

Editorials And Comments

The Meaning Of Violence

Last week we commented on the racial violence that shook Miami as a result of an all-white jury's acquittal of four white police officers who had allegedly beaten to death Arthur McDuffie a black insurance agent.

Now that the smoke and dust have cleared in an atmosphere of relative calm, Miami's black population has begun to review what has happened. They are experiencing a sense of anger and sorrow toward themselves because many of the black community's businesses were destroyed in the violence and turmoil.

In spite of this concern, a 60-year-old black man said, "I don't care if I have to go to Washington to buy a loaf of bread. There's got to be violence when you want action." A 30-year-old unemployed black male said with anger and frustration, "Violence itself is a way of communicating across the nation. It isn't just the McDuffie case. It's the way 'crackers' (white people) have been kicking us in the a-- all along." In referring to the black community, he added, "We built this, we're entitled to destroy it."

While the Post sympathizes with the plight of Miami's blacks, we deplore the violence for at least three reasons. First, the destruction of residential and commercial facilities in black neighborhoods simply creates inconveniences in those neighborhoods for black people. Secondly, self-destruction gives insurance companies greater justification for charging substantially higher rates for business in black neighborhoods. Thirdly, if and when public funds are made available to rebuild the riot-torn areas, the net result will be to restore the community to its pre-riot status and probably little else. Thus, little of economic or social gain will actually be achieved. Watts, for example, heavily destroyed in the summer of 1967 still has sections that have not been rebuilt.

Black people are certainly aware of the disadvantage of violence against themselves; yet the violence has occurred in Miami and black leaders claim

its potential exists in many other cities. The question that naturally follows - why violence?

Rollo May tells us in "Power and Innocence," sub-titled "A Search For The Sources of Violence," that "violence has its breeding ground in impotence and apathy." Thus, while blacks have achieved a measure of political influence in some urban centers, they have not yet achieved any significant economic influence. Therefore, Miami blacks are impotent because of limited economic influence and they are apathetic because they see a combination of forces that reinforce white Miami's apathy toward the needs and concerns of blacks.

Miami blacks see a combined effort by Miami's largely white business and political community and the federal government encouraging Cubans, especially those with business skills, to come to America. Such Cubans are provided with a wide range of economic assistance in their effort to re-establish themselves. Part of the federal government's motive is to say to the world that Cubans living in America are better off than those under Castro's communism.

At the same time black Haitians are denied free entry to America. This denial is prompted by the lack of job skills of the Haitians and the desire of the U.S. to not embarrass president-for-life Jean Claude ("Baby Doc") Duvalier, the Haitian dictator. While privately many U.S. government officials may disapprove of Duvalier's leadership publicly, he is supported because he allegedly opposes communism.

Therefore, the "deeds of violence (in Miami and elsewhere) in our society are performed largely by those trying to establish their self-esteem," Rollo May continues, "...to defend their self-image, and to demonstrate that they, too, are significant."

In summary, Miami blacks found it necessary to use violence to communicate the message that "we, too, are significant."

Winning Is Not The Only Thing

On Memorial Day two major league baseball games involving the California Angels vs. the Texas Rangers and the Philadelphia Phillies vs. the Pittsburgh Pirates erupted into violence over alleged bean-ball pitches.

Look here in our own city, the Jackie Robinson Semi-Pro Baseball League did not have any games over the weekend because of abuses and threats to the umpires.

Recently, near Lancaster, SC, 52-year-old Raymond Dawkins was umpiring a softball game that ended suddenly when he was fatally shot as a result of the gun

knife dual between a player on one team and a coach on the other.

These incidents appear to be in part an outgrowth of the late Vince Lombardi's philosophy that winning is the only thing. If sports events - at whatever level - require violence, confrontation as a condition for winning, then

we need to end all competitive sports. Sports should relate to building strong healthy bodies

and men and women with a competitive spirit within the context of a high moral character. We hope you agree.



Team Work

SELF HELP!

As I See It

Political Indifference

GERALD O. JOHNSON
POST COLUMNIST

Recently, I have had to defend my stance on being politically inactive. People are astonished to find that I take so little interest in the political process. I am told that my indifference to the political process is an abuse of my privileges. I think not.

