

# Editorials & Comments

## Crisis In Rising Expectations

Unemployment, urban racial conflict, the impact of nuclear waste on human life, the exploitation of student athletes, a deepening recession, poor options in the coming presidential election, inflation, the rise in the rate of people suffering from mental depression, and the influence of television - these are all having a significant impact upon American institutions, particularly the institution of the family.

These conditions, whether real or imaginary, are evident in many ways. First, the nation's divorce rate nearly doubled in the decade of the 70s. This has been a major factor in the number of families headed by a single parent - increasing by 50 percent. It has also been a factor in why more young people are either living together outside of wedlock or simply waiting longer before they get married.

A March, 1979 report based on a nationwide survey conducted by the Census Bureau, says the divorce rate increased by 96 percent between 1970 and 1979. In fact, in 1979 there were 92 divorces for every 1,000 intact marriages in the nation compared with 47 per 1,000 in 1970.

The increase (divorce rate) for black persons was from 83 per 1,000 to 197 per 1,000 during the same time span. The corresponding ratios for whites were considerably lower - 44 per 1,000 in 1970 and 84 per 1,000 in 1979.

Undoubtedly, a major contributing factor to the nearly 125 percent increase in the divorce rate among blacks has been the declining economic circumstances many are faced with. For example, while blacks were earning 61 percent of that of whites in 1970, they were only earning 57 percent in 1979. Furthermore, a recent survey of U.S. households shows that for the 12-month period ending in

March, weekly earnings for whites rose 10 percent to an average of \$268; for blacks, 9 percent to \$213; for Hispanics, 10 percent to \$212. Thus, the income gap continues and black families continue to be fractured.

Moving beyond the issues of race and income, but mindful that income or the lack of it - wages not keeping pace with inflation or simply unemployment - are significant factors in the nation's divorce rate and the increasing numbers of people suffering from mental depression.

The uprooting of families from their home sites such as Love Canal because of the dangers of environmental pollution and the exploitation of student athletes chasing one-in-a-million opportunities for big bucks in professional sports are all related to the economic issue.

Add to these concerns the diminishing opportunity for the average family to purchase a home, and the belief of most Americans that their lives are more threatened by modern day life and technology than they were 20 years ago and you have a nation of highly frustrated people.

All of this appears to be compounded by the growing lack of confidence in President Carter's leadership and belief, too, that Ronald Reagan is not an acceptable alternative in the coming presidential election.

These are issues of increasing concern of all Americans; therefore, all Americans need to give serious thought to solutions and approaches to such solutions. Americans (all), it is time to set aside our prejudices, immaturities and our individualized selfish attitudes and begin to truly respond to the late John F. Kennedy's immortal statement; "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

## Students Usually Big Losers

Some criticism has been expressed over a federally funded program to pay 119 high school students \$3.10 per hour to go to summer school as a part of a summer jobs program.

The critics contend that society owes such youth no more than anyone else and, therefore, such students shouldn't be paid to do what is normally expected of them to do for their own benefit. That sounds fine for the average American youth from a "middle class" home with strong family support, adequate family income, and a high expectation for performance by and for his own school teachers.

Youth from lower income families have neither of these motivational supports and, thus, too often have an attitude of "what is the point in even trying?" Furthermore, there would probably be considerable

pressure on such youth to forego summer (without the wages) to assist with the family's income needs by seeking a job. Undoubtedly too this would be the first step toward creating another school drop out. Drop outs usually cost society more than \$3.10 per hour in the form of food stamps, welfare, public housing, unemployment compensation and possibly even lengthy terms in prison.

In addition, when such youth overcome the odds and graduate from high school, too often they are exploited by the unscrupulous tactics of collegiate athletic programs.

Considering these and other facts, the paying of a small hourly wage to encourage some youth to remain in school is a proper and acceptable way to avoid creating more societal misfits.



### BECOME INVOLVED IN THE WELFARE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

If You Don't Care....Who Will?

## As I See It Imperialism, The Seed To Racism?

By Gerald O. Johnson  
Post Columnist

Since the beginning of man's existence on earth, the driving force to conquer and control has been a dominate factor. This, of course, is due to the animalistic nature of the beast. Soon, man began to live in groups as a means of protection and survival. From this primitive beginning, man eventually colonized himself into large groups and formulated laws and governments to control the group.

