

Editorials & Comments

Bishop Leake-A Man Among Men

George Leake, minister, civil rights leader, social program administrator, family man, sometime egotist, and a man of intense pride and dedication is dead at age 51.

Because of his firmly held positions, particularly on issues that affected black and poor people, Rev. Leake was also a controversial personality. He often supported unpopular causes, he spoke out when other black leaders remained silent, he challenged the political system, and walked and talked with an intense pride that some interpreted to border on arrogance, only because he believed he was right.

Leake's charismatic and dynamic manner made him a forceful and influential personality during Charlotte's civil rights movement of the 1960s. He led protest marches, demanded more jobs for blacks among County jail personnel, he organized boycotts against white merchants, yet he was a major force in preventing violent racial riots as had occurred in many other southern cities.

He also protested against the closing of several black schools in response to desegregation. In 1969 he said, "I don't feel it's necessary to have whites and blacks in the same school. I am concerned about quality education... You're not going to solve the problem by busing (black children) into a strange hostile environment."

Power Structure

Because he felt the "power structure" was not responding to his demands, Leake challenged the political system. In 1966 he ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the N.C. House of Representatives. Three years later he ran for mayor of Charlotte. Finishing third in a four-man race and eventually throwing his support to John Belk, Leake's campaign was so successful the political analysts and writers said, "If George Leake were not black he'd be the next mayor of Charlotte."

While pursuing the civil rights and political interests Leake also found time to pastor the Little Rock AME Zion Church of Charlotte from 1962-1971. During that time, the constantly moving Leake also led his church in the receiving of federal funds to build the 240-unit Little Rock Apartments.

Not content with these accomplishments, Rev. Leake served from 1968-1972 as director of the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), a non-profit agency that trained and found jobs for hundreds of low income people. Shortly thereafter,

Leake founded Pride, Inc., a counseling-consulting agency that helped minority businesses secure grants and influenced private industry to provide jobs for the poor.

Recognized Talents

Recognized for his talents and dedication, Rev. Leake was appointed Bishop of the 11th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Still looking past his personal accomplishments to the needs of the less fortunate, Leake founded an alcoholism program called Innovative and Concentrated Approaches to Combating Drug Use Inc. in 1974. The program provided counseling and housing for alcoholics recruited from the streets of Charlotte.

Leake was convicted of embezzling funds from the alcoholic program. However, last February, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the conviction. A month earlier attempts to prosecute Leake for the death of two women in an auto accident were dropped because of conflicts in eyewitness and police reports of the incident. It was injuries received in that accident that led to Leake's untimely death.

The Rev. George Leake was such an on-going fighter that he said during an interview on the embezzling charge, "I've been fighting all my life (for something), and I will keep on fighting. When they lower me into the grave and throw that first shovel full of dirt, I'll stand up and say, 'And another thing.'" That statement, in Rev. Leake's own words, characterizes the kind of man among men that he was.

Charlotte is certainly a better place for having experienced the presence of the Rev. George Leake; and it will be a less progressive place in the future for having lost him.

Atlanta Children

The uninvolved disappearances of 25 black children over the past 19 months in Atlanta is causing an unsettling and frustrating feeling across the country and especially in the black communities.

Paranoia, fear and a little hysteria are creeping into the public consciousness as the daily reports of missing kids continue despite parallel accounts of police resources from the local to the federal level being employed.

While law enforcement officials turn every leaf to find the perpetrator or perpetrators, every effort should be made now to prevent the number of missing children from rising.

We must all understand that at no time, at no moment, or in no instant will a child be outside the sight of or without the supervision of its family, the church or the school.

RETURNING TO BUILD A BETTER BLACK COMMUNITY.



Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands

A View From Capitol Hill

Independent Reports On Washington

By Gus Savage
Member of Congress

Because of my growing concern over what could happen to the Social Security System is President Reagan's original proposals are adopted, I have appealed to my colleagues in the Congress to categorically reject the Administration's plans.

Probably the most flagrant example of the President's lack of sensitivity for the plight of the average worker who is approaching 62 and looking towards retirement is the recommendation in regard to retirement and survivor's insurance. He has proposed reducing the percentage of benefits that persons who retire at age 62 can expect to receive by some 25 percent of current levels.

The President's proposal would not only penalize those who are contemplating voluntarily retiring at age 62 but would also penalize those who involuntarily retire at this age because of job loss or crippling illness. Early retirees cannot live on 80 percent now, so how can they make it on 55?

