

Editorials & Comments

Gov. Hunt Must Not Forget!

In the last 30 days we have witnessed the loss of Howard Lee as Secretary of the State Department of Community Development and Helen Little as a member of the Transportation Board. Mr. Lee resigned from his post following excessive criticism of the CETA job training controversy. Ms. Little, one of two blacks on the 23-member Transportation Board, was not reappointed to a second term.

While these losses were occurring, a third white female department head was named. In addition, a white female was named to head the state's prison system, a system with an incarcerated population that is more than 50 percent black and has no black deputy administrators.

We should add that of 27 purchase agents in the state's Purchasing Department, only two are black. Considering that low number, we have to wonder if that explains why out of \$400 million spent by state government with private businesses last year only \$2.5 million was spent with black-owned businesses.

As we think about these developments, we have to wonder too whether Jim Hunt is also (like Reagan) attempting to turn the clock back or whether this is the beginning of a new trend. Whatever the reason, blacks need to let Jim not forget that

they supported him in larger percentages than whites on the issues of succession in office, in his bid for a second term, his tax program and the competency test plan.

Therefore, as Hunt looks to the future as a possible candidate for the Senate or Vice President, he needs to be sure that he does not forget those who have supported him through the years to get him where he is today and may hope to be in the years ahead.

It is time Mr. Hunt, for a closer look at the number of blacks on your boards and commissions or the number who hold positions as department heads, deputies or assistants, judgeship appointments, and similar positions of responsibility and high-level decision-making or policy formulation.

We are not suggesting that blacks should be appointed because they are black, but rather that there is a vast untapped black resource in our state that can and should be used at all levels of state government.

Therefore, we challenge you Governor Hunt to seek, find and appoint from the available black talent men and women who can and should serve their state government with honor and dedication. We also challenge blacks in our state to make themselves available for service. The time for action is now.

BLACK'S DESTINY IN OWN HANDS....

YOU MUST BECOME INVOLVED IN THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY.



A View From Capitol Hill

Budget Cuts Spells Hard Times

By Gus Savage
Member of Congress

The Reagan Administration's tax plan, like its budget proposal, spells hard times for Americans who just don't happen to be wealthy or heads of major corporations. And, unfortunately, the Democratic Party's alternative plan offers little more in the way of relief.

A modified version of the Kemp-Roth proposal, the President's tax plan provides a 25 percent, three-year across-the-board tax cut for individuals and a 10-5-3 depreciation schedule for business.

The Democratic plan, being drafted by the House Ways and Means Committee, calls for a total \$40 billion in tax cuts for individuals and \$13.6 billion for business depreciation and rate cuts in calendar 1982. For business the Democratic plan offers speedy write-offs of the cost of assets; cuts in the corporate tax rates; tax relief for distressed industries; and tax credits for research and development.

There is no question in my mind that the Reagan Administration's plan favors big business and the rich. At the same time, the Democratic alternative plan also favors big business. In fact, it goes a step further than the President's program in liberalizing the depreciation write-offs business can take on the cost of new equipment and machinery. After a phase-in period, the Democratic bill would allow the entire cost to be written off in a single year.

The Hance-Conable Bill, H.R. 3849, and the Dole Bipartisan Tax Reduction Program (the Senate Finance Committee's bill)



Gus Savage

both represent the Administration's point of view. If the Democrats fail to adopt the alternative plan offered by the Ways and Means Committee, Hance-Conable will be offered as a substitute as was the Gramm-Latta budget proposal.

The country is suffering from high inflation and high unemployment. Any tax proposal which would serve the public welfare should be aimed at curbing these evils. In my opinion, the Reagan proposal falls short on both counts.

Many economists, including some conservatives, believe the Administration's tax plan is itself inflationary. The Reagan tax proposal assumes that the individual savings realized will be either invested or saved, thus providing or freeing up money for business to make capital investments. This supposedly would fuel the economy and reduce unemployment. Nothing in the history of economics justifies this assumption. In essence, it is an article of faith.

George Bush, now our Vice President, called Reagan's tax proposal "voodoo economics" during the Re-

publican Primary. He said that if enacted it could bring on an inflation rate of 30 percent or more. This is because many economists think that individuals would simply spend the money, thus driving up the inflation rate because more money would be chasing fewer goods.

Democratic liberals and moderates fear that a tax cut of the magnitude of the Administration's plan, coupled with the sharp rise in defense spending scheduled to take place over the next few years, will strongly contribute to inflationary pressures in the economy.

In my view, the Congressional Black Caucus' alternative budget plan contained tax provisions which do more to preserve the integrity of social programs, provide a tax break that is fair across-the-board, and generate a budget surplus.

