

# Editorials & Comments

## No Silent Minority

### Black Middle Class

"Black Enterprise Magazine" recently polled its readership on a wide range of social, economic and political topics. The results of this poll, the first such comprehensive study of the attitudes of middle-class, college-educated blacks, are, sometimes surprising and always illuminating.

Most importantly, the "Black Enterprise" poll's results belie the claims of pundits who have suggested that the black middle class is becoming increasingly conservative, complacent and content and that its interest are somehow at odds with the interests of working class blacks and the poor.

More than nine out of ten of the poll's respondents indicated that they felt a moral obligation to help those blacks who are educationally and/or economically disadvantaged. Moreover, middle-class blacks are aware of the debt they owe to the civil rights movement. 91 percent of them agree that the gains they have made are a product of the movement of the 1960s.

This is not, however, to suggest that all is well or that the war has been won. 72 percent of the respondents in fact felt that racism is no less prevalent today than it was a decade ago. In addition, virtually all the respondents (95.6 percent) felt that whites harbor some form of racism toward blacks. And 78 percent admitted to having some negative feelings toward whites.

The poll likewise revealed a deep sense of frustration with the political progress of blacks. Over 31 percent of those polled felt that blacks should form their own political party. Such a prescription, however, is not only unworkable but would spell disaster for blacks who today are already woefully under-represented in government.

The discontents of the black middle class have not made it indifferent to political differences between the parties. And this is a healthy sign which flies in the face of the substantial sentiment the poll revealed for a black political party. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents believe there is a difference between the policies of the Democrats and Republicans.

### Misperceptions

Moreover, a similar two-thirds felt that black mayors - elected without benefit of a black party - have produced better government. In addition, nearly 50 percent of those polled stated that blacks would be unable to attain equality without forging an alliance with whites. A healthy political sense was also revealed in the poll's finding that middle class blacks rank the labor movement and white liberals number one and two, respectively, in a list of the most

loyal allies of the black community.

These results appear to suggest that middle class blacks will continue to take part in the coalitions which are today so vitally necessary. Yet this should not blind us to the poll's alarming indication that a number of misperceptions exist, concerning economic reality. Over two-thirds of the black middle class may feel that blacks as a group are better off or as well off economically as they were ten years ago. But, alas, this sentiment is not supported by the facts. Clearly those blacks who entered the middle class in the 1960 and 70s are reflecting their own economic progress rather than that of blacks as a whole.

### Purchasing Power

According to recent statistics, since 1970 median black incomes have dropped from 64 percent of white incomes to 59 percent. Moreover, this erosion has occurred at a time when the purchasing power of the take-home pay for all workers has been steadily declining. It is precisely this decline in the standard of living of all working people, black and white, which needs to be addressed.

And the goal of educating middle class blacks about certain economic realities remain a critical task. Indeed, it is one of the central tasks of an effective black leadership. Needless to say, blacks usually do not find a frank discussion of their economic status in the mass media. Many of the uncomfortable statistics remain poorly analyzed and under-reported. We can only hope that when the next "Black Enterprise" survey is held on that magazine's 20th Anniversary, the sentiment that blacks as a group are better off than they were ten years ago will be borne out by the facts. But this will only happen if an effective coalition is built for economic democracy and justice.

In the final analysis, the poll's results are largely encouraging.

### Something On

#### Your Mind?

"Something on your mind" is the name of a column devoted to you - the young at heart readers of this newspaper - as long as it relates in some way to young people, regardless of age.

Or any other subject you want to write about.

Remember, it's your column. Remember, your article should be at least 250 words, type-written and double-spacing preferred. Include your name, age, school and a clear photo and send it to the Editor, Charlotte Post Newspaper, P. O. Box 30144, Charlotte, N.C. 28230.

WHITEY COULD FOR ALL INTENTS, AND PURPOSES PUT HIS GUNS AWAY. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO KILL OURSELVES BETTER THAN HE CAN. NOW WE SEND EACH OTHER DEATH IN SMALL BAGS.

CLAYTON BILEY LIBERATOR



Our Children Minds Have Been Rendered Useless

### From The White House

## Blacks Do Their Own Individually Thinking

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post  
Nigerian President Shehu Shagari appears to be a shy person, but that appearance is deceiving. Even though his country is America's second greatest supplier of oil and he needs American food, at least for the present, he did not mince words in letting President Carter know his stand on South Africa.

