

# Editorials & Comments

## Abortion Or Welfare?

Since last month a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee, chaired by John East (R-NC), has been hearing testimony for and against the Helms-Hyde Bill which would declare that "human life should be deemed to exist from conception." That very definition has sparked considerable controversy in the fields of Constitutional law and medicine.

Furthermore, when the bill's sponsors, who indicate little knowledge of constitutional law, go so far as to insult the American people with crude stupid remarks about medicine, we have a need for real concern. Specifically, we are referring to Senator Jesse Helms' statement on TV that a woman could not get pregnant from rape and Senator John East's comment that if his mother had known he might get polio she might have aborted him.

Aside from this rhetoric is the less discussed or publicized issue of the social costs of a ban on abortion. Without the right of abortion, that is the right of a woman to have some control over her own body, many unwanted or unneeded pregnancies will occur. For reasons of con-

tinued economic discrimination and less educational opportunity, black and/or poor women will share a disproportionate amount of these unwanted pregnancies.

These women, who are already heavily dependent upon Aid For Dependent Children (AFDC) are also those most likely to be affected by any law banning abortions. This in turn means there could be an eventual need for increased AFDC payments while at the same time public assistance generally is being cut by the federal government. A parallel to this is the ending of

major portions of the CETA program thus eliminating jobs that give people a sense of self worth and transferring them to the unemployment rolls where government is still paying the bill for people to do nothing.

Considering that one-third of U.S. families are receiving public assistance, the banning of abortion, like the ending of CETA, is simply shifting the federal cost from a less expensive program to a more expensive program.

The banning of abortions serves no useful purpose.

## Reganism: A Misplaced Philosophy

The other side of President Reagan's push to cut taxes (for the rich) is the cutting of social program (for the poor), as noted in the above editorial.

This truly reflects supply-side economics and the old trickle down theory which are the cornerstones of President Reagan's domestic economic policy. Basically, this policy says the business tax reduction is designed to transfer more money to the rich with the expectation that they will use it to provide jobs and income for those not rich. Equally important, Mr. Reagan believes that the role of government must be substantially reduced.

Implied in Mr. Reagan's philosophy is the idea of the less government the more free enterprise capitalism and thus we will all be better off and live a more prosperous life.

The problem with this viewpoint is that it ignores what has allowed free enterprise capitalism to succeed in America. In expressing the viewpoint of economist John K. Galbraith, historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. write in "The Wall Street Journal" (Ju. 2, 1981), "Capitalism has survived because of a continuing and remarkably successful effort to humanize the industrial order, to cushion the operations of the economic system...It has survived because of a long campaign, mounted by liberals (in government), to reduce the suffering - and thereby the resentment and the rebelliousness - of those to whom the

accidents of birth deny equal chance."

Ten years earlier (1981) Piven and Cloward stated this more bluntly as the central theme of their book, "Regulating The Poor: The Functions of Public Welfare." They note that historically public assistance is initiated or expanded during outbreaks of civil disorder caused by high unemployment and then reduced as political stability or peace is restored. In summary, they argue "that expansive relief policies are designed to mute civil disorder and restrictive ones to reinforce work norms."

This is evident by the fact that the Equally Economic Opportunity, Civil Rights and Voting Rights bills all became law in the 1960s, the decade of the nation's most serious civil disorder in the 20th century.

We certainly do not condone violence, but as people see their jobs taken as a result of public policy; as women see control of their bodies taken by law; as we see our president pursuing tax benefits for the rich and saying to others maybe the rich will share theirs with you; as we see threats to the Social Security System as insane dollar amounts are committed to military hardware; and as we see billions of dollars used to aid totalitarian governments only because of their alleged opposition to communism, we must wonder is government really getting small and having a declining impact upon our lives



**A Sense Of Pride In Being Black!**

*A View from Capitol Hill:*

## The Role Of Congressmen

By Gus Savage  
Member of Congress  
Special To The Post

As the first black journalist ever elected to the United States Congress, I am delighted to have the opportunity to write a weekly column for member newspapers of the National Newspapers Publishers Association. I was an editor-publisher for 26 years, including 16 years in that role with the Citizen Newspapers and The Chicago Weekend, and I have been a member of NNPA for 15 years.

Inasmuch as this is my first column since my election to Congress in November, I am taking this opportunity to briefly inform readers about my view of the role of a member of Congress. In addition, I will share with you some of the highlights of my first four months as a congressman with particular emphasis on those issues with national significance. There are many vital issues facing black Americans today, and I will touch on some of these in this initial offering.

