

Editorials & Comments

Commissioners Show Courage

Earlier this week the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by declaring his birthday, January 15, a County holiday.

The Commission acted courageously in supporting Bob Walton's suggestion to eliminate one of the 10 existing County holidays in order to avoid an additional holiday cost to the taxpayers of \$132,215 annually. This action was taken with the Commissioners' recognition that some County employees would be upset with the loss of their additional holiday at Christmas that could only be taken by the use of a vacation day.

Dr. Mildred Baxter Davis, one of several black neighborhood leaders who spoke in favor of the January 15 holiday before the Commissioners' final vote, said, "A lot of young people in this community need this holiday as a way of recognizing a great leader."

Several days before the Board voted, Commissioner Walton said, "For a man of King's stature and what he has meant to the black and white communities, I think it's proper we join (many) other cities and (19) states to designate his birthday as a legal holiday."

In spite of these and other supportive statements, there has

been some objection voiced by some County employees. Reports indicate that a petition with over 100 signature and numerous telephone calls to the Commissioners indicate support for the observance of King's birthday but prefer an alternate holiday change in lieu of losing a Christmas holiday.

It is unfortunate that a positive move by the County Commissioners to recognize the contributions to democracy and equal justice by a great American has been overshadowed by the question of which holiday to substitute.

However, the really important story in all of this is that honoring of Dr. King through a paid holiday observance - the first city or county in both North and South Carolina to take such action - has apparently been well

received in the community at large. Commissioner Walton, who initiated the idea of County observance of King's birthday, put the issue in perspective when he said, "I think we're maturing in this community...the board action is making all that Martin Luther King stood for a reality."

The Post salutes the County Commissioners for its courage in taking the leadership in the Carolinas to recognize the contributions of Martin Luther King, a truly great American.

Dent In Our Commitment

With all the reports over the past few years about newspapers and new magazines across the nation closing down or cutting back in their additions, we are sad to learn that the Charlotte News plans to discontinue its Saturday edition.

We certainly recognize and understand the forces at work that make this decision necessary as the news media competition increases along with increasing operating costs. However, as we attempt to put such decisions in perspective, the question must be asked, "What does it all mean?" The answer is that another dent is placed in our

commitment to democracy and democratic ideals.

Among these ideals is freedom of speech and freedom of the press. A single day a week loss of The Charlotte News means 52 editorial opinions per year are lost just to cite one example. Under our free press system those lost options could make a significant difference in a vital issue affecting our community and indeed our nation.

In spite of, and maybe because of this necessary move, The Charlotte Post wishes to commend The Charlotte News for a job well done.

Herschel Walker Shatters Myth!

Athletes, especially football players have been stereotyped for years as being muscular jocks with limited intelligence and unfit to be productive following their college or professional playing seasons.

Now and then a football player comes along who shatters that stereotype. There is now one who graduated from high school as Valedictorian of his class two years ago, the same year he led his teammates to the state football championship and the state track team titles. In the latter case, he earned 34½ of his school's 35 points to win the

100-yard dash and the shot put.

As a freshman college student, our hero continued his practice of studying his school work diligently and maintaining good grades while limiting his social life. His coach has said, "The kid is as close to perfect as I've seen," as a student and as a football player.

In the 1980 Sugar Bowl game against Notre Dame our hero rushed for two touchdowns and 150 yards, not spectacular for a super footballer, but the rest of the team accounted for a minus 30 yards rushing and seven yards passing.

Blacks Destiny In Own Hands

"BLACK POWER - A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF WHITE LEADERSHIP AND WHITE DIRECTION."
CHARLES K. HAMILTON

POVERTY and ECONOMIC BONDAGE



Tony Brown's Journal
Nationally Syndicated Commercial Television Series



"If Black People Don't, White People Won't"

"Columnist Tony Brown 'Wrong Again' read the headline in the Sentinel-Bulletin. And as proof, the Tampa, Florida, newspaper offered an 'opinion-analysis' written by a Rudolph Harris.