In my defense, let me say that I think the political process can be divided into two distinct entities; a discrete entity and a continuous entity.

By definition anything that is continuous is ongoing; anything that is discrete is in pieces. To understand my indifference to politics, you must appreciate what I'm about to say.

Politics is a continuous function. The politicians and the lobbyist are the individuals that make up the continuous entity. The ongoing issues of our society are actually handled by these individuals.

The voters comprise the bulk of the discrete entity. We can voice our political opinions at interim periods, formally known as elections.

It is virtually impossible to have any influence on a dynamic and continuous system with static and discrete input. It is much like trying to stop a large snowball rolling down the side of a snow covered hill by throwing rocks at it every hour.

The truth of the matter is that the political process is a token attempt at appeasing the people by letting them think they have some say in the process.

Ask yourself why is it



Gerald O. Johnson

that regardless of who is voted into office nothing seems to change. Ask yourself why is it that you never hear from politicians until it is election time.

Because the political system is so dynamic, no one man has any influence on it at all. This is why the system works regardless of who is in office. Our foreign policy is unaltered by Cyrus Vance's resignation; Richard Nixon's resignation did not bring the system to a screeching halt; the system will keep chugging along regardless of who wins the election in November.

Or you could ask yourself why is it that the human indignation suffered by the mass of Black people in this country has not improved even though the number of Blacks in political offices has increased tremendously over the past decade.

Again the dynamism of the system forces individuals to participate according to the system precepts. Either you roll with the system or you don't roll at all.

Consider the various lob-

by groups. They wine and dine, give kickbacks, consult, and generally stay in close contact with politicians on a daily basis.

Compare this with the amount of time the normal voter spends with a politician. It should be apparent that politicians decide the fate of an issue based on the influence of the lobby groups.

Consequently, I consider the political process a time consuming and costly farce which I do not have time to participate in.

This is not a condemnation of the system; the system is a by-product of an industrialized society, and it functions the way it has to. I do feel, however, that the voting process is not the best way to participate in the political process for me.

Moreover, this is not a condemnation of those people who participate in the political process. Each of us must dance to different tunes and my tune is not for everybody. Nor is everybody's tune for me. After all, that's politics, baby!

Clean-Up

An easy-to-make and inexpensive solution of bleach and water will clean household surfaces such as sinks, bathtubs, showers, basins, tile, plastic, woodwork and glass.

Just mix 1/2 to 3/4 cup liquid bleach to a gallon of water, say NCSU agricultural extension specialists.

Be sure never to combine bleach with any other household product such as ammonia, toilet bowl cleaner, rust remover or oven cleaner.

From Capitol Hill

Inhumanity Caused Black Explosion In Miami?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

When people are sitting on a powder keg, it can certainly be expected to blow up sometime. That's what happened in Miami recently. Blacks have been constant victims of police brutality and injustice in courts' handling of cases. These conditions have existed down through the years.

Senator Stone of Florida informed me that the cases against blacks in this country such as the Dade County School superintendent's misuse of school funds are handled quickly; but cases of similar conduct against whites are a long drawn out process. For comparison he used Gov. Mandel of Maryland's case which was drawn out through many years. Then, of course, everyone knows that whites who are in high places do not serve long prison terms, if any. The Watergate rascals who did serve, generally had short terms and some were even pardoned without any time at all.

In Miami, blacks were infuriated over the alleged rape of a black 11-year-old girl by a white highway patrolman, and the Grand Jury refused to indict him. Then a black school teacher, to whose home the police came with a warrant in search of cocaine, the door and upon learning that the police (who had the correct address on the warrant) came to his home which was not the proper address, shut the door. The police broke into the teacher's home. The authorities said closing the door in the policemen's face was wrong.

Freeing of the four white policemen who beat insurance agent McDuffie - who was snatched from a motorcycle and his head beaten to a pulp as well as numerous devastating blows to his body - triggered the explosive situation which has been simmering for a long time over the many unjust racial problems. Unemployment is high among blacks; especially black youth. These Miami Blacks observe with



Alfreda L. Madison

disdain the preferred treatment of Cuban refugees by the government and employers while overlooking their needs and concerns.

