

Editorials & Comments

Perspectives For Educational Policy

The citizens of Mecklenburg County should be pleased with the election of Sarah Stevenson to the school board. We have not expressed this viewpoint because Mrs. Stevenson is the first black woman elected official in the county; nor as the third black the school board has a black ratio about equal to the black population; nor because we foresee the three blacks on the board voting as a bloc on key issues. These would be the wrong reasons to vote for any candidate be he or she white, red, Hispanic or black.

Our statement of joy with Mrs. Stevenson's victory is based on her 30 years of service to our public schools through her involvement in the PTA and the Quality Education Committee. It is doubtful if any school board member, past or present, can

match Mrs. Stevenson's unique experiences and, therefore, offer to the board a perspective on educational policy and needs probably not previously available.

It is important to note that her experience spans the devastating years of segregation, the turbulent years of desegregation, if not actual integration and the eras of some non-traditional education concepts - career education, the open school, competency testing as a condition for graduation, and talent development, just to name a few.

Thus, we are fortunate to have Sarah Stevenson on the School Board so that we might all benefit from her rich, and we are sure, personally rewarding experiences.

Police-Black Citizens Relations

After much media ballyhoo, City Police Chief J.C. Goodman held his long awaited meeting with 23 mostly black and some white "community leaders." The meeting was initiated by Goodman out of a concern to avoid having a repeat of the Miami riot in Charlotte.

According to comments made by the meeting participants, black leaders made it quite clear to the Chief that a similar riot could happen in Charlotte. However, there was an apparent feeling of genuine accomplishment on the part of Goodman and staff and the community leaders. Therefore, regardless of who convened the meeting and regardless of what the motivation for such a meeting, all have generally expressed a good feeling about what took place and the free exchange of ideas in an atmosphere void of tension.

The community leaders' suggestions on how to prevent a Miami-type racial conflict focused on police-community relations and policies with the police department itself. These included the hiring and promoting of more blacks into upper management position. Particularly emphasis here was placed on Chief Goodman hiring a black administrative assistant to provide a black perspective and offer feedback on many issues.

Other suggestions included creating a civilian review board to hear complaints against police and analyze crime reports, expand the neighborhood watch program, and offer sensitivity and awareness training in the area of human relations with some of the instruction provided by blacks.

All of this leads to the significant question asked rhetorically by some: 'What does Chief Goodman plan to do with what he heard from the community leaders?' The question takes an added significance when it is noted that some at the meeting

expressed the feeling that many of the issues discussed represent a rehashing of issues that were of concern 12 to 15 years ago; thus, how much real progress has been made? To assure that more progress is made in the next 12 years than in the past 12, those same community leaders and others needs to insist on an early follow-up meeting at which time Chief Goodman should be prepared to respond to the suggestions made.

Lastly, since the tensions that led to the Miami riot are evident in Charlotte and many other cities, why have not black leaders - self proclaimed and others - initiated dialogue and policy proposals on a continuing basis to the business, civic and governmental leadership in order to develop long term but effective solutions to the problems that have lingered for at least 12 years. It is important for the black leadership to take the initiative in such matters if positive, lasting progress is to be made. Waiting until a riot is at the city's doorstep does little for effective community relationships.

No-Win Dilemma

The nation's unemployment rate rose to 7.8 percent of the labor force in May; the highest level since President Carter was elected in November, 1976. However, inflation (the President's No. 1 enemy) has slowed to its lowest rate in more than two years. These issues - rising unemployment on one hand and a declining inflationary rate on the other, pose a serious election-year dilemma for President Carter. As voters look at the alternatives, let's not forget the nature of this dilemma and remember it would probably be evident no matter who the President is at a given time.

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Truth Derails Tax Revolt

When Californians voted overwhelmingly for Proposition 13 two years ago, the mass media proclaimed the beginning of a "tax revolt," a mass revolution against big government and welfare. Some liberal columnists called Proposition 13 a manifestation of middle-class selfishness. Conservatives and business leaders, however, hailed the referendum result as a long-awaited return to common sense and as a vote in favor of "free market" economics.

But Proposition 13 was neither an orgy of self-interest, nor a popular mandate for laissez-faire capitalism. Rather, many of the people who voted for the huge cut in property taxes did so because they were misinformed and misled. Doubtless, many

of them regret having voted for the measure, since they have now seen its effects on California's school system and public employees. What is more, voters understand that the principal beneficiaries of reduced property taxes were corporations and the wealthy, not middle-income workers.

