

# Editorials & Comments

## Not Yet One Nation!

During the summer of 1967 our urban centers experienced a level of racial conflict that carried with them shock, fear and bewilderment that upset the nation. The worst came during a two-week period in July in Newark, New Jersey. Then Detroit, Michigan and then, like a domino effect, a chain reaction rippled into other neighborhoods.

The severity of these developments led the President of the United States to establish a National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders and directed the group to answer three basic questions? What happened? Why did it happen? What can be done to prevent it from happening again?

After much research, discussion and debate, the commission came to one basic conclusion: "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white - separate and unequal." The commission went on to say that "discrimination and segregation have long permeated much of American life; they now threaten the future of every American."

In spite of sincere efforts by some at the national, state and local levels to see choices to reverse the trend toward "two societies," we nevertheless find 13 years later, in 1980, that the typical black family's income is only 57 percent (down from 61 percent in 1970) of that of a white family. Furthermore, black youth unemployment is nearly 60 percent and blacks are three times as likely to live in the grip of poverty.

While these economic hardships were growing, blacks began making political gains. They picked up a few seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, gained a few state-level high ranking positions - elected or appointed - and, more significantly, they captured considerable political power in City Halls across America as whites continued their exodus to the suburbs.

Through many of these years Cuban political refugees began to move into Miami and displace blacks in housing and jobs. Vietnamese "boat people" then be-

gan to arrive in America, too. They were provided with housing, jobs and even automobiles while thousands of blacks continued to exist with neither adequate housing, no job or bus fare, much less an automobile.

Furthermore, by 1980 black frustration reached a new level as the Carter Administration allowed thousands of Cuban refugees (mostly white) to land in Miami while thousands of Haitians (all black) are being denied entrance to America. Thus, as Miami's "little Havana" expands, blacks have found fewer job opportunities, less housing available to themselves, no political voice in the community and growing abuse by the Miami police. A black youth was shot by a white policeman, a high ranking black educator has been accused of misusing public funds and four ex-policemen were accused, tried and found not guilty of beating a black businessman to death despite apparent overwhelming evidence to verify their guilt.

The jury's verdict that freed the four ex-policemen exploded Miami's black community's frustrations into massive violence that has led to senseless and useless killing, maiming, and the massive destroying of property, equal to or far worse than the riots of the summer of 1967. While we deplore the violence we certainly sympathize with the black Americans in that city who obviously are not being treated with the kind of consideration every American has a right to expect. We applaud President Carter for sending the U.S. Attorney General to express the administration's concern but it will take a full review of the continued existence of a "two societies, on black, one white - separate and unequal" to begin to resolve a problem that still threatens the future of every American.

America must begin at once to re-think the meaning of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "free at last, free at last" and then deal with its consciousness and its commitment to all citizens to assure and make a reality of "equality for all."

## Black Family In Crisis

The February issue of American Demographics magazine reports that a change in the living arrangement of American families since the 1950s reflected a shift away from husband-wife families and has resulted in a rise in the female headed households.

