

Editorials & Comments

Conservative Entitlement

As America was struggling to emerge from the Great Depression and seeking to salvage the free-market economy in 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt put the urgency of the time in perspective when he said in his second inaugural address, "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to abundance of those who have more it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

That philosophical statement of entitlement was to remind those who "have" that our success as a nation and in deed the very survival of our free market democratic society can only be measured, to use Mr. Reagan's words, by "safety net programs" that assure the basic needs of life "for those who have too little."

As Mr. Roosevelt's entitlement commitment to the needs of the poor became a cornerstone to the American domestic policy, numerous programs were instituted over the next 43 years to provide some degree of a minimum standard of living for the poor and minority groups.

Among these were fair employment practices, Medicaid, Medicare, job training, legal services, subsidized housing and higher social security benefits.

However, these benefits to the poor became crumbs from the table as the psychology of entitlement also led to huge corporate subsidies, high tariffs to protect against foreign competition, and lower taxes for the rich. Excesses among the rich and corporate community has resulted in the Reagan administration seeking to end the nation's sense of entitlement. This is evident by the recent statement made by David Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Speaking on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers" news program, Stockman said, "I don't believe that there is any entitlement, any basic right to legal services or any other kind of services, and the idea that's been established

over the last 10 years that almost every service that someone might need in life ought to be provided, financed by the government as a matter of basic right, is wrong. We challenge that. We reject that notion."

Ironically, the way Mr. Stockman and the Reagan administration have chosen the presumed ending of the entitlement psychology is to reaffirm entitlement to the corporate rich through the trickle down theory that means only the poor and minorities will see their entitlements lost. This is evident by attempts to tamper with the Social Security payment level program, reductions in the CETA job training program, lower student aid loan funds, reduced funds for housing, the urban cities and human service programs, and proposals to eliminate legal services for the poor.

As these reductions are taking place with the support of most Republicans and many southern Democrat members of Congress, minorities and the poor are seeing many of the gains won over the past 15 years being threatened. The tell-tale upshot of this is that these lawmakers don't fear a retaliation from the voting booth because they also plan to end the Voting Rights Act which is scheduled to expire in August of 1982.

These developments are real causes for alarm as they point out that the new direction of our government is to say to the citizens - especially if you are

poor, black or hispanic - you are not entitled to anything from our government and that only the well-to-do shall survive because they shall be entitled to something.

Let us hope that somewhere, somehow rational progressive thinking may prevail, if not we may see a return to riots in our streets as people become desperate in the struggle to survive as they question an abandonment by the very government they have helped to create.

Voting Rights - The Last Outpost

As the battle over tax cuts and the Reagan budget, with it threats to the well being of the poor and blacks mounts, an even more significant battle is heating up over the question of extending the Voting Rights Act of 1965 another 10 years.

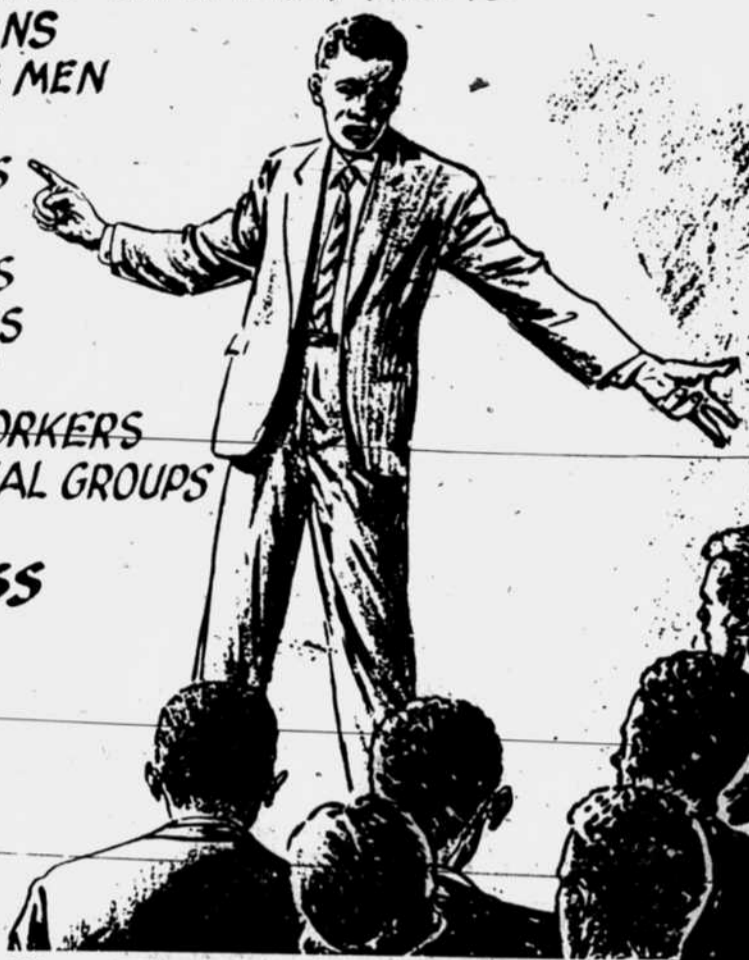
A prelude of this vital issue is a crucial legal battle over southern blacks, voting rights in Mobile, Alabama. Last week a federal judge began hearing testimony in a case aimed to determine if Mobile's election laws were designed to keep blacks from holding public

office. For example, while blacks make up 40 percent of Mobile's population of nearly 200,000, no blacks have been elected to public office in that city since the present form of government was established in 1868. The key issue in the case is the at-large election system under which all voters in a political jurisdiction may vote on all candidates seeking public office.

