

## Editorials & Comments

Roy Wilkins

### A Rock In A Stormy Sea

Roy Wilkins, the quiet, modest and mild-mannered leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for over a quarter of his lifetime is dead at the age of 80.

Wilkins, true to the traditions of the NAACP, attacked the evils of racial segregation through the court system and other legal means. His strategy led to the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark school desegregation decision in 1954; which was the forerunner to the legislative victories in civil rights and voting rights in the 1960's that Wilkins' NAACP labored long and hard for.

Mr. Wilkins stood like a rock in a stormy sea, during the urban unrest and college student chaos of the 1960's and early 1970's when the NAACP was attacked, not by racist redneck whites, but by an emerging generation of militant blacks in a host of new organizations - CORE, SNICK, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and others.

Many of these groups charged that Wilkins and the NAACP were out of touch with late 20th century blacks and too comfortable and complacent with the white power structure. Undaunted by these attacks Wilkins continued on a steady course to knock down legal barriers to the rights of minorities. However, in

answers to the attacks, he said, "I understand their impatience. I share it. But they should have some idea what it has taken to get them the right to raise hell."

Again, in his modest way, Wilkins was saying that without the legal battles won by the NAACP, blacks, or "Negroes" in his words, "...would never have had the courage or opportunity to engage in civil disobedience." Furthermore, many of those organizations arising and personified through the acts of a single individual, have faded with the subsiding storm as the NAACP continues to seek new challenges as Wilkins said, "...to establish the Negro as a legal entity with the right and privilege of a citizen."

Born August 30, 1901, Wilkins was the grandson of a slave and the son of a well trained minister who worked in a brickyard to provide a decent living for his family.

The United States is certainly a better, more civilized nation for having experienced the presence of Roy Wilkins; and it may lose in his absence, in the words of Jack Greenberg, the head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, "...a breath of vision, of rationality and balance..." so desperately needed in these complex times.

### Black Economic Depression Revisited

"People didn't give a thought to what would be cut in (Reagan's budget) the beginning; they thought it would affect somebody else. The emphasis in the election was, yeah, do these things. Now we see the reality." These are the words of Mayor of Mount Airy, a small North Carolina town near the Virginia state line.

Undoubtedly, some of the Chamber of Commerce breakfast agreed with this comment. However, most black Americans while sensing it, were trying not to believe what they knew all along was the reality of President Reagan's budget cuts. That reality, as it has been so often in the past, is that economic tightening always means increasingly higher levels of unemployment for blacks.

Evidence in the making of this reality is that as CETA and other federal job training and employment programs are being cut back, black youth unemployment has reached 50 percent and overall black joblessness has reached 15 percent, more than twice the national average.

Furthermore, recent reports indicate that whole federal agen-

cies may be eliminated leading to a possible loss of up to 80,000 jobs. Knowledgeable black federal employees argue that the cutbacks will hit a disproportionate number of blacks and other minorities.

As if that is not enough, the Reagan Administration has taken action to relax or eliminate rules against racial and sexual discrimination by federal contractors, and to ease requirements to remedy past discrimination.

Ironically, discrimination in employment is more pronounced in times of economic decline as we are still experiencing while President Reagan's economic plan is threatened to collapse before it even begins to work.

Underlying these changes by the Reagan Administration's assumption that out of the goodness of the private corporate community, jobs and economic opportunity will be made available to blacks. Yet, because Jesse Jackson used the threat of an economic boycott at Coca Cola to assure some of the very opportunities that Reagan has taken from blacks, he has been criticized by the white news media. More on this next week.

### Blacks' Destiny In Their Own Hands



### Tony Brown's Journal

Nationally Syndicated  
Commercial Television Series



TONY BROWN

### "Can Black Leaders Meet Challenge?"

The white man has nothing to fear from any effective unity among blacks for a long, long time because he himself installs and backs most of the key leaders of the race," wrote Chancellor Williams in his historical classic *The Destruction of Black Civilization*.

The former Howard University history professor concluded: "And we challenge any student of history to point out any other people who are or have been saddled with a perpetually disunifying and progress-checking problem of this magnitude."

The words from this major historical investigation, first published in 1974, have never rung more true than today. The nation's blacks face a crisis of economic poverty, political ineptitude and a pervasive lack of direction. And in direct proportion to this group malaise is the questionable conduct of the cartel of integrationist-inspired national black leaders.