While Mr. Harris was much more gracious in his disagreement than the paper's castigating caption, his analysis of my analysis of the recent Atlanta mayoral election analyzed a point that I never made.

In fact, I agree with Mr. Harris that black people should vote for other black people. My logic is that if black people don't, white people won't. But I did not conclude, as the writer accused me, that this constituted racist behavior.

It would be racist, however, if we lived in a race-free society. Moreover, it would be suicidal to politically disenfranchise ourselves out of an idealistic notion that the best person - white or black - should get our support.

Politics is anything but idealistic. It is absolutely pragmatic and as Dr. Carlton Goodlett, the San Francisco publisher, once told me: "Politics means that me and my friends can run this country (city, state) better than you and your friends."

If blacks should fall for

the trap that political self-help and survival is racist, then we will lose our political gains as we have lost the quality of education we once received in all black schools. History has demonstrated that since we abandoned educating ourselves - "When Black people don't, white people won't" - Black high schoolers make the lowest scores of any group in this country.

And it is not because the tests are racially biased - they have always been racially biased. It is because we are not taught as well by other-race people.

However, let me get back to Mr. Harris' very worthy rebuttal. He said: "Atlanta's Black people voted overwhelmingly for (Andy) Young not because they were racist, but because they were proud; because they are human just like any other people."

He is saying that considering the racist pattern of the white vote, blacks must elect one another to office. However, when whites do it, they are racist. As emotionally appealing as his argument is, I do not find enough logic to support it.

In fact, both groups are looking out for their own best interests and race is the vehicle. Whites are try-

ing to stay on top and blacks are trying to get off the bottom. Furthermore, how can you live in a racist society and not involve yourself in racist institutions, e.g., Democratic Party, Republican Party or Communist Party.

My advice is that blacks should disassociate themselves from the semantical notion that they are racist or even behaving in a racist manner. If white people will not help you - and they won't - politically, educationally or economically, then it stands to reason that you must elect other blacks to office, preserve your own neighborhood schools and colleges and spend your \$140 billion in your own community 12 times as whites do rather than once as blacks do.

A Negro integrationist, roughly translated as needing the social company of whites more than self-determined power, criticized my old television series: "Shows like 'Black Journal' portray Negroes in a ridiculous light. It shows them as people who are unaware of the complexities of living, the complexities of civilization, who are aware of only one thing: color."

My response then and now: "This position can be seen 'If Black...' Page 16"

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 \$15.60 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, North Carolina
Under the Act of March 3, 1878

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.

2100 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60616
45 W. 45th St., Suite 1493 New York, N.Y. 10036
Columet 5-0200 (212) 489-1220

From Capitol Hill

Caribbean Seminar Reveals Reagan's Racism Policy?

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
The Congressional Black Caucus seminar on the Caribbean was so well attended that the meeting had to be moved from a committee room in the Rayburn Building to the Health and Human Services auditorium. The overwhelming success of the seminar was largely due to the energetic work of Congressman Mervyn Dymally, Chairman of the Caucus Task Force on the Caribbean.

The Congressional Black Caucus has presented a 12 point policy which it urges the United States to include in its Caribbean policy. These include: Emphasis on economic assistance and preservation of the integrity of Caribbean nations, defining Caribbean as the region made up of all the islands in the Caribbean Sea, creation of an assistant secretary in the State Department for the region, increase economic aid, increase trade and eliminate excessive tariffs in the region, amnesty for undocumented Caribbean workers in the United States, a more humane



stance toward Haitian entrants, a more consiliatory stance toward Grenada, lifting of embargo on medical supplies to Cuba, assistance in settling border dispute between Guatemala and Belize, and use U.S. influence in seeking admission of Guyana to The Organization of American States.

in Caribbean, Chaired by Representative William Gray, with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Inter-American Affairs, Bushell, and Professor Franklin Knight of Johns Hopkins University participating, really revealed interesting facts about our government's Caribbean policy, which seems to be somewhat inhumane, discriminatory and entirely void of principles which a democratic government espouses.

