

# Editorials & Comments

## Wanted: Blacks In Census Count

The U.S. Constitution requires the federal government to count every man, woman and child in the nation every ten years. The 1980 count, called the census, is scheduled to begin on April 1. When the count is completed, the Bureau of the Census will have employed over 250,000 temporary workers and spent more than \$1 billion to get a population profile of the American people.

The census, important for economic and political reasons, is of particular significance to black Americans. Census data is a primary source for determining the allocation of over \$50 billion in federal funds, the reapportionment of congressional representation, and the redistricting of state and local legislature bodies. Furthermore, census data determines state and local funding levels for issues of particular benefit to black Americans; namely housing, unemployment, health care, education and assistance to the elderly and handicapped.

Ironically, there has been an undercount in the number of minority people in the United States since the inception of the census in 1790. For example, the Bureau of the Census has confirmed that the nation's black population was undercounted by 7.7 percent (about 2 million people) in 1970, and an unknown number of Hispanic, Asian and other Americans were not counted. However, only 1.9 percent of the white population was not counted. It is a sad commentary

to note also that many blacks were not counted because of deliberate efforts on their own part to avoid the census takers for a variety of reasons.

The tragedy, or its potential from the black undercount, is most evident when we look at the implications for retaining, much less increasing, the number of black elected officials. For example, the 1980 census results will affect the congressional districts of all 15 black voting members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The census results will also affect some of the other 66 congressional districts in which the black population is at least 20 percent.

Therefore, assuring the retention these 15 seats and protecting potential black influence in other congressional districts are in themselves sufficient reasons for blacks to make every effort to be fully counted in the April 1 census taking.

It should be clearly evident too that a black undercount in 1980, similar to the 1970 undercount, could have serious political consequences by resulting in blacks being denied equal representation in the halls of congress.

Conversely, while it is impossible to predict the extent of black congressional power in 1981, it is obvious that their influence will depend largely upon how many blacks are counted in the census and how many will register and exercise their right to vote. Be counted and vote.

## Black Churches Symbols Of Strength

On March 24 an Evangelistic Crusade, sponsored by 52 Charlotte area black churches, will begin at Park Center. Undoubtedly, the crusade is part of a back-to-the-church revival

movement to stimulate renewed church attendance, possibly in the face of the growing dependence of many upon television religious programming. These developments, or at least the crusade itself, cause us to pause to ask, what's happening with our churches?

Historically, the black church in Charlotte as elsewhere, was the only social organization in American that black could claim as their own. The black church was a refuge and a training ground for those with leadership potential and it was also responsible for the inception of many other institutions - colleges, fraternal orders and mutual aid societies.

It was within this historic tradition that W. D. Dubois said over 60 years ago, "a study of economic co-operation among Negroes must begin with the church group." It was in order to establish their own churches that blacks began to pool their mea-

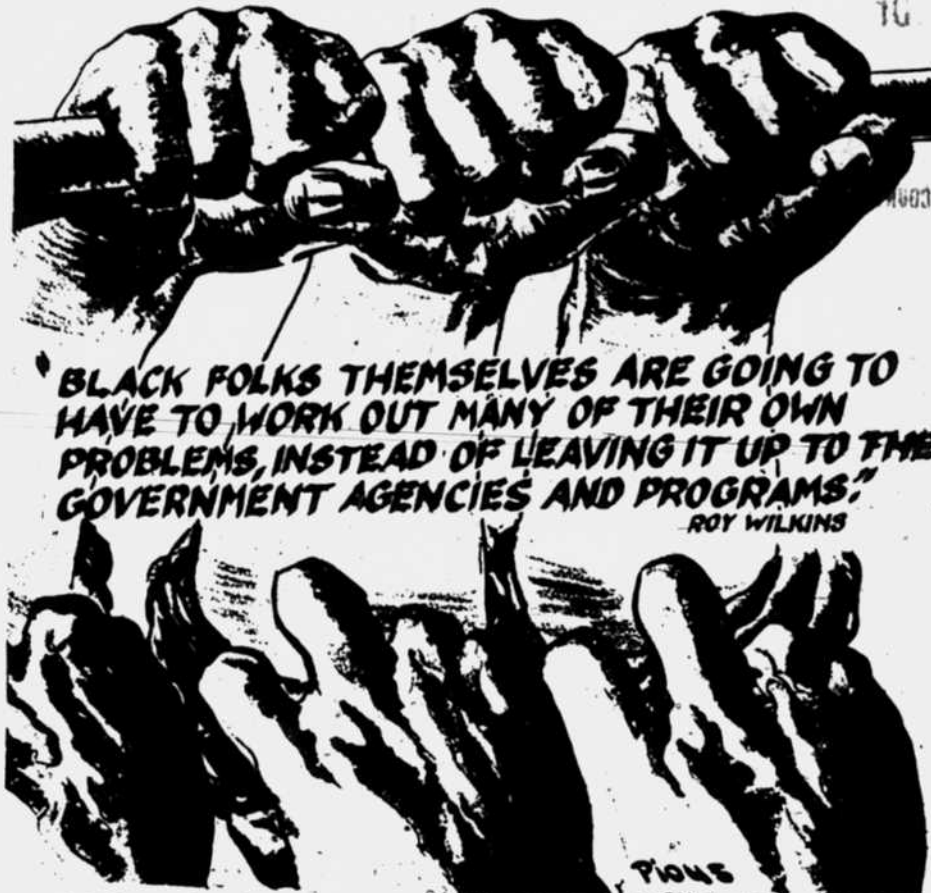
ger economic resources to buy buildings and land.

