

Editorials & Comments

Preserve Park Safety

On Sunday a young man said, "This is a nice place to go if you're in love." Another said, "It's a great place to sell dope. You could make a million dollars here." These contradictory statements are about Freedom Park as quoted in a Charlotte News story on Monday. They reflect more than a viewpoint about one of our vacation-at-home 91 City parks. More significantly they reflect attitudes about our values and the quality of life we must want for ourselves and our children.

Unfortunately, however, the negative viewpoints and destructive behavior—selling dope, smoking marijuana, drinking alcoholic beverages, nearly public sexual intercourse, homosexual advances and loud playing radios—which we like to think represents a small minority of the park-visiting population, is nevertheless the element that may take away the only vacation-at-home playland that many citizens enjoy.

While the City's parks are by design places for relaxation, communication with nature and a temporary refuge from the demands of daily living, they are also places where we assume that our fellowman, be he a stranger or a friend, would assume a citizens' responsibility for preserving that environment for those to follow him. By this we mean for those who truly believe our parks are for playful run, informal association and leisure, it is unreal to have to be

reminded of the destructive elements in the parks. Furthermore, while we can complain to City Hall about more park rangers and more police protection, we must realize that much of this problem (in our parks as it is elsewhere) is more a matter of values and citizen attitudes. For example, it seems unbelievable that our park rangers had to ask five adults AND four children to leave Freedom Park on Sunday because "...they had two bags of marijuana, beer and two bottles of liquor on their blanket."

This kind of behavior can be expected in our parks and other public places as long as we have parents of high school age children and young saying they have no objection to their children having a small beer party at home or as a Liz Hair's drug awareness committee recently noted, parents are simply not aware of the gravity of the drug problem in our schools or among young people generally.

Until we as parents, educators, ministers and responsible adults begin to act responsibly, we will have problems created by a few who will make it uncomfortable for the many who desire to visit our parks.

City Park and Recreation director Marvin Billups put the issue in proper perspective when he said, "Freedom Park is a beautiful place that thousands of people use within the letter of the law. We will not let a handful of people give it a bad name."

Test Of Our Progress

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 times 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 indeed 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 of 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.

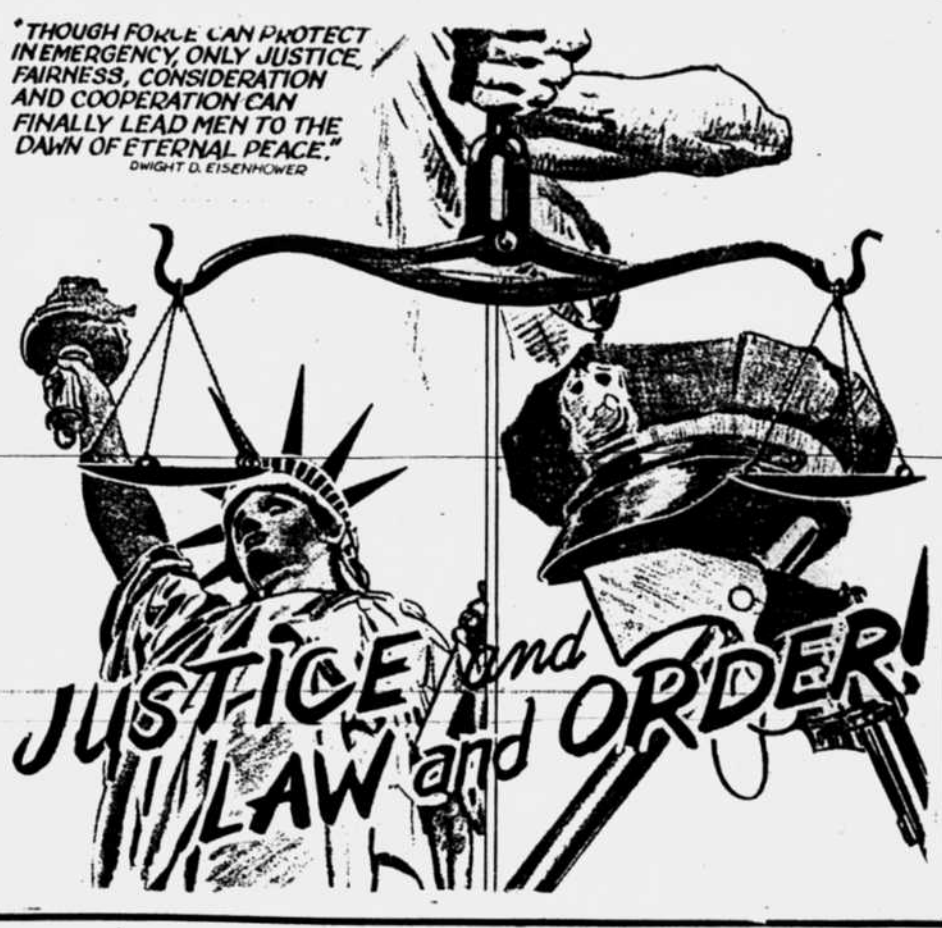
However, these benefits to the

poor become 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 report by David Stockman, Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Speaking on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers" 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.

