

# Editorials & Comments

## Revive Spiritual Leadership

In a critical look at Christianity and the religious establishment in 1965, Pierre Berton posed a nagging question when he asked, "A generation from now will still another writer, in another book be able to say that the church in the sixties continued to cater to the comfortable pew by ignoring the uncomfortable issues that lay below the surface?"

In our view, few have offered an answer to this question because of the uncomfortable fact that organized religion is in mounting disarray and increasingly out of touch with the Christianity emerging for God's son, Jesus Christ.

In our own city we can recall the affluent Myers Park Baptist Church memorializing a former pastor recently within the shadows of the mixed reception granted to the Rev. Carter Heyward a professed homosexual. Furthermore, a church offering homosexuals a place to worship openly is being planned for Charlotte. In the Bible, Leviticus 18:22 states clearly, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is abomination."

In another church here, the incorporated Grace Baptist Temple of Christ, a dispute erupted last month over who would control and operate the church property. Human misunderstanding began over some members' concern about the conduct of the pastor. A lack of "love thy neighbor" resulted in the dispute being taken to a civilian court.

In the black church the role of the pastor is significantly greater than among other ethnic groups. "The black pastor," writes THE JOURNAL AND GUIDE, "produces, gives birth to, shapes, and develops the lifestyle of the black church; the black pastor is more than a preacher of the Gospel or a minister to the needs of persons in the community or congregation. He is a social prophet and an interpreter of the times; he is a fearless proclaimer of Divine truth that is relevant to the experiences of life."

### Black Preachers

Unfortunately, many black preachers and their congregations have lost the banner of spiritual leadership and have strayed from the path of righteousness as have many white churches. This is what we are witnessing in the dispute between Reginald Hawkins, pastor of the H. O. Graham Metropolitan United Presbyterian Church and the hierarchy of the Catawba Presbytery, the governing body of the United Presbyterian churches in the Charlotte area. Hawkins' allegation of corruption in the church, the comparing of his situation to that of the suffering of Jesus, as well as the apparently year-long wait

by Catawba Presbytery before charging Hawkins with defying church authority may represent organized religion but they do not represent the brotherhood - love and Christianity - taught and practiced by Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, the allegations that Bishop George Leake and the Rev. Alton C. Hunnicutt may have been involved in the misappropriation of nearly \$92,000 in public funds designed to help needy blacks is reason to be concerned with how far our church leaders have drifted from teachings of Jesus Christ. It points out too why an unusually large number of blacks were involved in the Jim Jones People's Temple mass murder.

The loss of the black pastor's spiritual leadership, locally and across America, is evident by recent reports that black progress in the late 1970's has become a myth because black youth unemployment is approaching 60 percent; black family income is only 57 percent (61 percent 10 years ago) of that of white families; and the incident of poverty is three times higher for blacks than for whites. Therefore, we must ask, are not these losses partly a result of the absence of the black pastor's role in providing "spiritual leadership?"

### Stable Leadership

The black pastor of the 1980's has an even greater need than ever before to provide spiritual leadership. The urgency is evidenced by the fact that national polls point out that Americans, both black and white, are frustrated, angry, apprehensive and a little fearful about the future. They say they are looking for stable leadership with unquestionable credibility.

Therefore, when the black pastor speaks to his congregation, he should be seeking to encourage, inspire and challenge his people in a manner that will enable them, together, to accept the task of engaging in liberation theology to rekindle the progress of black people. This kind of spiritual leadership can and will lead to improved community organizing, more responsive elected representatives, better public services, and, more significantly, a closer walk with God and a sense of his protective arms around us.

Americans, and blacks in particular, need a definite revival of spiritual leadership and a personal reunion with God himself. Without this there is no hope and without hope there is no future.

Help yourself, help your pastor and help your country by a personal involvement with God which will lead to the spiritual leadership our nation and black people so desperately need.



A Challenge To Black Leadership

## As I See It

### Teaching Hazardous To Health

By Gerald O. Johnson

It should be required that each state in this country put up a notice for individuals taking the National Teachers' Examination that reads: "Caution: Teaching may be hazardous to your health." It has become a nightmare instead of a profession. Instead of receiving respect, teachers only get rebuffed. Imagine, if you will, being responsible for approximately 30 brats (excuse me, children) all of which come in different shapes, colors, sizes and temperaments. Add to this a pinch of 30 different upbringings, religions, parental attitudes, morals, and backgrounds, stir for a second (it comes to a boil automatically), and what do you have...a mess. Unfortunately, this mess typifies the general classroom situation in public schools across the country.