They also observe the government's horrible treatment of Haitian boat people who are black. Surely they see a close relationship between the Haitians and themselves.

Several black national leaders went to Miami with the hope of cooling conditions, finding out the real underlying causes, and calling upon the city, state

and federal leaders to live up to their responsibilities to black citizens, who are a very vital and valuable part of the United States' population.

The black leaders called upon the Justice Department to investigate the entire criminal justice conditions in Miami. They are also calling the country's leaders' attention to the necessity of immediately alleviating the high rate of unemployment among blacks in Miami and all inner American cities, because there can quite likely be repeat Miami performances in other places.

William Raspberry of the Washington Post said President Carter stated that the riot in Miami was no way to get attention. All agree it's certainly not the best way, but as blacks we've always had to take drastic steps for anything like justice. Mr. Carter will have to admit that he had not considered sending the Justice Department to Miami before the riot, and since he and congress have continuously turned deaf

TO
BE
EQUAL



How Many Doctors Do We Need

One of the most curious concepts to come along in quite a while is the growing notion that America has too many doctors. Just try telling that to minorities and the poor, who frequently live in rural areas or urban neighborhoods that have no doctors at all.

It's the old story of looking at gross figures. The annual output of new doctors has doubled in the past two decades. But that doesn't mean they practice where the people who need their skills live. Nor does it mean they are in specialties most needed by the average healthy consumer.

Still, the so-called doctor shortage is an excuse for support for cutting federal aid to medical schools. It's even being used as a rationale for opposing a national health insurance plan.

It is argued that the more doctors there are, the more people will use them, and the more inflationary will health costs become.

Strange. At the same time, we're told that the law of supply and demand has not been repealed. The more there is available of a good or service, the lower its price is likely to become.

But that doesn't hold true for health care. Why? The answer is that organized medicine operates like an internal OPEC monopoly, freed from the normal constraints of the marketplace. Fee-for-service medicine keeps health care costs high, as does the cost-plus insurance system.

It's hard to understand the argument that it's bad if people use physicians' services more often. If more people use more doctors, that obviously means they need those doctors and the health care they provide.

Whenever sales of some consumer item increase we never say that's bad. We recognize that people want more of that item and business takes steps to supply it. But why then do we say that items in human services, like health care, should be carefully rationed and kept limited?

Those limits are today imposed by excessive costs. If you can afford to pay a doctor you use his services, if you can't, you don't. Poor people covered by Medicare and Medicaid programs have some access to health care since the government will pay for it. And there's been a rise in health services utilization since those programs were started.

That's good, it means more people are getting better health care. But millions of others are not. They don't have access to doctors. The financial structure of medical professions is such that esoteric specialties drain off many who in former years might have been general practitioners and family physicians.

The result is that some areas and people are not served at all, some are underserved, and relatively few have full access to the health care they need. So long as the nation's ghettos and barrios are virtually without health practitioners, so long as many public hospitals would stop dead in their tracks without foreign trained physicians, and so long as medical professionals are maldistributed, America doesn't have too many doctors.

congress' hands are oiled with the Miami riot, because of their inhumane austere budget, and lack of concern for rising racism in the United States which is its most serious problem today.

USDA Issues Final Lunch Pattern

WASHINGTON - Based on recent surveys of children's eating habits and nutritional needs, the U.S.

Department of Agriculture today issued rules that will change lunches served to children in schools starting next fall.

"The rules encourage schools in the national school lunch program to tailor meal and portion sizes to the eating habits of children," Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Forman said. "This measure is expected to reduce plate waste among younger children and also do a better job of meeting the nutritional needs of older children."

Forman said these rules are the second and final



THE CHARLOTTE POST
 Second Class Postage No. 965500
 "THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER"
 Established 1918
 Published Every Thursday
 by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.
 1524 West Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28208
 Telephone (704) 376-0496
 Circulation-9,200

62 Years Of Continuous Service

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 St., Suite 1403
 New York, N.Y. 10036
 (212) 489-1220
 2400 S. Michigan Ave.
 Chicago, Ill. 60616
 Calumet 5-0290