And in order to mask the fact that they are more interested in integration than power, more concerned about strategies to develop new poverty programs rather than ways to save blacks from poverty programs and determined to draw attention away from their failure to develop and execute a viable agenda, this group focuses exclusively on Reagan's al-

leged racism and "lack of compassion" with hyper-animated charges.

But the reality that Reagan will no longer support the sandbox of government largesse "has yet to jolt the leadership of our largest and oldest black protest organizations out of the tactics of yesterday..." said New York's prestigious black newspaper, the *Amsterdam News*, in an unusually tough editorial. "The recent convention of the National Urban League was as disappointing as the annual gathering of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."

"Much of the black leadership is not in the business of leading blacks, but of extracting what they can from whites, and their strategies and rhetoric reflect that orientation," Dr. Thomas Sowell, the black Stanford economist, noted.

Before his current failing fortunes, Jesse Jackson, Jimmy Carter's most aggressive black campaigner, did very well. His programs received \$5.6 million from the Carter administration. But the Reagan administration eventually cut the final washout grant to \$825,000, the legal limit, and ordered a government audit of PUSH-EXCEL's accounting system.

But Reagan's withdrawal of the federal "draft horse for minority progress" has dried up the

poverty program approach to riches for "the keepers of the sandbox." Accordingly, Jesse Jackson is shifting gears and has reverted to his prior tactic of economic boycotts, something he was unsuccessful in during the early 70's.

The scramble is on by the Negro leaders for a new high ground to escape administration officials' charge that they offer nothing more than "the status quo" and continued dependency in the black community ("Vernon Jordan and Benjamin Hooks apparently have no response to that charge," said the *Amsterdam News*) and the rising chorus of criticism from other blacks.

Mona Bailey, president of the 100,000-member Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, who heads the most effective black service organization, said, "Remember the Richmond conference? What has happened? I'm not attempting to put down the efforts. But we come back for Black Caucus weekend and we go home again."

The leadership gang is run by professional operators with little vision, representing a dwindling, but rebellious, constituency and faced with a new reality it cannot grasp or cope with.

"Tony Brown's Journal," the television series, is shown every Sunday, on WBTB-TV, Channel 3, at 11:30 p.m.

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ.

## Affirmative Action

### Need For Black Police

With each passing day, the crying need for more black police officers in urban areas becomes more apparent. Those who witnessed on national TV news the astounding sight of white police officers and hard-hats battling tooth and nail unemployed black construction workers who were protesting the failure to uphold affirmative action regulations at a midtown Manhattan building suite are aware of this need. The thousands who have been rallying in Milwaukee protesting the death of an unjustly accused black suspect at the hands of white police officers are aware of this need. Those who recall the brutal slaying of black business executive Arthur McDuffie at the hands of white police, which sparked a massive conflagration in Miami, are aware of this need. Those who are subjected to the crudities and indignities of the swaggering, foul-mouthed, itchy-fingered racists that too often populate this nation's police forces, are all too aware of this need. Black police officers have proven to be more human, more sensitive and less likely to resolve disputes by dint of armed force.

As in so many other fields, the Reagan Administration's actions will not alleviate this problem but will worsen it. Because of his "New Federalism" policies, which will reduce federal aid virtually 37 percent to localities, many cities will use this as an excuse to lay-off city employees in massive numbers. Black police officers who were the last to be hired, are marked to be the first fired, if traditional seniority rules are followed. When the U.S. Conference of Mayors sent queries to 100 cities about the probable effects of the federal cuts, representatives of 68 said they planned to cut essential services and representatives of 58 said they would lay off workers. Another city survey by Congress' Joint Economic Committee alleged that more than one-half were already operating "in the red." The committee warned: "The Federal Government may have to develop a policy for dealing with municipal default on other than an hoc basis." Of course, if the city administrations would collect uncollected taxes from big real estate owners and uncollected sales tax from big retailers, there would be no fiscal crisis but the fact is that most mayors will use the specter of Reaganomics to put black city employees on the unemployment rolls.

These lay-offs are expected to spell doom for all those black police officers hired as a result of the affirmative action thrust, but this does not have to be the case. For just as affirmative action is needed for those entering the police force, it is needed equally for those exiting from the force. Boston has just shown the nation what this means. Black and Latino police officers and firefighters filed a class action suit alleging that they were bearing the brunt of lay-offs because they were disproportionately among those recently hired; lay-offs according to seniority would have made affirmative action a hollow deception. Judge A. A. Caffrey agreed and ruled that blacks and Latinos must continue to make up 14.7 percent of the city's Fire Department and 11.7 percent of the Police Department.

