

# Editorials & Comments

## Alternative For Presidential Choice

Recently (July 17) we said in this column that considering the quality of the presidential candidates the American people face a tragedy of major proportions.

Manning Marable of THE AFRO AMERICAN echoed our sentiments when he wrote, "The democratic charade we call the American political system has reached the point of self destruction."

Marable continues, "The two-party system, whose standard bearers in this year's election of 1980... (have) ceased to offer anything approaching fundamental alternatives for the American people." Marable illustrates his point by pointing out that Alan Greenspan, former chairperson of the Council of Economic Advisors under Gerald Ford, said in a seminar recently that both the Democrat and Republican are running on an identical economic platform - tax cut of \$25 or \$30 billion, largely favorable to big business.

In short, as one reporter listened to Greenspan said, "it doesn't make a great deal of difference whether Ronald Reagan or Jimmy Carter wins...in November."

Given these circumstances, and the powerlessness of the American people to find an alternative before November, how can the voters exercise the use of their vote in a constructive way? This is the question that is going to grow in significance as we move closer to the November elections. How then or what criteria should black Americans use for deciding who to vote for?

### Worthwhile Issues

We partly answered that question on August 7 by suggesting that Jimmy Carter, in spite of his weaknesses, might appoint one or more Supreme Court justices of a little more liberal persuasion than would Ronald Reagan. This point is worthy of more detailed comment because it may be the only logical and worthwhile issue upon which to cast our votes particularly by black people. The worthiness arises from the fact that the person elected to the presidency in November may have the opportunity to appoint four or five justices to the Supreme Court.

The possibility of these appointments arise from the fact that justices William Brennan, Warren Burger, Thurgood Marshall, Lewis Powell and Harry Blackmun are all over 70 years of age, and some of them are in poor health.

President Carter has not had the opportunity to appoint a Supreme Court justice, and if he fails to get reelected he'll be the first president in nearly 115 years not to have made such an

appointment.

On the otherhand, while serving as Governor of California, Ronald Reagan appointed a conservative to the state Supreme Court. Therefore, if elected president he is likely to do the same. In this regard, Reagan has told

black groups that he would consider appointing a black to the higher court. However, it is doubtful that he will be able to find a qualified black who represents the kind of conservative views Reagan would require of his appointees.

The fact is, under a Reagan presidency, the present high court consisting of four Democrats - White, Marshall, Brennan and Powell - and five Republicans could possibly change in four years to eight largely conservative Republicans and one conservative Democrat, Justice Byron White.

If reelected, Carter will probably appoint a black to replace the ailing Thurgood Marshall - the high court's only black member - and also appoint the first woman. These and his other possible appointments will undoubtedly be liberals by comparison with possible Reagan appointees.

### Black Perspective

The significance of the appointments to the high court, particularly from a black perspective, is that conservatives from both parties have historically opposed strong civil rights laws and equal opportunity-affirmative action programs.

The rather conservative shift or the present high court - in response to the conservative mood of the nation - has demonstrated this in the BAKKE and WEBER cases.

Equally if not more important is the fact that the next series of appointees to the high court will undoubtedly serve through the year 2000 and in so doing will be making decisions that will have a far reaching affect on civil

rights and related issues throughout most of the 21 century. Therefore, a conservative court could retard (if not stop) the progress of blacks particularly in the areas of civil rights and economic rights and opportunities.

Thus, if there is little difference between the policies and platforms of Democrat and Republican party candidates we will need to look for alternate justifications for deciding who to vote for. The possible U.S. Supreme Court appointees is one such alternative.

In future weeks we will suggest other alternatives for deciding who to vote for in the presidential race in November.

WE MUST PREVENT  
OUR OWN CHILDREN  
FROM TURNING INTO JUNKIES  
WHO PREY ON  
THEIR OWN PEOPLE.  
WE CAN... PREVENT THAT.



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## As I See It

### Nation Going To Hell?

By Gerald O. Johnson  
Post Columnist

Everybody you talk to these days agrees on one thing; the nation is going to Hell. We have become weak, defenseless, spineless, gutless and insecure as a nation, they say. The talk continues with the Iranian and Pakistanian crisis, the recent Cuban crisis, our dependence on foreign oil, and many, many others being used as demonstrations to bring home the point.

