

Editorials & Comments

In Search Of New Education

While serving as U. S. Commissioner of Education, Ernest Boyer said in a speech earlier this year, "The dropout rate in many high schools is a national disgrace. Even though attrition has decreased, 25 percent of our high school students still leave before they graduate in some city schools it's 40-50 percent—and many do not return."

While accurate data on the dropout rate is said to be unavailable, there are signs and trends that the problem is serious and getting worse. For example, as North Carolina and many other states throughout the nation adopt competency testing programs there is a concern that the dropout rate may increase.

In North Carolina the estimated dropout rate reportedly rose by 7.1 percent from 28,200 in 1975-76 to 30,008 in 1977-78. For the same period, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools experienced a 15 percent rate increase. The National Center for Education Statistics (Washington D.C.) reports that in 1977 dropouts made up 13.6 percent of the 14-34 age group population in the country.

The percentage of black dropouts in the same age range is 20.4 percent, nearly double the 12.7 percent of whites. However, we need to note that dropouts are neither all black, male or from low-income. While it is true economic pressure or needs in the home is certainly a contributing factor to the dropout problem, but it should not be viewed in such a manner as to overlook the direct responsibility of the schools and the pressures and values in the larger society as more significant forces contributing to the dropout problem.

School counselors and school social workers say some of the early signs of a school dropout including poor attendance and class cutting. One 15-year-old helped explain this when she said while cutting class, "I don't like school. I don't mind doing the work. It's just going I don't like."

Local school officials claim that overall average daily attendance in the schools in 1978-79 was 92.4 percent. This means that over 5,000 registered students skipped school daily during the year. These include a hard-core of 2,000 to 3,000 students who regularly miss school.

Columnist Sydney J. Harris identified a causative factor in the dropout problem when he said, "children... do not 'naturally' rebel against mathematics; they rebel against the terrible way it has been taught in the past. Much as a teacher may wince at the thought, he is also an entertainer - for unless he can hold his audience, he cannot really instruct or edify them."

On the other side of the coin we see some reasons as to why teachers may not be motivated to perform as Mr. Harris suggests. Thousands of teachers, William McGuire of the National Education Association (NEA) says, are under stress because problems in the nation's schools are causing them to give up their jobs as the become victims of "teacher burnout."

Multitude Of Problems

"The problems stem from teachers not knowing how to cope with violence and vandalism, disruptive students, inadequate salaries, demanding parents... and a multitude of other problems," says McGuire. Dr. Boyer confirmed the validity of these concerns when he noted that 30 percent of all senior high schools have five or more reported crimes per month, about 2.4 million secondary school students (11 percent) have some thing stolen from them monthly and another 282,800 or 1.3 percent are physically attacked, and over \$600 million is spent on repairing vandalism damages in schools.

Add to that the problem of overcrowding in our high schools and the severe shortage of adequate counseling services, is there any reason to doubt Mr. McGuire when "No wonder the joy of teaching is being replaced by fear, insecurity, anxiety and ultimately teacher dropouts."

Another societal problem that contributes to poor grades, poor school attendance, absenteeism and for some, actual dropout, is the increasing number of students who hold full or part-time jobs. It is believed that as many as 75 percent of all high school juniors and seniors in North Carolina hold full or part-time jobs.

Many of these students view going to school as something you do after work and consider homework an unnecessary inconvenience to their jobs and free time. Compounding the problem is the increasing number of these working youth who find themselves locked-in to the pressures of automobile payments and monthly auto expenses. These then become a priority over school and learning.

These are serious problems that we as adults, parents and taxpayers appear to be giving too little attention to. Unless we want to be governed in the last decades of this century by a group of malcontent, selfish, ignorant, misfits void of any values except a hot rod and a hamburger, we had better take another look at our schools and values in search of a new education that can secure our positive traditions of the past and chart new values for the future.



MR. BENJAMIN WARD
BLACK COMMISSIONER OF
CORRECTION SERVICES
IN NEW YORK, ORDERED
EMPLOYEES TO QUIT THE
KKK PLAN OR FACE DIS-
MISSAL - SAID "THE KLAN
WAS A RACIAL TERRORIST
ORGANIZATION."

IRA GLASER, DIRECTOR
OF NEW YORK CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION, ADDED
THAT HIS ORGANIZATION
WOULD SUPPORT ANY
KLAN MEMBER IN THE
STATE WHO WANTS TO
CHALLENGE THE ORDER.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS STATED IT SUPPORTS BAKKE
BECAUSE THE 15 BLACK STUDENTS ADMITTED HAD LOWER GRADES.
THEY CALLED REVERSE DISCRIMINATION.
BUT NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT THE 30 WHITE STUDENTS WHO AT AN
EARLIER DATE HAD HIGHER GRADES THAN BAKKE.

Events That Aroused Black Leadership

As I See It

Jokes To Tell Your Friends

By Gerald O. Johnson
Post Columnist

A little boy baby and a little girl baby were in the nursery one day and the little girl baby asked the little boy baby "What are you a little boy baby or a little girl baby?" The little boy baby replied "A little boy baby." "How do you know?" asked the little girl baby. The little boy baby snatched off his blanket and said, "See... Blue Booties!"

A man went to his doctor to get some advice about birth control. He told the doctor that he was having too many kids and needed some help to stop having so many. The doctor told him that he needed to use contraceptives. "You must cover your organ," the doctor told him. Well, the man left feeling he had found the answer. Four months passed and the doctor ran into the man in a drug store. "How are you Mr. Smith," the doctor asked. "Fine," the man replied. "How's the wife?", the doctor asked. "Pregnant," the man replied. "What," the doctor said, "Didn't you cover your organ?" The man said, "Yes, Doc." "To tell the truth, I covered my piano, I don't have no organ!"