The CBC plan contained these features:

- a 10 percent tax credit for social security expenditures for employers as well as employees.
- the elimination of tax straddles for speculators who use these devices for insulating their income from taxation at higher "speculative rates."

-a first year capital cost recovery system that is a better approach than the 10-5-3 depreciation schedule. This proposal has been endorsed by FORTUNE magazine, "The New York Times," and the Public Interest Tax Research Group.

-increases in the standard deduction for singles and married couples from \$2300 to \$2800 and from \$3400 to \$4300, respectively.

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ.

Affirmative Action

Neo-Conservative

The so-called Black "neo-conservatives" are riding high nowadays. Walter Williams appears regularly on national television and writes a column for the "Moral Majority Report." Thomas Sowell is feted regularly in the highest circles and is also seen periodically on the boob tube. It is clear that these Black backers of Reagan-omics do not have much influence in the Black community at large yet it remains important to take them on anyway.

One reason is that certain "comfortable" Blacks might decide to hop on what appears to be a bandwagon and throw their weight to Reagan. Take a current look at the once militant Black poet-Nikki Giovanni. Now laid back in her hometown of Cincinnati, this daughter of Middle class parents was a blazing firebrand during the 1960s, writing fiery poems about Angela Davis and the like. Presently she is cheering for the murderous program of Reagan-omics.

"The 'Prez' is the only guy we've got," she says. "I like what I see in the Reagan Administration. He's not nearly as mean as Nixon was. And I perceive him to be the type of person who wouldn't ignore the agony of the poor. He's a man you can talk to."

Nikki Giovanni is not the only person playing footsie with Reagan. A certain Black journalist who is sponsored by Pepsi-Cola has provided an easy outlet for the neo-conservatives, broadcasting their inane views nationally. Another Black scribe, who is sponsored by Greyhound, can be found in the pages of the Black press, "blaming the victim" and lashing Blacks repeatedly for happening to be poor and discriminated against.

The time has come to take off the gloves and go at it with bare knuckles with these characters; because like a virus that will spread if it is not treated, the fact that powerful forces support these characters' views means that their word will get a wide hearing. Black unity must be valued but the question is: at what price? Does unity mean that if your Black neighbor is setting fire to your house, you don't try to stop him?

Taking on the Black neo-conservatives is critical at this stage also because they have made a fetish out of assailing Black leadership - the NAACP, Urban League, the Black mayors, and others. Their machine-gun like attacks have caused a certain backsliding on the part of some leaders, which not only calls for making certain pointed criticisms about certain Black leaders, - criticism that should come not from the right but from the other side of the barricades.

This by necessity is a delicate process. In the face of a cruel offensive by the Reaganauts, it is all important to construct the broadest front possible in opposition. Sniping at potential allies is not necessarily the wisest path.

But the question is: are we talking about allies? Reagan campaigns in 1980 in the Black community, not so much because he was interested in getting our ballots but because he knew that it would soften his image amongst the all-important white liberal voters.

The Black masses of South Africa have spoken and they demand disinvestment of U.S. corporate wealth. Yet, it was inevitable that there would be a number of Black on the Rockefeller Foundation Commission who back their dastardly proposals down the line.

Protecting The Voting Rights Act

President Reagan has tended to be very adamant in his political philosophy and, therefore, inclined to hold firm in his conservative policies. This has been very evident in his viewpoint on the budget, defense spending (up), social programs (down) and his tax cut plans.

Reagan has taken an equally conservative position on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which is due to expire in August of 1982. On this issue, Reagan supports the views of people like Senator Strom Thurmond of S.C. He opposes the "pre-clearance" provision of the Act which requires that some states and parts

of others get U.S. Justice approval before implementing any changes in their election laws. Obviously, the law affects mostly Southern states with a long history of mechanisms to deny blacks the opportunity to vote.

They want to weaken the Act by expanding it to include all states. Such a move would alienate some Congressman currently in support of the Act as well as so overburden the Justice Department that effective enforcement would be lost.

Reagan made a dramatic change from support of expanding the Act to all 50 states to supporting extending the Act for 10 years in its present form. The President's changed viewpoint

arose after heavily favored Republican candidate Liles Williams was defeated by an obscure Democrat named Wayne Dowdy. Dowdy won because of heavy black voter support generated by Ms. Williams favoring Reagan's viewpoint on the Voting Rights Act and other conservative issues.

Mr. Dowdy's win captured a House seat held by the Republicans for the last nine years. When blacks were told in a simple straight forward radio ad that Martin Luther King and Medgar Evers had died for their right to vote, and that now Reagan and Ms. Williams aimed to take their voting right away, they went to the polls to voice their objection.

Again, it was the power of the black vote that may have changed the direction of political history. Register and vote, it's your right and your duty.

