

Editorials & Comments

President Ronald Reagan!

What was expected to be a fairly close Presidential race turned into a landslide as Ronald Reagan captured 43 states and 462 electoral votes to Jimmy Carter's four states and only 45 electoral votes (with four states yet to report).

While the outcome is a surprise, the factors leading to Reagan's margin of victory are fairly evident. These include voters' dissatisfaction with Carter's policies dealing with the economy, energy and foreign policy. In more blunt terms, people were concerned about inflation, gasoline prices, the hostages in Iran and the sale of the Panama Canal.

In very practical terms, Ronald Reagan asked a basic question repeatedly during his campaign - "Do you feel you are better off now than you were four years ago?" Apparently enough voters felt they were worse off than in 1976. This resulted in votes AGAINST Jimmy Carter as much as it did in votes FOR Ronald Reagan.

Given the outcome, the question now arises as to what kind of President will Ronald Reagan be?

Interestingly, we can look at a development in our own state to see the basic question in a Reagan presidency. That is the role of the Congressional Club, a very conservative political organization created by Sen. Jesse Helms.

Helms used the organization to take the states' Republican

New Chief Has Impressive Credentials

On Tuesday Mack M. Vines, Chief of Police of St. Petersburg, Florida was named Chief of Charlotte's 757-member police force.

Charlotte City Manager David Burkhalter said his four-member staff advisory committee was particularly impressed with Vines' activity in community relations, relationships with the news media and his "high character" in running a "progressive, accountable department."

Fortunately, underlying the City's concern with Vines' record in community relations and a progressive department undoubtedly is the question of police relations particularly with the black community. The dialogue between local police officials and black leaders and youth following the Miami riots confirmed the continuing existence of friction between some segments of the black community and the police department.

Undoubtedly, too, in considering Vines' qualification, City officials were concerned with a recently released report that notes excessive use of force by policemen nearly doubled in the fiscal year ending on September 30, 1980. The Federal Community Relations Service received 249

Party machinery away from party lines and then to subvert the party to his greater interest in conservative principles. This was a key factor in senate candidate John East's victory over incumbent Robert Morgan.

Reagan was elected on many conservative policy issues. However, history tells us that candidates elected to the presidency on conservative platforms usually shift to a moderate position once in office. Thus, the question is whether a Reagan presidency will function from a moderate position or continue with conservative policies.

Regardless of which way Reagan moves, it is highly probable that the new President will not support national health insurance, labor reform, expanded welfare or expanded aid for the cities. Probably more significant than all of these will

be Reagan's impact on the Supreme Court. He may have the opportunity to appoint as many as four justices to the High Court. If these appointees are conservative, as they probably will be, the Court's decisions over the next 10 or 20 years could profoundly affect the rights of black people through the year 2050.

What we can be absolutely sure of is that things in America will be different under a Reagan presidency. Let's hope these differences lead to a better America for all its citizens.

complaints about excessive police force. This represents a whopping 92.8 percent over the previous year. Furthermore, 63 percent of the complaints came from blacks, 32 percent from Spanish-speaking people and four percent was from American Indians. This, 99 percent of the complaints about excessive use of force by the police came from minority group members.

Data on how many of these complaints came from Charlotte or North Carolina is not available. However, the size of the increase in such complaints should be cause for concern by any city concerned with progressive government and equal justice for all citizens.

We believe Charlotte officials acted wisely in listing community relations and a progressive police administration as high priorities in the selection of a new police chief.

Mack M. Vines has been credited with improving police department moral in St. Petersburg and with making his personnel more responsive to public concerns. We hope that Mr. Vines can meet the challenge of bringing to the Charlotte Police Department those qualities he is leaving with the St. Petersburg men in blue.



A Cleaner Neighborhood Is Up To You....

Proposed Plan Seeks Relief For Low Income Families

By Allan Thurman
Special To The Post

A plan to bring property tax relief to low and moderate income residents of North Carolina has been proposed by Carolina Action.

Carolina Action is a statewide organization of low and moderate income families, working on a variety of economic and "quality of life" issues.