Charlotte's black churches have long ago past these early stages of development as they now have million-dollar physical plants - churches - that rank with the best in Charlotte or any other city.

Furthermore, in addition to continuing their traditional roles of Christening babies, marrying the young and burying the deceased, Charlotte's black churches have expanded their roles in the economic vein of Dubois' economic co-operation by creating credit unions and they have quietly but forcefully asserted their influence in the political arena. In a less visible way, the black church has sought to be the conscious of the black community.

In the end, the black churches are the products of those who enter their hallowed grounds in a quest for spiritual food, enlightenment and peace of mind. Without fanfare and often without credit, the black church is the glue that really holds together what we call the black community. Worship this weekend in the church of your choice.

# BLACK AMERICA ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES



**"BLACK FOLKS THEMSELVES ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK OUT MANY OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, INSTEAD OF LEAVING IT UP TO THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS."**  
ROY WILKINS

## Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands

## As I See It

### Reconstruction Of A Neighborhood

By Gerald O. Johnson  
Post Columnist

The last decade brought confusion, unrest, and unsettlement to the basic community concept in Charlotte. Integration caused some neighborhoods to go from all white to racially mixed to all black. This transformation of neighborhoods created a transient environment in several areas of our city.

This environment caused these areas to be labeled as undesirable neighborhoods to live in. Not only had white people left the areas but black people were reluctant to purchase homes in these areas. Many black people labeled the communities as "rapidly deteriorating". Thus they opted to follow white people in new areas being developed.

Having moved into one such area, I found that the biggest problem was the incohesiveness of the community. The communities had a variety of sociological, psychological and economic backgrounds. The differences in age groups was, also, a visible cause of disunity in these communities. In the past, communities were developed to attract a certain clientele. Houses were sold in a certain price range causing people with similar backgrounds and ages to purchase. Consequently, these communities started with a degree of unity.

However, communities that had undergone the integration transformation did not enjoy this luxury. This is because once a neighborhood has been established, each house



Gerald O. Johnson

takes on its own personality, the initial attraction dissipates and the community reflects the economic advancements of the individuals who live there. When the transformation hits, the neighborhood has appeal to a variety of people with various backgrounds.

Hidden Valley is one such community that has undergone this transformation. It, too, is suffering from the ailments alluded to above. However, a group of men decided that something could be done to remove the stigma plaguing the Hidden Valley neighborhood. These men with the help of the Optimist Club of Providence canvassed the Hidden Valley neighborhood and recruited individuals who wanted to improve their surroundings. The results of their efforts was the Optimist Club of Hidden Valley.

Under the leadership of president Joe Caldwell, and sponsorship of the Optimist Club of Providence, the Optimist Club of Hidden Valley is well on its way to transforming an incohesive neighborhood into one with

unity, purpose and commitments.

The club is primarily a youth activity organization. With the club motto "Friend of the Youth", the group is proceeding with registering youngsters, ages 11 to 13 for its little league baseball team.

Other youth activities scheduled for the near future are a voter registration drive for 18 year olds and a bicycle safety week.

The club is also active in community activities. Signs have been placed at both entrances of the community indicating the presence of the optimists. A survey was recently distributed in the community as a means of determining the future priorities of the community activities.

The new Optimist Club of Hidden Valley brought men of various backgrounds together in pursuit of a common goal - the betterment of a community. For the first time in more than a decade Hidden Valley is showing signs of cohesiveness. It shouldn't be long before stigmas that have plagued this community are gone forever.

Hats off to the men of the Optimist Club of Hidden Valley.

#### A Note of Sadness

It is with great sadness to have learned of the death of Ernest Cherry. Mr. Cherry was my gym instructor, coach and friend during my years at Northwest Junior High School. I would like to give my condolences to the Cherry family. Though Mr. Cherry is gone, the admiration I have for him will live on.

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

TO  
BE  
EQUAL



## Curing Inflation - Who Pays?

Recently there have been calls from the most unlikely sources for imposing a wage-price freeze or mandatory controls on the economy.

Public opinion polls have consistently shown a majority of Americans favor controls, and some liberal politicians have been talking about the need for controls for some time.

