

Editorials & Comments

Thanksgiving For What?

On this Thanksgiving Day in 1981, many people are asking, Thanksgiving for what? This question should be a reminder that Thanksgiving is an annual celebration in honor and memory of a significant part of our nation's history.

Underlying that celebration is the nation's founding and continuing belief as eloquently stated by comedian Bob Hope that "This (America) is still a land of opportunity, where every individual, through his own initiative, talent and brain power, can reach his potential."

Unfortunately, because God has blessed our nation with such abundant resources, many people have not only begun to assume these riches are a gift, they have adopted attitudes and philosophies that are referred to as a "psychology of entitlement." This implies a belief that Americans assume they have a right to or a guarantee of good jobs and decent housing in a livable environment.

The "entitlement" mentality says, for example, more and more workers are fighting for what they believe are their rights. "The vast majority of workers," says James Lindheim of the Yankelovich research firm, "feel entitled to good wages, health benefits, insurance, profit sharing, tuition benefits, financial advice, legal help and a greater voice in company policy." Furthermore, when employers don't offer these benefits workers assume that government should provide the requested guarantees.

Corporations too are caught in the "entitlement" mentality as they expect government to institute policies to assure the survival of their industry to the exclusion of others.

It is these same workers and corporations who look with contempt upon those who have not been as blessed and must look to public welfare assistance to survive. That is, too many who have been blessed with an adequate share of our nation's abundance want and expect guarantees for continued shares but oppose any guarantees of the basic necessities of life for the less fortunate members of our nation.

The philosophy of entitlement or the belief that the corporation and the government should guarantee us the good life is to forget the freedoms we have for which we should be giving Thanks. We can worship God freely; we can speak, write and travel without government approval or control; and we can change our places of employment at our own choosing. With the guarantees we have noted, these freedoms could be endangered.

These freedoms and many like them, for which we should forever be thankful, are the telescopes through which we can see the visions of Thanksgiving in the future. However, unless we return to a renewed commitment to the work ethic and the striving toward individual goals we may not have Thanksgiving in the future as we have had in the past.

Thus, Thanksgiving is a unique holiday in that it causes us to reflect on our nation's past, to have a deeper appreciation for the present, and to see in the visions of the future a hope for a better tomorrow.

...And for these we give thanks.

And For These We Give Thanks!

As we continue to vent our frustrations over double digit inflation, high interest rates, mounting unemployment and a creeping recession, we tend not to observe some of the singular human interest events that remind us of much that we have to give thanks for.

Three Charlotte firemen recently received certificates of citation for rescuing two Southside Homes area children from a fire in October. Assistant Fire Chief R. L. Blackwelder said, "It was what we call going beyond the call of duty." This is significant too considering all the media coverage given to the conflicts between the city and firemen over wages and working conditions.

Let us not forget too the highway patrolman who earlier this year saved a youth from drowning on his off-duty hours. And let us be reminded in these days of sexual promiscuity and

high rates of out-of-wedlock births that "virginity is not outdated" says actress Debby Boone. The 25-year-old singer and daughter of Pat Boone, says her beliefs are in God, virginity and the family.

In a recent interview Ms. Boone said that during her engagement to Gabri Ferrer she refrained from giving in to her physical desires. "The way we saw it then and now is that if we had given in to our sexual urges before marriage we would have planted seeds destructive to the life of that marriage." Debby encourages young girls to take a similar view.

And then there are the tender loving care of Anita Stroud, the on-going work of the Salvation Army and what you can do as an individual to give someone else who is probably less fortunate than you to be thankful on this Thanksgiving Day.

Striving For Excellence



'WE MUST GIVE OUR CHILDREN A SENSE OF PRIDE IN BEING BLACK. THE GLORY OF OUR PAST AND THE DIGNITY OF OUR PRESENT MUST LEAD THE WAY TO THE POWER OF OUR FUTURE.'

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL



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Tony Brown

Is The Public Being Told The Truth?

There is a new and crucial dimension to the Voting Rights Act. It is the Reagan Administration's position of the Voting Rights Act rather than the civil rights legislation itself.

The backbone of the liberal House version called the President's position qualified an lukewarm. One White House source says that a meeting with the black liberal leaders ended in agreement on the essential elements of this centerpiece civil rights legislation. After the public campaign was launched by these very same people the aide explained, to discredit the administration.

In a meeting with me and 10 other black journalists, President Reagan hinted as much. "There seems to be some confusion about me and my position on this. And I have said that the Voting Rights Act is the most sacred right of free men and women. It's the crown jewel of our American liberties and we will not see its luster diminished. And for that reason, I have approved the idea of a ten-year extension of the present Voting Rights Act which has proven, I think, its effectiveness and it has been a good piece of legislation that did a remarkable job."

In the interest of clarity, it seems that the best thing for those of us at the closed meeting to do is share with our readers and viewers exactly what we were told by two cabinet members:

Attorney General William French Smith and Edwin Meese III, Counselor to the President.

John Procope, President of the National Newspaper Publisher's Association: Exactly what the Administration's decision on the Voting Rights Act? There seemed to be equivocation last Friday with respect to the intent clause and the bail out provision. Civil rights groups feel that that particular position will cripple the Act.

