

# Editorials & Comments

## Conservatives Versus liberals

Americans have long prided themselves on the workings of the two-party political system. Within that context, they have also prided themselves on the historical development and role of the so-called Republican and Democratic parties.

Yet, as little as it may have been observed, we recently witnessed another stunning example of two-party politics that did not reflect the two traditional parties. We are referring to the events of last week which led to Congress giving President Reagan his most significant legislative victory. This victory was in the House of Representatives approval of the Reagan budget for 1982 by a 253 to 176 vote.

Significantly, Democrats - especially Southern and Western Democrats - joined conservative Republicans to give Mr. Reagan his victory. Of the House's 241 Democrats, 63 voted with all 190 Republicans to assure Reagan's win. This pattern of liberal Democrats and liberal Republicans

is not new on the American scene; however, Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, made the liberal vs. conservative issue even more clear cut when he warned members of the House just before the final vote, that if the Reagan supported budget were approved a "fundamental

change" would occur in the U.S. government.

In very dramatic tones O'Neill said, "You will meat-ax the programs that made America great." In this he was referring to the social programs arising from Roosevelt's "New Deal," Kennedy's "New Frontier" and Johnson's "Great Society."

Sensing the mood of the country, or at least the Reagan thunder in Washington, nearly 2,000 demonstrators - mostly blacks and Hispanics - marched in front of the capitol building to shout their displeasure. Many of them said, "The nation's poor mourn the loss of educational opportunities for their children, the loss of employment for their youth, the loss of civil and human rights...and the loss of dignity for the nation's poor and disadvantaged."

In essence, the Reagan budget will hurt small business, further depress the standard of living of the elderly, and further frustrate many moderate and low income families as they suffer while awaiting the presumed benefits of the "trick down" theory.

We truly hope our assumptions are wrong, for if they are not, blacks and other largely poor may be in for a difficult four years or longer.

## Schools And Trust

Recent announcements that School Superintendent Jay Robinson wants a policy to allow unannounced search of student lockers and student automobiles in search of drugs, weapons and other unauthorized items, should be a cause for parental and student concern.

Reportedly, Dr. Robinson wants to deny a student the right to drive and park his or her car on the school parking lot if they don't sign a waiver to allow unannounced searches. Furthermore, he wants to use the argument that since the lockers are school property, school officials should have free access to their content.

We find it very difficult to support such a policy in our schools. It has a tone of distrust, it brands all students as dishonest and it will create in our schools a sense of fear, hostility, anxiety and bitterness. More significantly, it will establish in the minds of our youth a set of values and beliefs that are foreign to the practices of freedom, democracy and trustworthiness.

Also, such police powers practiced by our schools has to cause one to wonder just what is happening in our schools. Are students less honest, have teach-

ers lost contact with students, is there no longer open communication between the parents and the schools? These are questions that need to be answered before any kind of police action powers are given to school personnel.

If, however, there are students who have parents who allow drinking, the smoking of pot and

so on, and they cannot do without these items during the school day, then the schools should feel free to dismiss the student permanently from the school.

On the other hand, to issue a blanket policy of police or search and find is to brand and imply that all students are not to be trusted. This simply seems not to be the best way to run our schools.

A renewal of honor systems supported by dedicated teachers, caring parents and alert administrators seems to us to be the mix of needs to off-set the need of making our school police search camps. We sincerely believe that if teachers, parents, students and administrators develop a plan for working together for a common good we won't need Dr. Robinson's proposed policy. Let's make what we potentially have, a working reality.

## A Heritage To Be Proud Of



**'WE MUST GIVE OUR CHILDREN A SENSE OF PRIDE IN BEING BLACK. THE GLORY OF OUR PAST AND THE DIGNITY OF OUR PRESENT MUST LEAD THE WAY TO THE POWER OF OUR FUTURE.'**

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL



## NCBAC To Look At Impact Of Budget Cuts On Blacks

The impact of budget cuts on black older Americans will be closely scrutinized during the 11th Annual Conference of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA).

The conference, scheduled for May 26-29, at the International Inn in Washington, D.C., is the nation's major forum for examining issues concerning the black senior citizen.