My perception of a member's role transcends that of the legislator. Specifically, I contend that a member of Congress - in addition to his or her legislative duties - also must be an agitator and at times an educator.

There also is this matter of bearing the label of "freshman" when a member serves his first term. Although I am called a freshman in the 97th Congress, I have been involved in public affairs and civil rights issues for most of my 55 years on this planet. Throughout the campaign, it was stressed that upon

IT ALL STARTED WITH A BUS RIDE FROM DOWNTOWN MONTGOMERY ALABAMA, BY MRS. ROSA PARKS. FROM THIS "BUS RIDE WITH HONOR," CAME A NEW LEADER, WHO WAS TO CHANGE THE THINKING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.



Gus Savage

reaching Congress, I didn't intend to act anymore like a freshman than Jackie Robinson acted like a rookie when he broke the color line in baseball. You see, a person with rookie experience and freshman credentials could never win as an independent from the machine stronghold of Chicago. Don't you agree?

Let's get down to specifics. I supported the Congressional Black Caucus alternative budget because it was "the only act in town" that, in any significant fashion, responded to President Reagan's chopping block budget cuts.

Earlier this year, while addressing an Operation PUSH rally, I said Reagan is asking people to suffer while profits soar. I described him as a "reverse Robin Hood, robbing the poor and giving to the rich." I further stated that this President gives little consideration to the special plight of black Americans - but the little he does gives is worse than that of any President in the past 50 years.

For instance, Reagan shockingly argues that "The taxing power of government...must not be used to...bring about social progress;" however, he proposes to use it to increase private profits. In

addition, his Administration plans to shift from categorical to block grants, representing a return to the discredited "states rights" concept under which blacks suffered so much during the first years of this century.

I have said that sometimes a member of Congress must be an agitator. My entry into the deplorable situation involving 3,500 laid-off workers of Wisconsin Steel - located in my district in Chicago - is a case in point. These suffering workers and their families have endured great hardships since the mill was shut down more than a year ago. Since January of this year, the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) took over the mill and currently is involved in negotiations with potential buyers, principally American Spring Wire, a Cleveland-based firm. The Reagan Administration's plan to eliminate EDA could drastically affect negotiations to reopen the defunct mill. Some 150 of the workers and their families came to Washington on April 9, at my invitation, to lobby before Congress and to confer with representatives of EDA, other Commerce officials, and representatives of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

These workers saw their paychecks bounce when the former owner, International Harvester, called in the note with Envirodyne Industries, Inc., and foreclosed on the collateral, followed by Chase Manhattan's refusal to honor their paychecks.

# Affirmative Action

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ

## Reagan Trying To Struggle

The Reagan Administration has proved to be the nightmare that the wildest dreams had imagined. Food stamps are under siege, Medicare and Medicaid are being heavily bombed.

But jobs are the bottom-line and affirmative action over the years has brought thousands of blacks jobs. But now, according to the major corporate organ "Business Week" (May 25, 1981), "...a historic turnabout in Washington's enforcement of equal employment opportunity laws and regulations-the first such major shift since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - has been set in motion by the Reagan Administration and a conservative Congress."

What these fiendish minds have come up with is to "eliminate the entire concept of affirmative action." If this malevolent plan is carried through, blacks would receive their gravest setback since the passage of the fugitive Slave Act. Indeed, if this plan is carried through, some might begin to look back on the 19th Century as the "good old days" because our reality would become - and unfortunately, this is no exaggeration - a Ku Klux Klan dream, where blacks would have no rights that whites were bound to respect.

This "historic turnabout" was kicked off by hearings called on May 4 by chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Senator Orrin Hatch, (R-Utah) an unreconstructed foe of affirmative action.

Hatch has asserted falsely that affirmative action programs have undercut the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection of the laws for every citizen. As any school-child could tell you, the exact opposite is the case for it is goals, timetables and, yes, quotas that have brought us closer to that distant oasis of equality.

In these hearings, Senator Hatch - who also holds down the powerful post of chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee - denounced in unduly harsh terms policies that allow employers or institutions to be labeled discriminatory "on the basis of purely statistical evidence and disparate effects rather than on the basis of some demonstration of discriminatory intent or purpose or motivation." He was joined in that criticism by Morris Abram, fat cat New York lawyer, former president of Brandeis University and former friend of civil rights, who testified that Congress should pass legislation requiring that under civil rights laws proof of discriminatory intent or purpose be provided to establish bias - not just proof that a law or policy had disparate impact on blacks.

