

Editorials & Comments

New Economics Requires New Strategies

In a column that appeared elsewhere on this page last week, George C. Horne said the so-called "Black 'neo-conservatives' are riding high nowadays." Walter Williams and Thomas Sewell are "feted regularly in the highest circles" and on TV. He added that certain "comfortable Blacks" might "jump on the conservative bandwagon and throw their weight (and influence) to Reagan."

Horne criticized Black poet Nikki Giovanni, a Black journalist sponsored by Pepsi-Cola (Tony Brown) and another Black sponsored by Greyhound (Joe Black) because they allegedly are spreading the gospel of Reagan-omics and neo-conservatism. Horne concludes by saying, "Taking on the Black neo-conservatives is critical at this stage because they have made a fetish out of assailing Black leadership - the NAACP" and others.

It appears to us that Horne is singing or crying a sour grapes tune. First, while Blacks are presumably committed to a sense of unity, they never have been nor should we expect them to be endowed with a single purpose, philosophy or economic viewpoint. Diversity is at least partly the spice of life. We have noted previously in this column the multi-dimensional nature of the nation's Black leadership.

Black Leadership

We believe, too, that some of the criticism of the so-called national Black leadership is justified. For example, the NAACP leadership invited President Reagan to speak at their 72nd annual meeting in Denver earlier this summer. The invitation was extended with a clear understanding of the wide philosophical differences between Mr. Reagan's Administration and the NAACP on social issues and particularly federal funding for social programs.

With this awareness and probably fearful that the 5,000 NAACP convention delegates might be over awed by the appearance of President Reagan, NAACP Board Chairperson Margaret Bush Wilson issued the ultimate insult in introducing Reagan. She said, "The NAACP does not necessarily subscribe to the views which are about to be expressed." Common courtesy says you don't reject a speaker

and insult his wife even before he opens his mouth. In fact that kind of rudeness would indicate that the NAACP does not plan to be a part of whatever mechanism that may be and should be developed to maximize Black gains, or more appropriately stated, to minimize Black losses

under the Reagan economic policies.

Without a doubt, most Black Americans either oppose or are skeptical of Mr. Reagan's budget cuts and taxation program as it relates to less benefits for Blacks and other minorities. However, insulting the President and, therefore, causing him to at least consider isolating himself from future direct contact with Blacks is certainly no way to begin finding solutions to the presumed increased plight of poor Blacks and others on the lower end of the economic ladder.

It appears to us that instead of insulting the President or attacking some presumed Black leaders, "mechanisms," in the words of NAACP N.C. State Chairman Kelly Alexander Sr., needs to be developed to cope with the continuing problems that face Black Americans no matter who happens to occupy the Washington White House.

While we are not inclined, as Mr. Horne suggests the conservative Black leadership is to be "blaming the victim" (Black people) for their problems, we do believe solutions for Black problems must and should begin with Black people.

In this sense then it's time to stop focusing on Reagan and his policies and to begin looking at mechanisms that may enable Black America to minimize its losses no matter how defined. Basic to this mechanism are: 1) doing all that we can to enhance the success of Mr. Reagan's policies for the benefit of all, 2) support in a more positive way Black businesses and other institutions, 3) begin changing our attitudes toward a philosophy of entitlement, 4) recognize that

Black Unity

while Blacks need federal assistance in many areas, we will survive even without it, 5) Blacks need to stop talking about a new political strategy and coalition and begin doing something about it, and 6) recognize that Black unity can never be defined in terms of sameness but rather in the mutual respect we have for each other to speak out in our own way with the belief that each reflects a commitment to a better quality of life, for Black Americans.

In summary Black liberals and their supporters have had their "day in the sun," and now, whether we like it or not, the conservatives are having theirs. We don't have to agree with them but we need to respect their right to think and feel differently. Without such tolerance for difference there will be no hope for liberals or conservatives.

Needed Now...United Community Leadership

WE MUST PREVENT OUR OWN CHILDREN FROM TURNING INTO JUNKIES WHO PREY ON THEIR OWN PEOPLE. WE CAN... PREVENT THAT.



A View From Capitol Hill

Tax Cuts Places Burden On Labor

By Gus Savage
Member of Congress
The U.S. House of Representatives last week adopted 238 to 195 the tax cuts proposed by President Reagan.

In the next three years this will save America's wealthiest individuals \$223 billion and biggest business \$65 billion. What is wrong with this is that only last month Congress approved the Administration's proposal to reduce the Federal budget by \$35 billion mainly in social service programs.

Because the Reagan tax proposal could never meet the standards of equity and fairness that a tax reform package should, the Democrats ought to have assumed the responsibility of proposing one that would. Instead, the Democratic leadership proposed a tax plan that also represented a dramatic shift in the tax burden from capital to labor.

