

Editorials & Comments

Davis - The Nonconforming Leader

From roots in old Brooklyn, work as an elevator operator, and observing many power decision-making sessions while serving as a waiter at the Charlotte Country Club, Bob Davis has risen to the chairmanship of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party.

These non-conforming characteristics of the new Democratic Party Chairman do not fully reflect the measure of the man, Bob Davis. While giving 35 years of loyal service to his party, Bob lived with his moral commitment and values to such an extent that he has often been viewed as a controversial personality.

Bob has challenged the Democratic Party he loves so much when he felt it was wrong; and he often stood alone from other black leaders in support of unpopular causes exhibiting the courage of his convictions. During the days of school segregation Bob called upon the all-white School Board to fully comply with court-ordered desegregation. While such action nearly

threatened his career as a public school educator, Bob nevertheless continued his attacks on what he felt was wrong or injustice. Among these were his criticisms of the Police Department for its refusal to hire and promote blacks and his protest to the city's failure to bargain in good faith in responding to the grievances of bus drivers.

Yes, as many have said, Bob Davis has paid his dues to both his party, the black community and the larger Charlotte community because all that he has supported, history now tells us has been in the best interest of a better, more progressive city and improved race relations.

Whether Democrat or Republican, the people of Charlotte should wish Bob Davis well in his new challenge because all that he has done and all that he symbolizes is a reflection of what makes America what it is.

We wish Bob Davis much success as he leads his party as part of our tradition of a strong two-party system.

The Pulitzer Prize Comedy

On April 18 The Washington Post printed an embarrassing news story that its reporter, Janet Cooke, had admitted that her Pulitzer Prize-winning article "Jimmy's World" - the story of an eight-year-old heroin addict - was in reality a figment of her imagination.

Ms. Cooke's admission of a hoax stunned her associates and shook the foundation of the news business because the grand Pulitzer is journalism's highest award. Furthermore, in its 64-year history it has never before been discredited by a hoax.

Because Ms. Cooke, 25, happens to be black, The Wall Street Journal questioned the pressures big-city newspapers are under to recruit and promote minorities as well as the decisions as to which of their stories to publish. The Journal in our view missed the real point which is the whole comedy of errors that allowed the story to be written, published and declared a prize winner when there were doubts about its authenticity from the very beginning.

In spite of these doubts, the editors of The Washington Post allowed the story to be published and the Pulitzer Prize board of directors awarded "Jimmy's World" a feature writing award while the feature subcommittee had not even seen the story.

Ms. Cooke, who was exposed only after her academic credentials were questioned as being falsehoods, was caught up in the media's quest to get the good story before their competitors. Editors ignored things that should have been questioned and the Pulitzer Prize board itself acted with unbelievable stupidity.

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
 Fran Farrer...Advertising Director
 Wayne Long...Circulation Manager
 Dannette Gaither...Office 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
 45 W. 45th St., Suite 1493
 New York, N.Y. 10036
 (212) 489-1220

Stop The Flight Of Black Capital



NAACP Urges

Alternative To Reaganomics

ATLANTA - The NAACP is deeply concerned that the net result of the Reagan economic recovery program will have a devastating effect upon the poor, near poor and persons who rely on existing social service programs to maintain basic minimum standards of quality living.

The proposed cuts in domestic spending for such programs as CETA, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Child Nutrition, Low Income Energy Assistance and the repackaging of other programs into block grants to states, cities and counties, only demonstrate a political philosophy of "nullification and retrogression" towards poor and minority citizens. Moreover, the proposed Reagan Administration tax relief proposals will aid the wealthy much more than the poor.

The NAACP National Board of Directors has recently adopted an alternative program and policies for economic recovery designed to combat unemployment, inflation and the deteriorating conditions in the inner cities.

