

Editorials & Comments

Mandate Needed To End Black Fears

Ronald Reagan's presidential victory has been hailed by some as a mandate for change. What form that change should take is being heatedly debated throughout the nation, especially by journalists and intellectuals. Since much of that change will have a significant impact upon Black Americans, an element of the electorate that gave Reagan few votes, and considering the apparent conservative drift of the new national leaders, Blacks have expressed some fears for the future.

Vernon Jordan, head of the National Urban League, confirmed this fear when he said on national television recently, "There is an unusual amount of hysteria in the Black community." In an apparent attempt to ease the fears, Jordan also said he would not pre-judge President-elect Reagan but would wait and see who his cabinet appointees are and the policies they will pursue. In an unrelated comment, but one that could also less Black fears, was made by Assistant Attorney General Drew S. Days III, the federal government's top civil rights enforcer. He said, "I don't think there's going to be a total pulling back," from the progress we've made in civil rights by the Reagan administration.

In spite of these wild reassuring comments and the fact that getting hysterical won't change anything, there are circumstances that justify at least deep concern about the future by Black Americans. For example, despite gains in recent years, many middle-class Black families need two or three incomes to maintain their standard of living and they sense a growing resurgence of racial bias in employment. And Blacks, especially lower income young people, who are being hardest hit by inflation, now face the prospect of a lowered minimum wage under one proposed Reagan plan.

In addition, the unresolved murders of Black citizens in Atlanta and adults in Buffalo, the freeing of the Klan-Nazi killers in Greensboro, Sen. Thurmond's mounting attacks on the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the strong possibility that Reagan will pack the Supreme Court with conservatives are truly reasons for Blacks to be concerned about their future.

Nevertheless, for Blacks to become engulfed in a mood of "hysteria" is and can be more destructive than anything President-elect Reagan and his administration may do through policy formation.

Mood Of Hysteria

We as Blacks need first to understand that to embrace the mood of hysteria is to abandon the idea of hope, and without hope Blacks will not even gather

the courage to plan with their traditional supporters to counteract negative policies and programs.

Hope should begin with the understanding that historically new administrations are never able to implement as much as they say in their political rhetoric. The reason for this reality is that the federal bureaucracy can and does prevent some change and secondly, the hard reality of applied politics of getting even many of those who supported the candidate's view in a broader philosophical sense to support action in a policy sense. For example, many who supported Reagan's view on cutting government spending will not support (in N.C.; any efforts to reduce tobacco price support programs). In fact it is the threat of such reduction that will cause Sen. Helms to change his thinking about cutting the food stamp program by 40 percent. These observations are simply to say that there is hope that Blacks don't face total despair and that they need to use their energies to encourage and assist those elected officials who support programs that affect Black welfare.

Fringe Groups

Other reasons for hope are that many conservative leaders are beginning to develop a hard line against the ultra-right wing conservative Moral Majority fringe groups that supported Reagan's presidency efforts and Mr. Reagan himself has resisted efforts of such groups to force him to follow their desires. This is evident by Mr. Reagan's independent hand in the speculation about cabinet appointments.

A final reason for hope is that Mr. Reagan recognizes that he has one of the very few opportunities Republicans have had since the 1930s to prove or demonstrate his party's commitment to Blacks. To fail in this regard will be to alienate Black support for the Republican party for another 100 years.

Therefore, Blacks need to help President-elect Reagan shape his mandate by strategically offering him the challenge to adequately respond to the needs of Blacks to demonstrate a Republican party worthy of Black support. This can be done and now is the time to do it.

Thus, Blacks need to be planning now a strategy to challenge Mr. Reagan to show why they and other minorities should support his party now and in the future. Nixon and Ford didn't do it, he must, or continue to loose elections because of ignoring a major part of the electorate.

The bottom line is this: any mandate for change to end Black fears and to continue the progress Blacks have made must begin with Blacks.



In Boycott Case

NAACP Suffers Setback

The Mississippi Supreme Court has dealt the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People another staggering blow in the 14-year struggle to resolve the Port Gibson case.

In a 31-page opinion, the Mississippi Supreme Court found the NAACP liable for conspiring to organize and support an illegal boycott against twelve merchants in Port Gibson, Mississippi. Their opinion was based on the Common Law of Mississippi.

Charles Carter, Associate General Counsel for the NAACP, expressed utter disappointment with the court's adverse decision, and stated "the Association will appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. We are certain that the court's ruling on liability would not hold up when compared with the hard, solid facts of the case. We cannot accept the high court's decision on liability and will persist in our defense against these charges in order to circumvent the potentially damaging effect of these findings on our civil rights activities in the future."