But the new calls for controls are coming from some of the most respected conservative bankers, businessmen and economists. Their conversion is based on the perception that inflation has broken into the runaway stage, and on the feeling that some sort of shock-treatment is needed to halt the relentless escalation of wages and prices.

Just about everyone agrees controls won't do the job alone. They are a temporary stop-gap that would allow the nation to put its economic house in order. Behind the protective barrier of temporary controls, steps would be taken to exercise monetary restraint, increase productivity, and reduce the dependence on imported oil.

Everyone has a pet theory of how inflation's back can be broken, but most often the recommendations point the finger at someone else who'll pay the price. Once you get away from the broad rhetoric about the dangers of inflation and into specific steps that should be taken, you enter the realm of politics, not economics.

And this is where power enters into the equation. When we examine the inflation remedies offered by those with power, it begins to look like the powerless - the poor and minorities - pay the price.

The most extreme prescriptions for halting inflation, for example, include such stringent proposals for budget cuts and credit cutbacks that the inevitable result is a recession - a very deep recession.

Even a bone-crushing recession would only slice a few points off the inflation rate. But who would pay for it? Primarily, it would be millions of working people who would be laid off, millions of new entrants into the labor force who would not be able to find jobs, and minorities, still first hired and last hired. Struggling small businesses, including minority-owned firms, would go under.

The nation as a whole would be buying lower inflation on the backs of driving millions deeper into poverty, wiping out the minority economy, and sending some large cities into a major, perhaps permanent, Depression.

Spiraling energy costs are a major ingredient in powering inflation. That leads to calls for a hefty gasoline tax to discourage consumption. Such a tax would penalize low income people while the affluent would be only moderately inconvenienced.

Gas rationing makes more sense and is more equitable, especially if ration coupons are transferable. That would allow low-income people to sell coupons in excess of their immediate needs, while putting a lid on imported OPEC oil.

But even some advocates of rationing would discriminate against the poor by making coupons available only to car-owners.

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### From Capitol Hill

## Youth Unemployment Is Nation's Most Serious Problem

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

The Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities, chaired by Congressman Augustus Hawkins, has been holding hearings on youth initiatives. There are three bills that deal with the youth training program. One is Congressman Jefford's bill. It requires joint grant applications prepared by local governments and the schools and specifies the content of those applications. This proposal assures that the funds will go to the students that need it.

Representative Hawkins' bill is similar to the Jefford's bill, but in addition he proposes that the present 22 percent set aside which requires collaboration between the local governments and the youth employment training programs be continued.

The President's bill fails in requiring collaboration or even sustaining the progress that has been made between the local educa-



Alfreda L. Madison

tion agencies and CETA. It eliminates the present 22 percent set aside for youth employment training programs and replaces them with provisions that will channel resources to the areas that will need them the least. Title II of the President's bill has no teeth for requiring schools and local governments to change their practices to meet the needs of the disadvantaged youth.

A very dramatic but alarming picture of the

ghettoes was noted at these hearings. Rev. Leon Sullivan of Opportunities Industrial Center, said that as he passed through the neighborhoods, he saw thousands of youths idle, frustrated, not knowing what to do with themselves or their time, and being angry and disillusioned, and incorrigible, believing America has turned its back on them. He said besides the vacant buildings, many of those that are lived in, are just about unlivable. He stated that the President and congress must declare war on youth unemployment. It must have equal importance to Middle East peace, Iranian and Afghanistan crises, enough oil, stopping inflation and balancing the budget.

It was emphasized that extraordinary legislation is required of congress to get the youth employment job done. As a youth job prescription, the suggestion was made that a campaign be launched in congress

and every state and local community to give all businesses incentives to help with youth jobs - must be given tax credits. The poor education that the schools are giving must be strongly changed. These schools were characterized as an education mockery, disgrace and tax ripoff. Schools must give children the communicative, number skills and personal work verities that will enable them to get and hold jobs. This training must begin with elementary

schools and these special programs for disadvantaged children must continue through junior and high schools. Failure of the President, Congress and local governments to give youth unemployment equal or even greater priority than is given other concerns will create a problem far more serious than any foreign crisis.

Turning these minority youths from criminals into profitable citizens, will prove to be a contributing

factor towards beating inflation, since it costs \$35,000 to keep a youth in prison and only \$13,000 to train him in a job corp program.

The committee witnesses strongly emphasized that both the executive and legislative branches of government must implement the mandates of Humphrey-Hawkins for youth employment and strengthening our economy.

Minority youth must not

be sacrificed for anti-inflation policies and budget balancing. Congress and the President should go beyond the stop-gap measure of CETA. The failure of our leaders to act now,

five years from now there will be six million out-of-school, unemployed youth; and ten years from now ten million out-of-school, unemployed youth will create chaos across America, paralyzing the nation.

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