This year's conference will feature a May 27 Congressional Hearing in the Cannon House Office Building that will hear testimony from black senior citizens, service providers and others involved with programs affecting the elderly. Dr. Delores Davis-Wong, President of NCBA, says the hearing is necessary because, "It is clear the President's alleged economic recovery program is not in the best interest of senior citizens, especially black senior citizens. Among the programs that might be reduced as part of the Reagan Administration budget cuts are Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, housing assistance, fuel assistance and Medicaid."

According to Davis-Wong, "Cuts in the Food Stamp Program, for example, would cause real hardship for a great number of black older Americans. It is estimated that proposed food stamp cuts by the Reagan Administration would immediately take food stamps away from nearly a half million Americans. One out of every five food stamp households has an elderly person. Many of these in-

dividuals are aged blacks who have only about 64 percent of the income of their white counterparts."

As part of its efforts to maintain federal programs for black older Americans, NCBA has formed coalitions with other groups to fight the proposed budget cuts that Davis-Wong says "would be tantamount to throwing many black older Americans into poverty."

The hearing, which will be convened by Representative Harold Ford (D-TN.), will give NCBA (and other groups and persons involved in Black aging) an opportunity to speak directly to members of Congress who will make the final determination on the federal budget. Says Davis-Wong, "The hearing underscores the importance of the concerns of the black older American among members of the House Select Committee on Aging and the Congressional Black Caucus. Although there are members of Congress who are running scared because of threats from those who would like to see the poor thrust into the front ranks as inflation fighters, this hearing will

prove that our cause is still alive on Capitol Hill and in the halls of Congress."

The 1981 NCBA Annual Conference will examine recommendations that have already been forwarded to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging. The proposals include findings of three Mini-Conferences on Aging conducted by NCBA in late 1980 and early 1981 in Atlanta, Detroit and Los Angeles. The 1981 NCBA Conference will also hear from Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy; White House Special Assistant Virginia Knauer; and Dr. Dorothy Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women.

In addition, workshops will focus on subjects relating to the black older American and political advocacy training to show conferees how to impact on legislation at the local, state and federal levels.

For more information on the 1981 NCBA 11th Annual Conference, contact Benjamin Dudley, NCBA Communications Director, 1424 K Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005.

## Farmers' Market Begins New Year

Charlottetown Mall will begin the 1981 season Farmers Market on Friday, May 15. This marks the fourth year that this extremely popular Farmers Market has been

located in Charlottemall. Two years ago, the Charlottemall Farmers Market became the largest, most successful Farmers Market in the state.

The huge success of the Market has prompted a major change in the operation of the market. In an effort to avoid the parking conflict between regular mall customers and Farmers Market customers, the

Farmers Market will now be held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 3-9 p.m. In the past, the market was on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## From Capitol Hill

# Blacks Leading The Battle of The Budget Leaders

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

Even though President Reagan and the Republicans have pulled out all the stops in trying to get the Administration's complete budget passed in tact, many people appear to have doubts about it, reducing inflation and unemployment and increasing the Growth National Product.

Senator Baker, Majority Leader said, "We don't know that this will work but it's worth a gamble." Citizens did not elect these leaders to gamble with their welfare, but rather because they had been led to believe, through all the campaign rhetoric, that these elected officials possessed knowledge, expertise and a genuine concern about the welfare of Americans.

The Administration, congressional leaders and white news media, all have talked about only the President's budget and the first resolution to the budget that came out of the House Budget committee,



Alfreda L. Madison chaired by Jim Jones. None of the above have given any attention to the complete alternative budget produced by the Congressional Black Caucus. Yet, all who have the alternative budget admit that it makes more sense in improving the nations economy than any budget that has come forth. White media people have covered hearings where Caucus members have presented their budget before committees but while reporting on committee hearings they leave out entirely

the Black Caucus' presentation. A prominent reporter who asked to remain anonymous said, "the establishment doesn't want the public to know the Black Caucus' budget because it will make the white leaders look bad."

Amid all of the GOP Reagan budget pushing and many of the Democrats "falling dead," the Caucus members are still staging courageously a strong fight for their alternative budget.

