

# Editorials & Comments

## Motion: A Catalyst For Change

Much ballyhoo and credit has been given to the NCNB Community Development Corporation for serving as a catalyst for a new urban community that may lead to the construction of up to 300 single family homes, townhouses and condominiums in the city's Third Ward Community Development Program area.

Specifically, the bank corporation is joint venturing the project with a non-profit neighborhood group headed by the eloquent Dr.

Mildred Baxter Davis called the Committee to Restore and Preserve Third Ward, Inc., with the cooperative support of the City of

Charlotte. With the exception of the involvement of the neighborhood group, the concept being used to get the upper middle income housing units built, sold and occupied parallels the successful Fourth Ward revitalization effort.

Undoubtedly, because the housing was built and occupied by lower and moderate income blacks, the 100 single family houses built in Greenville in 1980

by CBS Realty received less fanfare than is being given to Third Ward. Nevertheless, the two developmental areas have common roots.

The catalyst or pioneering forerunner for these housing developmental projects was the battered and bureaucratically entrapped MOTION, INC., a City financed non-profit housing agency serving in low-income neighborhoods.

## Contract Renewal

In recent years at contract renewal time, MOTION has been presented with poor performance appraisals by the city's Budget and Evaluation Department. This has tended to raise a cry to drop contractual services with the agency and to seek other means of pioneering housing rehabilitation in low-income neighborhoods. Undoubtedly, some inept management practices, a hard working board chairman with little support, and the city's bureaucratic red tape have combined to limit the maximum efficiency of MOTION.

Therefore, the uncertainty of the true or full nature of MOTION's problems has caused the City Council to renew the agency's contract year after year. Underlying this, and of greater significance, is that in spite of its problems, MOTION and the philosophy it has been molded from, is workable and

has evidence of some success. A CHARLOTTE NEWS editorial put the issue in clear perspective when it said low-income neighborhoods and City Council alike want MOTION to survive for this reason.

"MOTION has been a force for housing renewal in neighborhoods that private enterprise would not touch because of the risks. MOTION took those risks with the city's money—and city's direction—and has had some success."

The editorial adds, "The agency's failures have been ones of missed opportunities and unachieved goals—not of bad loans or shoddy housing...Third Ward (Greenville, Five Points, First Ward, the Derita area and scattered housing in other areas)

shows what MOTION can do. It was rebuilding housing there before local banks showed any interest. It has (with the city's help) purchased run-down houses, brought them up to standard, and sold them at prices middle-income families could afford."

## Housing Services

Furthermore, with public funds for housing becoming less available while neighborhood housing rehabilitation needs grow, there will remain a need

for MOTION, or an agency like it, to provide many basic housing services that private interest won't provide under any circumstances.

Therefore, the big banks with their massive resources, tax credit saving profit margins, and public relations expertise are by their very nature serving a self

interest that enables them to participate or not participate with local government or a neighborhood in a proposed housing development plan.

On the other hand, MOTION's very existence is based upon the whims, fantasies, political pressures and bureaucracy of local government. Considering this reality and the untold problems

in producing housing either by public or private means, we can appreciate and sympathize with the plight yet successful efforts of MOTION.

The fact is, while the city's overall growth toward improving the quality of life for all our citizens through more and better housing will continue to need that contribution of the big banks, much that needs to be done at the pioneering level can and will only happen with MOTION.

## LAW ABIDING BLACKS MUST SPEAK OUT---



### THE RISE IN BLACK COMMUNITIES HAS BECOME A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT TO BLACK LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, THEY MUST ASSUME AN ACTIVE LEADERSHIP.

L. STATEN



## A View From Capitol Hill

### America Ranks Third In Incarceration

By Gus Savage  
Member of Congress

The United States has the dubious distinction of being one of the world's leaders with respect to its rate of incarceration. Only the Soviet Union and South Africa surpass us.