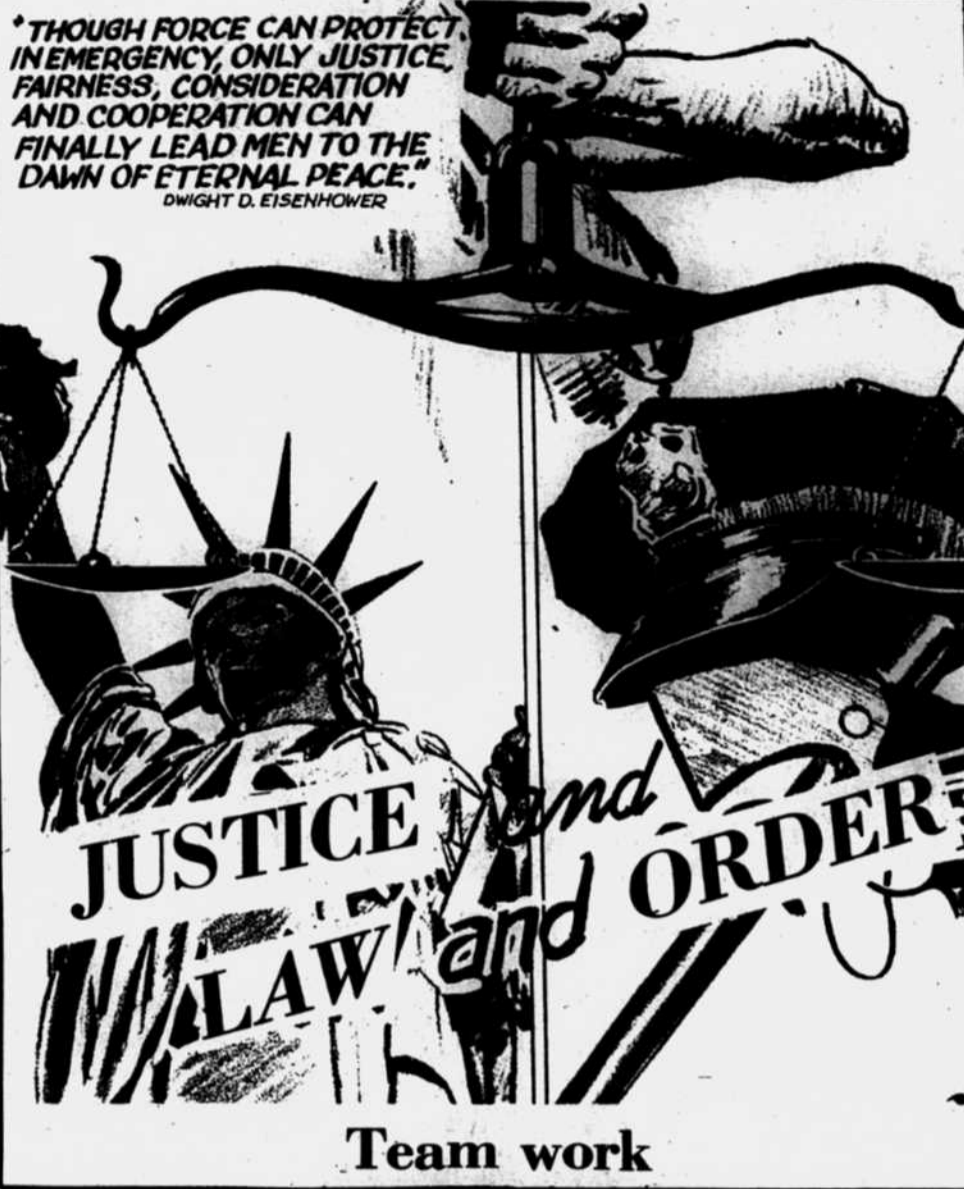
The shift has been much greater among blacks than whites; up from 22 to 39 percent between 1960 and 1977. For whites up from 8 to 12 percent. Generally, families maintained by a single female parent rose by 50 percent in the decade of the 70s.

We need to be cautious and recognize that while we are

seeking equal economic, social and political opportunity particularly for black women, that we don't overlook what is happening to black families.

"Family deterioration," William Rasberry writes, "involves education (or the lack of it), crime and delinquency, career opportunities and ambition, social stability - indeed the future

of the society," and we might add the future of the black family. Black progress of what type has its roots in the stability of the family where basic values and attitudes have their beginning.



## As I See It

### Changing Lifestyles

Gerald O. Johnson  
Post Columnist

Today's black women is aggressive, self-motivated, independent, well-educated, and a wage earner. A vast amount of them are career oriented and reject the possibility of becoming a part of the traditional family style. Most do not care to settle down and raise a family in lieu of their careers.

They range in ages from 22 to 50 and they appreciate the finer things of life. Generally, this new breed of women appreciates the freer lifestyles. Politically, they are the ones that back women's rights, the E.R.A. and abortions.

Religiously, they are the ones that seek answers to puzzling questions about God and the Bible.