The plan made it seem that while Republicans are the party of the multi-millionaires, the Democrats are merely the party of the millionaires - and that neither truly represents the masses!

For instance, under the Democrat's plan, large corporations would have been able to write-off the entire cost of a Mercedes-Benz in one year, while millions of old and poor people cannot even afford bus fare. Also this proposal would have reduced estate taxes to the extent that more than half of all estates would pay no tax at all.

Even worse, under the Republican tax cut plan, a family of four with \$20,000 a year income would save only \$180 less income tax next year and a total of \$1,100 during the next three years, while a family with \$100,000 annual income

by the majority of the Congressional Black Caucus.

We were denied by the vote of whites on that powerful committee, Democrats and Republicans alike. Its only black member, Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.), of course, was vocally on our side.

Then, I asked the Democratic leadership to permit one of us, during the Democrat's time in general debate of the tax issue on the floor last Wednesday, to state the majority view of the 18 black members of Congress, all Democrats, on this issue. I was turned down as naturally we were also refused by the leadership of the jolly white Republican members of Congress.

Incidentally, the so-called white liberal leadership of the Democratic Study Group was no more considerate of us.

In other words, Blacks as a group were not allowed to amend nor even discuss on the floor either the Democratic or Republican tax cut proposal.

We should be enraged that blacks are still ignored by the Republicans and taken for granted by the liberals and the Democrats, even though we are the most liberal of Americans and the most loyal of Democrats.

Still, it would not have mattered whether the Democratic or Republican tax cut proposal passed, because there was not a dime's (due to inflation, I mean a dollar's) worth of difference between the two. In fact, during last Wednesday's House debate the Speaker boasted of the number of Republicans who participated in writing the Democratic tax proposal.

That is why the Republicans are more united and that is why Carter lost.



Gus Savage

would save \$1,700 in income tax next year and \$18,000 during the next three years.

If we are asking the needy to do without by specifically asking our senior citizens to give up the \$122 a month minimum they depend on to live - and asking the hungry to go without food stamps - and asking the untrained to go without CETA - and asking the unemployed to forget about supplemental unemployment compensation - and asking students to make it without college tuition loans and grants - and asking children to attend public schools without lunch - how can we rationalize using the savings to fund a welfare plan for the greedy?

I maintain that the government should not be more concerned about profits than about people.

If the Republicans are as hard as uncooked beans in pushing for the wishes of the greedy, too many of my Democratic colleagues are as soft as jelly in defense of the needy! The 238 votes for Reagan's tax cuts included 48 Democrats.

I personally pleaded with the House Rules Committee to bring to the floor for debate a substitute tax proposal in the true interest of the middle-class and working poor, proposed by Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.) and backed

Affirmative Action

Reagan's War On Civil Rights

As the flames of rebellion begin to flicker in Great Britain, it is appropriate to examine the reasons for this mass unrest. For the past weeks, the kind of urban rebellions that dotted the landscapes of Harlem, Watts and other Black communities hit Liverpool, Manchester and other staid, terribly British towns.

Those of the United States should be especially quick to analyze recent events in England because Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been pursuing assiduously the same kind of "monetarist," soak the poor-feed the rich policies formulated by the right-wing economist Milton Friedman and presently being executed by her Atlantic counterpart, President Ronald Reagan.

The fact is - as even New York's Governor Hugh Carey has pointed out - that continued pursuit of Reagan's program of throwing money at the Pentagon while bleeding dry all social programs (Medicare, mass transit, day care and the like) will cause rebellions of a sort that would make Britain's unrest seem tame by comparison.

Britain's prestigious Commission for Racial Equality, which was established by the government to monitor progress in race relations and to investigate charges of discrimination, declared in a recent report that as the economic recession worsened and unemployment rose, Blacks and other peoples of color were disproportionately affected.

The report noted that discrimination in employment, far from being eliminated, is increasing in some areas and that at the head of the unemployment line are Blacks. But like the USA, whites are affected too by this unemployment; hence, it was not surprising that Black and white youths were joined together in fighting the police and attacking symbols of corporate wealth.

What this report outlined about unemployment and racism plaguing the British isles could just as easily have been written about the U.S. Of course, this kind of urban outbreak - as only a few commentators noted - is nothing new for Britain. In the 18th century, for example, "bread riots" and other forms of opposition to price hikes were as common as slums. Nevertheless, the specter of Blacks and white youth banding together in the recent rebellions is certainly worthy of note.

Though he is not smart enough or sufficiently sensitive to do so, President Reagan would do well to study carefully the report of the Commission For Racial Equality. For it is certain that his policies are inexorably leading to a domestic apocalypse now.

No where is this more apparent than in his current war on civil rights. Reviving President Nixon's discredited "Southern Strategy" with a vengeance, the former B-movie thespian has been working overtime to appease those who long for the "good old days" when Blacks "knew their place."