Well, it may be true that as a nation, we aren't dictating world policy as before but so what? After all a 5 cent candy bar costs 20 cents today. Simply stated, today is a new day. What held true yesterday will not hold true today. However, desecration should not be construed as weakness. The force to punish those who try to intimidate us is available. The reasons for not using it are probably numerous, but even I with such limited knowledge can easily see a few.

One need only go back in history, some 10-15 years and put together a vivid picture of some of the reasons.

The sixties brought us death. John and Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King were all assassinated in this decade. The Vietnam war had escalated and the country was skidding into an economic recession. The public was practically dumbfounded. Confusion and chaos were the state of the nation. It seemed as if the country had lost all sense of direction. The public conscious came to the forefront and demonstrations demanding the end to the war were widespread.

Well, the seventies came



Gerald Johnson

and the magic man "Ole Tricky Dick" and the boys put an end to the war; but not before it had taken its toll in lives and in morale. While the country was recuperating from all of this bad history, "Tricky D" had started some of his wizardry in getting reelected. The oil embargo hit and more confusion manifested itself. Gas lines and oil shortages caused a deep recession and morale again sank to a low. Eventually, all of this wizardry came to light and another downer for the country. Unfortunately, while exposing "Tricky D," the CIA and FBI were also exposed.

The country would not tolerate such immoral conduct from officials entrusted with the protection of our high moral standards. Nixon, CIA and FBI were black washed. Then the man with the smile and the integrity was appointed Pres.

So you see, emotionally and spiritually, the country has been riding on a downer for a long time. We as a country have been reacting to this down syndrome. President Carter was elected because of his integrity and because at the time this was what the country needed. We practically

ignored his weaknesses as a politician and a leader and entrusted him with running the country.

Now, in a critical situation, this man is doing just that, running the country. It would be callous to unnecessarily thrust us into a war that could be prevented. Those individuals desiring such forceful actions against a small country such as Iran would be the first to protest when the first shipment of American casualties came home.

Moreover, if we went over and stomped hell out of 'em, then we would be compelled to give 'em foreign aid for stomping hell out of 'em. Who needs it?

### Gastonia Is Seeking

#### Part-Time

#### Instructors

The Gastonia Recreation Department is seeking part-time instructors for intermediate and advanced gymnastic classes to be taught at Phillips Center beginning September 8.

Must have solid background in tumbling, stunts uneven parallel bars, balance beam, etc.

Prefer person at least 18 years of age. Involves after school and early evening hours. Interested persons should call Cynthia Byars at 864-3211, Ext. 297.

#### Art Classes

A class introducing children 6-12 years of age to the world of art is being formed at Roland Bradley Center. Sketching, hydrocol, ceramics, pottery and other activities will be incorporated in the 12-week class which will begin on Saturday, September 13, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

## Affirmative Action

### Matter Of Life & Health

By Gerald C. Horne, Esq.

..Again and again, the issue of health care has been raised in this column. And for obvious reasons. Health care is ingently a life and death matter. This especially holds true for the Black community, which - as in so many other areas - is continually underrepresented amongst health professionals and has the worst "state of health" in this land.

The United States, generally speaking, is way down the list in objective indices of health care. For example, the U.S. ranks 15th in infant mortality rates, behind Singapore and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) among others. Needless to say, if the infant mortality rate of Black America alone were measured, the ranking would fall far below such "underdeveloped" countries as Peru, Algeria, Trinidad, etc. The same holds true for other objective indices; e.g., maternal mortality, life expectancy, incidence of preventable diseases, death from preventable diseases and death from diseases and death from diseases against which we have immunization. For example, the U.S. ranks 19th in male life expectancy and 10th in maternal mortality.

These gloomy statistics persist despite the fact that what this country spends on health care exceeds what all but four or five countries in the world produce as their total national product. This abomination shows no sign of abating. During the Depression of the 1930s \$3 billion was spent on health care. In 1950, the figure was \$12 billion. Today it stands at \$180 billion, is rising faster than the rate of inflation and now stands as the third largest industry.

A cursory tour of the health care topography presents a sorry view. Increasingly, doctors - especially those serving Black communities - come from India, Philippines and other Third World nations; i.e., those countries most in need of doctors are being subjected to a massive "brain drain." Most of these doctors are working as "general" practitioners. Before World War II 80 percent of all doctors fit this category - today, 80 percent of our 350,000 doctors are working as specialists. As in so many other areas, the fact that more money can be made as a specialist helps to explain their over-abundance.