But the need to conquer remained. During the sixteenth century, European colonies warred among themselves as well as conquering less organized civilizations. The French, the Spanish, the British, the Portuguese, the Italians, and the Dutch began to build extensive colonial empires by decimating and enslaving whole populations. In essence the colonization of these vast lands was used to finance wars and to contribute to the aesthetic taste of the court in power. None of the booty gained from these imperialistic tactics ever filtered down to the common people. The ruling class was the sole benefactor of this type of pilferage.

As civilizations matured and became more complex, and as the industrial revolution took shape, imperialism took on a new grandiose style. Imperialism was now a necessity for the existence of these civilizations. The industrial revolution reduced the work force on the farm while it increased the work force in factories. This reduction in the farm work force created a shortage in



Gerald O. Johnson

(though not limited to) primitive dark-skin nations. The people of these primitive societies were easily identifiable by sight, as not being a part of the imperialistic nation. To rationalize this inhumane treatment to less advanced civilizations, the white Europeans took on a white superiority attitude. It soon became widespread in the European nations that it was a divine responsibility for them to spread their ideologies to the primitive people. As Kipling once wrote, "It is the white man's burden." The ideology included Christianity, politics, etc. The primitive people were branded inferior because they were of different beliefs.

The invention of high powered guns caused the spread of industrial revolution to speed up because it took less manpower to accomplish the same task. Europeans strongly believed that to kill an equal (another white) was un-Christian, thus reinforcing the belief that darker skinned people were inferior. This, in effect, gave them a license to kill.

It is from this conceptual "idiocy" that was used to make imperialism an acceptable way of life for Europeans - and later America, that racism got its start. Today, imperialism is still an integral part of industrialized nations' economic systems. It is because of this that racism, too, is an integral part of industrialized nations' social systems. As long as imperialism must be maintained for a civilization to exist, Black people will always be considered the white man's burden.

So, it is evident that imperialism is inbred into all industrial civilizations' economical structures. In the industrial era imperialism, advanced societies could either use the threat of force to get the needed materials from primitive societies, or they could buy off the local ruler. In either case the result was the same; raw materials, food, and a broader consumer base for next to nothing in cost.

The social affect of imperialism was just as devastating as the economic affects. The grand imperialistic nations were white European nations. The target of their imperialistic tactics were

# TO BE EQUAL



## Fair Break For Haitian Refugees

The government's policy toward refugees from Cuba has shifted back and forth since the exodus began, but for those who manage to reach our shores, America has welcomed them, in the President's words, with "an open heart and open arms."

But the Haitian refugees are the "invisible boat people." While media attention focused on Russians, Vietnamese, and Cubans fleeing oppressive regimes, the Haitians were ignored.

Over the past several years, about 25,000 fled Haiti. They made their way to Florida in makeshift boats. Some died in rough seas. All suffered on the arduous two week-long trip.

At a time when thousands of Cubans were coming to Florida about a thousand Haitians were beaching their boats on our coast, some of them in difficult conditions, without adequate food or water for their journey.

The reception the two groups of refugees got is a shameful indication of America's reluctance to welcome black refugees. The Cubans were generally assured of political asylum and the government moved swiftly to help resettle them. The Haitians were placed in the limbo of earlier refugees from Haiti.

For years immigration officials have put them into jails while being "processed." That "processing" often resulted in attempts to deport them without due process on the grounds that they are "economic immigrants" seeking work, rather than political refugees fleeing oppression.

That distinction is a difficult one to make, and it has been enforced in a wayward fashion. Political asylum is automatically granted to refugees from communist countries, even though many, if not most, flee because of economic conditions.

But refugees from non-communist countries such as Haiti are denied political asylum, even though they escape a dictatorship as oppressive as any communist one. Denial of basic human and political rights is hardly a monopoly of communist countries. Some non-communist countries have a record of brutality and viciousness toward their own people that makes it impossible for any fair person to simply assume that their refugees are motivated solely by economic considerations.

Haiti's well-documented system of political repression, acknowledged even in our own State Department's Report on Human Rights Practices, makes it clear that the Haitian refugees qualify for political asylum.

