

Editorials & Comments

A Break With The Past!

Undoubtedly over the past week, culminating on Sunday morning, at about 8:00 a.m., many black Charlotteans were having nostalgic feelings about Old Brooklyn, Second Ward High and Myers Street schools, the fading Little Rock AME Zion Church at the corner of 7th and Myers Streets, and many other structures, institutions and communities of the past.

The Nostalgia arose from the fanfare leading to the seven second demolition of the Independence Building at the Square on Sunday morning. Those who mourned the demise of the building are concerned that the City has lost the state's first and oldest skyscraper and a symbol of Charlotte's burst into the 20th century. Blacks apparently shared that feeling as they related this latest break with the past to a part of their past that has been similarly destroyed in the name of progress.

On the other hand, those who praised the removal of the old

Search For A Black Agenda

As the decade of the 1980s was ushered in over 20 months ago there was considerable talk by the nation's so-called black leadership about a Black Agenda or blueprint for protecting and advancing the civil rights and social and economic gains black and other minorities have achieved over the past 20 years.

In spite of all the fanfare we have heard about such a Black Agenda, nothing of any substance from a national perspective has occurred. This is evident by the fact that events at the national conventions of the NAACP nor the Urban League this year did not provide a Black Agenda or even items for such an agenda. Major reports even from the black media talked more about the fine liquors, food and lavish housing accommodations the delegates to these conventions had than they did about Black Agenda items.

The lack of a Black Agenda has been evident too by a pre-occupation with attacks on the Reagan Administration when those energies might have been better spent on developing Black Agenda items.

The Congressional Black Caucus took a step in this direction when they developed a budget proposal to counter the Reagan budget. However, concern has been expressed that the program outline for the annual Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend is characteristic of more expensive fun and games with a smaller amount of time devoted to the serious business of a Black Agenda. It is said that some of the funds from the \$150-a-plate at the closing banquet and other costly gala events

Independence Building saw it as a move consistent with the symbols of Charlotte's new steel and glass skyscrapers that appear to burst the blue in the heavens above. Blacks will only share this enthusiasm to the extent that they feel a part of the mainstream growth and development of Charlotte. Lack this feeling, many blacks are probably apathetic or indifferent to whatever will replace the Independence Building.

For those who will miss the old building, life-long imaginations will keep it alive just as the Second Ward High Alumni Association keeps that institution alive. Yet, whether we like it or not, the invisible hand of progress moves on demolishing sites if for no other reason than to have us ask, will our descendants in 75 or 100 years call for the historic preserving of the NCNB Plaza and Independence Center or will they too meet the fate of today's old buildings, presumably in the name of progress?

will be used for the continuing struggle for justice and equal opportunity.

However, in the absence of a planned Black Agenda there is little assurance that these funds can be put to a maximum use to benefit black Americans.

The reportcard on the accomplishments of this latest coming together of black leaders is not yet out, but let us hope that they have included in their deliberations "a plan of action...a 10 black commandments" that keynote speaker Ossie Davis requested 10 years ago. Let us hope they have dealt with how we can keep more of the reported \$140 billion that blacks earn in black communities and spent with black businesses.

Let us hope they have developed strategies to off-set any attempts of the Reagan Administration to weaken the Voting Rights Act. Let us hope they have discussed the merits of Jesse Jackson's reciprocity plan with the Coca-Cola Company for the possible use of the plan with other firms.

Finally, let us hope that the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend ended on a high note of a renewed commitment to build a workable Black Agenda to serve the needs of black Americans.

No one, I repeat no one, can resolve the problems and conflicts and promote and enhance the quality of life of blacks but blacks themselves. Therefore, blacks must create a Black Agenda and then pursue diligently its goals for their own well being. If they don't do it, it won't be done.

BLACK COMMUNITIES SHOULD HELP IMPOSE ORDER



Tony Brown's Journal

Nationally Syndicated Commercial Television Series



Tony Brown

Black Colleges Get \$9.6 Million

"We all know the Federal Government has a troublesome history of issuing Federal orders with no teeth in them," President Ronald Reagan said at the White House luncheon where he announced the signing of an Executive Order directing the government to help black colleges and universities obtain equal opportunities in federally sponsored programs.

"Well, this one will be heard from again," the President declared. "And they better pass." "In an era of budget cuts," he said, "black colleges and universities will receive an increase of \$9.6 million federal funds." This historic landmark was announced just two weeks before Black College Day '81 and exactly one year from the day that I first met with him as Coordinator of the Coalition for Black Colleges aboard his plane, enroute from Baltimore to Knoxville, to explain why as a candidate for president he should support these schools.