Sexually, they are the ones that are creating havoc for men. Most men are not ready for this new breed. Men in general are traditionalist by nature. The structure of our society was molded by men, of men, for men. Now that the traditional structure is being challenged, most men find themselves in a dilemma.

Traditionally, this society uses pseudo-measures as yardsticks for a man's success. Principal wage earner, a house, two cars, a loving wife, some kids, and belonging to organizations, are to name a few. The female of the traditional household (from the male point of view) was responsible for household chores, raising the children, and handling other off-the-wall tasks.

Today's woman is saying



Gerald O. Johnson

loud and clear, "Take that crap and stick it in your ear."

Married men are finding to their disappointment that home is not like it was when they were growing up. Women are overjoyed that it is not the same, as it was when they were growing up. Thus, the beginning households are in constant conflict.

Another threat that many men are finding is that they aren't the king of the castle. As the major breadwinner the husband generally had the last say on how, what and when money would be spent. Today he must negotiate for that right. If the lady of the house wants a new living room suit and the man doesn't, then it is not just a matter of saying we can't afford it. She can say, "I can."

Single women are of the opinion that they don't need a husband at all. They feel quite comfortable making it on their own. As one female bluntly told me, "The only thing a man can give me I can get without

being married," made me blush.

The problem for single black women is more severe. On the whole they are better educated, and have progressed further, economically, than the black male. Hence, there is a scarcity of black males that can meet the educational and financial requirements of these ladies. Since Harvey Gantt and I are spoken for that narrows the field to none. (smile).

There are no signs that this trend will change. Women outnumber men, anyway. Moreover, male attitudes toward traditional values are not changing rapidly enough.

The new breed of women will require a new breed of men. These men will have to be able to accept change as a reality and stop clinging to things of the past.

If you are married and find that your household falls into the category mentioned, then there are things you can do to eliminate some of the problems.

First, pool your resources. Couples that I have talked to about this generally have two bank accounts; his and hers. Moreover, they each have certain bills that they are responsible for. This division in resources is divisive to a relationship. A much better way is to have a single checking account and designated bill payer. This procedure forces household planning and it allows better control of funds. It also provides a psychological unity in the household.

# TO BE EQUAL



## Black Politics Under Pressure

Black votes elected a President in 1976, but you would never know that from the neglect shown black interests by the current crop of candidates.

Some just write off the black vote as beyond their reach, and take it for granted, assuming that come November the black vote will be in their pocket.

Both are wrong. In 1980, it looks like the black voter will not be enthusiastically FOR any of the candidates, but chances are strong that the black vote will go AGAINST a candidate perceived as hostile to black interests.

Perhaps an even greater possibility is that black voters will just stay at home come Election Day. That would be damaging to the country, since massive abstentions among its largest minority damages the democratic process.

But it would be even more harmful to black interests. The limited clout wielded by blacks on the national level is partially a result of traditionally low voter turnouts. Even in 1976, half of eligible blacks didn't register to vote. That just invites neglect by both parties.

And low black voter turnout would be disastrous on the local level. We're not only electing a President this November, but also governors, congressmen, local officials and the state legislators that will redraw Congressional district lines next year.

The already low black vote declines in non-presidential election years and is one cause of the drastic underrepresentation of blacks in local offices. The visibility of competent, articulate black mayors of some large cities leads many to underestimate the degree of black underrepresentation.

Although blacks are about twelve percent of the population, they account for less than one percent of all elected officials. Further, according to research by the Joint Center for Political Studies, the rate of increase in the number of black elected officials has been declining steadily since 1975.

One factor is low black voter turnout. But a more insidious one is the way many communities structure local governments to dilute the black vote. One common practice is to elect city commissioners, council members and other local officials through at-large elections, instead of by districts. The result is to exclude candidates from positions of power, since the white majority's votes swamp those of even larger numbers of minorities.

A case in point is Mobile, Alabama, which is governed by a three member commission elected at-large. Although blacks comprise over a third of Mobile's population, no black was ever elected to the commission.