**THE CHARLOTTE POST**

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

Subscription Rate \$13.52 Per Year  
Send All 3579's To:  
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,  
1879

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

15 W. 45th St., Suite 1493  
New York, N. Y. 10036  
(212) 489-1220

### From Capitol Hill

## Administration Says "Jail Them Don't Train Them!"

By Alfreda Madison  
Special To The Post  
The Reagan Administration's task force on violent criminals has published its report. The members of this task force were as follows: Governor James Thompson of Illinois, former Attorney General Griffin Bell, David Armstrong, Commonwealth Attorney of Louisville, Kentucky, Fran Carrington, Crime Victims Legal Advocacy Institute, Virginia Beach, Virginia, Robert Edwards, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, William Hart, Chief of Police, Detroit, Wilbur Littlefield, Public Defender, Los Angeles, and Ira Wilson, Professor of Government, Harvard University.



Alfreda L. Madison

ures. If the Administration is truly serious about the welfare of all citizens, certainly some psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists, people who have worked with rehabilitating criminals and even offenders should have been included on the task force.

The panel recommended spending \$2 billion for helping states build more prisons. An assistant in the Department of Justice stated that Attorney General Smith's first priority in law enforcement. He feels that building more prisons will alleviate the already over crowded prisons, and he is recommending that states use some of their funds that are designated for vocational education, be given to penal

institutions to train the prisoners. However, even this of course will not lessen the already insufficient monies for training those who have not yet become criminals.

The Attorney General said, "We intend to ensure that more criminals go to jail." He seemed to have ignored the fact that we've locked up more people for longer periods of time in the past six years and crime has increased by more than 60 percent. Evidently, the task force members failed to consider those facts.

Good aspects of the recommendation were stronger gun control measures and a crackdown on illegal drug trafficking. The Congressional Black Caucus and Civil Liberties Union took strong exceptions to the more limited access to bail, restricted right to appeal, and allowing prosecutors to use tainted evidence if they had a "good faith belief" it was obtained, legally, and limiting attacks on state convictions by those raising constitutional claims in federal courts.

Representative Fauntroy in speaking for the Congressional Black Caucus besides praising the task

force for gun control and drug trafficking actions and condemning its bail limits, appeal restrictions and obtaining evidence illegally, stated "That the basic approach of the task force for dealing with convicted persons is disappointing and the idea that the way to effectively solve our violent crime problem is to build bigger jails, misinterprets the root causes of much of our nation's crimes -- high unemployment, massive under-education and illegal drug trafficking."

Dr. Alvin Poussaint, one of the country's top most psychiatrists stated that many violent crimes are related to unemployment, ill housing and poor education. He said a way to deter violent crime is to provide ways in which people can live better. He stated that the short-sighted deterrent is building more jails which will soon become over crowded and will serve as a crime breeder. Dr. Poussaint said that the "get tough" crime policy is a political measure. It is aimed more at street crime rather than organized crime which often links itself with important people. He said everyone knows police

don't stop crime they only apprehend criminals.

Mrs. Yetta Galiber, who has been widely recognized for her work with Lorton inmates who helped her with the handicapped, feels very strongly that many who are labelled as violent criminals can be rehabilitated. She stated that she has had many of these inmates who have been given from 5 years to life and even some who have been given life plus years, have greatly helped in her programs for the handicapped. Some of these inmates, even though they had to return to prison every night -- along with helping in her school -- have obtained college degrees. One has finished law school and is still on probation. One prisoner who has been working with Mrs. Galiber for 10 years was instigated in a robbery group that killed a person, has life plus 43 years. Mrs. Galiber feels that he is completely rehabilitated and that pardon has been sought for him from both Presidents Ford and Carter, but was denied. She says they will ask President Reagan to pardon him. Mrs. Galiber feels that the majority of these so-called hard crim-

inals are victims of poor education, lack of jobs, the most inhumane living conditions and that no one showed any concern for them. She knows her success with these inmates is based on the fact that she lets them know that she believes in their capabilities, that they are given short term accomplishable goals, which eventually grow into long-range outlooks.

The Administration would rather spend from \$10 to \$20 thousand, annually per criminal, on punishing youth than to spend it on training them to become worthwhile citizens.

**WE WERE WRONG**  
Beatties Ford Road Burger King will launch a 10,000 free soft drink giveaway Thursday, September 10 (not \$10,000 as was previously stated in last week's paper). The owner of the Beatties Ford Road Burger King sponsoring the give-away is Nasif Majeed.