LET'S START THINKING TOGETHER



A View From Capitol Hill Independent Reports On Washington

By Gus Savage
Member of Congress

In my first column last week, I promised to share with our readers details about a bill I have introduced to help job-seekers in their efforts to secure employment - my first major piece of legislation - and a package of five bills to honor the memory of former world heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis.



The legislation to aid job-seekers, the National Transit Fare Employment Incentives Act, would amend the Wagner-Peyser Act to establish a program to provide transit fare assistance to persons looking for jobs. It is structured to ease the financial burden of those who use public transportation in looking for jobs.

President Reagan has asserted on a number of occasions that there are jobs out there in the marketplace. He has pointed to help wanted sections in our nation's "largest newspapers and questioned why people remain unemployed when there are employers in the private sector who obviously need and want people to come and work for them.

While I also believe that there are jobs in the private sector that are waiting to be filled, at the same time I believe that one of the main reasons why these jobs aren't being filled as readily as they should be is directly related to the high cost of mass public transportation which job-seekers, especially those who live in and around urban areas, must necessarily utilize to apply for, and thus, to obtain work.

I firmly believe that the National Transit Fare Employment Incentives Act will provide incentives to job-seekers to look for employment opportunities in the private sector, and also will provide financial relief to the unemployed who must rely on the use of public transportation to ef-

ready in existence and operating and should be utilized to its maximum potential as an employment mechanism. Since the Office can use existing space and personnel to administer the program, there should be only minimal administrative costs involved in its set-up and operation.

I believe that the National Transit Fare Employment Incentives Act is unique because it is not another hashed-over welfare concept but rather, it is a "work-fare" bill. When one stops to consider the overwhelming benefits to be gained towards the betterment of our economy and towards the betterment of standard of living and way of life that will be gained when people are working instead of having to draw public assistance, any costs that may be associated with a program to get people into jobs must be considered small indeed. I firmly believe this legislation is a positive step in bringing us closer to the goal that we all share - helping those who want to work to find jobs. The legislation was introduced on May 7. I am pleased to announce that several of my colleagues are co-sponsoring the bill.

Joe Louis was the son of a black sharecropper who, through exceptional courage, strength and skill, became the heavyweight boxing champion of the world. But Joe Louis was more than just a legendary hero, he was a quiet, determined, talented American who stands as a model of inspiration to millions of people all over the world.

The package of bills that I introduced on May 12 would honor Louis by (1) directing the U.S. Postal Service to provide and sell a "Joe Louis" stamp; (2) expressing the sense of Congress that the President should award posthumously the Presidential

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Affirmative Action

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ.

Cooke And The Full Court Press

The dust has settled and perhaps it is now an appropriate time to look back soberly on the now notorious "Janet Cooke Affair." For those who may not be aware, Janet Cooke was a journalist with the Washington Post who recently became the first black woman to win the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for her fall 1980 articles "Jimmy's World," which chronicled the story of an eight-year old black junkie and drug addict. The only problem was that (1) it appears that the story was primarily a figment of Ms. Cooke's evidently vivid imagination and (2) it appears that Ms. Cooke's claimed academic credential—she alleged attendance at both Vassar and the Sorbonne in Paris—were not in order. In fact, Ms. Cooke's finely weaved tale began to unravel when officials at Vassar College called the Post to inform them that she was not a graduate.

This movie-like scenario should concern all affirmative action advocates because it has been used to call into question the credentials and capabilities of not only black journalists but black professionals generally. As one waggish observer cracked, "You better put your diplomas and certificates on the wall of your office now before they begin to challenge you." Witting and unwitting racists have used the "Cooke Affair" as a crude weapon to bludgeon the affirmative action thrust by alleging that efforts to increase black participation inevitably lead to fiascos.

This is vicious, unalloyed racism because the attempt by John Hinckley to commit the dastardly act of assassinating the President of the United States did not cause a similar outcry of challenge against the capabilities of white sons of right-wing oil executives. Imagine the lynch mob spirit that would have arisen if the attempt to slay Reagan has been done by a black! Similarly, as baseball players union chief Marvin Miller has noted, some fans scream bloody murder about the salary of a Reggie Jackson but remain mute about the megabucks of a white star like Pete Rose. The fact is that the double-standard—judging blacks detrimentally by one standard and whites by another—is a tell-tale sign of racism.