There is another statistic involving the criminal justice system that I find alarming: the amount of money spent and projected for prison construction. Congressman John Conyers of Michigan, an outspoken member of the House Committee of the Judiciary, has reported that the prison building program in this decade could cost from \$6 to \$7 billion. As recent as 1978, the Federal Bureau of Prisons asked Congress for a construction budget of \$67.5 million.

We have every reason to be concerned about America's prisons and the rate of incarceration. There is a disproportionate number of Blacks in our prisons, and the same applies to the number on death row.

Conyers has an interesting theory about what the nation is doing with people it considers of no use to society. It allows them to go unemployed, it takes them into the military services, or it places them in prison. Blacks, it should be noted, are in disproportionate numbers in all three categories.

With a greater number of Blacks in our prisons, it follows then that there are more Blacks serving lengthy terms. Additionally, there is a trend to set mandatory sentences in



Gus Savage

certain types of crimes and a growing mood to apply the death penalty in more situations.

Numerous studies have shown that our present system of confinement does not rehabilitate people. Instead, it hardens them for more serious criminal activity.

Conyers, a recent guest on my radio program, said that the courts are part of the problem in the criminal justice system. It takes the courts too long to give the accused his or her day in court. Most of the judges are white. And, as Conyers pointed out, the jury offers little more. Instead of having his case heard by one of his peers, the black defendant often faces an all-white jury.

There is another aspect about crime that annoys me. We hear of crimes of violence and street crimes. We all deplore these actions. On the other hand we hear very little about the crimes that have a greater impact on the nation's economy.

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark said in

a recent report that most of the crimes that the public hears about—street crimes for example—represent only a small percentage of the total dollar loss. A report released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in the mid 1970s showed that white collar crime is four times greater than street crimes in terms of annual dollar loss to the nation's economy. This was somewhere in the neighborhood of \$44 billion versus \$4 billion.

I agree with my colleague and friend Conyers that if this country is going to continue the imprisonment of people, it has a moral obligation to better equip them for a useful life as a member of society when they leave our penal institutions. Chief Justice Burger advocates this point of view.

If some kind of real rehabilitation is going to be sult, more money must be directed toward educating inmates and providing them a chance to learn viable job skills.

Finally, more alternatives to incarceration should be explored. Among these suggested by Congressman Conyers are restitution, day fines, and community service orders. Moreover, we should do further research into the relationship between crime and poverty.

## Today's Cereals

The amount of sugar in today's cereals ranges from about 2 percent to about 68 percent.

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ.

## Affirmative Action

### Lessons For Black America

Harlem has long been the community symbolizing the hopes and dreams of Afro-Americans nationally. Across its broad avenues and boulevards have stroked W.E.B. Dubois, Paul Robeson, Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Adam Clayton Powell Jr. and other heroes, not only of New York but the entire country. Langston Hughes and other poets have sung the glory of Harlem but if one of the giants of our past returned to the rubble-strewn streets, it is doubtful if they would break out in song. It is often said that where Black America is going, Harlem will get there first and if that is so the destination for many of us does not appear to be bright.

First of all there is the threshold issue of whether Harlem will continue as a Black community for on the drawing boards of some there are plans to insure that within a decade Harlem will be as white as the South African parliament. With the energy crisis making commuting from distant suburbs to New York City less feasible, many affluent whites have begun buying up Harlem's relatively inexpensive stock of 3-4 story "brownstone" houses and have started moving back in droves.

This process, known as "gentrification," is not peculiar to Harlem but to a greater or lesser degree has hit Black communities across the country. It has created a generation of Black "nomads," wandering from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Accelerating this process in Harlem are the actions of the city administration. Here too is a lesson that Blacks across the nation should ponder. Before Ronald Reagan's election made being anti-Black fashionable once more, Mayor Edward Koch of New York rode to power on the strength of a racist back lash. Because of abandonment, failure to pay taxes and the like, the city now owns 60 percent of Harlem's residential property. And now Mayor Koch has pushed through a plan that has the avowed potential of increasing the white population of Harlem.

