

Editorials & Comments

Free Enterprise For Whom?

After many agonizing months and allegations of "fronting" businesses, the City Council voted seven to four to temporarily suspend the City Ordinance authorizing the embattered Minority-Women Business Enterprise program.

The M-WBE program, created to assure the legitimate owned by minorities and women would be included if at all possible on city contracts work or procurement services. The suspension is limited to local publicly funded activities and services and does not include the airport terminal project or other federally funded projects.

What should not be overlooked in the controversy and emotions involved in this issue is why the City felt the need to have an M-WBE program. The City's concern apparently arose from a knowledge of the fact that while ownership of capital and the right to invest in a profit-making enterprise has always been associated with the American concept of freedom, minorities and women have historically.

For example, historical omissions have been denied to us until recently knowledge of the fact that some blacks, particularly before 1660, were able to escape the horrors of black enslavement. Historian Lerone Bennett Jr. has written that these free men and women laid the foundation for "blacks (who) have operated businesses...for more than 300 years." Bennett says further that "the first (black) Africans came to this country with a highly developed sense of commerce and industry. The Africans in Africa...were shrewd traders and commercial

organizers of considerable ingenuity. Some of those skills and some of the ingenuity survived the brutalities of the (slave cargo ships) and made Africans leading participants in the economic transformation of the New World."

However, because free blacks had engaged successfully in free enterprise business activities from as early as 1625, public policy in cities across the country were used to limit economic opportunities of all non-whites. For example, as late as

the 1820s, blacks owned considerable wealth in the city of Philadelphia and were engaged competitively with whites in a wide variety of businesses. Fearful of the strong competition from blacks, the city City of Brotherly Love burned and looted black-owned businesses and passed ordinances to prevent them from competing with whites.

While American business attitudes have changed considerably since those days, blacks and other minorities are still faced with considerable racism, sexism and other forms of denial of an opportunity to function freely and without bias in the so-called free market economic system. Aware of this fact has led to the creation of Minority-Women Business Enterprise programs in the public sector to assure that no bias occurs in the use of public funds. It is for this reason that we applaud the City of Charlotte's efforts in implementing an M-WBE program and we have a system that can be developed to re-activate the program.

Winning Is Not Enough?

In Sunday's ACC Tournament Championship game coach Dean Smith of INCC used a slow-down stall strategy in his narrow 47-45 victory over Virginia.

Because UNC and Virginia were ranked first and third, respectively, in the Associated Press, the game held more than the ACC championship interest and was thus seen by millions on national television.

When Smith began his stall strategy with 8:44 minutes remaining in the game, fans at the Greensboro Coliseum began booing and undoubtedly many television sets were turned off because they could not see the moves and "whumping dunks" of James Worthy. While such fan dissatisfaction should be equally heaped on Virginia for not pursuing UNC when they had the ball, there is no valid reason for opposing Dean Smith's strategy.

The name of the game is winning by the rules first and satisfying the passions of the

fans second. In fact if Dean Smith had continued the run-and-shoot game and lost he would have been even more severely criticized by many of the same fans.

Aiding The Rich

President Reagan's recent authorization of continued aid to the brutal dictatorship of El Salvador, by representing to Congress, as required by law, that the El Salvador dictatorship is taking the human rights of their citizens, is a class example, if you please, of Reagan "liberalizing" the legal requirements applying to U.S. foreign policy. It is tragic, but we can expect the same "liberal" application (violation) of U.S. law by Reagan later this year when it comes to the question of aid to Chile and the rest of the rag-tag-bag of oppressive dictatorships whose existence depends to a large degree on the misplaced generosity of U.S. taxpayers.

UNITED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP...NEEDED NOW

ARE WE GOING TO SIT ON OUR HANDS AND LET BLACK COMMUNITIES CRUMBLE AROUND US? GRASS ROOTS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS MUST EMERGE TO FORGE A UNITED EFFORT AGAINST CRIME, NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, BLIGHT, AND DECAY.



Tony Brown's Comments

My Interview With The President

President Ronald Reagan has given, to my knowledge, four one-on-one television interviews: Barbara Walters, Ben Wattenberg, Dan Rather and I were the recipients. And, predictably, each of us carried our traditional baggage of issue interest with us.

Walters concentrated on human interest. Wattenberg on conservatism. Rather on generic news issues and Brown on Black public affairs. Our interview strategies also varied.

It is clearly not my job as a journalist to persuade people to like or dislike President Reagan or his policies, but to present the information necessary for their decision making. In that context, I am satisfied that I asked the right questions; questions that forced the President of the United States to focus on the pain of 30 million Americans who suffer at the hands of their own government.

Neither did the White House attempt to impose any editorial restrictions nor would I have accepted any. Likewise, Reagan and his staff were never made aware of my strategy not to ask follow ups.

Since Mr. Reagan had never been interviewed by a Black journalist, my objective was to put his views on Black Americans on the record. Secondly, my time with him was limited to 30 minutes to record a 30 minute program. These two facts, therefore, decided that my strategy would be to ask as many questions as possible with out time consuming follow up questions.

