

# Editorials & Comments

## The Personalized Presidency

They call it the "Reagan Revolution." And revolution it is, when even casual observers, supporters and opponents alike, agree that we haven't seen anyone in the White House with Reagan's political savvy, or more appropriately, candor and boldness in over 40 years - since the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Reagan's own first political hero.

In less than six months President Reagan won the largest budget and tax cuts in our nation's history. He changed the face and role of the federal government from a deep rooted liberalism spanning 50 years to a dramatic and forceful conservative tide. He has dramatically reduced over 40 years of entrenched liberalized social programs and fired over 12,000 members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization for engaging in an illegal strike.

Unwavering in his convictions, Reagan has used his personal skill in dynamic speech-making, charm, arm twisting and bluntness to get his programs approved by Congress and supported by large sections of the American people. When the Democratically controlled House of Representatives began resisting Republican budget and tax cut proposals, Reagan gathered key Democratic Party leaders and

convinced most of them to support his programs. Reagan demonstrated his flair for not avoiding a challenge when he spoke at the NAACP's annual convention. Significantly, even though few blacks had voted for Reagan and NAACP Board Chairman Margaret Bush Wilson had insulted him even before speaking, Reagan's speech was rather warmly received by many blacks, not all necessarily at the NAACP meeting.

It is worth noting too that when Reagan arrived in Washington, House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass) told him that his experience as Governor of California was "minor league" compared to what he'd face in the tough "major league" of Washington politics. It wasn't long before O'Neill, and others like him, found that Ronald Reagan was pretty tough himself.

Nobody is suggesting that Reagan won't have his share of defeats at the hands of Congress, but for now, whether you agree with his philosophy and politics or whether you don't, the President has already left his imprint upon the history of this nation. Of greater significance, it behooves all of us to help make his programs succeed because if they don't we will all be worse off before liberals or anyone else can bring about a meaningful recovery.

## Creeping Dictatorship

Probably not known to the broader general public is the fact that periodic attempts have been made by both legislative bodies and special interest groups to pressure public school systems in various parts of the nation to teach in a biased way or not teach a given subject matter.

In North Carolina, the General Assembly passed a Bill in 1975 requiring the state's public high schools to provide "instruction in the free enterprise system." While the intent of this Bill is not questionable, it does raise questions about academic freedom and the right of locally elected school boards to decide what should be taught in our public schools. Ironically, this Bill was passed shortly after a nationwide survey revealed that one-third of the respondents expressed feelings that democracy and capitalism were in a state of decline because of collusion between big business and big government.

A more recent threat to freedom in general and academic freedom in particular, has arisen from a list of 26 "Don'ts for Students" prepared by Parents Actively Concerned, a branch of Jerry Falwell's conservative right-wing organization, Moral Majority. The "Don'ts" list, which has been circulated in some local public schools, suggests that students:

- "Don't discuss values."
- "Don't discuss the future or future social arrangements of governments in class."
- "Don't get involved in school sponsored or government sponsored exchange or camping programs which place you in the homes of strangers."
- "Don't exchange 'opinions' on political or social issues."
- "Don't participate in classroom discussions that begin with 'What is your opinion.'"

As we read these "don'ts" we have to wonder what these conservative do-gooder dictators would have our public schools do or teach. The premise upon which free public education was established in America is that all youth have a right to an opportunity to learn the maximum extent of their abilities.

Basic to the pursuit of knowledge is the ability to think. Therefore, at least equally important to what is taught in our schools is that our children are taught to think, to understand the process of decision-making, to sort out facts and draw their own conclusions. These are the basic mind-setting analytical tools that our children need to grow up with if our concepts of democracy and free enterprise are to survive.

## Stop The Flight Of Black Capital

BLACK BUSINESS IS SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF CRIME ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE. IT IS STRUGGLING TO MEET THE HIGH COST OF THEFT INSURANCE, VANDALISM, SHOP-LIFTING, ROBBERY AND BAD CHECKS. THE PROBLEM CENTERS AROUND NARCOTICS AND DRUG RELATED CRIMES.