Two ditch diggers were working hard in the 90 degree heat while the boss was sitting under a shade tree reading the newspaper. One of the ditch diggers got fed up and said he was going to give that boss a piece of his mind. He got out from the ditch and stormed over to the boss and said "I don't see why we have to slave in the sun while you relax in the shade. I'm not taking it any more.... why?"

The boss got up stood next to the tree and placed his hand in front of the tree about two inches away from it. "Hit my hand as hard as you can," the boss requested. The ditch digger with fire in his eyes, reared back his fist and as head as he could swung at his boss' hand. The boss moved his hand and the ditch digger's fist tore into the tree. The boss said "That's why," and returned to his paper under the tree. The ditch digger returned to the ditch where his coworker insisted on knowing what had



Gerald O. Johnson

happened. "Did you find out why he is boss?" asked the co-worker. "Yes," replied the ditch digger.

"Why?" the coworker demanded. The frustrated ditchdigger took his hand, placed it two inches in front of his face and ordered, "Hit my hand as hard as you can!"

A young golf fanatic got depressed one day when he realized that eventually he would die and he didn't know if heaven had golf courses. Finally, he decided to find out while he was alive if there were golf courses in heaven. The young man went to a medium to find out about golf courses in heaven. After explaining the situation to the medium, she peeked into her crystal ball and because of the complexity of the situation she told the young man that he would have to return for the answer. A week passed and the young man returned to the medium. Upon seeing the man, the lady said "I have some good news and some bad news to tell you." "What's the good news?" the man asked. "Well, the good news is they have golf courses in heaven," the medium informed. The man said, "great, that's the best news I've heard. What's the bad news?" The medium replied "you tee off Sunday at 8 a.m."

Boss spelled backwards is double S-O-B. That means he's two of them!

From The White House

President Jimmy Carter's Report Card

By Alfreda Madison
Special To The Post

President Carter's performance on black concerns is not given numerical or alphabetical scores, but it can be made known best by mentioning the accomplishments and short-comings.

As a candidate he emphasized making funds available for black businesses. He has a stated goal of tripling federal purchases from minority supplies by 1980. He had made over \$145 million deposits of federal money in minority owned banks. The Economic Development Administration has exceeded the 10 percent set aside. However, the administration has not been very vigorous in implementing the Minority Business Enterprise Act. Many government agencies are not very zealous in carrying out the Act's mandates.

The President proposed changes in the Higher Education Act that would benefit black colleges. However, constant pressure on HEW to respond, adequately, to these colleges has been seriously lacking.

As a candidate, Mr. Carter spoke of reforming our tax system which is filled with loopholes for the rich. Other than a few proposals, the President has failed to follow through on his tax reforms.

When campaigning, Jimmy Carter stated that the government's welfare program should be designed to hold families together instead of being both anti-work and anti-family. As President, his welfare proposals have a national minimum benefit of two-thirds of the poverty line,



Alfreda Madison

and an unemployed parent program. However, this proposal is only for \$5.5 billion and it has a negative provision for imputing a step-parent's income to determine eligibility and an insufficient job proposal. His plan falls short of the major welfare reforms discussed in the past which were around \$20 billion.

President Carter has increased the appointment of Black Federal Judges but at the rate of his appointments, the increase including the newly created 152 judgeships will raise the number from 4.6 percent to 6 percent.

The administration has made significant gains in foreign affairs on issues of black concerns. There have been in Third World countries. Yet, there are great differences in the administration's handling of Mexican, Haitian and African

refugees and the Asian refugees.

Mr. Carter has made more black appointments than any of his predecessors. However, top level position black appointments have almost been nil. Even some of these have resigned. Blacks have been just about left out of meetings where important issues are discussed and they have often been left off the invitation list of important events. In this same light, not once has a White House correspondent for a black-owned news media been invited to any of the White House State Dinners for foreign dignitaries as members of the white owned White House media have.

Mr. Carter's National Health Care proposal falls far short of his campaign promise, even though he does support the Child Health Assurance Program and he has presented a watered-down hospital containment bill.

The administration's energy proposals, with deregulation, have caused prices to soar and poor people will find it just about impossible to have fuel during the winter. All of his energy proposals fail to provide jobs or business for minorities. Only the oil companies and other big corporations will profit by these plans.

Mr. Carter, even though signing Humphrey-Hawkins and Balanced Growth Act into law, which called for increasing employment and lowering inflation, the President has failed in vigorously supporting both of these. Inflation and unemployment are soaring. In

attempting to balance the budget he has cut CETA jobs for 1980, and social security benefits. Yet, contrary to his campaign promise to cut military spending, the President has increased the military budget.

So readers, this is Jimmy Carter's report card. Put your own ratings on it.

Blacks Score Gains In

Mississippi Elections

Washington, D.C.-The number of blacks holding seats in the Mississippi State Legislature will increase significantly as a result of the Nov. 6 elections, according to a post-elected survey by the Joint Center of Political Studies.

A total of 17 blacks won seats in the Mississippi Legislature, an increase of 11.

Blacks registered gains in other offices. Five new black county supervisors were elected, bringing the total number of black county supervisors in the state to 21.

For the first time since Reconstruction, Mississippi voters elected blacks to the office of county sheriff. Blacks won this office in Marshall County, Clairborne County, and Holmes County.



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