Because people are becoming more sophisticated, they are also more wary of "quick-fix" tax cuts, such as the Kemp-Roth bill in Congress, and Proposition 9, in California, a proposal concocted by Howard Jarvis, the chief architect of Proposition 13. In fact, California's voters defeated Proposition 9 by 61 percent to 39 percent in the June 3 primary.

Unfortunately, the defeat of Mr. Jarvis' latest gimmick has received little or no attention. Indeed, two days after the primary, the New York Times, which had headlined the victory of Proposition 13 two years ago, ran a brief Proposition 9 story in an inconspicuous corner of Section B, buried amid other political news.

Despite the lack of press coverage, the vote against Proposition 9 is significant for several reasons. First, no one can assert that the measure lost because of confusion

or unattractiveness. The choice was clear and simple: people could reduce state income tax rates by 50 percent by casting a vote for Proposition 9. The wording of the measure was not complex, and the prospect of saving 50 percent on an average tax bill was certainly attractive. But the measure lost decisively.

Second, a CBS-New York Times poll found that voters who opposed Proposition 9 did so because they realized that its benefits, like those of Proposition 13, would flow primarily to the wealthy. With that in mind, a majority of voters saw the choice before them as one of aiding the rich or maintaining vital public services, like education, social services, and police protection. Whereas the proponents of Proposition 13 succeeded two years ago in concealing its decidedly pro-wealth, pro-corporation tilt, the backers of Proposition 9 failed dismally this year in selling the "Big Lie."

Third, lower-income groups, including blacks and many trade unionists, united in opposing Proposition 9. Among these voters, the tax-cut proposal lost by margins of up to 3 to 1. By contrast, thousands of poor people and workers had made the mistake of supporting Proposition 13 in 1978.

As I See It

The Woman's Revolution ?

By Gerald O. Johnson
Post Columnist

Let us go back now to those thrilling days of yesteryear when a woman's place was in the home and the man's place was wherever he hung his hat.

Yes, the woman of yesteryear was a dedicated woman, a loving wife, and a devoted mother. She found her pleasures in life by satisfying those she loved, never letting her own needs interfere with the welfare of the home. Yesteryear's woman was the backbone of the family and therefore the backbone of America. Even though she took a backseat to publicity, she undoubtedly was the adhesive to maintaining the family institution.

However, times have changed. Today has created a new breed of woman. Yes, superwoman, disguised as Claudia Kent, mind-mannered housewife, fights for truth, justice and the ERA. Superwoman, able to leap the corporate ladder in a single bound, is here to stay. Thank God, I might add.

Today, a woman has become something that women of yesteryear couldn't become. They have become themselves. They have gained identity and pride, ego and an independence all of which has made them more competitive, more interesting and self-assured.

But along with the achievements, many problems have developed. Some of the problems I am going to address in this article. But before doing this let us take a historic look at the emergence of "super woman." I think history, more than any other single factor, sheds light on any subject or issue of today.



Gerald O. Johnson

Historically, the woman's role in the country developed from a frontier setting. During this period the man was involved with physically developing and protecting the household, the woman was maintaining it.

Since men are physically stronger than women the roles were dictated. The man had to cut down trees to build his house, hunt and fish for food and clothing, and fight Indians and wife stealers. These tasks were best suited for men because of their physical strength.

Women were left home to cook, clean, and raise children. As time passed and society moved away from the frontier days to the modern era, the family institution remained behind. The modern days made life much easier from a physical standpoint. The most physical thing that a man has to do today is mow the lawn. The food and clothing ordeal has boiled down to a menial task. Consequently, the man chose to delegate these responsibilities to women.

Until recently, with no trace of frontier life remaining the woman has subjected to the same roles of the frontier woman.

Even though the makeup of society didn't dictate that this had to be. Women were forced into these roles because no opportunities existed outside the home. Hence, in a manner of speaking women were forced to get married and put up with domestic duties for the lack of anything better to do.

But recently, the civil rights movement in conjunction with ERA has opened doors for women. Job opportunities have developed and women are turning in their aprons for a chance to develop themselves to their fullest potential.

Interesting enough was the fact that the women's movement picked up impetus during the recession. When the need for money arose the men turned to the women to aid with the bringing of money into the household.