Blacks argue the system dilutes black candidates' strength and they want a district voting system.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- POLITICANS
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- TEACHERS
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- WORKERS
- SOCIAL WORKERS
- FRATERNAL GROUPS
- BLACK PRESS



We Have The Tools To Do The Job
Let's...Use...Them!

Tips From Urban Bankers Forum

Personal Financial Planning

There is much being said about the economic climate in which we find ourselves today. The times are said to be volatile, uncertain, and, by some, chaotic.

What ever became of the "good old days" when interest rates were relatively low, when inflation was under control, when we seemed to know where things were headed? The present state of affairs affects all of us and points to an increasing need for one very important function - planning.

In the business arena, the same problem exists, and the organizations which will be able to cope are the ones engaged in an effective planning program. Big and small businesses, are putting more time and money into deciding their future direction and organizing their companies based on what they think will happen. The same must be true of us as individuals.

We hear people saying "How can I expect to save, plan or budget when I can't make it from day to day?" The times are indeed tough and for some, unfortunately, life must be a hand-to-mouth situation. But for some of us, our planning methods, or lack of some, have put us in those situations.

Have you ever wondered how two people with the same relative income seem to be different in their financial position? Have you noticed that people with modest beginnings have been able to build their holdings while others simply say it can't be done? The difference is planning.

It is true that most of us don't have enough time or money to do everything we would like, but we must set our goals early and often if we want to achieve anything. We must have priorities - decide which

things are most important. This becomes more necessary when we have fewer resources to work with.

Budgeting is necessary for the management of our finances. No matter whether you're a highly-paid professional or fixed-income recipient, you have a certain amount coming in and certain amount going out.

The first thing you must do is sit down and list your fixed expenses on a weekly or monthly basis, thus giving you a picture of the minimum amount of income needed. A good rule for any type of financial management is to "put it on paper" instead of generalizing and approximating with your finances.

When you make purchases, make sure that you

have shopped for the best deal. Certain food items, for example, are less expensive at different points in time and you should plan to take advantage of these discounts. Credit is also something for which you should shop, and federal truth-in-lending laws make it possible to compare rates effectively.

In general, we would recommend that you take financial planning seriously in order to have sufficient dollars to meet your lofty financial goals or just to eat. People will say that times are tough and they are. People will say that they only have time to worry about survival - and that's right. But remember, tough times are exact when these things are even more critical. Caution! When you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

4,000 Job Applicants

Registered For Work

Special To The Post
RALEIGH - Thirteen North Carolina counties had more than 4,000 active job applicants registered for work with Employment Security Commission offices in March with Mecklenburg and Guilford Counties registering over 11,000 each.

Mecklenburg County's Job Service office in Charlotte had 11,739 active job applicants registered for work in March (5,794 males and 5,945 females). Of the males, 5,686 had substantial work experience, 108 had limited or no work experience, and 773 were high school graduates. There were 5,770 females with substantial work experience, 175 females with limited or no work experience, and 712 females who were high school graduates.

The job applicants are

persons who are considered available for referral to job openings or training situations and the applicants are registered for work by their county of residence.

The report of active job applicants, prepared quarterly by ESC, serves as an indicator of available labor supply throughout the state. The ESC report pointed out that all potential job seekers do not apply for work at its local Job Service offices and many applicants do not keep their applications alive. Therefore, the data in the report does not represent the total available labor supply.

The total number of active job applicants registered at the 90 Job Service offices in March was 214,217 (112,140 males and 102,077 females).

From Capitol Hill

Lack Of Congressional Reasoning Fails People?

ALFREDA L. MADISON
Special To The Post

The President's budget could not have passed the House unless some congressional Democrats apparently rolled over and succumbed to a NPAC fear of not being reelected, a Reagan charm, being on the winning vote side or one of giving the GOP a self-hanging rope.

The Democratic budget which bore just a scant difference in the Reagan budget and the bi-partisan Gramm-Latta amendment which gave support to the Reagan tax bill, all show the Democratic retreat from a stand of caring for the nation's citizens to one of the rich getting richer by riding the backs of the poor.

The only real alternative to the President's budget plan, and one which lowered the deficit, contained provisions for increasing productivity, employment, a more equitable tax plan and lowering inflation was the Congressional Black Caucus Alternative Budget. Representative Shirley Chisholm, who is on the



Alfreda L. Madison House rules committee, put up a very strong fight to get the committee to even agree to the budget's being introduced on the House floor.