Mayor Koch is up for reelection this year and one would think that Black politicians would be working night and day to put him in the unemployment line. But despite a growing tidal wave of sentiment in the Black community for his primary opponent, Black politicians like Congressman Charles Rangel of Harlem have remained mute; rumors are that the "fix is in" and Black politicians will sit on their hands and not come out against the Mayor.

This too is an issue not peculiar to Harlem. Blacks across the country have to answer the question of how can Black politicians be held accountable and be made to represent our interests as opposed to their narrow sinecures.

This critical question has assumed dramatic intensity in light of the scheduled reapportionment of the New York City Council. Though the 1980 Census shows that there is a virtual Black and Latino majority in the city, the City Council does not reflect this; ethnic "majority" controls less than 20 percent of the seats in the Council and the now reapportionment plan assures that this will be the case over the next decade.

The New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus has gone to court to prevent this plan from being implemented.

BOB JOHNSON

# What's happening!

EDUCATION...The students of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System begin classes Monday, August 31. Reflecting on this major part of their lives, I couldn't help but think that education does not commence with the alphabet; it begins with a mother's look, with a father's nod of approval or a sign of blame, with a sister's gentle pressure of the hand or a brother's noble act of patience.

It begins with handfuls of flowers in green valleys, on hills and meadows filled with daisies; with birds' nests admired, but not touched; with creeping ants, with humming bees and glass beehives. It also begins with pleasant walks in shady lanes, and with thoughts directed in sweet and



BOB JOHNSON

kindly tones and words to nature, to beauty, to acts of benevolence, to deeds of virtue, and to the source of all good. For if we work upon marble it will perish; if we rear temples they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds, and penetrate them with principals, with the just fear of God and love of our fellow men, we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten to all eternity. Therefore, let us, as parents and teachers, not limit these young minds. Because education is not learning; it is the exercise and development of the powers of the mind; and the two great methods by which this end may be accomplished are in the halls of learning, and in the conflicts of life.

"Happening" "HAPPENING" toasts a good year for parents, teachers and students in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System.

BUSINESS & PLEASURE...A person that knows how to mix pleasures with business, is never entirely possessed by them; they either quit or resume them at their will; and in the use they make of them, they rather find a relaxation of the mind. Some such people are proprietors of successful, local clubs and lounges. Places that provide varied types of entertainment.

Nathaniel Black is one such person. He is the chief honcho at the Kings and Queens Club and Lounge on the corner of Brevard and Fourth Streets. The club features three funky DJs: Andy Wallace, Michael Fox and Tony Johnson - whose slogan is, "if the party is uptown, K&Q is the place to get down."

The club is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 8 p.m. until Wednesday night is Kings' night and Thursday night is Queens' night.

Pearl Ingram runs the Galaxy Night Club, 1527 W. Boulevard. A place, according to Mr. Ingram, where there is more fun than just another disco.

The Galaxy is open five days a week: Wednesday through Sunday from 10 p.m. til 3 a.m., serving the community with live entertainment weekly. Every Thursday night is Ladies' Lock-Up - free sipping from the bar until midnight.

"The People's Choice" is an appropriate slogan for Mike Cotton's Midway Lounge. A neighborhood type establishment that prides itself on congenial atmosphere. The club features periodical live entertainment, fun night on Mondays and a special treat for Mike's guests coming once a month beginning in September.

The Midway Lounge is located at 3631 Statesville Avenue.

If jazz music is your cup of tea, then the Beacon Club, 3020 Beatties Ford Road, is the place to be. Every Saturday and Sunday nights, the best jazz musicians around are featured on the stage of this elegant nightclub, from 10 p.m. til 2 a.m.

Jack "Chicken" Benson and Luther Caldwell are the dapper owners, who have a way of making their guests feel very comfortable.