The State Supreme Court also found the \$1.2 million damage judgment rendered by the Chancery Court excessive and remanded it to the lower court for further proceedings.

The Mississippi Supreme Court did, however, dismiss the case against Mississippi Action for Progress, the Poverty Head Start Program in Mississippi and thirty-seven individual defendants cited in the original lawsuit.

The original suit grew out of a 1966 boycott involving Black citizens who



Benjamin L. Hooks
NAACP Executive Dir.

were protesting racial discrimination in Claiborne County, Mississippi. The Port Gibson merchants in 1969 sued the National and local NAACP, the Mississippi Action for Progress and 129 private citizens, claiming in their lawsuit that the leaders of the boycott conspired to create an illegal monopoly for Black businesses. The Chancery Court of Hinds County ruled in favor of the white merchants three years later.

NAACP Executive Director Benjamin L. Hooks, said he was "both saddened and extremely disappointed upon reviewing the evidence and testimony the high court allowed during the court proceedings. But we must continue our struggle to the next level - the U.S. Supreme Court - in order to achieve justice not only for ourselves but for other civil rights groups and individuals striving to eliminate racial discrimination in this country."

Another local NAACP official, Southeast Regional Director Earl Shinoster, said "The outcome of this decision is yet another piece of evidence confirming the growing conserv-

ative attitudes permeating this country with respect to the rights of Blacks and other minorities. The Ku Klux Klan can shoot citizens in the streets and the courts find them not guilty; Black women in Chattanooga, Tenn., can be shot and maimed and the courts set the perpetrators free; and an insurance executive in Miami can be beaten to death by city police officials and the courts find them not guilty - yet Black citizens in Mississippi are brought before the bar and made to pay an even greater price than any of these defendants did in attempting mayhem."

ESC Recovers

\$114,111.83 In

Overpayments

RALEIGH - The North Carolina Employment Security Commission recovered \$114,111.83 in unemployment insurance overpayments during November according to figures released by the commission's anti-fraud unit.

The unit investigated 164 persons who have claimed or currently are claiming unemployment insurance benefits. Of that number, 107, or 65 percent were found to have been overpaid \$49,238. The commission classified 72 of these cases, representing 127,429, as non-fraud and 35, representing \$31,809, as fraud.

A claimant must be proven to have knowingly made a false statement on a claim for resulting overpayments to be classified as fraud cases.

From Capitol Hill

Nation Must Act Now To Avoid Racial Warfare?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
The House of Representatives Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, chaired by Congressman John Conyers, held the first in a series of hearings on what appears to be criminal violence against minorities. Activities of violence-prone organizations and their members who have committed acts of violence against minorities will be examined by the committee. Causes and extent of racial violence will claim attention as well as the adequacy of local, state and federal law enforcement efforts.

Conyers listed documented disturbing trends in intergroup violence and recruit training and organizational activities of hate groups and violence-prone organizations. These studies were documented by the Anti-Defamation League, National Education Association, Commission on Civil Rights and other groups.

These groups reported recruitment on broad Navy



Alfreda L. Madison

vessels, at military installations, where men in military dress have been security guards at Klan rallies, and official equipment has been used for printing Klan literature, Klan infiltration in penal institutions, operating of youth camps, operation of paramilitary and psychological warfare training camps, and recruitment of and dissemination of literature in high schools.

Mr. Ted Gurr, Professor of Political Science at

Northwestern University, stated that the Ku Klux Klan, Nationalist Socialist Party and other extremist groups are anti-democratic. They reject basic principles of a democratic American society - they deny equality of treatment of opportunity to ethnic and religious groups, they oppose free expression of political and social opinions and they are prepared in many instances to use violence.

Mr. Gurr stated that he feels the prevalence of conservative views of the minimization of government's role in society and the economy, and greater reliance on private sector and market forces provide a climate more favorable to expression of extreme right-wing groups.

Arthur Kinoy, Law Professor at Rutgers, stated that if this exploding violence directed at Blacks and other minorities is not checked, the nation is embarking upon a national crisis of untold dimensions. He emphasized that the Federal Reconstruction

statutes which were strengthened in the 60s offer the Federal Government an immediate two-pronged strategy for averting this disaster. Mr. Kinoy stated that statutes 18 USC, 241, 242 and 245 were used after the murder of Schwerner, Cheney and Goodman in Philadelphia, Mississippi in 1964. Use of these statutes by the Department of Justice, obtained the indictment and conviction of the Klan murderers.