"It was then, Tony, that the president began his education on this issue. We come, as you know, from a Western state where there are no black colleges. Thanks for helping to sensitize us on this vital issue, a high-placed White House source said during the ceremonies.

But it was really the 20,000 students, alumni and church people who hit the pavement in Washington, D.C., last year for Black College Day who made the difference. Since this dra-

matic support of the nation's black colleges, a movement to stop the phony desegregation plans and budget cuts under Jimmy Carter from 5.2 percent to 4.0 percent share of the total higher education budget has galvanized itself into a formidable force.

A major factor in the success of this endeavor has been the invaluable assistance and behind the scenes maneuvering of White House Senior Policy Advisor Mel Bradley and Thelma Duggin, Deputy Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, two blacks, who, along with Dan Smith who wrote the executive order, have not forgotten how to be black and effective.

Spontaneous applause from the black leaders at the announcement followed this Reagan statement: "It is through the education they offered that individuals can make themselves into the type of people they choose to be instead of what some central-planner says they should be."

And so strong is the president's support that he told all federal agencies to submit "report records" on assisting black colleges. Secretary of Education Terrell Bell will supervise the annual development of the order with each agency submitting a mid-year progress report to the Secretary on its achievements. Also, each black college president will be "given the opportunity to comment" on the proposed annual federal plan, the first of which is said to be ready by

March 31, 1982, prior to presidential approval. Each agency must "submit annual reports on their progress to determine the extent to which black colleges have been given an equal chance to participate in federally sponsored programs."

One factor indicates just how sold President Reagan is on this issue. His own words: "It should never be forgotten that when educational opportunities were denied elsewhere, these institutions offered hope to black Americans...and they did their job well."

Another is the backdrop for his announcement. Just as he unveiled a harsh, second round of reducing federal spending by \$16 billion, including deeper cuts in defense and painful cuts in education (already slashed by \$12 billion or 30 percent) to keep the swollen budget deficit below \$50 billion, Ronald Reagan made a commitment to increase funds to the nation's 107 predominantly black colleges by \$9.6 million and to strengthen their participation in federal programs by assigning "measurable objectives."

This is indeed a giant first step in fulfilling his campaign promise: "The plight of our black colleges reminds us all of the unfinished work of bringing all disadvantaged groups into the mainstream of America. These colleges exemplify the truly American concept of self-help for those who choose to work and study in them. This is the message of Black College Day.

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ.

Affirmative Action

Mid-East And Black Equality

With every passing day the hostility of the Reagan Administration toward Afro-Americans becomes more apparent. Reversing the trend of past years, the Justice Department has entered a busing case on behalf of those opposed to this necessary means of school desegregation. The Labor Department has proposed regulations intended to gut totally affirmative action gains that were so valiantly fought for. Spiralling interest rates have meant that Black Business-already staggering under the burden of Reaganomics-is suffering from the most severe reversals since the Civil War.

With all of these domestic ills, one would think that this would be enough to keep Blacks totally occupied but such is not the case. Blacks, as a people, have never neglected foreign affairs. This was true of the two Black giants-Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois-and it remains true today.

An epoch making conference on Southern Africa is scheduled October 9-11 in New York City that has attracted the support of Coretta Scott King, Jesse Jackson, Ossie Davis, et. al. and no Black trade unionist, student or church-goer worth his salt is expected to miss. Despite cascading domestic ills, this conference will spearhead a fight-back against Reagan foreign policy.

As long as the Pentagon continues to soak up an ungodly share of the national budget, Blacks will be forced to pay attention to international affairs. For every tax dollar that is spent on a Phantom F-4 jet or a bazooka or an M-16 rifle is literally taking milk from the mouths of babies, harming Black educational advance and delaying Black equality.

Thus, it was no accident that Andrew Young was the Carter Administration official courageous enough to establish contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), an effort that eventually cost him his job.

Nor was it accidental that Rev. Joseph Lowery and leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) broke the ice, went to Beirut, Lebanon and met directly with Yassir Arafat-constantly denounced in the so-called major media as a "terrorist." Rev. Lowery was following in the footsteps of SCLC's founder, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who sailed into the teeth of a fierce and contrary wind by opposing U.S. policy in Vietnam. Another protégé of King, Rev. Jesse Jackson of Operation PUSH, also traveled to the Middle East and met with leading PLO officials.

