

# Editorials & Comments

## The Post - 104 Years Of Service!

We have observed in this column before that John Russworm and Samuel E. Cornish pioneered the field of black journalism in America. These men co-founded the Freedom's Journal in 1827. In their first issue they wrote, "We plead our cause," that is, the cause of freedom from servitude to a freedom of self development through education, thrift, and hard work.

From these humble beginnings, the Black press in America today comprises about 385 weekly and five daily newspapers. These newspapers employ nearly 6,000 people and have a circulation of approximately 11 million. Included in this brief historical summary, we are proud to note, the 104 years of service provided by The

Charlotte Post. Created in 1877 as a church newspaper called the Messenger, the paper was shortly thereafter re-named The Charlotte Post and transformed into a general black-oriented weekly publication. Thus, since before the turn of the century, the Charlotte Post has been a vital voice reporting on the events and activities of special interest groups. However, The Post, like many similar publications, has through the years protested Jim Crow laws and other forms of racial, social and or economic injustice.

Through the years, beginning with A.M. Houston, the late Dr. Nathaniel Tross and the current managing editor-publisher Bill Johnson, The Charlotte Post has continued its commitment to providing news coverage of areas too often overlooked, ignored, misunderstood or distorted by the larger white-oriented daily newspapers. Furthermore, The Post has maintained a dedicated commitment to dignity and human rights for all people.

### Black Community

When Bill Johnson purchased The Charlotte Post in June of 1974 from the General Publishing Company, he said, "The Charlotte black community needs a voice that mirrors the opinions of the community. We want The Post to provide services which the daily papers do not offer. These services to the black community will include information, education and entertainment. We hope that the Charlotte Post will be able to influence community life."

Thus, as The Charlotte Post celebrates its seventh anniversary under the leadership of Willie L. (Bill) Johnson and its 104 years of service to the Charlotte community, we believe the mission - to mirror community opinion - is being met.

Since the success of the Post has had to depend upon the efforts of many, we wish to

"thank you" - our readings - for your generous support, patience, understanding and constructive criticism. We hope that you will continue to contribute to the Post in this way so that we might make a good newspaper a better newspaper.

We wish to thank also The Post's 20-member staff for the dedication to the production of a newspaper of the highest quality. Their untiring efforts are seen in the growing number of subscriptions, letters-to-the-editor, comments, and advertising sold that are such a vital part of the success of any newspaper.

Furthermore, we wish to thank those who advertise in The Post as without their interest and business, there would be no Post.

### Job Well Done

Thus, as we pause this week to reflect on our past and say thanks for a job well done, we are nevertheless mindful of the continued existence of injustice such as the 1978 Supreme Court decision that allows police search of newspaper offices. These developments and others like them remind us that The Post cannot and will not sit on its success, but rather must seek to do an even better job of educating and informing our readers of those events that will have an impact upon their lives and that of their children.

Finally, we wish to note, as we did in this column on the 153rd anniversary of the Black Press last year. A newspaper, like any other business, cannot survive on its past accomplishments; it is what it is doing today, and plans to do tomorrow, that determines its success or failure. Black people, we believe, must do more to insure the continued existence and success of the black press. To do less would be to abandon a vital voice in your never-ending struggle for equality of opportunity and human rights.

The Post salutes you one and all for being in some way a part of our efforts and thus the reason for our existence. We hope for this reason that The Post has in some small way made your life more fulfilling and productive. We remain your community servant.

### Something On Your Mind

"Something On Your Mind?" is the name of a column devoted to you - the young at heart readers of this newspaper - as

long as it relates in some way to young people, regardless of age. Or any other subject you want to write about.

Remember, it's your column.

Remember, your article should be at least 250 words, typewritten and double-spacing preferred.



### A View From Capitol Hill

## Future Of Voting Rights Act?

By Gus Savage

Like a growing number of Americans of goodwill, I am deeply concerned about the future of the Voting Rights Act. Enacted in 1965, and continued in 1970 and 1975, the Act is regarded by many as the most successful civil rights law ever passed.