In introducing the Caucus alternative budget, Representative Fauntroy, the Caucus chairman said, "It is the one budget resolution among the four being considered by the House which responds most succinctly and directly to the mandate given by the congress and the President by the American people on November 4, 1980. Of the four alternative budgets, it does the best job of eliminating deficit spending, reducing level of

federal spending, providing tax relief to the American people, and spurring jobs and economic recovery for American businesses and American workers." Of course Mr. Fauntroy explained in detail how each aspect of the budget would be accomplished.

Congressman Rangel said the American dream of a better quality of life - sending children to college, owning a home, job opportunities, not being denied medical care, is being challenged by the same people who have been beneficiaries of government intervention. The challengers were benefactors of GI bill, government supported mortgages and raised their families on government subsidies. Mr. Rangel criticized the President's "truly needy list," as being hard to identify when the cost of living is not being indexed, and that there are broad groups of Americans whom the Administration dares to touch.

Representative Ford said he was greatly bothered by the Ad-

ministration's failure to even acknowledge that in order to offset its huge tax cut that there must be some tax expenditures, so that all budget cuts will not be shifted to the aged and children of the nation.

Representative Shirley Chisholm stated that the Congressional Black Caucus was the first group to respond to President Reagan's challenge of an alternative budget. The Caucus immediately went to work in terms of research and analysis and came up with constructive alternatives that dealt in the areas of equilibrium across the board. Mrs. Chisholm spoke of the inability to get the alternative budget in the press. The reason for the lack of press exposure was because, it was brought forth by eighteen Black members of the House of Representatives, in spite of the work put into it, even though it is not a budget that deals only with black people and poor people but one that affects the quality of life of many Americans, some black and some white. She said that it was

TO BE EQUAL



Vernon Jordan Jr.

PBS Is In Grave Danger?

The public school system is in grave danger. The major push now under way for tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools could be the first step in a tragic scenario that creates a two-class system of education, with inferior, resource-starved public schools for the poor and private schools for everyone else.

There is wide support for a bill in Congress that would take \$250 off the tax bill of families with children in private schools. That would rise to \$500 later. And in year to come, the sky would be the limit, because once the principle is established the credit is likely to go up in lockstep with tuition rises.

So an economy-minded Congress that slashed aid to public schools is preparing a \$4 billion giveaway to entice middle income families to desert the public schools.

The drive for the tuition tax credit got a big boost recently from a highly publicized study by sociologist James S. Coleman that found private high schools are better than public ones.

The real-world value of such a finding is minimal. Why the surprise that selective schools largely drawing children from better-educated and motivated families would come up with better achievement results than public schools that must accept and retain all comers?

But the point is whether the national commitment to quality education will include the vast majority of children who will continue to be educated in the public schools.

The tragedy is that such mass studies tell us nothing about the many public schools with committed principals and teachers who do educate their pupils, and without the resources many private schools enjoy.

And it masks the deficiencies of many private schools that are little more than segregation academies pandering to parental prejudice. The fact is that some private schools, like some public schools, do the job they are supposed to be doing, while others do not.

An no one in his right mind would argue that all public school are fulfilling their obligations to educate the poor. The obvious need is to make the public schools better, not to abandon them.

But that is what a tuition tax credit would encourage. Its proponents claim the credit would give poor families an alternative to public education, but that is not true. By definition, a tax credit goes only to people whose taxes exceed the amount of the credit. By definition, poor people would be frozen out.

And even moderate income families would not benefit since they would have to make up the difference between the credit and the full amount of the tuition.

The kicker here is that once a tax credit is passed, tuition bills would rise. The credit would encourage inflation in private education. It would also encourage proliferation of second-rate schools out to exploit a newly created market.

If public education is to be saved, it will not be enough just to fight the tuition tax credit.

only during the later days that people began to realize that the Caucus was serious about their budget that others began to come up with budgets. Shirley stated, that congress should have recognized that middle income people in this country are, at the very moment, in deep trouble.

Representative Crockett of Detroit gave a sad but detailed account of the unemployment growth and the sufferings that will be caused by Reagan's budget cuts in social programs of the people in his district, and how the Caucus budget alleviates those conditions. Representative John Conyers of Detroit concurred with Mr. Crockett, that the same is true of his congressional district.

Congressman Bill Clay told the House members that a win of either the Jones budget proposal or Gramm-Latta amendment would be a loss to the American people. He stated that most congress persons were viewing the November election as a mandate to destroy worthwhile people programs. To do this will be to aban-

don the concepts of the Constitution. He stated that members of congress have the obligation to provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and insure domestic tranquility. Clay further stated, "for a substantial segment of our population housing is deplorable, employment imaginary, health care illusory and education a farce."

Representative Weiss deplored the reasons why some of the Caucus measures were not included in the Democratic budget.

Congressman Obeyesekere stated, "the lack of the Congressional Black Caucus support was because Caucus members seem to have a tendency to expect reason to permeate legislative debate, but has not happened at congress in some time."

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