

# Editorials & Comments

## Fate Of Black Institutions

The controversy over the possible closing of Double Oaks School and the Charlotte Community Hospital are hard reminders of the price blacks are having to pay for the privilege of assuming they are living in an integrated and, therefore, a better society.

In fact, as we look about the nation we find that many historically black institutions are not closing but rather are expanding. However, there is one significant difference in that these institutions are shifting from being primarily black to being predominantly white. This is particularly true with reference to public colleges and universities. West Virginia State, Bluefield State and Lincoln University (Mo.) - just to name a few - are now largely white institutions in nearly every respect in athletics. In some cases, there remains probably the last black institution president and the last predominantly black faculty.

These developments have occurred because blacks lacked a strong commitment to these institutions in their respective states and communities. On the local level, the possible closing of Double Oaks School, Community Hospital and other historically black institutions, is in part the result of apathy by blacks toward the preservation of these institutions. The time to study

the long term utilization of such aging institutions is not when they are threatened by the largely white powers of the community.

If blacks are really serious about preserving buildings that have some historical significance, they need to organize a black properties commission. Such a commission should develop a set of criteria for studying and determining the existing and possible long term use of some structures. Up-to-date files should be kept and funds should be raised to cover operating costs for further study. Recommendations should be prepared periodically and filed for use when needed. Under such a plan, school, hospital and other officials might seek initial advice from the commission before making decisions on the future use of such structures.

If a commission as proposed here were already in existence the black community might have available by now a clear, unbiased and objective report free of political pressures on the set of complex questions and issues involved in the proposed closing of both Double Oaks School and Community Hospital.

Let us not forget, when Second Ward High School was closed blacks complained but the school is gone and few seem to really care.

## Tax Cut Mania

Since President Reagan announced to Congress and the nation two weeks ago his plan to cut federal spending by \$41.4 billion for fiscal year 1982, there has been a nearly instant epidemic of support of other tax cut proposals.

First, liberal Democrats and Republicans, originally strongly opposed to Reagan's massive federal spending cuts plan, are now said to be embracing the budget-cutting mania. Possibly encouraged by this new-found support, the Reagan administration announced it proposed to cut another \$6 billion because the original \$41.4 billion was considered inadequate to meet the President's ceiling on cuts.