## Support Solidarity Day!

By Gus Savage  
Member of Congress

I was among the first members of Congress to come out strongly against President Reagan's economic proposals. I have on several occasions appealed to my colleagues in the House of Representatives and Americans of goodwill at large to work for the defeat of these anti-people programs. Therefore, I was delighted to learn about the AFL-CIO's call for a Solidarity Day demonstration against these proposals in Washington on September 19.

As early as February 21, I predicted in a speech delivered at an Operation PUSH rally that the major objective of whites would be to receive the economic benefits of our children, for perceived in Reagan's proposals - and might stultify realism for racial and follow our lead.

Last month in this column I urged Black form new alliances, strengthen old ones, want to guarantee Reagan's proposals, we must rejoin the labor movement, other progressive groups, included religious and civic organizations, and who have a stake in the future of our country.

Consequently, I learned that the House endorsed Solidarity Day.

Speaking at the PUSH rally, I said Reagan's profits above all else beats our people's needs. I believe the President is hoodwinking the poor and the rich.



Gus Savage

Professional Black Caucus, I explained to the audience the "Constructive Alternative" budget which was presented to the Congress in April. This budget provides for first priority for domestic needs. It provides for our children, for the unemployed and underemployed and for the elderly and retired.

The CBC budget proposed to fight inflation by shifting tax cuts from the millionaires to the middle class, and by reducing appropriations for bombers with no missions to fly, and missiles with no fair targets to destroy, and armed forces with no honorable battles to fight.

Incidentally, that ill-fated budget could have been balanced in fiscal year 1982, instead of fiscal 1984, when the Reagan budget is supposed to be balanced.

While that budget was defeated on the House floor, it is not dead in the hearts of the 18 members of the Caucus. Its proposals can become the immediate goals for which all Americans must now en masse walk and talk in the streets of this nation and in the corridors of its councils.

As the Caucus spokesman in the area of economic development, I believe that the main geographical focus of our struggle should

be on the industrial centers of the North and Southwest. We must, of course, keep a watchful eye on the Old South.

Organizationally, our main strategy should be to strengthen our working relationship with the organized labor movement: first, because of our objective kinship of interests; secondly, because of its great resources for mobilizing the people; and thirdly, because of the interracial character of its base.

We should understand that this nation's current economic crisis is basic to the system and requires more than simply shifting government funds from defense to domestic needs or merely patching-up our system of production with social reforms and government handouts.

The United States needs a true new economic direction in the House to support Solidarity Day, and I have offered my personal services to the AFL-CIO to journey throughout the country in support of the rally.

I now appeal to our readers to join in the demonstration. Come to Washington on Saturday, September 19, for Solidarity Day. Make certain that the White House gets the message.

## Course To Help Accountants To Prepare For Exams

A course to help accountants prepare for the November Certified Public Accountant examination has been scheduled by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Classes begin September 11 and will meet on week-ends through October 25 in the new Friday Business Administration Building on the UNCC campus.

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ.

# Affirmative Action

## Dracula Guarding The Blood Bank!

That affirmative action is not a cause dear to the heart of President Reagan has become increasingly clear. One of the strongest weapons in the affirmative action arsenal is the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP). OFCCP regulations mandate that those companies receiving a certain amount of government contracts must institute an affirmative action plan to insure hiring and promotion of Blacks. A penalty for failure to institute affirmative action under this program is a cessation of those lucrative government contracts. Though this power is rarely being invoked, its existence has spurred a sizeable number of the Fortune 500 Corporations policed by OFCCP to "get religion" and hire more Blacks than they would ordinarily.

It should never be forgotten that the kind of power wielded by the OFCCP did not come about because of government benevolence but through the militance of an aroused Afro-American community. A Philip Randolph, the late Black leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, threatened in 1941 to lead a massive March on Washington unless something was done about employment discrimination. Feeling the heat, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order that forms the basis of OFCCP's power to police employment discrimination among the thousands of banks, insurance companies, manufacturers and mining concerns that receive government contracts.