President Shagari made it crystal clear that if America does not take a strong stand against apartheid in South Africa, Nigeria might use its oil imports as a weapon. He informed the President that America can be a strong voice of reason for a peaceful change in bringing about majority rule in South Africa.

Whenever blacks who are not so widely known come to the White House for whatever purpose, even if there is a small reception, I get several calls from the White House press office asking that I cover it. Yet, when foreign dignitaries and more nationally known blacks come to the White House for a state dinner the black White House correspondents get no calls.

The state dinner for President Shagari was listed for pool coverage. That means that certain press people sign up for it. Since Jody Powell, White House press secretary now only announces his infrequent press briefings a few minutes ahead of time, those of us who work for the black press, which because of the shortage of money have to cover other places, we can't hang around the White House waiting for a briefing. We've discussed this matter with Jody, but nothing

has changed. Since the White House press office is there only because of the press, it should operate for the convenience of all the press members - not just for the big money white press. The little black press influences just about all of the black people.

The guest list at the Shagari dinner, as usual included John Johnson, Publisher of Ebony, who seems to be a permanent black guest. The White House staff being composed of so many people from Georgia is often spoken of as the "Georgia mafia." The frequent black guest list just about always contains Coretta King, Andy Young, Maynard Jackson, and Jesse Hill. Maybe these can be considered the Black Georgia mafia guests. Since only a limited number can be invited, maybe the President could replace at time, some of his Georgia friends with other people from across the country.

A recent invited guest to the White House was

Clarence Murphy, from Detroit who is in the trucking business. At the Detroit Town Meeting, Clarence explained how he had lost his home because of business losses, and he wanted to know why his industry wasn't eligible for assistance. The President said he wanted to talk with Mr. Murphy about the matter. Clarence Murphy did receive a call from Mr. Carter who invited him to the White House. Murphy accepted the invitation, had his picture taken with the President in the oval office, but upon emerging from the White House, he made it known that he's received no encouragement.

This is a good example of the intelligent thinking of the black voters. They are not swayed by white media designated black leaders, who themselves are often looking for some personal recognition or by idle rhetoric. Their voting will reflect their own living conditions.

### Freedom Awards Dinner Speaker

Charles H. Smith, Deputy Executive Director of the NAACP will be the guest speaker at the Annual Freedom Awards Dinner of the 37th Annual Convention of the North Carolina NAACP meeting in Asheville, N.C., October 23-26. Smith will speak Saturday evening, 7:30 p.m., October 25, at Convention Headquarters, Smoky Mountain's INN ON THE PLAZA.

He served on the NAACP National Board of Directors and was Executive Director of the Tri-State Opportunity Industrialization center (OIC) in Huntington, West Virginia and

pastor of the First Baptist Church there. Smith is recognized nationally as a management consultant.

Raised in Lexington, Kentucky, Smith received his B.A. degree from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Va., where he was a member of the Dean's list for all four years. He also earned his Masters of Divinity at Virginia Union, where he again finished first in his class. He also has degrees in Epidemiology and Human Relations from the University of Pennsylvania and University of Kentucky.

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

## To Be Equal



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

### Violence Cannot Stop Ideas

This is my first column since someone shot me in the back on May 29. The past three months have been spent in hospitals - not my idea of the ideal summer vacation.

My enforced absence from speaking and writing was temporary, despite the intentions of the twisted mind that pulled the trigger of a deer rifle loaded with dum-dum bullets.

In the coming weeks I'll be back to dealing with the issues that affect all Americans, and especially with those of vital concern to America's poor people, black people, and deprived people.

Violence can never win in the battle of ideas. All people in leadership positions know that someone, deformed by racism, irrational hatred, and contempt for the humanity of those who hold different views, may be lurking in the bushes.

But ideas and movements will never be stopped with bullets. The civil rights movement went on after Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered.

And shooting me didn't stop the Urban League Movement. If anything, the staff and volunteers of the Urban League redoubled their efforts to provide services and advocacy for the people who count on them.

The civil rights movement will go on with full vigor until equality is won, no matter what happens to any of the individuals who occupy leadership positions.

My own experience has left me with renewed commitment to speak out and to fight against violence, oppression and racism in our society.

When your life is miraculously spared, you have a heightened sense the meaning of your work and beliefs, a conviction that you must make the best possible use of your remaining days.