Drew Days, Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department stated that he personally went to Buffalo, N.Y. to investigate the brutal murder of four Blacks. Days admitted that the trip caused him to be fearful for his life - that being Black he could have been murdered.

Conyers and Drew Days had serious disagreements over the provisions of Article 241, which states that when two or more persons conspire to physically assault or injure a

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

TO BE EQUAL

Open Season On Civil Rights?

The lame-duck Congress passed an amendment to an appropriations bill banning Justice Department participation in busing suits, signaling an open hunting season on civil rights laws.

Not that this particular amendment is so novel; other restrictions have made it through the Congress in the past. But this one would effectively take the executive branch out of the business of remedying unconstitutional school segregation.

It would even bar the Justice Department from enforcing court busing orders, something the courts will probably find unconstitutional. Congress' attempt to handcuff busing is a direct interference with the executive branch's sworn duty to enforce the laws of the land.

Ironically, it came at a time that yet another study was published documenting busing's beneficial effects. Researchers at Catholic University's Center for National Policy Review found that busing programs in metropolitan areas encouraged housing desegregation.

They noticed a decline in residential segregation patterns in cities with area-wide desegregation and concluded that further integration of housing would ultimately mean busing could be discontinued since the schools would be integrated without it.

The researchers found that when only the center city was subjected to busing orders, "white flight" to the suburbs was encouraged. But when the entire metro area was subject to desegregation, reluctant whites could not flee and the pattern was reversed.

The lesson has been clear all along that busing and other, more often used means of desegregating schools, work when local authorities and citizens' groups pitch in to make it work. The long-term meaning of Congress' action is that communities resisting desegregation can expect to be rewarded, while those who comply with the law will have to struggle through on their own.

But busing is only one of the civil rights measures threatened. Pressure is building in Congress to undercut federal affirmative action enforcement. Senator Strom Thurmond, the 1948 Dixiecrat candidate for President and now slated to be the new Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has said he wants to scuttle the Voting Rights Act.

Legal aid for the poor is high on the Congressional hit list, too. Threats have been made to cut off all federal aid to cities that have rent control laws. And several Congressmen are having their staffs work up constitutional amendments that would bury busing, affirmative action, abortion, separation of church and state, and other rights and programs we too often take for granted.

Sometimes, as in busing, the attackers claim to speak for the majority. But they reveal a fundamental flaw in their argument - the essence of a democracy is protection of minority rights, not the unbridled trampling of those rights by an intolerant majority.

person - his civil rights are violated. Even though witnesses to two of the Buffalo shootings testified that the gunman was a white male, Days felt that no civil rights were violated. Conyers asked Days if a person has a civil right to stay alive and asked Days for other opinions on the issue besides his own. Days cited one other - an authority which is not widely known.

Wilkinson, Imperial Klan wizard of Alabama had to be ejected from the hearings because of constant interruption of the witnesses. On the outside he and Tex Moore, Grand Dragon of Tennessee Klan stated that the testimony before the committee was a bunch of lies. Wilkinson said that he was not allowed to be a witness. He stated that the "Republican platform could have been taken from Klan literature" - the Moral Majority and Christian right express Klan views.

Wilkinson said that he did not like the idea of having blacks on the same plane with him in his trip to

Washington, neither did he like talking to black reporters who questioned him. When he told one black reporter to shut up, another black reporter said, "Don't you tell her to shut up." Wilkinson, realizing that there were a number of black reporters, two black capitol guards, a white guard and some white reporters, he quickly apologized.

Both Wilkinson and Moore stated that their religious training has been the purity of the white race and that God intends to keep the races separate. They stated that they have paramilitary training camps for protection of the American Constitution.

The Klansmen were reminded that they were late in trying to preserve the purity of the white race.



THE CHARLOTTE POST

Second Class Postage No. 965500
"THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER"
Established 1918
Published Every Thursday
by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.

1524 West Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28208
Telephone (704) 376-0496
Circulation 9,200

62 Years of Continuous Service

Bill Johnson...Editor, Publisher
Bernard Reeves...General Manager

Second Class Postage No. 96550 Paid At
Charlotte, N.C. under the Act of March 3, 1878

Member National Newspaper Publishers
Association

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

Deadline for all news copy and photos is
5 p.m. Monday. All photos and copy
submitted become the property of the POST
and will not be returned.

National Advertising
Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

2400 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60616 Calumet 5-2000
45 W. 44th St., Suite 1493 New York, N.Y. 10036 (212) 489-1220