Court documents filed in a case seeking to legitimize the Haitians' presence here reveal that U.S. immigration officials implemented a plan two years ago for speedy deportation of the Haitians.

That plan was shoved through even though some of the officials had doubts as to the legality of their actions. A memo introduced in court has one official saying the policy was to expel the Haitians as a deterrent to others.

This was in spite of evidence indicating that refugees were imprisoned on their return to Haiti, and that political prisoners there suffered harsh treatment and had high death rates.

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## From Capitol Hill

# ABA Assessment Requires Strong Scrutiny

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

Authorities in the United States, certainly give the American Bar Association too much weight in making judicial selections. Especially, is this true in the case of black candidates. It has been only recently that black lawyers have been allowed membership in the association. So all evidence should be considered with that in mind.

In the confirmation hearings of Clemons of Alabama, the ABA said he was not qualified because he finished Miles College which was all black at the time of Clemons' attendance. However, Mr. Clemons did graduate from Columbia University Law School.

Mr. Jones of Atlanta, ABA member, testified that Attorney Fred Gray was guilty of conflict of interest in Macon County Hospital matters, conflict of interest in single-minded reapportionment districts, securities fraud litigation, solicitation of clients in Bat-

tle et al. vs. Libe. Life Insurance and alteration of a deed. Mr. Gray denied vigorously the charges saying they were based on hearsay, surmise, suspicion and innuendos.

Attorney Morris Dees who seemed to be the ABA's major source in much of the information, testified that he was the lawyer representing the City of Tuskegee in opposing the building of a new hospital in that city. If this hospital had been built, only white doctors would have practiced there. Attorney Gray who was the lawyer for just about all matters pertaining to the City of Tuskegee and Tuskegee Hospital felt along with Dees that since, according to Dees, there was a whole unused floor at the existing hospital, it would be a waste of taxpayers' money to build a new one. After contacting NEW, the case was resolved outside of court and the new hospital was not built. Dees admitted that he's only talked with Gray about the matter at a restaurant be-



fore the matter was resolved. However, he got confused in his answers concerning the place or name of the restaurant and whether or not Gray escorted him through the Tuskegee Hospital or even told him how to get there.

Dees that he was going to push for a black federal judge, Gray. Dees responded that he would see that Gray would not get the position. Mr. Reed said more than once, looking around the room that he hoped Morris Dees was still in the room.

Concerning charges that Mr. Gray solicited funeral directors to meet with him in the Liberty National case, Mr. Reed testified that he called the directors together, based on a problem the funeral directors had discussed with him, and that he asked Mr. Gray to come to the meeting and be prepared to represent the directors. Joe Reed said that James Hopkins, a black man, informed him that he did not like Gray and that he would try to prevent his confirmation. It was learned that Hopkins was head of the LEPA and that he used some of the money to pay a secretary. He was later required to repay the money. Then he asked Mr. Gray, who was a member of the Alabama legislature, to introduce a

bill authorizing funds for a secretary. Mr. Gray refused and this angered Hopkins.

Mr. Reed ended his testimony with a strong plea to the committee to confirm both Attorneys Gray and Clemons, stating that while all racial problems in Alabama are not solved, their nominations signal progress towards a new day, and that failure of their confirmation would be a step backwards.

Attorney Elaine Jones of the Legal and Defense Fund told the committee that too much credence is given to the ABA's evaluation and not enough is given to the assessments of other duly qualified organizations, particularly the black organizations. She said that the callousness, sloppiness and attack on a lawyer's character by the ABA is difficult to overcome. She said that the ABA's charge that Gray failed to file a deed on time did not harm either the client or anyone else.

timony given against Gray and Clemons seemed utterly ridiculous such as; Pope, a white man, saying that Clemons voting record in the legislature was against the best interest of blacks. This was just another case of whites knowing what's best for blacks, and a taxidermist's beef against Clemons for introducing a bill which would have some state law concerning taxidermy, since there was none. He wanted Alabama made free as it always was, said Phillips, the taxidermist.

Besides the very large delegation that was present from Alabama, both candidates presented much documented support from black and white State officials and citizens. They are so supported by the U.S. senators from Alabama.

Much of the counter tes-