The responsibility of the teacher now becomes much like that of a tight-rope walker. With their hands tied behind their backs by legal nonsense they are expected to go in and turn that mess into something that we all can be proud of. There is one other catch! All of this for minimum wages. So, Hurry; Hurry; Hurry; for one thin property tax payment, one-one hundredth of your property value...let the sideshow begin.

Of course, teachers teach out of dedication...they don't need money. Why, just the other day at my local grocers they were selling bags of groceries by the dedication; 2 bags for 1 month dedication.

On the far real side do you think a teacher can teach in such an environment? Do you think a kid



Gerald O. Johnson

can learn in an environment like this?

Who in their right mind would try?

We have seen the results of such an environment. Teachers have become passive; students have become dumber; and the system has become ineffective.

To correct this wasteful attempt at education we must understand the basis of the problem. The basis is the control has been removed from the classroom and away from the teacher. It has been placed in the hands of those farthest removed from the source... parents and administrators. Once the control is returned to the teachers then this problem will go away.

But, the removal of school prayer, removal of the paddle, and the addition of parental pacifiers has created a situation whereby parents and children have forced administrators to control the classroom. The little monsters come to school realizing that they can do as they please, and they do.

It is up to the parents to demand that education not be spared for politics. We

must allow teachers the right to run their classes as they see fit. This includes corporal punishment. Moreover, we must realize that our public school system should be more than an expensive day care center. Finally, all of us respond better under a controlled environment. Kids are no exception. The classroom should represent the epitome of discipline and control. It's a good thing Pop Miller is not teaching anymore!

++++  
The schools became a scene of solemn farce, where ignorance on stilts, his cap well lin'd with logic not his own, with parrot tongue perform'd the scholar part, proceeding soon a graduated dunce.

-Cowper, the Task, II  
++++  
Children begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them; sometimes they forgive them.

-Oscar Wilde,  
The Picture of Dorian Gray

**Life Insurance**  
How much life insurance is enough? Charlotte families will have that question answered for them individually during the 1980 Southern Living Show which runs from Feb. 23 through March 2.

Visitors will receive a free computerized analysis showing how to combine life insurance with social security benefits to meet minimum family income needs.

New York Life Insurance Company is providing the analysis as a public service.

The exhibit uses counter top computers and information provided by show visitors.

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

## TO BE EQUAL



### Campaigners Avoid Issues

The presidential campaign is off to a bad start. Despite a field crowded with candidates, the campaign has yielded little in the way of educating the public or informed discussion on the issues that count.

All of the candidates appear to think the electorate consists of citizens who share the same center-to-right opinions on foreign and domestic policy.

Political appeals to the perception of what most voters are like results in homogenized campaigns, with studious avoidance of the issues. And one grim immediate result is to shift the center of political gravity to the right.

By refusing to break out of the mold of issues as defined by the right and solutions acceptable to the right, candidates neglect the interests of many millions of Americans, especially those who are black, minority, or poor.

Thus far the campaign - such as it is - has centered on foreign policy. Frustrated candidates charge the President won't slug it out with them on the campaign trails. Instead he's been on the job, acting "presidential" in a time of crisis. If we criticize his international actions, the candidates wail, we just look unpatriotic.

Well, that's an advantage incumbents have that has plagued opponents in the past. But such complaints get little sympathy from this quarter.

There's nothing to stop a candidate from speaking out on any issue, and some may even silently welcome the chance to avoid taking hard positions even as they complain about it.

But more important, why do the candidates feel foreign policy is the only ground for campaign debate? We have high unemployment that's going higher; runaway inflation; deteriorating cities; a housing shortage; energy problems; high poverty rates; resurgent racism, and a host of other woes.

But despite their important for the nation and its future, the candidates seem to be running away from those issues.

Black and minority voters are prime victims of campaigners' neglect. They want to know where the candidates stand on equal opportunities, welfare reform, urban aid, national health, and other issues of prime importance.

But they're not getting any answers.

This negative process is encouraged by media coverage that is more appropriate to the Super Bowl. Issues are shortchanged, personalities spotlighted. A handful of voters in Iowa or New Hampshire serve as the focus for miles of newsprint while millions of urban blacks are ignored and their needs rendered invisible.

Instead of conducting look-alike campaigns, the candidates ought to be taking bold stands to separate themselves from the crowd.

The candidate who shows some moral fervor, who advances strategies that deal with poverty and the social divisions in our society, is the candidate who will generate the excitement that pulls the dispossessed to the polls.

Black, Hispanic, and poor voters have the potential to elect the next President. Traditionally those groups don't vote to the same degree as the white middle class.

