

Time To Offer Thanks

On this Thanksgiving Day in 1980, many people are wondering why should we be giving thanks or what do we have to give thanks for? These questions should serve to remind us that Thanksgiving every year comes within the midst of our national problems whatever they happen to be.

On Thanksgiving Day 1980 our national problems of inflation, youth unemployment, the hostages in Iran, a diminishing international image and a continuing decline in confidence in our national government, appears at times to completely overwhelm us. Nevertheless, we have a traditional sense of hope that things can and will improve. This was demonstrated by the 51 percent of the American electorate who, concerned about our nation's problems, voted for candidates on Election Day whom they believed would turn our national hopes into progressive realities. This take-it-for-granted freedom to vote in free elections and to have a smooth transfer of the powers and reigns of government dictated by the ballot not the bullet are something we should continue to be thankful for.

We should be thankful, too, that in spite of an unemployment rate of over seven percent more Americans have jobs than ever

before. In addition, 38 percent of the work force is female which reflects declining sexism in the labor market.

Thankfulness should be offered, too, for the fact that even with inflation the vast majority of Americans will have ample food on the dinner table this Thanksgiving Day. Thanks should be granted also for the fact that we are in an era of peace and not war; we can worship God freely whenever and however we desire or not worship Him at all; we can speak and write freely without fear or government control; and we can travel freely or change our places of employment at our own choosing. These are freedoms that too many Americans assume are rightfully theirs. However, we need to pause and offer thanks to God because such freedoms still do not exist in most parts of the world.

These freedoms, for which we should forever be thankful, are the telescopes through which we can see the visions of better Thanksgivings in the future.

Thus, Thanksgiving is a unique holiday in that it causes us to reflect on our nation's past, to have a deeper appreciation for the present, and to see in the visions of the future a hope for a better tomorrow.

FOCUS: A Giant Step Forward

Weekly throughout the month of October, 150 black Charlotteans met in ten separate topic sessions to discuss problems, analyze facts, and identify issues that have a direct impact upon the quality of life of Charlotte blacks. These discussions, and the cross section of blacks who made them possible, were all a part of FOCUS - a Black Symposium on Urban Problems in Charlotte.

Marnite Shuford, chairperson of the FOCUS Steering Committee says, "The purpose of the Black Symposium is to bring together Black people from all areas of Charlotte to begin the process of planning long range goals and strategies on twelve key issues affecting the Black community...and increasing citizen...monitoring (public) response to these issues and problems...."

FOCUS took a giant step toward achieving its purpose last Saturday when the key issues that had been analyzed, defined, and debated were brought together in written summary form.

Among the relevant issues identified in the committee summaries as presented at the November 22 "People's Town Meeting Day" were the following:

1. Preserving Black history and culture and the development of Black artists;
2. Inequities experienced by

the Black community from the white-controlled news-media;

3. The need for well organized Black communities to sponsor effective crime prevention programs;

4. The judicial system is not adequately meeting the needs of the emotionally and mentally handicapped Black juvenile;

5. The unavailability of capital to sustain Black-owned businesses;

6. Greater parent accountability in the education of our children;

7. The availability and quality of health care;

8. The lack of affordable housing for Blacks, especially lower income households;

9. The availability of adequate park facilities in Black communities;

10. Equitable zoning to protect Black residential communities; and

11. Black apathy toward the political process.

It is evident from this partial listing of the issues identified by FOCUS that much needs to be done before Blacks in the Charlotte community can share in a level of quality of life that they are entitled to. One thing is for sure, if you and others reading this editorial don't join in the struggle for justice and equality in the pursuit of resolving these issues, nothing will change.

"We Cannot Wait Until Discrimination Ends Before We

Rid Our Communities Of Crime,

We Can No Longer Excuse

Crime Because Of Society's

Inequities.. We Stand

Menaced By Our Own

Kith And Kin. It Is

Inconceivable To Me

That We Who

Have Prevailed In

Spite Of The Barbarism

Of White People Should,

In The Last

Quarter Of The

Century, Stand

As Mute

Spectators To

Our Doom."

"If The Government Will Not Protect Us And If The Police Cannot, It Follows That Black Citizens Must Protect Themselves."



Bertrand Says:

Extension Must Focus On New Economic, Social Areas

Special To The Post
SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA. - "Extension family education programs can, and must, take the lead in teaching skills people need to promote individual growth and development and to meet needs for foods, fuel and housing," Anson R. Bertrand, director of science and education for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said here today.