From Capitol Hill

Hatch Is Staunch Enemy Of Affirmative Action?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

President Reagan has spoken of his color-blind policy. Blacks have never been the recipients of a just and fair color-blind policy. This was evident in the recent Education and Labor Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities hearings, Chaired by Representative Augustus Hawkins on affirmative action. The sharp difference in this hearing and that of its Senate counterpart is that Senate Chairman Orrin Hatch is a staunch enemy of affirmative action, while Mr. Hawkins is very pro-affirmative action.

In the off-set, Mr. Hawkins stated concern over the "regressive character of recent Administration initiative relating to equal employment opportunity laws." The Reagan Administration has stated its intention to abandon goals and timetables for remedying employment discrimination and revision of regulations of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP).



Alfreda L. Madison

There was unanimous consent among the witnesses that the present proposed budget cuts are detrimental to affirmative action. These cuts are in Federal Civil Rights enforcement efforts and will reduce or eliminate 10 social and economic programs. The proposals will cause the loss of 697 or 10 percent jobs in the five major civil rights enforcement agencies.

The Civil Rights Commission released a report entitled "Affirmative Action in the 1980's: Dismantling the Process of

Discrimination." It listed the following points:

1. Affirmative action exists because of the nature and extent of the problem of race, sex and national origin discrimination, and can only be discussed productively if the problem of discrimination is recognized.

2. Discrimination is a self-sustaining process that will persist even in the absence of intentionally discriminatory conduct, unless systematically attacked.

3. Numerical under representation of minorities do not constitute discrimination, but they are signals that suggest discrimination and compel inquiry.

4. Numerical evidence is the best signal that discrimination exists and that numerical measures, timetables and goals are the best methods for determining whether an action program has proved effective.

Vernon Jordan stated that affirmative action is a legitimized constitutional remedy for past discrimination. It is a remedy for constitutional violations.

"Affirmative action seeks to reduce over 300 years of discrimination - discrimination rooted in over 200 years of legal bondage and perpetuated by another century of legally sanctioned racial prejudice."

Jordan says race conscious inequities demand race conscious remedies. He said that opponents say the use of affirmative action is reverse discrimination.

For Blacks, there is and never has been any color-blind equality. Concerning reverse discrimination the premise is that race-conscious measures infringe upon the rights of non-whites and are violations of the 14th amendment. The proponents of this theory use the equal protection clause to deny legal cognizance of race.

Eleanor Smeal representing National Organization of Women, stated that 51 percent of American women are in the labor force and that they are discriminated against in hiring practices, wages, promotions, work conditions benefits, tenure and treatment are all affected.

Ms. Martinez who testified on behalf of Hispanics stated that, "legislative, regulatory and constitutional proposals opposing affirmative action have emerged to threaten the future access of minorities and women into our institutions, even today, 17 years after Civil Rights Act of 1964, remain the bastion of white America." In recalling Senator Hatch's statement that some consider Hispanics white and therefore they are not covered by the Civil Rights Act as Blacks, Ms. Martinez said she recognized that, as a Hatch tactic to divide the Black-Hispanic coalition. She also took the Senator to task about his statement, "if we had injected a shot of heroin into our nation, we could not have done our children and our children's children any more harm than imposing affirmative action." She told him that comparing affirmative action with heroin was highly unfair

and could only arouse irrational, emotional reaction.

When Mr. Jeffords suggested to Vernon Jordan that we should take the Administration at its word of looking for ways not dominated by regulations but by changing attitudes and intentions, Jordan responded that he is not prepared to take the Administration's word of good intentions and honor; that will leave minorities at the starting gate.

It was strongly emphasized at these hearings that the Administration is really saying that the poor will be better off without government which is like leaving a person adrift and saying, "I wish you well." Arthur Fleming said that social and economic programs for looking after the welfare of the people is a Federal Government responsibility.

READ THE POST



THE CHARLOTTE POST

Second Class Postage No. 965500
"THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER"
Established 1918
Published Every Thursday
by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.

1524 West Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28208
Telephone (704) 376-0496
Circulation 7, 151

104 Years of Continuous Service

Bill Johnson.....Editor, Publisher
Bernard Reeves.....General Manager
Fran Farrer.....Advertising Director
Dannette Gaither.....Office Manager

Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid At
Charlotte, N.C. under the Act of March 3,
1878

Member National Newspaper
Publishers Association

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

Deadline for all news copy and photos is
5 p.m. Monday. All photos and copy
submitted become the property of the POST
and will not be returned.

National Advertising
Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

2400 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60616 Calumet 5-0200
45 W. 45th St., Suite 1493 New York, N. Y. 10036 (212) 489-1220