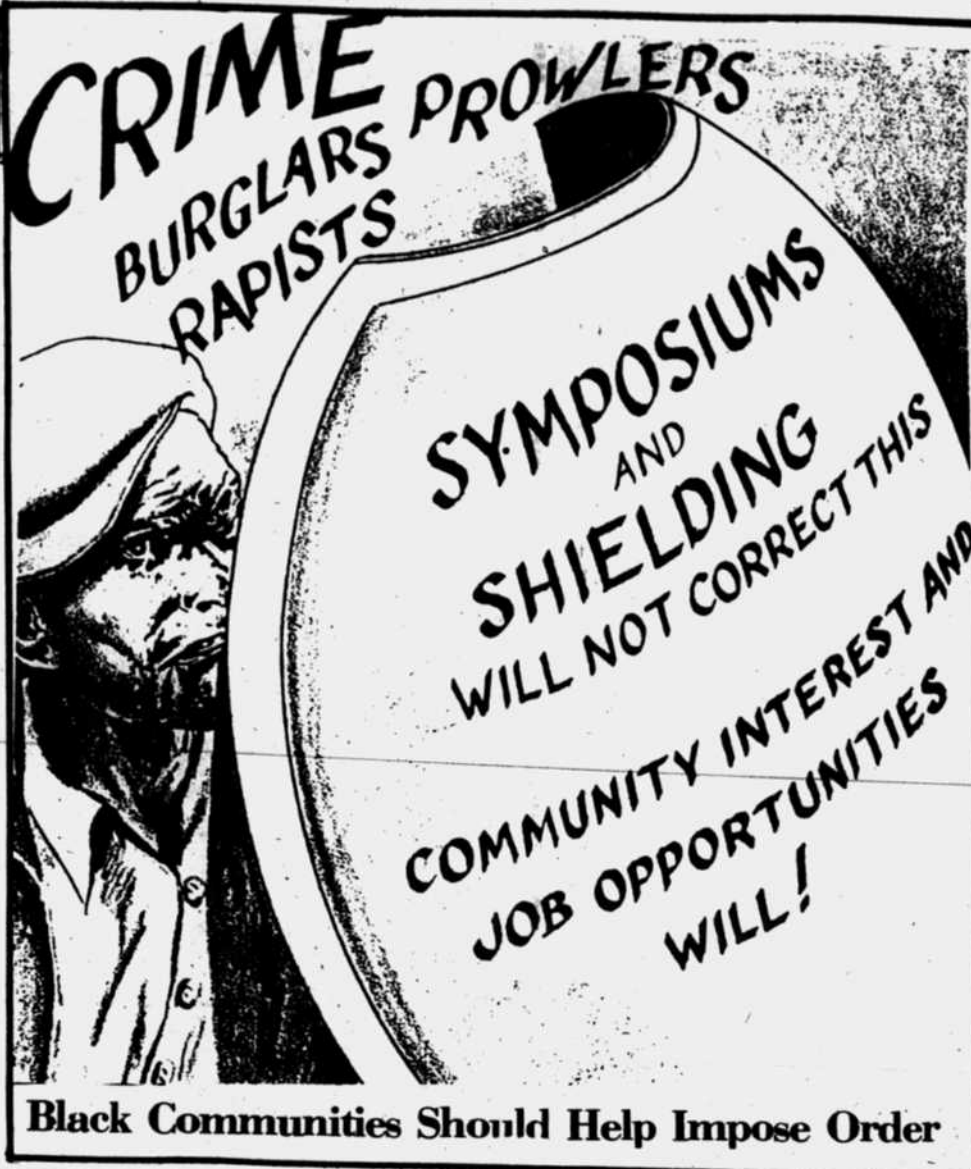
As if to out do the President, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker urged Congress this week to consider cutting the federal budget even more deeply than the Reagan administration wants. Volcker told the House Ways and Means Committee that more severe cuts would not harm the economy. In addition, budget director David Stockman has warned that a possible national economic slump this summer might require yet additional cuts in the federal budget.

Apparently sensing a growing uneasiness to this mad rush toward a get-on-the-bandwagon

tax cut mania, Stockman has attempted to ease people's fears by simply stating that the budget cuts will be across the board - affecting all programs from food stamps to tobacco subsidies to grants to corporations.

We agree that some limits on federal government spending are necessary and we agree in part with the Reagan administration's commitment to not bend to the pressures of special interest groups to exempt their pet projects from the tax cut ax. However, we strongly disagree with the plan to cut social programs - food stamps, CETA public service jobs, school lunch programs, health care services and educational programs for youth. We would agree to cut access in these programs if they exist. However, most people served by these programs need them just to survive. We are talking about bare bone necessities of life. Furthermore, the people served by these programs have the least resources to lobby in support of their basic needs.

As a result of the budget cut mania, and a concern for the poor, a labor-led coalition of 157 national organizations was formed last week to oppose the Reagan's planned budget cuts even as announcements were being made about the additional \$6 billion proposed cuts.



Black Communities Should Help Impose Order

### Letters To The Editor

## Missing Black Children In Atlanta

February 24, 1981

Dear Editor:  
As I read the paper, and listened to the news about the missing Black children in Atlanta I really get sick to my stomach. What makes me sick is not only the fact that these poor children are missing and some dead, but our National Government isn't doing a thing about aiding the local government in their search for the mentally insane person or persons responsible. I'm sure someone in Washington has some federal jargon to justify what I call federal apathy, but I feel that it is time to put away the regulations and lets be good samaritans to our own people.  
We as a country are

always aiding causes in other countries, but we can't do anything for our own people.