Bertrand spoke to members of the National Association of Extension Home Economists at their annual meeting here this morning.

"Today, extension must focus its attention on meeting new social and economic demands facing people who live in both rural and urban areas. Extension must provide a broad scope of educational assistance to help them identify needs, make decisions and utilize resources to improve their quality of living," he said.

Now more than ever, USDA's Science and Education Administration research and education programs must work together to find answers to serious questions involving energy, nutrition, family resource management, human development, housing, taxes, food, fiber and health and to deliver those answers to the people we serve, said Bertrand.

Extension - a partnership of federal, state and local governments - provides "a rich base of knowledge for every county," he said.

County home economists need to be involved in public policy formation, said Bertrand. "In coming years your input on a number of tough issues facing the family will be needed to develop sound public

policy," he said. These areas, he said, include the nature and dimensions of personal space and the kind and quality of community services; the need for conserving resource supplies and protecting environmental quality and the means of doing so; and information resources that make sure sources of information are sound and credible.

Bertrand said scientific research findings must be transferred to the public if we are to improve the quality of life.

"An essential role of extension home economists is to provide the link between the family and the research both in interpreting research findings to the family, and conveying problems needing research to the scientific community," he said.

The fact that people can be reached directly in their homes and involved

Letter To The Editor

An Appeal For Correspondence

Dear Sir: I am presently incarcerated within the Ohio Penal System. I'm 39 years of age and I write this letter as an appeal for correspondence and what I hope will lead to a viable and new beginning.

I'm further hopeful that through your paper, I will be fortunate enough to meet and share through letters experiences such as I have never known...my appeal...are to those people who, like myself, are wanting to share a communication that will be of sincerity, honesty and seeking to start a new life...friendship...Prison can become awesome...At times, filled with that darkness of lost hopes, disparity, lone-

lous leadership roles in the extension system is not only important to extension's success, but also the envy of many agencies and groups which wish to use extension's delivery system to reach consumers, Bertrand said.

"In home economics, and nutrition, a Gallup Poll showed 17 million persons - about 10 percent of the U.S. adult population - have participated actively at least once in some aspect of these extension home economics programs," he said.

"I am confident that as extension home economics proceeds on a course of providing new programs, developing new and innovative evaluation systems, and responding to the public policy issues confronting families, that its 66-year history of success will not be broken or diminished," Bertrand said.

Small Appliances

To operate household equipment economically, use small appliances rather than the range, for small-portion cooking.

Affirmative Action

Reagan And Affirmative Action

By Gerald C. Horne, Esq. Special To The Post

Though Ronald Reagan has yet to come to office (that won't happen until January 20, 1981) it is already clear that affirmative action and other issues of concern to Blacks (e.g., busing), will receive less than a receptive ear.

The lame-duck Congress, reacting to a perceived right-wing shift in public sentiment, recently passed a rider barring the Justice Department from court actions to enforce the use of busing to achieve desegregation. This Senate maneuver was in response to a similar provision passed earlier this year by the House. Though several constitutional scholars have expressed grave reservations about the constitutionality of these measures (Prof. Lawrence H. Tribe of Harvard Law School blasted the proviso as an "attack on the very heart of the executive's duty to enforce the laws, including the Constitution"), conservative Congresspersons have promised to press on with similar measures.

For example, Senator Orrin Hatch has vowed to introduce a constitutional amendment to ban affirmative action. He has promised that the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program (OFFCCP), an aggressive federal agency mandating affirmative action among government contractors, will be forced to toe the line. This follows hot on the heels of the rider attached to the Health and Human Services Department appropriations bill to prohibit use of funds to implement programs which include racial quotas in employment and education.

These types of measures have been welcomed with open arms by Reagan and Company. The President-Elect's transition director and top advisor, Edwin Meese, said on November 9 that "the governor opposes...quotas." Those who have been heartened by the incremental increases in Black lawyers at the Justice Department should know that Reagan's transition team has criticized the "quota system" for hiring and promoting lawyers.

Reagan's team has lined up with white male lawyers in the department who have scored the program under which a committee reviews most hirings and promotions to insure that women and minorities have been considered. Symptomatic of Reagan's antipathy to equal opportunity is the fact that this Justice Department program has been criticized by civil rights advocates as weak since it does not involve quotas or goals, yet the transition team still feels that it has gone too far.