Dr. Knight stated that the United States has never had a comprehensive Caribbean policy and that Secretary of State Haig has never been serious about a dialogue with our Caribbean neighbors. In formulating a Caribbean policy we must make a self-inspection, consider our own Declaration of Independence, "all men are created free and equal." All people demand unqualified respect and dignity and the sovereign right to choose their own form of government, an that we have no right to dictate the policy of any government, we do not elect. Each state must fashion its own government,

said Mr. Knight. It was emphasized that the United States serves no good purpose in trying to keep other countries from being friendly with Cuba - there is no reason for ostracizing Cuba while recognizing other communist nations.

The United States was criticized for its patience with the inhumane South African apartheid, and yet not only showing concern for the poor economic conditions of Grenada, but is making serious efforts to block any aid given it by other countries, and the U.S. violation of resolutions which accord humane treatment to Haitians who echoed loud and clear.

By Rev. John Perkins

Walk Your Talk



Rev. Perkins

A Dangerous Opportunity

One of the ministers in our church was speaking recently. His sermon spoke about the crisis that was set before Nehemiah when he set out to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The young minister defined the word for crisis according to its definition in the Chinese language. He said, the Chinese use two symbols for the word crisis, the symbols for danger and opportunity. So he defined a crisis as a dangerous opportunity.

Blacks in America are in the midst of a dangerous opportunity. The economy has been knotting up, placing a stranglehold on most new business development and expansion.

You know the story. The Federal Reserve pinches the money supply when inflation gets too high. Housing starts drops, putting construction workers out of work. Prices in the supermarket rise steadily along with those at the gas pump. What can the average breadwinner do in cases like these?

Even now there is an effort brewing, a testing of the water, to shut off the growth of cooperatives which could be the life line of the black community. A news report recently said the National Consumer Cooperative Bank, that makes high-risk loans to cooperatives, may be trimmed or eliminated under the new Reagan Administration. The article also stated that many Reagan conservatives see the bank as "nothing more than a vehicle for 1960-style activists to foment social change."

What's wrong with that? Be they 1960-styled activists or 1980-styled survivalists, what difference does it make?

I am getting the urge to buy all the cultivatable land that we as black can buy. I believe that we need to pool our resources into organizations like credit unions and Thriftco. We need to start experimenting with farming cooperatives on a broad scale. We need to prepare ourselves for the future.

Will the future bring food shortages, empty stores, hunger and then chaos in our nation? It will if we are not prepared for the future. If we are to prepare, then some preliminary work must first be done.

Nehemiah in the Bible made extensive and elaborate plans when he faced his crisis - his dangerous opportunity. Nehemiah stood up in his day, and we must do the same in ours. Riots for lack of even the basic necessities could come upon us unless we as leaders begin to go out and be the light, the scripture says, "For without a vision the people perish."

We need leaders who recognize the crises that are set before them. These leaders must be able to mobilize groups positively, both great and small. They must believe that they can impact their environment for the good. I'm praying in these days that God would give me this kind of insight. That He will raise up young Christian men and women who will take the challenge of leadership.

I feel that God has set before us a great opportunity, but the stakes are high. We need to pool our resources for the glory of God. However, I don't believe this can happen without a deep moving of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Responses to this column may be made to "Walk Your Talk," 1655 St. Charles St., Jackson, MS. 39209.

neil was given a very hard time in the tough question and answer period. He was asked if the U.S. has evidence that Cuba is supplying military aid in Central America, why not produce it? He replied that the state the source of information might become a risk. In response to a question about difference in our giving military aid to Northern African and Cuba's giving aid to Central America? he said we support governments and Cuba supports guerrillas. Of course, in Angola, Cuba supports the government and we are supporting the guerrillas.

Former Prime Minister Michael Manley, who was defeated in the recent Jamaica election by United States manipulation of Seaga in to power, made a very dynamic speech. He is still the head of the Democratic-Socialist Party and he expects that party to regain power in the future. He stated that the public education, land reforms and social growth of his Administration were ignored by the media, and because his Administration formed a friendship with