For months we had 52 persons being held hostage in Iran. During the fourteen (14) months our country had National Prayer Sunday, flags flown at half mass, TV stations, radio stations with special moments of silence. Everyone was doing everything symbolic to assist in freeing the hostages. Now we have twenty (20) children dead or missing in Atlanta and one missing in Charlotte and you seldom hear anything about it. I think it is time America does something. It is up to us to encourage our government to lend support, financially or by giving manpower and

realize that we are very short in the department of future leaders of this

country.  
I am calling on all the pastors in the city of Charlotte and all of the surrounding areas to designate the 2nd Sunday in March as Prayer Sunday for our missing children in Atlanta and Charlotte. Let us pray that God will send those of them who are still alive back home and sustain and comfort the parents of all of them. Last but not least, pray that this maniac (or maniacs) is caught before he hurts again.

All things are possible through prayer.

Sincerely,  
Richard A. Graham  
Charlotte, N.C.

## Blacks Urged To Return To Farming

WASHINGTON - Blacks should hold on to their farmland, according to O. C. Simpson, research director at Prairie View A&M University, Texas.  
Speaking at a Black History Month observance at the U.S. Department of Agriculture February 18, Simpson deplored the loss of farmland and said the United States, with its small-acreage farmers disappearing, faces a food crisis in the coming century.

"We must urge farmers to expand and produce more food," he said. "Farming today can be a profitable business." He cited fish farming and raising dairy goats as examples of non-traditional farming that could be profitable.

Simpson said each year the size of individual farms gets larger but the total amount of farmland grows smaller. "The small

acreage farmer is leaving the land. Especially the black farmer. In 1920, there were 926,000 black farmers and farm workers; but in 1974 there were only 45,594."

"It's important to remember that the future of our country is not in a moon

## Global Educational Workshop Set

A "We Agree" workshop in global education sponsored by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and the Charlotte Sister Cities Committee will be held March 13-14 at the Park Road YWCA.

The workshop for agencies, is designed to raise public awareness to consider including global perspective in school programs. Participants will search for ways to help young people acquire and use information and skills and develop attitudes to

understand the world today and the way it will be tomorrow.

It will be conducted on Friday from 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:30-4 p.m. by Shirley Johnson, Community Relations Specialist for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and Marian Beane, coordinator for International Student Programs at UNCC. Members of the Charlotte Sister Cities Committee and participants in the Sister Cities Regional Training for Global Education also will contribute.

### From Capitol Hill

## President Reagan's Plan Is Robin Hood In Reverse?

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post  
After President Reagan's economic address to a joint session of congress and OMB Director Stockman's budget proposals, the Congressional Black Caucus has strongly pronounced its disagreement with the Administration's entire plan. They call it Robin Hood in reverse. It takes from the poor and gives to the rich.



Alfreda L. Madison

The Caucus has sharp differences with the President's and Stockman's proposals saying, "...spending cuts will not be at the expense of the truly needy." The administration is hacking away at programs that are the lifeline of millions of the poorest families, causing them and their children to become hungrier, colder and sicker than they already are, says the Caucus.

Since President Reagan has been constantly trying to hammer into the American people that government spending, government taxation and government regulations are the

spending will have a substantial impact on reducing inflation. Economics and the Congressional Budget Office testified that balancing the budget will only reduce inflation by two-tenths of one percent.

2. We've accomplished nothing through federal spending. The responsibility of government is to promote the general welfare of the people, poverty, hunger, health, environment, business promotion, employment security, price stability and the economy and the tool for accomplishing these is the federal budget.

The President and Mr. Stockman have completely disregarded the accomplishments of the social programs of the sixties and seventies. Through these the proportion of people below the poverty line was reduced from 22.4 percent of the population two decades ago to 11.6 percent in 1979.