The Administration's proposal while seemingly recognizing the need to increase productivity as a means of stimulating economic growth and simultaneously fighting inflation, nonetheless, seems unrealistic to minorities who find that the social investment necessary to assure their productivity is being curtailed. The Administration, while fostering high unemployment, reduces support for the unemployed and perpetuate a dual and unequal economy which cannot be tolerated by black Americans in the 1980s. Those comprehensive manager-

ial reforms which would improve social service delivery systems were not proposed and no attempt was made to eradicate alleged fraud. Instead, while the need for programs and the services which they render still exists, the programs are being severely curtailed or eliminated altogether.

NAACP urges Congress to engage in a full debate of the Reagan economic recovery program with a close eye on how this proposed program will affect the poor and near poor in our country. Political expediency at the price of human need is a dangerous game.

The government has an affirmative obligation to ensure a healthy nation which has as its cornerstone, the full development of human potential.

We urge every citizen to speak out against the proposed Reagan economic recovery program and engage in lawful campaigns to demonstrate their concerns.

Some of the major provisions of the NAACP's alternative program to combat unemployment, inflation and the deteriorating conditions in the inner cities include:

1. Eliminating federal income taxes for a family of four whose incomes falls below \$10,000 per year.
2. Expanding investment tax credits and accelerating the depreciation tax schedule to stimulate business investments.
3. Increasing productivity by providing incentives to private employers based on the condition that investments would also be made in human resources.
4. Providing public sector employment for the

long-term unemployed population.

5. Channeling all federal funds for education to the public school systems to ensure quality education for public school children.

6. Maintaining at the very minimum the present levels of funding assistance to cities experiencing fiscal difficulties.

7. Utilizing general tax revenues to meet the deficiency in the Social Security Retirement Fund.

"We dispute the Administration's notion that deficit federal spending is the decisive factor in stemming inflation. In keeping with that premise, our national policy stimulates business investments by targeting government incentive to productivity related investment. This leads toward the desired outcome of an expanding economy but recognizing that national economic growth alone is insufficient for blacks' progress," Ben L. Hooks said in explaining the overall concept of the new policy initiatives.

Hooks Named Chairman Of LCCR

Benjamin L. Hooks, Executive Director of the NAACP, last week was elected Chairman of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

The 31-year-old civil rights lobbying organization, which serves as an umbrella for 152 national civil rights, religious and labor coalitions, was founded in Washington, D.C., in 1950.

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ

Affirmative Action

Racism And Violence

Racism has become - unfortunately - such a common facet of life in the USA that even the most outrageous excesses barely receive attention or merit note.

It is all well and good that national attention has been focused on the Atlanta child slayings, the Mobile lynching, the New York City slashings, the murders in Buffalo and Salt Lake City, etc.

Nevertheless, the attention focused on these incidents should not blind us to the fact that such racist inspired mayhem is no longer and aberration or freak occurrence but has become part of an overall pattern and practice that has few parallels outside of Nazi Germany in the 1930s. Let a few more examples suffice to illustrate this trend:

The Jackson (Miss.) Advocate reported recently the lynching of 32-year-old Roy Washington in rural Holmes County near Pickens, Mississippi. The young black worker had been shot in the head, his hands bound behind him. He had been weighted by a scissor jack attached to his body by barbed wire wrapped around his waist and had been beaten badly about the head and face.

The FBI, which worked zealously in infiltrating and disrupting civil rights groups in Mississippi in the 1960s has been a virtual Rip Van Winkle on this case, investigating briefly and inadequately. Local residents who recall the bad old days when lynchings were as prevalent as blooming magnolias have been paralyzed with fear and have remained rather tight-lipped about the entire situation.

The slaying of Roy Washington - a slaying that cries out for a full-scale, comprehensive investigation - was more bizarre perhaps but not dissimilar from the lot that has befallen other black males of his era. Indeed, homicide is the leading cause of death among black males between the ages of 25-44, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. The average life expectancy of black males, unlike other

groups, is declining. The leading cause of death in this country is heart disease but the black population is at about one-fourth greater risk than whites; for stroke (cerebrovascular diseases), the second leading cause, blacks are at twice the risk of whites; for the third leading cause of death, cancer, the black population is at one-third greater risk than whites.