Reagan has promised to get the "government off the backs," of the corporations and he's moving quickly to gut OFCCP. Recently appointed to head this crucial but little-known government agency that has meant so much for Black progress is 33-year-old Ellen Shong. Shong is the corporate director of affirmative action for AMAX, Inc., a trans-national natural resources company based in a lily-white suburb, Greenwich, Connecticut. AMAX has not been known for an aggressive commitment to civil rights. In fact during the bloody war in Zimbabwe, AMAX, which still has millions of dollars of holdings there,

refused to adhere to U.N. declarations prohibiting doing business with Ian Smith's white minority "Rhodesian" regime and extracted profits hand over fist.

AMAX also has ties with the illegal and racist regime of South Africa. Company chairman Pierre Gousseland sits on the board of directors of O'okiep Copper, the second largest coopermining firm in apartheid South Africa. Like other South African corporations, this mining concern is notorious for the slave wages and medieval working conditions it foists upon its Black labor force. Corporations in the U.S. have been sitting down and moving to profit havens like South Africa in droves and the appointment of Ellen Shong signals no abating of this trend.

Indeed; the appointment of Shong is a direct and flagrant slap in the face of every Black citizen in this country. Few in the civil rights and labor community were consulted about her appointment but virtually all were apprehensive about her associations with union-busting, anti-civil rights management organizations. Moreover, she is a recent newcomer to the complex field of affirmative action, having worked in the field only a few years.

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## Voting Rights Opponents Can't Accept Voting Justice

Alfreda Madison  
Special To The Post

The Voting Rights Act came out of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitution Rights, which is chaired by Representative Don Edwards, who successfully led the 1975 fight for extension of the Act, in tack. Representative Henry Hyde, the ranking minority member of the committee was all set, at the beginning of the hearings, to lead the opposition, especially to Section 5, which calls for the eight Southern states and parts of other states that have historically used methods to prevent minorities' voting rights. However, after several days of listening to a long list of witnesses, Mr. Hyde decided to withdraw his amendment, stating that the preponderance of evidence proved that the time is ripe for deleting Section 5.

Mr. Edwards stated that the committee held 18 days of hearings and heard testimony from over 100 witnesses on extension of Voting Rights Act. Some dilute the Black vote. The Supreme Court stated in 1968, "The right to vote can be affected by a dilution of voting power as well as by an absolute prohibition of casting a ballot."

Representatives John Conyers, Fauntroy and Rev. Jesse Jackson went to Mississippi and talked with some residents. Many things they found were startling. One man stated that the district line was drawn through his bedroom dividing it in half, requiring his wife to vote in one district and the husband to vote in another. After a Black elected official won in a county which was overwhelmingly Black, annexation of another white community was immediately done, the election was held again, and the Black man who live in towns that are located in counties are required to register in both the towns and counties, in order to vote in either. The requirement is that the person must register in the county first. Evidence was also found that in some instances the polling place was changed to a destination of thirty miles away, the night before voting.

The subcommittee unanimously voted out H.R. 3112, a bill sponsored by Representative Peter Rodino, -extends the original, social (or temporary) provisions of the Act, primarily the Section 5 preclearance requirements, for 10 years through August 6, 1992; continue the 1975 provisions which provide assistance to language minority citizens where they reside in substantial numbers, for 7 years so that they will expire concurrently with other special (or temporary) provisions of the Act on August 6, 1992.

In the press briefing Mr. Butler was asked, since there is no stock in mind reading, how can intent be proved other than by results of actions? Especially, since the eight covered states have historically continued to use voting violations against Blacks. He was also reminded that even if his bill of having only the part of a state where the violation occurred covered by the Act, it would not help his state of Virginia since the Justice Department, recently, decided that Nor-

folk's district lines diluted the Black vote, and those lines were drawn by the state legislature. His use of a bail out as an incentive, ignores the fact that to correct an age-old wrong and to deal fairly and justly with citizens should be enough of an incentive. He admitted that he feels his bill will have a slim chance of getting through the House, but that it stands a better chance in the Senate. He said that he will vote against the bill's extension, whatever, the changes.

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