House Democrats on May 20 went on record in opposition to the President's Social Security proposals, especially in regard to his plan to cut benefits for early retirees. The Senate on the same day passed a sense of the Senate resolution in opposition to any proposal that would "precipitously and unfairly penalize early retirees" or reduce benefits to any level more than "necessary to achieve a financially sound system."

In what appeared to be a compromise move, Health and Human Services Secretary Richard S. Schweiker on May 28 told the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security that the proposal to lower benefits for early retirees could be phased in over time instead of going into effect January 1982, as



Hon. Gus Savage

the Administration had proposed. At the same time, however, Schweiker told Subcommittee Chairman J. J. Pickle (D-Tex.) that other savings will have to be found to make up the difference.

The Administration contends that approximately \$82 billion must be cut from the retirement program over the next five years to help the system through an expected financial shortfall next year to ensure its long-term solvency.

Schweiker also said he might consider some change in the annual cost-of-living allowance for beneficiaries "as part of a bipartisan compromise." The Administration so far has proposed only to delay a scheduled cost-of-living increase three months, from July until October of next year, but has left the formula unchanged.

In a later development, David A. Stockman, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, told the subcommittee that the Administration would consider an income tax credit for those who continue to work after age 65. That compromise proposal was suggested by Barber B. Conable (R-NY), ranking minority member of the full Ways and Means Committee, as a substitute for a proposal to phase out current penalties for Social Security recipients who earn over a certain amount in outside income.

While the plans that the Administration has in store

for Social Security have not yet been formally submitted to Congress, the originally proposed sweeping changes amount to nothing less than abrogation of the tenets undergirding the System. The initial proposal amounts to a retreat from the firm pact first established by the Federal Government with the American people more than 40 years ago as a guarantee that there would be a way to supplement their retirement income.

All of my colleagues in the House recognize that some restructuring of the Social Security System is necessary to ensure sound financial footing for the program in the future. However, the Administration's original proposals clearly demonstrate its lack of sensitivity and compassion for common folk.

In the days and weeks ahead, I hope that we can join hands and work out approaches to financing Social Security that are fair and equitable. We owe present recipients and future beneficiaries a better deal than what this Administration has offered in its package of misery proposals.

FOIL TIP

Using aluminum foil under a pie or casserole can help to make oven clean-up easier, but left constantly in the oven it will impair heat distribution.

It can also eventually cause crazing, or the formation of minute cracks on the oven bottom, according to extension home economists at North Carolina State University.

Use a small piece when necessary on the bottom rather than on the rack, making sure it does not touch the heating elements or cover air vents.

Use of aluminum foil on the grid or rack of a broiler is never recommended because of the hazard of a grease fire.

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ.

Affirmative Action

Housing And Action

Racial discrimination and its remedy affirmative action are most frequently thought of in regard to employment and education. And it is true that these two areas are essential if justice is to become a reality in Afro-America.

But where and how we live is a topic too that cannot be ignored. Blacks are often denied city services and this denial has wide impact on the quality of life and how Afro-Americans are perceived. Frequently, garbage, pick-ups, street lighting, sewage system, etc., are denied systematically to black communities, then with flawless "blame the victim logic," the residents are pilloried for living in "slums."

More and more, however, blacks are becoming "hip" to this shell game and moving offensively on all front to eliminate it. An example of this is being played out Apopka, Florida, located in the central part of the state, ten miles northwest of the latest boom town Orlando. This hamlet has a population of 5,000 persons, with roughly 30 percent being black and residing in a segregated community—what some have come to call a ghetto. This "ghetto" has been deprived systematically by the political and economic power structure of street paving, storm and water drainage facilities and even water itself! So found the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida.

The ignorant and the racist "blamed" the residents of this area for the muddy streets and at times unsanitary conditions. But as the court discovered, the local elites of this area have "virtually ignored complaints and requests by black residents concerning the quantity and quality of the municipal services provided to the black community, while at the same time, the city has acted favorably on many similar requests from white residents." This was in blatant violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, Civil Rights Act and the Revenue Sharing Act.

Some have argued that those blacks thrust into similar "slum" conditions should organize "clean up the ghetto" campaigns when the city administration refuses to provide services. This is all well and good but why should only whites have their taxes pay for services and clean neighborhoods while blacks—who also pay taxes—have to take time away from their children and their reading and get out in the streets wielding a broom? This, no doubt, occurred to the blacks of Apopka, Florida, because they were able to force the court to issue an injunction prohibiting the city from spending any funds on the construction or improvement of municipal services in the white community until such time as services in black areas are on par with those of white areas. The next move by blacks there will be independent electoral action to put some political power in their hands, since all appointments by the white mayor and council for unexpired vacancies on the council have been white.