Here, wittingly or unwittingly, these two white males let the cat out of the bag. For the Dixiecrats have been praying for such a standard that would make proving a claim of discrimination well-nigh impossible. Even a lawyer who is barely literate can tell you that if victims of discrimination have to show intent on the part of employers, they're going to have to find letters and documents - i.e., material in writing - where the employer says, "I intended to discriminate against X" or the like. Although racist employers have never been known for their brilliance, it is submitted that in these times even they have enough sense not to put racism in writing.

## From Capitol Hill

# Reagan Places Higher Value On Money Than Lives?

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

The Reagan Administration has struck another dagger into the human rights policy. Especially, is he showing that basic human rights of Third World people are subordinate to the wealth of big corporations. At the World Health Organization (WHO) meeting of Geneva, President Reagan instructed the United States' delegation to vote against the WHO commendatory code for marketing infant formulas as a substitute for breastfeeding.

The United States largely initiated the proposal for developing the recombinant code. In 1979 at a WHO-UNICEF meeting discussions and negotiations between governments, UN agencies, professional societies, private industry and public interest groups gave impetus to

the process. Comprehensive discussions were held between groups and government agencies within the United States.

Infant formulas manufacturers have conducted



Alfreda L. Madison

intense lobbying through a campaign of disinformation by alleging:

1. The proposed code would be inappropriate regulations by an international body. In truth the code is only recommendatory.

2. It will create global standards. In truth, the code calls for individual governments to take actions appropriate to their social and legislative framework and objectives.

3. Opponents say the code is an abridgement of First Amendment rights and restrains trade. The truth, the code's provisions con-

cerning restrictions on inappropriate advertising and marketing procedures may be adopted, with no less appropriateness, than the processes by which some countries place warning labels on cigarettes and other items.

Studies were presented at the hearings held on the abuse of some American manufacturers in advertising and marketing the infant formulas, especially Nestle, Bristol Myers, Moade-Johnson and Abbott Laboratories infant formula companies. Nurses and doctors who work in hospitals in Third World countries were given bribes to push those harmful formulas. Some sales persons disguised as medical personnel marketed the products. Manufacturers' pictures showed a beautiful, healthy looking western world baby for advertisement purposes in poverty stricken Third World countries. Use of the infant formula has been proved to be highly devastating to these poor people. The unsanitary conditions of contaminated water, lack of refrigeration, sterilization

facilities, and insect control causes the formula to contribute greatly to infant diarrhea and malnutrition. Of the 125 million children less than one year old in the world, over 80 percent are in the developing countries, where infant mortality is one out of every five.

When it was announced that the United States intended to vote against WHO code of marketing and breastfeeding, Representative Thomas Harkin and twelve other members requested a meeting with the President. This was ignored. The letter stated that these thirteen persons would be speaking on behalf of 75 congressmen. Two U.S. officials of the Agency for International Development resigned because they abhor the Reagan decision.

When the vote was taken on May 20, it was 95 to 3, with 9 abstentions. The United States was among the negative. Some members of both Houses were working to get the Administration to rescind its vote on May 22.

Senator Hatfield said that the Administration's

action was sending a message to the world that the United States is indifferent to human needs.

It was stated strongly by these congress members and witnesses that the Administration's vote does not reflect the views of the majority of the American people, and that such action will cause our nation to lose credibility around the world.

Senator Kennedy said the President should listen to people like the witnesses rather than big corporation executives. Mr. Kennedy stated that the Administration, drug agency and infant formula companies were asked to testify but they refused.

In discussions in the United States, these infant formulas were withdrawn. However, the Administration condones their marketing in developing nations.

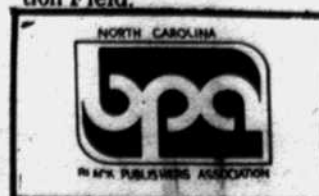
Representative Ron Dellums, who introduced a bill in the last congress for implementation of the code recommendation, plans to make a few changes and introduce the bill in this congress. Dellums said, at a press conference, that,

"Mr. Reagan's actions are appalling. He campaigned on improving the quality of life and that his negative vote on the code is a direct contradiction, since it shows he favors big corporations' profits over preservation of life in Third World countries."

## Alexander To Leave For

### Parris Island

Drorster Ornas Alexander, son of Ms. Kay Frances Alexander of 8131 Carolwood Drive, enlisted in the Marine Corps this week. According to Sergeant Jerald Brides, a local Marine Corps recruiter, Drorster enlisted in the Delay Entry Program for four years and has been guaranteed training in the Marine Corps Reserve Option Field.



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