According to Carolina Action spokesperson Rick Larson, here is how the property tax relief proposal would work. Called "circuit breaker", the plan sets a "fair tax level" for each family, based on that family's income. The "fair tax level" represents that percentage of a family's income which could fairly be taken for property taxes. The higher a family's income, the higher its "fair tax level." For example: a family earning \$5,000 or less would have a "fair tax level" of one-half of one percent, while a family making over \$15,000 would have a "fair tax level" of 2.0 percent. No family with an income over \$25,000 would be eligible for tax relief under the "circuit breaker" plan. Since the "fair tax level" would be that percentage of a family's income it could be required to pay in property taxes, it would be issued a refund for the amount paid over the "fair tax-level." For instance, if your family's income for the year was \$8,000, your "fair tax level" would be 1.0 percent. One percent of \$8,000 is \$80. If you paid \$138 in property taxes, you would receive as a refund the difference between \$138 and \$80 - or \$58. The maximum refund under the "circuit breaker" plan would not exceed \$200.

Not just homeowners would be eligible for tax

relief under this plan. Renters, who pay property tax in their rents, could also apply for refunds.

Provisions in the proposed law take note of the special situation of small farmers, and of those receiving the homestead exemption.

Although property taxes are paid on a local level, the refunds would come from the State treasury thus assuring no loss of vital local services. According to Carolina Action,

revenues lost through circuit breaker could be made up by: 1) more stringent state auditing of corporations; 2) closing up tax loopholes through which oil companies avoid paying their fair share; 3) making public the meetings of the Tax Review Board, the state agency which decides tax appeals.

If you would like to know more about the "circuit breaker" plan for low and moderate income tax relief, call the Carolina Action office at 332-2541.

Interested In Going Into

The Health Care Field?

Interested in going into the health care field? North Carolina's Educational Loan Program may be able to help you with education costs.

The Educational Loan Program provides loans for students going into medical and other health related studies such as dentistry, medicine, optometry, physical therapy, nursing, dental hygiene, pharmacy, nutrition and several others.

Loans range from \$500 to \$6,000 per year per individual depending on the particular field of study. The loans are repaid through practice in medically underserved areas of North Carolina or in cash.

Interest, academic standing and motivation for service are examined carefully in selecting students to participate in the loan program. Financial need is also a criterion when the number of applicants exceeds the availability of funds.

The Educational Loan Program, which began in 1945, is the oldest and largest health education loan program in the nation.

More than 3,800 students have studied under the program since 1945, 90 percent of them since 1965. The loan program currently has \$8 million invested in people who are in training or practice to repay their loan obligations.

Jane Proctor, head of the Educational Loan Program, says, "This type of program is good because we can consider the needs of both the state and the student. We work very closely with our students while they are in training as well as practice. We get to know each one of them and their families, and they know us."

If you are interested in the program and would like an application packet, contact the Educational Loan Program, Division of Facility Services, N. C. Department of Human Resources, P. O. Box 12200, Raleigh, N.C. 27605; telephone 919-733-2164.

Kitchen Counters

For most activities at kitchen counters, a home-maker needs a work surface three inches below her elbow.

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

To Be Equal



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

Black Survey Explodes Myths

A major barrier to social progress lies in the yawning gap between white perceptions and black experience.

That's why the National Urban League's Black Pulse survey is so important. It represents a massive, systematic process of face-to-face interviews with about 3,000 black heads-of-households.

That makes Black Pulse far more representative than polls using relatively small numbers of people. And unlike opinion polls, Black Pulse is a needs assessment survey, focusing on people's needs and experiences.

The first findings are important guides to policy directions the nation should follow.

Although the interviews were made before the full impact of this recession hit, unemployment was clearly identified as the number one problem in the black community. Discrimination ranked second, and inflation a poor third.

The concern with the problem of unemployment cut across class lines. In fact, a slightly larger proportion of middle-income blacks identified unemployment as the number one problem. That finding is contrary to opinion polls in the white community, where middle income people show greater concern with inflation. Secure in their own jobs, the white middle class just doesn't rank joblessness high on the list of problem areas.

Most blacks are concerned with inflation. The vast majority report their incomes have not kept pace with inflation and nearly half say they are worse off financially than a year ago.

So the inroads of inflation have resulted in a decline in black living standards, but uniting all classes in the black community is a shared realization that astronomical unemployment rates are having an even greater devastating effect on the community.

All income classes in the black community are also united in identifying discrimination as second only to unemployment among the problems black people face.