3. High priority domestic programs are wasteful and misdirected. Even though some waste may exist in

the social programs, it is small compared with the greatest waste in the economy which is the conduct of economic policy by high level public officials sworn to uphold the law; the policies of contrived stagnation, the trade-off of jobs, raising interest rates and astronomical oil prices

Representative Ron Dellums spoke of the huge military budget which is estimated to be around \$214 billion in the Reagan plan. He stated that social problems which meet human needs are being cut for the purpose of increasing and sustaining the military. This huge defense proposal seeks to lead the citizens of the nation to believe that world problems can be solved and world peace attained through a huge military build-up. The Congressional Black Caucus heartily rejects that notion. It feels that the \$41.4 billion that has been cut from the budget was not really done with balancing the budget in mind, but rather for the purpose of increas-

ing and expanding the military. These congress persons strongly emphasized that the world problems are not military but economic, social and political and that national security must not be a static concept. Our national security needs are tied in with how we respond to the solution of human problems. Defense of the United States should be our goal but not world domination. The Black Caucus is strong for seeking world peace rather than the use of communism expansion, Soviet expansion and international terrorism that the Administration is projecting as human rights. Dellums says, we should move back into the framework of arms control, and expand our foreign aid budget so that we can deal with the world problems of malnutrition, hunger, starvation and development of the Third World.

The Congressional Black Caucus intends to challenge Ronald Reagan because it considers his program irrational, and irre-

sponsible. It speaks only to his long time commitment to the wealthy, rich and to corporate leaders.  
In the next few weeks, the Congressional Black Caucus will announce a legislative agenda that will detail steps that must be taken for the economy, world affairs and civil, political and human rights concerns.

### Tax Workshop

The Internal Revenue Service and North Carolina Department of Revenue have scheduled small business tax workshops in nine North Carolina cities on March 12, 1981, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Call the IRS' toll-free numbers (1-800-822-8800 for the location of the nearest workshop in your locality.



TO  
BE  
EQUAL



By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

## Food Stamps A Target!

The Food Stamp program is slated to expire this year, and if we are to avoid creating a hungrier America, it will have to make its way through an increasingly hostile Congress.

While there have been calls to drop the program, few of its opponents plan anything so drastic this early in the game. Rather, they are targeting the program for drastic cuts in fundings and a harsh restriction in eligibility requirements that would remove many needy people from the rolls.

From its inception, the Food Stamp program has faced a rough road. It started as an attempt, not to feed the hungry, but to help reduce farm surpluses. That's why the program has always been lodged in the Department of Agriculture.

Even after it got off the ground, the program came under heavy attack for escalating costs, waste, and welfarism. Those attacks increased after the recessions sent the numbers of eligible people higher and the Carter Administration, to its credit, loosened punitive eligibility requirements.

The real reason for attacks on the program have little to do with costs, which are inevitable, or waste, which is virtually non-existent. They have everything to do with the fact that it is a program that helps poor people in a way that effectively demonstrates how well a federal social program can work.

Not that costs haven't been rising fast - they have. It is expected that the Food Stamp program will take over 10 billion in the budget next year.

But that reflects the greater need for food stamps, as more people are unemployed and as food prices rise sharply.

If Congressmen are concerned with cutting costs, let them take positive steps to create jobs and restore the general economy to health. That way, people won't need food stamps to survive - they'll have paychecks instead.

Not that food stamps provide any lavish aid. The average recipient gets stamps worth about \$40 a month, which works out to pennies per meal per family member. In fact, benefit scales are based on a food plan that the government admits does not provide an adequate diet.

Charges of waste have been made since the program started. As a consequence, it has been one of the most closely examined programs on the books. And those examinations have failed to reveal the waste and fraud so commonly - and irresponsibly - made.

In fact, there is no doubt at all that the strict eligibility requirements serve to discourage many people from claiming benefits, although the stamps are needed. And the Urban League's Black Pulse survey last year revealed that large numbers of eligible families, including welfare families, do not receive food stamps.

The stamp-slashers need to be reminded that a 1967 Field Foundation report found widespread hunger and malnutrition in America, affecting perhaps 10 to 15 million people.

**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 5-0200  
45 W. 24th St., Suite 1493 New York, N.Y. 10036 (212) 489-1220