Attorney General Smith: Perhaps I should answer that by relating a little history. You may recall, about three or four months ago, the President asked me to review this whole question of the Civil Rights Act, how it had operated in the past, its history and its successes and failure and so on. And we did that, and we did that in three stages.

The first stage was to review the whole background, the whole history and to consider areas where there had been complaints or criticisms and comments or suggestions, and what have you. That was really, I guess you'd say, more of a factual inquiry than anything else.

Now, what the President has done is not confused in any sense. It is only confused because some have seen to make it that way. What the President has done is to accept the uniform and unanimous recommendation of every civil rights group that we talked to. Namely, to support the Act as is without

change for ten years. In addition, he has made the bilingual requirement co-extensive in terms of time. And that is his position, it is the position that has been started. There is no confusion about it, it is out front, it is simple, and it is exactly in accordance with the recommendations of every single civil rights organization that we talked to during that entire period. That's his position.

Mr. Procope: You're saying he would not support a version of a bill that called for more liberal bail out provisions?

Attorney General Smith: Well, now, in addition to that - that's his basic position: extend the Civil Rights Act for ten years. Now, he has also said, in addition to that, that he would accept a fair and realistic bail out provision. Now, bail out provisions are very - they sound simple; they're actually quite complicated. At least they can become quite complicated. But he has said that if Congress sees fit to develop a fair and realistic bail out provision, that he will accept that.

Mr. Meese: Let me say this. We are not interested in changing the criteria for the bail out. We still want - you have to change it somehow from the present law, just because the present law historically doesn't make sense. There have to be some technical changes in it anyway, which I'm sure you understand.

Attorney General Smith: The President's statement See IS THE...on Page 7

From Capitol Hill

White House Gives Rich Media Preferential Treatment

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
There has been wide spread opinion that the Reagan Administration controls the press. The big television, radio and big white newspapers and magazines make up part of the huge corporations. So they all fall under the same bureaucratic umbrella. The little white press and, of course, the black media operate outside the preferred group.



Alfreda L. Madison
During the transition period, a reporter for a small white magazine asked President Reagan if he would continue the practice of having the big media reporters on the front rows in press conferences, and his reply was that he would not. However, it seems far more entrenched now than it was during the previous Administration. Reporters were moved around to different seats during the Carter press conferences. Occasionally, blacks did get on at least the second and third rows.

Advertisements like the big white papers, that we can't afford to have a person just assigned to the White House, but that the black press is the voice and source of information for black citizens; that my articles appear in 124 papers, and that I dare say I influence more people than just about anybody in the White House Corp.

Some of the little White House Press people also complain about the preferential treatment being shown to those who work for more affluent media. Since the people back home feel a close intimacy with their little hometown paper they are more influenced by it than the big media. So the White House seating arrangements may prove to be self defeating.

Since Press Secretary Jim Brady's accident, Larry Speakes, Deputy Press Secretary, has been conducting most of the daily press briefings. He appears to become greatly annoyed by my questions. Generally, he is insulting, sarcastic and sometimes nasty. At a recent briefing, I kept raising my hand and trying to get in a question as the other re-

porters were doing. Finally, Larry looked at me and said, "Do you want to ask me a question?" I said, "Yes." He then said, "Ask it then." But as soon as I began he cut across me and said, "Wait, let me finish." He replied, "Well, go on and finish." My question was, "Considering the recent unemployment figures which show black unemployment more than twice as high as that of whites, how can the President take a stand against affirmative action, doesn't the great difference seem to prove that discrimination practices are going on in employment?" Larry's answer was, "When the President's programs causes the economy to rise everybody will benefit." I've been told by Larry before that I come to the briefings with my mind made up. I replied that after research, I do come there with questions in mind that I want answered. After the recent press briefing, those of us who are members of the black press, decided that if anyone of us is insulted, all of us will have to take a stand against those actions. So to avoid what could become a somewhat

explosive situation, in a letter to White House Chief of Staff James Baker, I registered my complaint. Surely, the questions about issues, relative to blacks are hard to answer. However, all public officials must be responsive to them. Racial discriminations and injustices can't be glossed over, neither can they be called right. As much I abhor insults, sarcasms and nastiness, I'll let nothing deter me from my duty to my publishers and readers. The cause of justice and equality is much too important for that.

Larry Speakes, who hails from Mississippi and worked on Capitol Hill in Senator James Eastland's office - everyone knows that Eastland was no friend to blacks, might find it hard to be confronted with legitimate issues that are peculiar to blacks and then have a black person question him about them. I'm sure he'll change with some help.

Jim Brady was one of the nicest persons one could ever wish to have for a press secretary. White House Deputy Press Se-

cretary, David Gergen, is also very cordial and he treats all reporters with the same respect.

Wachovia To Relocate Its

Arrowood Office

Wachovia Bank and trust Company has applied to the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency for permission to relocate its Arrowood office. The branch will be relocated from 602 Arrowood Blvd. to the 1900 block of Westinghouse Blvd.

"We are very pleased to announce this proposed relocation in Charlotte," said Harold G. Hoak, regional vice president for Wachovia in Charlotte. "We have outgrown our current Arrowood office, and the larger facility at the new location would allow us to better serve our customers in that area."



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