Many Americans believe in the myth that blacks have made it into the middle class and that discrimination is no longer a major problem. But Black Pulse found that over two-thirds of all blacks say blacks today face a great deal of discrimination. Seventy percent of the over-\$20,000 income group agreed - an even higher percentage than among those in the under-\$6,000 income group.

That finding reflects continuing discrimination in jobs, housing, loans and contacts with public and private officials.

Again in sharp contrast to current mythology, three-fourths of blacks say the push for equal rights is "too slow." Ten years ago a public opinion survey found less than half of all blacks saying the push for racial equality was "too slow."

That indicates that while many Americans think the nation is traveling on the road to greater equality, black people know it is not. And again it is among middle income blacks that there is the most dissatisfaction with the pace of progress.

Another myth Black Pulse explodes is the extent and nature of black unemployment. Most Americans are dimly aware of a black youth unemployment problem.

From Capitol Hill

96th Congress Turns Clock Back On Civil Rights

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Members of the 96th Congress have seized the opportunity to set back civil rights of minorities, by attaching extraneous, anti-civil rights amendments to appropriations bills. These actions usually take place without any committee hearings. This is labeled a "back door method" by the civil rights commission.

Women, black and Hispanic voters should take serious cognizance of the members of Congress who initiated these unjust amendments.

Representative Robert Walker of Pennsylvania, attached an amendment to the Health and Human Services and Education Department appropriation to prohibit use of funds to implement programs which include racial quotas or requirements in employment and admission policies.

Senators Eagleton and Biden have had an amendment in effect for three years which prohibits the



Alfreda L. Madison
Education Department

from transporting students to a school other than the school nearest their homes.

Representative James Collins of Texas introduced an amendment to prohibit the Justice Department from bringing action to require the transportation of students to a school other than the school nearest their homes. If this amendment together with the Eagleton-Biden amendments becomes law, the Federal government will be required to, unconstitu-

tionally, fund segregated school systems where student transportation is the last available desegregation remedy.

An amendment by Representative Robert Dornan of California was attached to the Treasury Department's appropriation bill. This amendment will prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from implementing proposed revenue procedures pertaining to the tax-exempt status of private, religious or church schools unless such procedures were in effect prior to the enactment of this appropriation bill. These two amendments can certainly lead to the establishment of little private academies to get around integration of schools.

Bills have been introduced in Congress to oppose school busing to circumvent integration, but no alternatives to improve equal school opportunities have been proposed. The civil rights commission highly opposes all of the afore-mentioned amendments as measures for

turning the clock back on civil rights gains, and it urges defeat of these.

The commission strongly urges this 96th Congress to enact the following civil rights bills:

The Fair Housing Amendments of 1980, which gives Housing and Urban Development (HUD) a strong enforcement mechanism to combat discrimination in the rental and sale of housing.

Youth Act of 1980, to alleviate unemployment among minority and disadvantaged youth through improved skills-training and basic education programs.

Domestic Violence Act, which provides Federal support and stimulation for state and local programs aimed at curbing violence and assisting its victims.

The commission has continuously urged repeal of the Eagleton-Biden amendment which has already passed the Senate. The Ashbrook, Of Ohio amendment which differs only with the Borman amendment in that it prohibits

IRS from taxing any private school at all. These two amendments along with the Walker and Collins amendments have already passed the House, but the commission is calling upon the Senate to defeat them.

In assessing the civil rights accomplishments of the 96th Congress, the commission strongly emphasizes its opposition to the series of anti-civil rights measures adopted by the House. It is incumbent upon the senate to defeat these bills because

Sexual Assault Discussed

continued from Page 1
sexual counseling to victims with problems caused by criminal actions of others - including assault, rape, robbery and murder. It also offers crisis support, information about the criminal justice system and help families of victims (334-5656 or 332-3993).

The Shelter and Victims Assistance are operated by Family and Children Services, 301 S. Brevard St.

they represent a serious retreat from this nation's commitment to the achievement of equal opportunity for all Americans.

To achieve these fair and just goals, all citizens should contact their senators and strongly urge them to vote for defeat of the Ashbrook, Walker, Collins and Dornan amendments, the repeal of Eagleton-Biden amendment and vote for passage of the Fair Housing 1980 Act, Youth Act of 1980 and the Domestic Violence Act.

The Rape Crisis Center is a voluntary group which assists victims of rape and their families with counseling, support and referrals to appropriate medical and legal help.



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