"High on their hit list is the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which has helped to bring so much change and so many Black elected officials on the scene. Civil rights leaders want to renew the act in its present form, covering nine Southern states and portions of 13 other states in various parts of the country, including Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx in New York City.

From Capitol Hill

Reagan's Love Song Sours South African Critics

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
The Reagan chum, chummy South African love song which sings of the friendship of the South African government, with its ability to aid in suppressing the spread of communism, its natural resources that are so vital to western economy, and its superficial move towards equality, finds many people calling attention to the singers' off-key, missing notes and harsh sounds.

The Washington Post recently carried a story of the success of the Savimbi soldiers against the Angolan government. Angola has diplomatic relations with our European allies. The United States fails to recognize the Angolan government, and instead, Jesse Helms and the Administration support the Savimbi faction. This is just a repeat performance of the Helms and company support for Muzerwa who was only a puppet for continued white Rhodesian control.

Congressman Gray has introduced a bill, H.R. 122, which requires the United

plank, which saved his life until he was picked up by another ship. He stated that even though the plank saved his life he didn't take it home with him. This, he said is the analogy of seeking and accepting communist aid.

Many big American corporations are signaling the Administration that its African policy must be changed or else it runs the great risk of jeopardizing American business interests. In spite of the Administration's position, there continues to be business relation intervisitation between American corporate managers and Angolan government officials. These companies are against the Reagan Administration's attempt to destabilize the Angolan government by its support of the South African UNITA troops which greatly assists Savimbi in his movement to overthrow the government. While big business is against disinvestment and trade embargoes in South Africa, it is considering a policy of non-expansion, and to devote a

generous portion of corporate resources to improve the lives of Black South Africans.

Representative John Conyers, who attended the meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which met in Nairobi, Kenya, stated that these African leaders while not really clear on the Reagan African policy, in a strong unanimous voice said, "We're now uniting Africa for Africans. We will not be satellites of any super power." President Moi of Kenya, a country which has very friendly relations with the United States and has allowed it to have a base there, was elected the new OAU President. Irrespective of its U.S. relations, Moi made a very fervent speech showing that he and Kenya strongly endorse and will work together for an entire free Black African continent.

The Congressional Black Caucus was represented at the recent United Nations seminar of Apartheid and Transitions in South Africa which was held in Detroit, by Representative

Conyers. He expressed the view that a war is going on between the African National Congress (ANC) and the Southwest African People's Organization (SWAPO) for the liberation of Africans from the throes of South Africa. This war finds South Africa's willingness to use nuclear weapon for continued illegal control of Namibia. "This threat violates international law and is a threat to peace in that area," said Conyers.

The United States has granted visas to the South African rugby team, the Springboks, to play in New York, Albany and Chicago. This action has aroused the ire and protestation of many organizations.

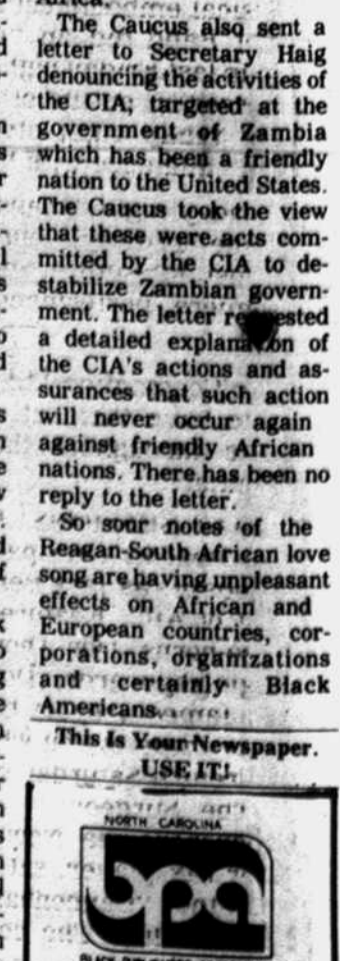
The Congressional Black Caucus sent a telegram to the President denouncing the granting of visas to the Springboks. The telegram said, "These visas represent a blatant disregard for the longstanding opposition of many African nations against sporting links with South Africa. The approval of these visas further underscores the impression that the Administration is

tilting toward racist South Africa."

The Caucus also sent a letter to Secretary Haig denouncing the activities of the CIA, targeted at the government of Zambia which has been a friendly nation to the United States. The Caucus took the view that these were acts committed by the CIA to destabilize Zambian government. The letter requested a detailed explanation of the CIA's actions and assurances that such action will never occur again against friendly African nations. There has been no reply to the letter.

So sour notes of the Reagan-South African love song are having unpleasant effects on African and European countries, corporations, organizations and certainly Black Americans.

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