In that light it will be interesting to see how another brewing scandal involving a white journalist is handled. The New York Daily News has the largest circulation of any newspaper in the country. Recently one of their star white journalists, Michael Daly, was charged with fabricating a story during a recent visit to politically charged Northern Ireland. The Londa Daily Mail termed his piece about Irish youth attacking British troops with gasoline bombs with the latter retaliating with live ammunition "a work of pure imagination..." a malevolent piece of propaganda which is a disgrace to journalists. Daly quickly resigned after these revelations hit the newsstands. Let's see if this disgrace will call into question the credentials and capabilities of white male journalists. If the history of racism in this country is any guide, this definitely will not occur.

But it should be obvious why racism has reared its ugly head in the Janet Cooke Affair. For like the thief that yells "stop thief" the nation's press—which is virtually lily-white—has a material interest in conjuring up all sorts of red herrings to distract attention away from their lamentable affirmative action records.

From Capitol Hill

Slick Tricks Presented To Deny Blacks Voting Rights

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Since certain aspects of the Voting Rights Act will expire in 1982, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights chaired by Representative Don Edwards, a hard fighter for justice and equality, has been holding hearings on the extension of the Act.

Representative Rodino has introduced H.R. 3112 in the House and Senators Kennedy and Mathias have introduced S.895 in the Senate. Both of these bills extend the special provisions. These proposals will extend for another ten years, section 5, the pre-clearance measure of the Voting Rights Act which prevents local communities and states from using gerrymandering, annexations, at-large-voting, multi-member districts and in heavy language areas ballots must be printed in the native language. There is also suggested that Section 2 be amended to return to standards for proving discrimination, from that



Alfreda L. Madison imposed by the Supreme Court recently in Mobile Vs. Bolden. In 1973 White Vs. Redester, the Supreme Court upheld the position that direct and indirect evidence could be introduced to establish voting discrimination, but in Bolden the Court changed and said that only direct evidence of specific intent to discrimination should be allowed.

and local communities, and these are only a small percentage of the local changes.

Representative Henry Hyde has introduced H.R. 3473 which substitutes for the mandatory pre-clearance section, a requirement that will permit the Attorney General or aggrieved party to bring an action in any Federal Court, instead of only the District Court of the District of Columbia as is now required. If a pattern of voting rights abuse is found by the Courts, a pre-clearance should be imposed for four years. H.R. 3473 will apply to all states.

Great objection to the Hyde bill was voiced by the witnesses. It would require each aggrieved party to file a suit and that will certainly take a long period of time before getting to the Courts. Then it would be meaningful to that one particular area in which the suit was brought. Mr. Hyde explained that as the pre-clearance section now stands it only penalizes a few Southern states. It was noted that no state or local

ity can abuse the pre-clearance mandate and that Alaska, Arizona, some parts of New England, California and New York are under the Section 5 mandate.

Benjamin Hooks of the NAACP stated, that despite the legal protection of the Act, problems of some magnitude still exist in minority voting, in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Vernon Jordan of the National Urban League emphasized very strongly the necessity of extending the Voting Rights Act, that the present climate in the country makes the extension imperative. He stated that Senator Strom Thurmond—a strong opponent of civil rights—is against extension. In response to a question from Mr. Hyde, who said that he felt improvement has been made that will render pre-clearance unnecessary, Mr. Jordan said that he certainly can't trust his right to vote to the good white folks in some of these

states. Mr. Hyde replied that the real issue is that the pre-clearance aspect makes the six Southern states that still have to clear their voting activities with the Justice Department as "penalty box." Mr. Jordan stated that these six states have, historically, discriminated against blacks in the

voting process for around a hundred years and that he did not see the rationale for not extending the Act. He strongly emphasized that congress will do all citizens a great service if it leaves the law as it is, because there is still a hard core of whites who have never been touched.

Mr. Kirkland, President of AFL-CIO stated that the only purpose of the Voting Rights Act was to right a wrong in which we failed for nearly a century to end discriminatory denial of voting rights to a class of citizens. He firmly emphasized that he would much rather have 95 years of application of the law than 95 years of denial.

House Deputy Press Secretary said that President Reagan has not affected a policy yet, on the Voting Rights Act, but that during the campaign he said that he would like to see it extended to all the states. Speakes was told that no state can violate the Act and that if the President continued to take that view he would be going back on his campaign promise, "not to set civil rights back."

Statistics
Elements of statistics, a course required of nursing students working toward a BSN or toward a graduate degree, will be offered by the UNCC Office of Continuing Education beginning at 3:30 p.m., June 15, at Charlotte Rehabilitation Hospital.
The course will register at the first meeting and meet on subsequent Mondays through August.



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