Then there are the drug companies, the most profitable major industry in this country in terms of the return on the capital investment and sales. These companies are spending \$5,000 per prescribing physician each year to influence the pharmaceutical decisions of U.S. doctors. Not surprisingly, nor pill-popping junkies - particularly among the elderly - are being produced daily. The use of valium has reached epidemic proportions. Doctors employ these drugs frequently because (1) it takes less time to give a complaining patient pill and (2) of ten, the "ailment" stems from problems on the job, at home, with the kids, etc. and the doctor, who is ill-equipped for this responsibility, finds it easier to fork over tranquilizers.

The number of unnecessary operations has zoomed. Again, the fact that a doctor makes more money by operating than not plays a major role in this process. In Britain where health care has been nationalized and taken over by the government, they have significantly fewer operations, such as mastectomies, etc.

### From Capitol Hill

## Big Corporations Use Union Busting Schemes?

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

The J. P. Stevens Textile Company has succeeded in using tactics which make a mockery out of our laws.

From the beginning of the twentieth century, big corporations have been against labor unions. In the early days, corporations hired goons with bats and guns to beat employees and scabs were hired to replace the workers.

Now, the days of the goons are passed and more sophisticated chicanery is used. The present union culprits wear Brooks Brothers suits and carry brief cases with schemes for not certifying unions and denying employees' collective bargaining rights. These new corporation goons pass themselves off as employer consultants. Numerous consultant firms have been established to teach corporation executives how to break incumbent unions and defeat union organizing campaigns. The consultants receive exorbitant fees for teaching management employees how to



Alfreda L. Madison

by-pass the law, stretch, bend and even break the law at the same time breaking the union. Consultants often hold seminars in which they do not even shield their intent to advocate disobedience to the law. Big corporations feel that it is less expensive to hire consultants, ignore the law and pay a small penalty if convicted, especially since this is tax deductible.

J. P. Stevens, which operates in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia has been adjudged over

twenty times in violation of the law. It has paid some employees back wages, and paid fines, but it has made no effort to adhere to the law.

The Taft-Hartley law declares that the policy of the United States be to encourage collective bargaining and to protect the workers in efforts to achieve that result. While the law, at best is somewhat weak, the National Labor Relations Board has not been very vigorous in enforcing it. Since there are around thirty regional offices throughout the country, some regions have been less inclined to carry out Taft-Hartley than others.

Some of the more liberal members of congress, realizing that the law needed strengthening, proposed measures that put teeth into the bill. This was passed by the House in the 95th Congress but it was killed in the Senate by a month of filibuster. During this 96th Congress, various amendments for strengthening Taft-Hartley have been up in committees. So it seems

that Taft-Hartley will remain somewhat toothless for the time being.

Of course the Labor Relations Board does have the liberty to do more on its own than it really does, and if Congress really had the interest and stamina to pass stronger labor laws, many of the big corpora-

tions' management would abolish their illegal abuse. Giant companies have a tremendous lobbying power on Capitol Hill and, of course, many of them have ways of making big contributions to congressmen's campaigns. So the poor laborers are helpless at the hands of big money. Labor unions are being

### Muscular Dystrophy Telethone Set

In helping to kick off annual Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, the Central Carolinas Region of the Sports Car Club of America will hold its Second Annual Muscular Dystrophy Autocross Challenge at Eastland Mall, August 31.

Autocross competition has, in recent years, become very popular as a form of automotive recreation due to its low cost and its accessibility to the general public. Basically, an autocross is an event involving a series of timed runs through a pylon-outlined course which has been set-up in a parking lot of convenient size and location. The courses are de-

signed to simulate road racing courses in miniature, with left and right hand turns, as well as ess-bends and short straight-aways. At most autocross events, speeds are quite low, rarely getting above 35 mph. However, negotiating the turns without knocking over any pylons demands a certain skill, concentration and challenge, making the competition keen and exciting. All cars run against the clock only, and not against each other, as only one car runs through the course at a time.

Because of the stress on driver skill, and not on equipment cost or com-

plexity, anyone is welcome to try their hand at autocrossing. Classes exist for every type of car and both men and women. Cars are grouped by performance capabilities, and positions are won while competing against cars of similar performance.

The Muscular Dystrophy Autocross Challenge will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. on August 31.



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