For the sports enthusiasts and the "coldest draft in town," the place to congregate is the Matador Lounge, 2412 Beatties Ford Road.

The Matador Lounge, under the very able management of Carl Clegg is one of the fastest growing night spots in town.

The Gold Room, 640-A N. Graham Street, is managed by the lovely Sherry Douglas. Sherry's cozy little club features Sunday afternooon jazz concerts, happy hour Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. and game night on Wednesdays. Her slogan is "stop by for a relaxing evening."

The Upstairs Lounge and Disco, 630 N. Graham Street, offers an either-or atmosphere. There is a room for conversational enjoyment and a room for real boogie. It is enough to keep the very personable Leroy Watson, manager, quite busy.

## From Capitol Hill

### Bureaucracy Can't Keep Congressional Black Congress Down

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post  
The Congressional Black Caucus, whose works are ignored by the white media and whose contributions and talents are snuffed by the bureaucracy still pounds away hard for the people, not only of this country, but those of the world, who are victims of the hierarchy.

Representative Willion Gray, who is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, arranged for a meeting of Caucus representatives with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, on his last United States visit. The five members who met with the Egyptian President were Representatives Fautroy, Gray, Conyers, Rangel and Dymally. All five reported that Mr. Sadat was very friendly, that he discussed the Middle East situation freely and that he is intensely interested in accomplishing a peaceful settlement in that area. Mr. Sadat said to the Black Caucus, "that we must get to know each other better." He invited the Caucus members to visit Egypt. As he did with all Americans with whom he met, President Sadat emphasized strongly the



Alfreda L. Madison

Sadat sitting between Mr. Fautroy and Mr. Conyers, but never stated who they were.

Representative John Conyers, speaking for the Black Caucus in a press conference, stated that the Congressional Black Caucus formed a foreign policy panel "to internationalize its concerns and adopt a more assertive role in foreign policy questions." This is in keeping with the commitment the Caucus made at the Black Agenda meeting in 1980; to become involved in every facet of United States' policy-making.

With all eyes focused on the Air Controllers strike, the concern and alertness of the Black Caucus is again at work. Just a few minutes before the House, August recess began, Representative John Conyers introduced H.R. 4375, a bill which extends to all Federal employees the right to strike. In explaining the need for such a bill, Conyers said President Reagan's action against the Air Controllers is without precedent. He stated that Federal employees should have the right to engage in concerted activities for the purpose of collective bar-

gaining or other mutual aid for their protection as is permitted under Federal law for private sector employees. He called for an end to the fiction that government employees are different from all other work forces in the United States. Conyers stated that policemen, firemen, teachers, doctors, nurses and workers who close down hospitals have a right to strike, but that's merely because Federal employees are in the collective grip of the government they are not allowed the same right. He took strong opposition with the doctrine of public service, which says Federal employees have a duty and responsibility as public servants, therefore they cannot enjoy collective bargaining rights that everyone else has. Conyers stated that a small union like the Air Controllers should have the same rights as a large union like Postal employees. He continued that H.R. 4375 pertains to all Federal employees that he hopes it will be given expedited consideration before the Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

Representative Augustus Hawkins, author of Humphrey-Hawkins and Chairman of the House Subcommittee on employment opportunities is using his vacation time by holding hearings in various cities. These hearings on CETA and civil rights are being held in Chicago and Los Angeles. Even though the Caucus has received no response from its letter and telegram to President Reagan and Secretary Haig protesting the granting of visas to the South African Springbok team, through its mobilization with other Blacks, enough pressure has been placed on Mayor Koch of New York to cause him to rescind his actions to allow the Springboks to play in Madison Square Garden. Through Jesse Jackson, the Caucus and other Blacks, Chicago officials are being pressured to follow Mayor Koch's example. Even though Blacks are denied roles by the bureaucracy, in important policymaking positions, through their bulldog determination, they are making inroads in the effecting of all major issues. Just recently, County Preacher Jesse Jackson gave several

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