But homicide presents the most striking statistics. Blacks are six times more likely to die of homicide. During the Vietnam War, a war where blacks were put "at the point," leading the charge, almost 6,000 were killed. Today the war is over but the traumatizing effects remain. In fact the Multi-service Veterans Center in Philadelphia says that more Vietnam vets have been claimed by suicide than by the actual war. Thus far, over 50,000 Vietnam veterans have taken their own lives, a high percentage of them black. The reasons cited for the suicides range from psychological stress to despair over the inability to obtain and retain jobs.

Yet with all of its problems, the scarred rice paddies of Vietnam may have been safer than the urban areas of the United States. The number of police killings of blacks has shot up so dramatically that black males - especially - are in danger of becoming an "endangered species."

From Capitol Hill

Reagan's Budget Cut Not Geared To Improvement Of Life

By Alfreda L. Madison
 Special To The Post
 Ed Dale an assistant to David Stockman, Director of Office of Management and Budget made a strong attempt to defend President Reagan's budget. He stated that they had looked at some parts of the Congressional Black Caucus Budget, but that they were sticking with their own proposals.



Alfreda L. Madison

Concerning the Congressional Budget Office's report that 20 million people - roughly one-tenth of the nation's population will lose some income under the Reagan plan, Mr. Dale disagreed with the assessment. He said that 15 percent of these families would actually gain through the tax and benefit changes, 34 percent will lose no benefits, 47 percent will lose only a little; about five percent and that five percent will lose. Dale said that all will eventually gain when inflation is reduced and the economy starts working.

He emphasized that the student grant program was cut to prevent the wealthy

lars by that time, the total expenditure of defense for the four years will add up to a trillion dollars. When he was reminded that GAO said \$10 billion could be saved annually by getting rid of waste and fraud in the Defense Department, he said the Executive branch is investigating that matter.

The OMB official stated that money for job training CETA programs was not being cut, only that public service CETA jobs were being curtailed.

Mr. Dale said the American Bar Association favors Legal Service Corporation because lawyers can make money by government funding of these indigent persons' complaints. He said that states can provide such services out of the block grants, and that the same could be true of the drug and alcoholic programs.

Ed stated that President Reagan's program will increase the real income of lower income families, after tax deductions. An example was given of a

family earning \$7000 a year will have a two percent increase between 1981 and 1984. Of course this will mean only \$140. That paltry sum is based on reduction of inflation and increasing economic growth. When he was asked what these poor people would do while waiting for these Administration accomplishments, his response was, "I don't know. We had over two hundred years without the government programs and the people survived." The question was asked if it is the policy of the Reagan Administration of mere survival or is it one of improving the quality of life? Mr. Dale replied, "I made a mistake when I said that." He continued, "Mr. Stockman said government is not supposed to take care of people." He was reminded that the Constitution, "establishes justice, insures domestic tranquility, provides for the common defense and promotes general welfare." Dale responded that all of these will be done through implementation of the President's program.

Mr. Dale disagreed with the Congressional Black Caucus' call for closing tax loopholes for the rich. He said, "I wish profits for corporations were larger, because that would provide more goods and jobs."

Dale pulled out an article by Representative Shirley Chisolm in which she said, "Give Reagan a chance." At this point his attention was called to the fact that Mrs. Chisolm wrote that article during the transition period; that now she says Reagan's block grants

to the states, without any directives, is a set back to minority civil rights. She also testified before the House Labor and Education Committee against the President's education proposals and that she played a key role in formulation of the Congressional Black Caucus Alternative Budget. Dale's reply was, "I know that."

This conversation revealed that even members of OMB find it hard to really explain all aspects of the Administration Budget.

Adult Education Course

An adult education course for people who want to learn "How To Play The Piano Despite Years of Lessons" is being offered again by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Tuesdays, May 12 to June 30.

Scheduled from 7-9 p.m. in the piano laboratory in UNCC's Rowe Arts Building, the class costs \$130. The instructor is Gilda Glazer, an experienced piano instructor and former pianist with the St. Louis Sym-

phony Orchestra. For registration and other information, contact UNCC's Office for Continuing Education and Extension at 597-2424 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

READ THE POST