However, unless continued by Congress, key provisions of the Act are due to expire after August 6, 1982. And it comes as no surprise that the Reagan Administration has delayed in taking a stand on extension of the Act.

Of particular concern are the pre-clearance provisions of Section 5. Viewed as one of the Act's most important provisions, Section 5 requires that certain state and local governments must pre-clear any new changes in voting or election procedures with the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., by showing that the changes will not discriminate against minority voters.

Section 5 covers Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and half of North Carolina. It also covers Alaska, Arizona and a part of New York City, as well as small parts of 11 other states in all sections of the nation.

If Section 5 provisions are permitted to expire, the Justice Department may lose the authority to send federal observers to elections where possible violations are expected.

Covered under Section 5 are any change of voting or election procedures such as redistricting, annexation, polling place changes, re-registration requirements, new rules for candidate qualifications, and any other change that could have the potential for discriminating against minority voters.



Hon. Gus Savage

Opponents of Section 5 say Southern states are unfairly carrying a burden long after they stopped discriminating against blacks, and the pre-clearance procedures should be dropped, as scheduled, in August 1982, or extended to all 50 states.

Among those expressing concern about the removal of this requirement is Mrs. Coretta Scott King, widow of the murdered civil rights leader, and Marc Stepp, vice president of the United Automobile Workers. Both recently testified in Washington before the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

Mrs. King urged the panel not to drop or dilute the pre-clearance requirement. Such action "would be a national tragedy and make a mockery of one of the most important laws in American history," she declared. She said the Act has made it possible for blacks to double their voter registration in key Southern states since 1965, and Hispanics have gained 30 percent since they were covered by an amendment passed in 1975.

Also calling for continuation of pre-clearance provisions, Stepp said, "We all recognize that a shift from literacy tests to racial gerrymandering, at-large elections and other methods of manipulating the election system and diluting the votes of minority voters continues."

Generally speaking, Stepp charged: "The present activities by domestic terrorists like the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party, in reviving racial polarization and violence, make it even more critical that we continue the Voting Rights Act of 1965."

Other witnesses testified that the Act is the most significant civil rights bill ever passed because it has boosted black voter registration and increased the number of black elected officials in the South. They, too, said the special provisions are still needed.

On the question of making pre-clearance apply to all 50 states, the Act already has nationwide provisions. Section 2 bans racial discrimination in voting nationwide, and Section 3 allows a court to require pre-clearance in any jurisdiction where serious racial discrimination in voting is proved.

Section 5 was held Constitutional by the Supreme Court in 1966, in the South Carolina v. Katzenbach case. Moreover, its Constitutionality has been reaffirmed in later cases. It was Constitutional because it corrected existing cases of discrimination. Extending this provision to states where such practices did not exist could conceivably make it unconstitutional. Extension also would require additional costs and dilute its effectiveness.

### Thinking Refrigerator

Before 1840 many people buried or stored food underground because no one knew how to make ice. It wasn't until 1895 that Sears, Roebuck and Co. sold its first icebox.

A new era begins in July with the first solid-state refrigerator: it not only makes ice and cools food, but announces if the ice should be renewed and when the food is too warm.

### From Capitol Hill

## President Reagan Riding High; Falling May Come Later?

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

The Reagan Administration is riding high on the crest of a wave after getting its entire austere budget passed. This budget seems to express the Reagan human philosophy. In talking about his foreign policy, he has made it known that we must support those governments that have been friends to us regardless of their human rights policy. His budget which makes it impossible for some students to go to college, the handicapped to get necessary aid, children and the elderly get proper nutrition and health care and the poor to even exist is heftily tilted to increasing the coffers of the rich. Again his philosophy is exemplified in rewarding the rich who put him in office while giving little or no regard to the improvement of life for the unfortunate.

The White House admitted that the President made calls to some House Democrats and promised not to campaign against them in 1982 if they sup-



Alfreda L. Madison

ported his budget. This is the same principle that was used in abscam; only the abscam people were given money for supporting the alleged Arab wishes, while these congressmen were promised election support. One was using money while the other was using bartering.

The President sent a very hastily put-together budget to the House late Thursday night and insisted that his entire budget be passed the next day; not allowing any time for study of the package.