Unfortunately, there is some support in certain influential circles for Reagan's anti-affirmative action approach. For example, a new Department of Transportation program recently took effect requiring that companies headed by minorities and women be given roles in highway and mass transit construction. This innovative program, which may be a precursor to others in federal departments, has been greeted with resistance. Nineteen states have requested waivers from provisions in the program. The virtually lily-white Associated General Contractors, a major trade organization, has sued the Government over the program. The NEW YORK TIMES, voice of the liberal (?) "Eastern Establishment" has editorialized against this major effort to reverse discrimination.

From Capitol Hill

Reagan Dims Lights For Black Justice And Equality

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post
President-Elect Ronald Reagan gives blacks great concern about civil rights, an uneasiness that is not entirely without merit.

In talking about his favoring the amendment which prohibits the Justice Department from bringing suits to implement the Supreme Court's decision to bus children for the purpose of integration, Mr. Reagan said that busing has been a failure. Evidently, the President-Elect is not familiar with a recent study which showed that busing has been a step forward in housing integration. Busing opponents, generally, use house integration as a remedy for school integration, but even while that remedy is beginning to work they oppose the means for accomplishing it.

In the press briefing, press secretary, Jim Brady was asked if Gov. Reagan's approval of the anti-busing amendment and his stand on states' rights are not turning the clock back on civil rights gains and that



Alfreda L. Madison his actions give aid and comfort to the Ku Klux Klan, Jim Brady replied that the President-Elect will not turn the civil right's clock back - that many blacks are against school busing and that Mr. Reagan denounced the Klan. The follow-up response was; that denouncing the Klan was one thing, but supporting Klan views was another, which makes the denunciation somewhat hypocritical. Even though Brady said that some blacks are

against busing, he admitted that he could not name any.

There are more than 200 members of the Transition Team; we were given names of three black members; Arthur Teele Team Leader of Transportation Department, Constance Newman, Team Leader of Community Services Administration and Clarence McKee whose name was given to us, but no one seems to know what his position is or where he is.

Gloria Toote, a long time Reagan supporter says she is serving in an unofficial advisory capacity to the Transition Team. She stated that Mr. Reagan will surround himself with the most talented people that can be found for positions, irrespective of race or creed. She said that the President-Elect will assure that civil rights will be implemented in all federal programs, that he is against quotas but for affirmative action. Gloria stated that Reagan will create a climate that will reduce racism. However, she refused to say just how

the climate will be created. For his African policy, Gloria said the President-Elect will gather information from Black Africans and Black Americans. He is for implementing of the Sullivan Codes by American corporations doing business in South Africa - that he will also create a South African climate which will lead to majority rule. At this point Reagan is not for economic sanctions against South Africa which the United Nations calls for. It is reported by some transition members that Toote can get any job with the Reagan Administration that she desires.

In a conversation with Rev. Abernathy who, along with Hosea Williams, had a conference recently with Ronald Reagan. Rev. Abernathy stated that he and Mr. Williams were assured by Mr. Reagan that there will be blacks in all policy-making positions - that he is for human rights for all people. Mr. Abernathy stated that he and Mr. Williams will present the President-Elect with a black agenda, in the new

few days. He did not reveal the contents of the agenda. He did say that he will be monitoring the President's actions concerning his response to issues that affect the poor and minorities. Abernathy said he is not a member of the Transition Team and does not desire any position in the Reagan Administration.

Melvin Bradley, a black man who was a member of the Reagan California Governor Administration, has been appointed as Special Advisor to the Director of Personnel. Bradley says his job will consist of recruiting qualified blacks for positions in the Administration. Both he and Jim Brady, press secretary refused to say whether or not any blacks will be the number one person in a position, other than perhaps a cabinet post. Bradley said that Reagan appointed more blacks to positions as Governor than any other California governor. When he was told that none of the black appointees held top positions, he said that was a start.

After more than 100 years, blacks are still at the starting point. It is incumbent upon Mr. Reagan now to carry them to the finish line by placing some of them in the very top most positions.

Masons Conclave continued from Page 1
Worthy Mafron; Naomi Chapter No. 7, Sis. Ruby Hayes, Worthy Matron.
The Charlotte area is District No. II in the state. Officers are: Bro. Lawrence Davis and Sis. Elizabeth Murray, Supreme Grand Deputies; Bro. Grover Gatewood and Sis. Odessa Surratt, Special Assistants to the Supreme Grand Deputies; Sis. Linda Panton, District Secretary; Bro. Grover Gatewood, District Treasurer; and Sis. Ruth Richardson and Bro. Roosevelt Redfern, District Reporters.



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