### From The White House

## Black Leaders Need To Explain Their Carter Endorsements

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post  
Some black leaders have endorsed President Carter and it's hard to see why. Surely he has appointed twenty-six black judges, and he has made more black appointments than any other President. Yet other than U.N. Ambassador McHenry and Secretary Harris, no blacks are in policy-making positions. Then too these cosmetic token acts are the showcase for the administration and those who support him.

The National Urban League's recent report states that black unemployment has risen to 25 percent. The black family income which was 61 percent of that of the white family in 1969 has dropped to 57 percent by 1979, and that black middle class has declined from 12 percent to 9 percent of all black families. The report further shows that job expansion in the private sector reveals that blacks received 5 percent, whites 79 percent and Hispanics 12 percent from 1974-1979.



Alfreda L. Madison

When these big city mayors are endorsing Mr. Carter they can't be doing this because their black constituency has fared better under his administration. So they need to explain, with true facts, their reasons.

In the President's human rights policy he has been discriminatory. He can talk about handling dissidents in Russia, but he has not uttered one public sound about the highly unjust handling of the Wilmington 10. Neither has he made any public outcry

about the terrible atrocities whites have committed against blacks in Southern Africa. He ignored blacks' request to deny Ian Smith a visa to this country. He is now highly criticizing Russia for its Afghanistan invasion, while he is right now supporting, with military equipment, King Hassan of Morocco in his conflict with the Polisario Front which is seeking liberation. King Hassan has annexed the Mauritania administered part of Sahara. President Carter's Morocco support is against the Organization of African Unity and nonaligned nations. While he is for increased immigration of Vietnamese and Cambodians, he refuses to even reply to requests from congress persons and others on the refusal, and even throwing overboard of Haitians who seek refuge in this country, to get away from the barbaric rule of Duvalier.

In the summer, a group of black ministers asked the President to take some action about the upsurge of the Klan. He is highly aware of the increasing spread of racial hatred, but there was no mention of that in the State of the Union Message. That is certainly an important state of the Union condition. He spoke about Sakharov.

Surely things are worse for all now than they were when Mr. Carter came into office. The rich excluded. Inflation and unemployment are on the increase; we have 50 Americans held hostage with no release in sight and a created hysteria of war, with an ever increasing brainwashing that our national security is in jeopardy, because of the internal conflict in a small country 7,000 or more miles away. Russia has been in Afghanistan for years. Why is it that Mr. Carter is just coming out against it now? He is attempting to support Zia in Pakistan who is more of a repressive leader than the Shah of Iran.

Recently a taxi driver said, "President Carter brought the Shah to this

country and Americans were taken hostage because of that, he tried to brainwash the public with the hostages to keep their minds off the worsening domestic problems. Then when the people began getting tired of that he came up with the threat to world peace idea. He said all of

this was a stop Kennedy act. Since Mr. Carter can't do anything about these conditions why doesn't he do like Lyndon Johnson and refuse to run again?"

It wouldn't be a bad idea if all of our leaders, including the President and congress could, be as fortunate as I was and take a ride in that driver's cab.

### Chavis To Speak At Wake Forest

WINSTON-SALEM-The Rev. Ben Chavis, a political activist from Washington, D.C., and the last of the so-called "Wilmington 10" to be released from prison, will be one of the speakers during Wake Forest University's "Black Awareness Celebration 1980" Feb. 10-16.

The week-long program, sponsored by the university's Afro-American Society, is designed to explore the contributions blacks have made to politics, religion and the arts in American society.

Chavis, who now is director of the United Church of Christ's Commission on Racial Justice,

will speak at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in Whit Chapel in what is expected to be his first public address since his release in December, 1979. Chavis was the leader of the nine black men and one white woman who were convicted in 1976 in connection with the 1971 firebombing of a Wilmington grocery store.

Subscribe to the Charlotte Post. Your support helps.



**THE CHARLOTTE POST**  
Second Class Postage No. 965500  
"THE PEOPLES NEWSPAPER"  
Established 1918  
Published Every Thursday  
By The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.  
1524 West Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28208  
Telephone (704) 376-0496  
Circulation, 9,915

---

**61 Years Of Continuous Service**

**HILL JOHNSON...Editor/Publisher**  
**BERNARD REEVES...General Manager**

---

Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid At  
Charlotte, N.C. under the Act of March 3, 1878

Member National Newspaper Publishers  
Association

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

Deadline for all news copy and photos is 5 p.m.  
Monday. All photos and copy submitted  
become the property of the POST, and will  
not be returned.

---

National Advertising  
Representative  
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.  
45 W. 5th Suite 1403 New York, N.Y. 10036 (212) 489-1220  
2400 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60616 Calumet 5-6700