And when you find literally thousands of people demonstrating their concern about you and believe in your ideas, that is added incentive to go on fighting the good fight.

I was moved by the outpouring of concern for me by so many people I had never met, but who cared. Their cards and letters, wires, thoughts and prayers helped me pull through.

Readers of this column know I have often condemned the selfishness of so many people in our society. But I always believed in the core of decency that pervades our society, side by side with the selfishness.

I saw a lot of that decency in my hospital stay. I was cheered by the kindness of so many people who wrote to tell of how their lives had been changed by something the Urban League accomplished, or of how they were praying for my recovery.

Often, people wrote to say they strongly disagreed with my views but were horrified by the attack on me and hoped I would soon be differing with them again.

The day doesn't have enough minutes for me to personally thank all of those many well-wishers. But I hope some at least, are reading this column and will accept my published thanks for their thoughts and their thoughtfulness.

And this column is far too short to thank the many people directly involved in enabling me to survive, and to recover my health.

### From Capitol Hill

## U. S. Cannot Be Run By Drunks And Uncontrolled Sex Habits?

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post  
Representative Robert Bauman a six year congressman from the First Congressional District of Maryland, has been charged with homosexual soliciting from a sixteen year old boy. It has been alleged that Mr. Bauman was a frequent visitor at "gay bars." The congressman has attributed his actions to alcohol. Because of plea-bargaining, he has been granted enrollment in a court-sponsored rehabilitation program.

Mr. Bauman appeared on television with a somewhat subdued, pleading for mercy look - a great switch from his confident somewhat arrogance on the floor of the House of Representatives. He admitted that he has both a drinking and homosexual problem. However, he is still planning to campaign for maintenance of his congressional seat.

Bob Bauman is President of the Conservative Union and he aligned with the new Christian right - Moral Ma-



Alfreda L. Madison  
jority and Christian Roundtable. All of these are against homosexuality and they are for such measures as the "Family Protection Act," which promotes the value of family life. Rev. Jerry Falwell stated in an article that it is wrong to misappropriate money and to have extramarital affairs. He still supports Bauman for congress, stating that he is not concerned about Bauman's personal life but his voting record. Has Falwell changed Christian prin-

ciples which are certainly concerned about the personal lives of people? How can Jerry Falwell denounce extra-marital affairs, support the value of family life and endorse Mr. Bauman for one of the highest offices in the land, when he admits to extramarital affairs, even though they are with other males? Such acts are bound to have some effect on Mr. Bauman's family.

Representative Bauman is a right-to-lifer. He voted against federally-funded abortions, the D.C. Voting Rights Act, the 1975 extension of Voting Rights Act, making Martin Luther King's birthday a holiday, school busing and considering himself a master parliamentarian, he used every tactic possible to gut the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill. He voted for cutting appropriations for social programs and against increased aid for developing countries. He voted for a huge defense budget. He has voted against just about everything that rally

benefits the poor and minorities. Bauman's congressional actions can certainly be termed as a "turn the clock back on the black civil rights gains."

The Republican Chairman Bill Brock seems to be somewhat vacillating in his financial support. One day he says the newspaper report that the party is going to give money to Bauman's campaign is wrong be-

cause no decision had been made and then the next day the paper reports that the Republican Party will give him financial aid. The last statement is that Bauman will not be supported by the Republican National Committee. Bill Brock stated that Bauman was a very able and conscientious congressman.

Even though Bauman's opponent is a Democrat, it

is hard to see how the Republicans and conservatives can support a candidate, even if they do want one of their own party in office who is now undergoing rehabilitation treatment because he has two serious social habits that he is unable to control. Surely, one sympathizes with Mr. Bauman and is glad he is seeking help.

torney engaged in the practice of general corporate, telecommunications, equal employment opportunity and tax law.

Mr. Rogers resided in Detroit, Mich. before coming to New York in 1971. He was employed as a trial lawyer in private practice and also on the staff of the Legal Aid and Defender Association.

Mr. Rogers was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. He received his B.A. degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan in 1959, and his J.D. degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1968. He

### Blacks To Develop New Techniques

also received the LL.M. degree from New York University School of Law in 1974. He is admitted to practice law in the states of Michigan and New York.

Mr. Rogers is a writer also. In 1975, he wrote film and theatrical reviews for the "Amsterdam News."

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