A federal district court said Mobile's at-large election system unconstitutionally discriminated against the city's blacks. It ordered Mobile to adopt a mayor-city council form of government in which voting by district would assure blacks of council representation.

But last month the U.S. Supreme Court threw that ruling out. The Court said that in the absence of proof of intent to discriminate there was no violation of constitutional rights.

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## From The White House

# Carter May Appear Publicly Without His Record ?

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

A White House aide said that since the President is so close to having the nomination concluded on the first ballot that he would not debate Senator Kennedy, but that he will debate the Republican nominee. Senator Robert Byrd, Majority Leader, says that Mr. Carter should debate the senator. Mr. Kennedy who has offered many times to debate the President expressed the idea that perhaps he is afraid of his record.

Whatever the reason, it is felt by many that the President should resort to a debate so that the issues can fairly be laid out to the people. If President Carter feels that he has done a good job and that he has plans which will improve our domestic and foreign problems, the people will wholeheartedly embrace him for another term.

He does owe the people an explanation for the 53 hostages who perhaps



Alfreda L. Madison would not be in Iran if he had not ignored advice of the Charge d'Affaires, as he said that he alone made the decision to bring the Shah

to the country. It is many questions that need to be answered to the public which will either give them a fair chance to approve or disapprove his actions.

Mr. Carter needs to explain fully to American citizens about the war hysteria over his saying in January that we were

closer to war than any time since World War II, when he came out with his cosmetic actions against Russia to deter her actions. How ludicrous to think that boycotting the Olympics, which meets every four years and our little grain cut-off, would put such pressure on Russia that it would have to fold up tent and bow to the United States. The Olympics have never met in Russia and whether or not one agrees with Russia's actions, it has been a great success these years without a single Olympic game. Then, too, there were other countries waiting in the wings to take up our grain sale. Americans were hurt, economically, by the cutting off of grain sale because taxpayers are having to pay the farmers. Our TV and soft drink companies are losing money because they had to withdraw their Olympic business. Then, too, American athletes who have trained long and hard are not allowed to participate. This is quite likely to have

an adverse affect on the 1984 Olympics scheduled to be held in Los Angeles. The boycott does not have the support of all our European allies.

The rescue mission, which the President said was his decision; and he termed his failure so it must have been a success, even though the only thing we can point to is the loss of eight men, five injured, millions of dollars worth of equipment and secret in-

formation. This certainly points to a failure in judgement, especially since the President was warned of a 75 percent failure.

Now Mr. Carter says we've turned the corner in inflation. Where is the corner when we have an eighteen percent inflation? Certainly, President Carter should be fair to the Democrats, come out and debate the other Democratic candidates, and defend his record, so the members of the Democratic Party will be sufficiently informed to make a decision.

A debate could do much more to unify the Democrats than for him to stay in the Rose Garden, except for a speech - occasionally - where he will only talk to the people.

Winning the nomination, does not in any way mean that he is home safely. Certainly, the Republicans are waiting in the wings with their heaviest artillery to fire at him between the conventions and November. With the sentiment around the country trying to decide whether or

not he or Reagan is the lesser of the evils, he can be blown away.

It is a sad commentary of our country when citizens will have to look through a high-powered microscope to discern which evil is a little less. When things get to that point a vote for either is greatly unattractive. It would be so much better, interesting and enthusiastic, if voters had to make a choice between the better of the good, but with those two, no such good luck this time around.

Kubangusu lives with an uncle who studies at Johnson C. Smith University.

African Liberation Day will be celebrated in Charlotte Friday, May 23, with a film program at the Trade

Street YWCA, sponsored by Uhuru Sasa. Khalid Al-Fattah of Winston-Salem will speak, followed by the Jamaican film, "The Harder They Come" with Jimmy Cliff. Tickets are \$3. at the door.

Africa Is Wealthiest Continent - continued from Page 1 to sell our minerals cheap to buy finished products," said Kayembe. "We neglect agriculture and roads to get out the diamonds. But our people are hungry."

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