The Congressional Black Caucus fought hard to de-

feat the Gramm-Latta II bill, and the Administration's block grant proposals. Representative Ron Dellums sent a "clear colleague" letter to members of the House asking for support in defeating these programs. The letter stated that the Caucus was representing not just blacks but all poor people. The block grant programs will have a devastating effect on landmark legislation in goals of health, education, housing, social services and community development and energy assistance. It further said that "in worsening times," less assistance will be available to those in genuine need."

Representative Chisholm stated that "block grants which give states total discretion to establish their own priorities for social services programs would be a disaster to the poor." She criticized those who reason that stated capitals will suddenly become volcanoes of compassion when history has shown them instead to be icebergs of indifference.

The Congressional Black Caucus held a press conference on the eve of the floor debate of Gramm-Latta II. As just about always, a host of white and black media were present, but scarcely anything at all about the conference was mentioned in the white press.

Representative Fauntroy, Black Caucus Chairman presented the Caucus views. He stated that they were outraged by the Administration's blatant attempt to make even deeper cuts into programs that serve the poor and elderly, than had passed in the previous month.

The Caucus said that Gramm-Latta would terminate benefits for 3 million social security elderly persons, delay cost of living allotments for military and civilian retirees until October 1982 with no increase until July 1983, discontinue social services for more than 250,000 blind and disabled persons, curtail homemaker and meals on wheels services to 80,000 elderly and disabled, reduce payment to Aid to

# Affirmative Action

## Policeman, Arrest Thyself?

During the massive "Rendezvous with Life" march in Washington protesting the Atlanta child slayings, a number of speakers took the opportunity to lament the police work that has failed to turn up a single suspect. In contrast, when a few whites were slain during the 1980 uprising in Miami, Blacks were tried and convicted so quickly it could have made your head spin.

Such is the sad state of affairs in the nation's police forces. Most police officers are working class white males who are particularly susceptible to the canard that but for affirmative action their sons and daughters would advance further. Thus, instead of seeing those Blacks grouped with them at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid as their allies, many of the white males who dominate police forces view minorities as sworn enemies. The Ku Klux Klan has met with some success in recruiting them in the South and North and this is one of the most ominous developments that has bedeviled this nation in recent times.

This poisonous political atmosphere cannot be separated from the "Rip Van Winkle" approach police forces have been taking when it comes to apprehending purveyors of racist violence. Atlanta is the most egregious example, but, unfortunately, the national landscape is littered with others.

Central and southeastern Pennsylvania is not an area one would immediately suspect of being a hotbed of racist activity. The bucolic scenery, the Amish in their horse-drawn wagons pursuing a lifestyle hundreds of years old, the gentry undulating hills all resemble an idyllic picture post card bereft of tensions. But seething beneath this apparently placid surface are explosive contradictions.

On Friday, May 1, 1981, there was an attempted lynching of Robert Leslie Henderson, a Black resident of Lancaster, Pa. He remains in serious condition in the intensive care unit of a local hospital.

It seems that Henderson was abducted at gunpoint by three white males. His assailants made him disrobe and attempted to hang him by his rectum from a crane hook in a nearby junkyard. The victim was then taken to a truck service area. Still held at gunpoint, the assailants forced Henderson to sit on a vent pipe, approximately seven inches in length and four inches in diameter of a large oil tanker. In other words, these white hoodlums drunk with racism tried to initiate medieval torture by impaling him - like a piece of paper on a spindle. Henderson has undergone a colostomy and has had an artificial anus created for bowel passage by a surgical procedure.

Once again, the police have been asleep at the switch. In the face of compelling evidence, they have ruled out racism as motivation. This is somewhat strange because the Lancaster area has been beset by racial incident. A trailer park there where an interracial couple stayed was the scene of a cross-burning last month. There is an active KKK chapter in the area. There is a great deal of community concern over unresolved complaints involving Harrisburg police officers who were disturbing KKK medallions within the police force.

This area of Pennsylvania, like so many others, has been ravaged by unemployment and the KKK with their nefarious line about "welfare loafers" and affirmative action being the source of all misery.

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