Why would SCLC and Operation PUSH, two of the most prominent civil rights organizations run the risk of slander and derisive cat calls, travel at great risk of life and limb to a major war zone and confer with the PLO? Their critics asked, aren't their hands full of dealing with problems at home, why must they go abroad? When the government moved to cut off certain grants to PUSH, many nodded their heads knowingly.

But Rev. Lowery and Rev. Jackson did not reach their prominent and exalted positions by going along lemming-like with the prevailing consensus.

They knew that there are Black Palestinians, who along with their compatriots, were chased from their homeland, deprived of their property and who are now second-class citizens in a place they once called home.

From Capitol Hill

Prime Minister Menachem Begin-"America's Bad Boy"

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Prime Minister Menachem Begin, America's bullying boy who uses two trump cards to get his U. S. parents' support for his fantasy ways, has just returned to Israel, happily over his successful American trip. He speaks of the Palestinians as a terrorist group whose aim is the destruction of Israel and that Israel must be supported in its military attacks as a means of combating communism in the Middle East. Mr. Begin is playing his ace by using the American Soviet hysteria, which emphasizes strongly, that just about everything that is wrong in this world is instigated by Russia and the United States is endowed with the duty to rid the world of communism through the use of "kill power."

The Prime Minister exacted an increased military cooperation between the United States and Israel, and his visit to Capitol Hill won some strength against the United States maintaining its promise to



Alfreda L. Madison

sell ACACS to Saudi Arabia. He says the safety of Israel will be jeopardized by having the AWACS in the hands of Saudi Arabia. Yet, Begin has constantly violated the American arms sale which was predicated on the fact that they should never be used in offensive measures but only for Israeli defense. Israel has made attacks in Lebanon which has killed Palestine refugees as well as Lebanese. Mr. Begin says that he is aiding the Christians in a religious war that is between Christians and Moslems. His excuse for bombing the nu-

ear reactor plant in Iraq is that they were planning to use the weapons against Israel. The Prime Minister has continued to occupy the West Bank, which is against the Camp David agreement.

Recently the United Holy Land Fund held a convention in Washington and Archbishop Hilareon Capucci of Palestine was invited to address the group, but the U.S. government denied him a visa, yet, the Carter Administration, publicly recognized the key role that Archbishop Capucci played in assisting in the release of the American hostages held in Iran.

The Israeli military government of the West Bank denied exit permits to three Palestinians who were also scheduled to participate in the convention. The Post recently reported that there is great fear among the Lebanese and Palestinians of an all-out war imposed on their country by Israel, which appears with the United States support.

Since there has been a

number of requests for Third World Countries for reporters of the Black media to visit their homelands, because of bias reporting of the white press, some Blacks in this country have organized a Third World Journalist Association, nine members of this organization were invited to Lebanon for some investigative reporting. They toured the devastated areas of Beirut and Southern Lebanon. The group concluded that the United States government's one-sided policy fosters Israeli aggression and continued conflict in the Middle East. This fact finding mission included observations, interviews and firsthand information. They found no evidence to support the fact that the Palestine Liberation Organization is a terrorist group, but that it is working for a free independent homeland for the Palestine people - especially since they were displaced for their home for the Israeli homeland.

These black journalists learned that the P.L.O. directly addressed the

social and economic needs of the displaced Palestinians and other Arabs who seek health care, employment and education. Tours to P.L.O. hospitals, schools, factories and bombed out refugee camps confirmed that Israeli aggression extends far beyond military targets. Defenseless civilian women and children suffer from these relentless attacks. The Rashadiyah refugee camp, which is ten miles from the Israeli occupied territory has been bombed 703 times since 1973. This civilian settlement which until 1973 had a population of 17,000 Palestinians, now has only 7,000. The recent July war claimed 2,800 casualties in Beirut and Southern Lebanon. These raids were carried out with a wide array of U.S. made weapons, including 3,000 pound cluster bombs which are internationally banned. All of this is a violation of the U.S. - Israeli weapon agreement.

The journalist learned through discussions with P.L.O. ranging from Yasser Arafat to a teen-age soft-drink vender in a

crowded refugee camp, all expressed a common bitterness and contempt for Israel's intransigence. They also condemned the United States as Israel's major arms supplier. The P.L.O. feels that the United States holds the key to the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian question. This is a view that is shared by President Sadat, and many Americans.

Even some Jewish people have expressed the idea that Menachem Begin must not have our government's full support in his bullying ideas. In a conversation with one prominent Jewish official who wishes to remain anonymous, he stated very strongly that if the United States does

not begin clamping down on Mr. Begin, World War III will break out in the Middle East.



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