This brings us up to date. Women are here to stay in the job market.

Unfortunately, the progress of women hasn't gone unimpeded. The divorce rate and separation rate have increased drastically. Children are coming up unruly. There is a growing dissension among men about women.

The men of today are from homes where the women were not career oriented. Consequently, they (I am sorry) we are basically spoiled. Today's men have present concepts of how a wife should be. When she turns out to be something different, then a conflict arises.

In the past when the opportunities for women were limited, if a conflict arose the woman was almost always forced to give in. Today, because she is willing and able to make it on her own, she doesn't see WOMEN on Page 8

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From The White House

All Is Not Rosy In President Jimmy Carter's Camp?

Special To The Post

Super Tuesday which marked the last of the presidential primaries has come and gone. While President Carter crossed the finish line ahead of Senator Kennedy, in the last stretch the Senator began pacing more rapidly than Mr. Carter and made mileage gains that caused the presidential camp serious concern.

At the White House the morning after Super Tuesday, all seemed quiet. The staff members had a somewhat lengthy meeting while White House reporters were sitting around giving their assessment of 1600 Pennsylvania's feelings. One reporter said the mood was one of anger with Senator Kennedy for announcing that he was staying in the race. Another said the White House people were happy because they had enough committed delegates to win on the first ballot. Then there were some reporters who expressed the idea that Kennedy might get enough



Alfreda L. Madison

of the uncommitted Democrats between this and the convention, and that a rule change might be forced which will call for the delegates release.

Indications are that all is not jubilation in the Carter camp. He has extended the olive branch to Mr. Kennedy, by calling for an immediate meeting with him at the White House. It is reported that Mr. Carter is ready for some type of compromise.

Senator Kennedy's headquarters said that Ted is

not ready to throw in the towel now.

Although Kennedy has been criticized through the press, especially, by President Carter as a big spender. Yet, the Senator has been representing the liberal views of the Democratic Party, while Mr. Carter certainly seemingly switched over to the more conservative views of the Republicans.

Senator Kennedy has to be admired for the great strength, endurance and stamina that he has shown throughout the entire campaign. He survived the vicious attacks of the Chappaquiddick episode; answered all questions about it without flinching, questions about his own private family affairs, vicious attacks on his patriotism, the Roger Mudd interview and just about every other conceivable negativity. Yet, amid all of these adverse matters, Kennedy stood up like a real champ and did not let any of these really get under his skin. Even though the country seems to be swinging towards ultra conservatism, Ted

still holds out for more liberal views which will bring the United States more in line with the real true meaning of its creed, "One nation Under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all." That does not mean justice for the rich, powerful, certain ethnic groups and the upper class.

Surely it was hard for Kennedy to overcome the gag rule that President Carter held over everyone's head of any real criticism of his foreign policy, which has us losing friends and influencing no one and the President's going into devastating cities just before the primaries and passing out little hand-outs. A prime example is giving a black minister in Ohio \$50,000 for a project in his church. Nevertheless in many places, these little cheap tokens were not able to influence a large number of black voters.

Some of the Carter supporters are saying that if blacks fail to vote in November, Reagan may get elected and that he would

be worse for them. They cited Nixon's win as an example of black apathy. However, why blame the blacks who stayed home for Nixon's victory? What about the whites who voted for him? Then, too, blacks who voted for Carter while he watched them sink to the bottom of the heap - how can anyone make

them sink any lower? What whites really seem to forget is that while a larger percentage of blacks are benefitted by the social programs, a much larger number of whites are beneficiaries. The entire CETA program gave far more jobs to white youths than blacks, and other minorities, as did the youth training programs.

President Carter's Rose Garden stay seems to be catching up with him. If he had debated Senator Kennedy and brought the issues out in the opening, by now there might have been a synchronizing of their ideas, and President Carter would be appearing more like a Democrat and there would be a very

difference in the ideas that he is espousing and those of Reagan.

Mrs. Hill Named

To CPCC Board
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CPCC campus and the Monroe office to coordinate activities and instruction. An experimental program was initiated to broadcast news and music for the handicapped on CPCC's radio station. The program has been successful, according to CPCC historian R. V. Mason.

The Freedom Drive College Mart opened to provide instruction at a convenient location. And CPCC on the Square offered a place to earn a high school diploma.

Donna Patterson, a black student, received the Richard H. Hagemeyer award in 1978 for academic achievement.

