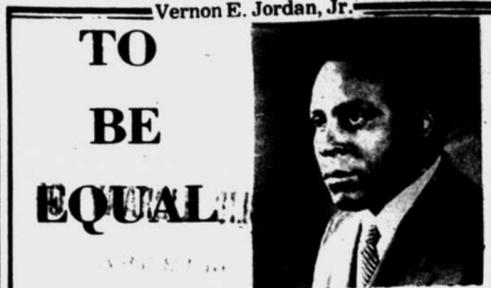
appeared on television in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia praising the April election? Mr. Rustin stated that the action of these black leaders hurt the civil rights movement. A civil and constitution right is to talk with people of ones own choosing. Surely, Jews did aid in the civil rights movement, when the action was in the south, but it has been somewhat of a different story when the movement began taking place in northern cities, where there is a large concentration of Jewish people.

The entire civil rights movement is for justice and right and one of these rights

is the freedom to express ones own views to whomever one pleases. If blacks can only talk with people who meet the approval of another group of people, or if they cannot talk with those whom someone else does not like, then their civil rights fight is in vain. That kind of action would make the purpose of the Jewish alliance one of enslaving blacks rather than one of aiding blacks in gaining freedom.

Mr. Rustin stated that "link with the PLO threatens to undermine the liberal coalition, the political alliance of minority groups, trade unions and liberals that is responsible for almost all the advances made in civil rights." Such a statement, is not only unjust to blacks but it makes them appear to be a weak, parasitic, unintelligent people. Has he forgotten that blacks were the first to strike blows for their own freedom during slavery, that thousands laid their lives on the line in the civil rights movement in this country?

Bayard Rustin, being a union man, certainly should know that the trade unions do not have an impeccable



Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

TO BE EQUAL

The Unfinished Business Of Civil Rights

There's one thing opponents of civil rights and some supporters of civil rights agree on. Both say there has been significant progress made by blacks in the past two decades, and that less emphasis should be placed on the plight of the poorest of the black community.

They come at this conclusion from different directions, of course. Traditional opponents of civil rights movement refuse to accept the need for more action to end poverty and discrimination, just as they opposed earlier efforts.

But some in the civil rights movement make an argument that goes roughly like this:

"The Great Society programs of the sixties got many people out of poverty. Yes, new programs are needed and old ones need to be strengthened in order to complete the job. But stressing the terrible plight of the poorest leads to a defeatist attitude. People will say that if so many are still so poor, then government programs don't work and we shouldn't start new ones."

I don't buy that argument at all. If we concentrate on the real progress some of us have made, we will destroy the possibility of progress for the many more people who did not share in the advances of the sixties.

If fact, stressing the positives would just lull public and politicians alike into thinking the problem is pretty well solved and new steps are unnecessary.

Worse, they'll condemn the poor for not being able to climb out of poverty, even with government help. That in fact is what is happening today.

I think we must continually remind a forgetting nation that while the Great Society programs did work, they were largely half-hearted, underfunded, and reached only a small portion of the poor.

In fact most of today's federal programs exclude more people who are eligible for participation than they include.

We affirm the real success story of the sixties - that black people made greater economic, social and political progress than in any previous period. But the fact remains that the masses of black people did not make significant progress and the recessions of the seventies eroded many of the gains that had been made.

Instead of looking backward at the recent past we've got to look forward to the measures necessary to complete the movement for civil rights and greater equality.

The big ticket items on the shopping list of necessary measures are familiar - full employment, national health, youth development, better schools and housing, and others.

But there is also a need to make existing civil rights laws more effective. There's a difference between passing a law and implementing it.

We've got a fair housing law on the books, but it has no teeth. Congress is still delaying the necessary passage of amendments that would enforce fair housing law.

Some laws have to be implemented through private action. We've got fair hiring laws, but there's still an enormous job ahead to help employers devise and set up effective affirmative action programs, training programs, and similar actions.

Prospective employees have to be counseled and taught work habits, skills and attitudes demanded by the work place.

Voting rights are guaranteed. But the incredibly low black voter turnout means a massive job in educating people to utilize their newly-won rights in their own interests, and to participate in the democratic process.

I could cite numerous other instances as well. But the point is that the civil rights movement is far from over - not by a long shot.

The imperfectly drafted and implemented laws and the need to help people benefit from federal laws and programs places a tremendous burden on community-based agencies.

track record in blacks' which their help in the civil rights movement was for

Surely blacks appreciate Jewish and everyone else's aid in their fight for justice. They want this help as recognition of a fight for human right and not as a fatherly fight for his retarded child.

If anyone were to accept Bayard Rustin's article as a truth, it certainly paints the Jews in an unfair light; one in

Planning For Retirement

"When the Job is Over: Planning for Retirement" will be the theme for the Oct. 30 session of "Human Values in the Corporate World."

George Abernethy, Ph.D. (Religion) Professor Emeritus Davidson College and Thomas Philson, personnel manager, Celanese Fibers Group in Charlotte will share their views on which values are most important for workers when they leave active employment.

The public is invited to attend this dialogue, admission free, sponsored by the Senior Scholars, Inc. that will explore issues of how



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