Representative Walter Fauntroy appeared before the House Rules committee to seek support of a rule which would allow a floor debate and consideration of the Constructive Alternative Budget Resolution developed by the eighteen black Congresspersons. "It is the only resolution that offers the members an opportunity to vote for a balanced budget; it is a surplus. It encourages increased jobs and productivity, improves our national security, and relieves the people of a growing federal tax burden."

In comparison, Fauntroy said the Caucus budget creates \$28.7 billion more in revenue than the House proposal and \$50.3 billion more than the President's budget in 1983. The Caucus budget has \$4.75 billion less in outlays than the House budget and \$7.95 billion less than the Reagan budget. All this is done while still maintaining realistic funding levels for the social programs. These human needs programs are financed through innovative tax reforms.

On April 30, Representative Augustus Hawkins will lead the floor debate on economic policy assumptions, responding to President Reagan's proposal package. Mr. Hawkins labels the Reagan proposal a "design for disaster." He will stress for the balanced growth remedies set forth in Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act.

Representative Hawkins will discuss the Reagan domestic program, cuts stock carries with it the regard for their sign posi-

# Affirmative Action

## Affirmative Action And The World

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) of Princeton, New Jersey, recently released a study confirming what some of us knew all along: there is a boorish ignorance about international issues in this country.

ETS' study concentrated on college students but their findings can be generalized. Their "test" of students' "global understanding" showed that fewer than 15 percent of the seniors and 10 percent of other students got more than two-thirds of the answers right. Even accounting for ETS' well-known methodological errors, these figures remain stunning.

The knowledge of foreign languages is virtually non-existent except for certain minorities, e.g. Puerto Ricans and Chicanos. Only 7 percent of the students surveyed though they were sufficiently competent to understand a native speaker talking slowly and carefully. On the other hand, knowledge of foreign languages in countries like West Germany and the Soviet Union is quite prevalent. The effect on international economic relations - and ultimately the domestic economy - should be obvious.

The Afro-American community has long had an interest in foreign affairs. The pre-Civil War Black State Conventions hailed the "age of revolution" symbolized in the fabled uprisings of 1848 in Europe. W.E.B. DuBois had along time interest in international affairs, as evidence by his knowledge of German and French, and his frequent traveling in the Far East and Africa. In fact, when he was unceremoniously ousted from the NAACP in 1948, the ostensible issue was a dispute over international human rights.

Affirmative action advocates have long been aware that discrimination and its remedy is not a question confined to the United States. In India, the so-called "untouchables" (harijans) are not only assured of a set-aside of seats in the universities but in Parliament as well. In Africa itself, the Basaiva people (the so-called Bushmen) of Botswana because of their economically depressed condition have been responding to appeals by racist South Africa and has begun enlisting in their mercenary army in Namibia. Hence, the government of Botswana has initiated "special measures" to overcome a legacy and reality of oppression, i.e., affirmative action.

But such are not the sole affirmative action issues that occupy attention. It has become increasingly clear that the policies of President Reagan and Company have led and will lead to gutting foreign language programs in schools but as well as gargantuan spending on the military and shipping of funds overseas to right-wing dictators will mean no Medicare-Medicaid, no food stamps, no Social Security, no jobs.

Reagan's embrace of apartheid South Africa is particularly unsettling. Though the present South African leadership were jailed during World War II because of their Nazi sympathies, Reagan inaccurately spoke of them as being "allies" with the U.S. in past wars. Reagan is pushing for repeal of the Clark Amendment in an attempt to collaborate directly with South Africa in the destabilization of Angola - a land where, whether we know it or not, many of our ancestors came from.

But it is the present United Nations debate on Namibia, that is occupying the rapt attention of the world, but has received little notice in this country.

work, no more inefficient process than cutting programs which deliver positive returns, and no more mismanaged situation than embracing a draconian economic policy which in the past has led to six national recessions. An economy which was badly limping under Carter is now in total disarray."

## Taps Program

If you have epilepsy and are looking for a job, the Training and Placement Service (TAPS) program may be able to help you. TAPS offers free job-seeking skills classes, career counseling and placement services.

For more information, contact: Mary Niebur, Employment Specialist, Epilepsy Association of North Carolina, 1924 Vail Ave., Charlotte, N.C. 28207.



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