A battle being played out in the court rooms of Hartford, Connecticut, provides graphic evidence; suburban Manchester, Connecticut, voted in 1979 to refuse sizeable federal grants rather than commit the town to provide housing for the poor. Such barriers to housing opportunities are strewn across the landscape of this nation. Yet, despite statutory power pursuant to the Fair Housing Act, the Justice Department has brought a measly 10 housing and zoning discrimination cases.

disadvantaged, so it is incumbent upon the federal government to make a strong commitment, coordinated with the state and local levels to carry out its duty to educate all the nation's children.

SKINNY FRENCH
Here's a skinny version of French Dressing for calorie counters from extension food specialist at North Carolina State University.

Mix together 1½ cups tomato juice and 2 tablespoons minced onion. If desired, add artificial sweetener, herbs and spice to taste.

1967 Class

The West Charlotte Senior High School Class of 1967 will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, June 28, at 5 p.m. at the Greenville Center, 1330 Spring St.

All class members are urged to attend.



From Capitol Hill

Bill Contributes To Destruction Of Public Education

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Passage of S.550, a bill introduced by Senator Moynihan and Packwood will certainly have a devastating effect on public education. This bill provides federal income tax credit for tuition to private and parochial schools. I provides tax credit for 50 percent of the tuition paid for elementary, secondary vocational or higher education paid for private and parochial schools up to a limit of \$1,000 to a maximum tax credit of \$500. This will be applied directly to tuition and fees.

Even though proponents of the bill explain that tuition tax credit is to help the overburdened tax families with incomes under \$25,000. This does not cover quality private schools' tuition because quality private schools cost more than the tax credit. So the tuition tax credit does not enable lower and middle income parents to send their children to private schools, but rather it subsidizes those who need help the least.



Alfreda L. Madison

Some argue that it is unfair for parents who send their children to private schools to have to pay a public school tax. Citizens are required, in each community and state to be taxed for providing services for the common good - police, firemen, parks, streets, highways and swimming pools. Yet because someone never uses some of these service he is still taxed for them. The same is true of education. All people, through taxes, provide support for a public school system. If individuals choose to send their children to private

schools they have that right, but it does not obligate those who continue to send their children to public schools, to pay the private school parents a tax credit and eliminate these parents' share of the cost of helping provide public schools for all Americans.

It is often thought that private schools provide a better education. The private schools which, at

present, have an enrollment of about 9 percent of the nation's students provide different services in different ways. Private schools are not subject to any regulations. They can choose their children and exclude any they wish. So tuition tax credit will aid those schools in expanding education to upper middle class students. The public schools exist for the education of all Americans. They must accept all students, irrespective of abilities or special education needs.

Tuition tax credit will certainly weaken the public schools, since most

states base their education funding on student attendance, tax credit will diminish public enrollment, thus causing a decrease in funds which will hamper education in every possible way.

The federal government contributes approximately \$160 per student. This is less than 10 percent of the student's cost. Students in private schools already receive around \$58 per student through school lunch and transportation from the federal government and tuition tax credit will increase this to around \$50. The Reagan budget cuts will lower the public school students' support of \$160, which is just about impossibly inadequate.

The Reagan Administration has proposed a 25 percent cut in education funds to the states, and these funds are provided without scarcely any targeting safeguards.

Naturally, education of the public can only be seen as retrogressing. Public education provides the only hope for ascendancy of the economic ladder for the

disadvantaged, so it is incumbent upon the federal government to make a strong commitment, coordinated with the state and local levels to carry out its duty to educate all the nation's children.

There can be no doubt that public education has been outstanding in the past years, so the present trend of relegating it to a low priority in budget needs will be devastating to the most valuable needs of our citizenry. While some faults can be found within the education system, tuition tax credit, is no remedy but an exacerbation of the ills. Education of a select few is bad educational policy, bad public policy and bad for the economic policy. The tuition tax credit is nothing more than the same old Reaganomics of taking from the needy to aid the more affluent.

Citizens must use their influence to see that S.550 is defeated, so that the masses are fairly treated instead of giving preferential education treatment to the classes. If this bill is

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