In comparing my interview with Dan Rather's CBS interview with President Reagan, Washington Post columnist William

Raspberry noted Rather and Brown got pretty much the same treatment for a similar question. However, Rather-employing abundant follow-up questions in an hour show-got the point in six minutes and I got it in one.

The bottom line is always the politician's insistence on putting the best face on his or her point of view and, depending on your time allotment and or skills, you can get the same answer in 10 minutes or two. In another situation and with more time, I would have, as I normally do, asked follow-up questions. In this instance, in a half-hour program taped to time, I asked and received 16 answers to 16 questions--perhaps a record.

If I had, for example, spent more time with re-asks on Black unemployment or social programs--and he had rebutted extensively--I would not have been able to cover, for example, apartheid in South Africa, Black colleges or several other topics at all.

However, some journalists confused their personal malice towards Reagan or his policies with my professional journalistic objectives. The most conspicuous of this genre is a Washington Post writer who obviously needed to attack Reagan and simply found my interview a convenient vehicle.

Lee Lescaze, in a new editorial which appeared in the Washington Post Style section in Janet Cooke style-reviewed his own imagination. R. Archer wrote from Washington: "I read Lee Lescaze's article before I saw the show. After I watched it, I wondered what show he had seen." Furthermore, other

White reporters in Washington are now openly complaining of "increasingly limited access to the President." Of course, Black reporters, until now, have never had access to one.

Perhaps feeling that his terrain had been invaded and obviously in agreement with "Time" magazine's assertion that Reagan, at press conferences, is "ducking the issues," Lee Lescaze may have decided that my role was to exorcise his White racial, political and professional anxieties and demonstrate that when a Black slipped through racism's new "safety net," he was obligated to do White folks' dirty work for them.

If all of the White reporters, networks, magazines, news reporters, wire service and an overwhelming White liberal bias cannot "catch" Reagan, why should I be expected to do so? After years of fighting their exclusion of me and other Blacks from the news world, why should I make their White-bias my Black-priority?

However, my successful and historic journalistic coup did not go unnoticed by other journalists. "Hard-hitting," the world's largest circulated daily newspaper, the Daily News, called the program. World renowned syndicated columnist, Harriet Van Horne, made this observation: "A courteous but tough questioner."

"Newsday's" headline put it in a historical context: "TV's 'Blackbeat' Scores a Reagan Scoop."

Food Costs
Most restaurants multiply food costs by two-and-one-half times to pay labor and overhead.

Walk Your Talk



L.A. Perkins

The Local Church: Strong On The Inside, Powerful On The Outside

The local church offers the greatest possibility of bringing hope to our black communities. I believe the local church can become a base for providing good education, creating economic opportunities, and fostering the kind of self-discipline and collective discipline that our people need if we are to successfully deal with the many problems that confront us.

But I don't believe that the church as it is right now can have this kind of impact. We need to gain a new vision for what the church should be on the inside if it is to have an impact on the outside.

The church, of course, ought to be led by a pastor--a pastor who gets his spiritual guidance and direction from prayer and the study of Scripture.

But the sole responsibility for the church should not lie with the pastor. Every member of the church has an important role to play. Educators, lawyers, doctors, nurses, carpenters, plumbers, janitors, cooks--all are in touch with the needs and resources of the community in a special way.

The pastor needs to be in close touch with these people--listening to them, learning from them, latching onto their creative ideas for impacting the community, and implementing them. The pastor needs to organize these people, providing the leadership that will equip them to carry out ministries to community needs.

The pastor also needs a group of elders that will nurture him, encourage him, and hold him accountable. These elders can give him perspective, increasing his understanding of the needs of the church members and of the community. The elders also need to help the pastor assess realistically successes and failures in the church's work. Having such a group will not lessen a pastor's leadership, but strengthen it.

Every person in the church body, in fact, needs to be a part of such a group that provides mutual support and accountability.

The pastor should have a loving concern for the well-being of the people within the local church and for the total development of the church ministry. The pastor is to be the shepherd of the flock--not to lord it over the people or to dominate them, but to nurture them and help them grow. In this way each individual member and the church as a whole can become all that God wants them to be.

The church also needs a capable staff to oversee the church's ministries to the members and to the community needs. Especially important is an educational director who can implant the Word of God deeply within the people, and also provide training in vocational skills for the young people of the community.

My heart is burdened for our people within the black communities of America. It will take God's power, us working together as a people, and especially strong churches reaching out to the needs of the community to change the economic and spiritual conditions that we face as a people.

From Capitol Hill

Edleman Urges Public To Say "No" To Reagan's Budget

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
Marian Edelman, Executive Director of the Children's Defense Fund terms both the Reagan 1982 budget and the proposed 1983 budget as a battle about whether we will continue to invest money in the young, in families, in the needy, in working men and women or whether we will invest in the rich and more and more arms which lead to economic and moral bankruptcy.

Ms. Edelman gives Mr. Reagan a grade of "F" for 1981 on his care and concern for the nation's children: a grade rating of "F" on his 1982 actions and 1983 proposals will repeat this rating. The grade is based on performance standards: fairness; compassion and honesty; thrift with taxpayers' money; careful process and analysis; and concern for the future. All of these are characteristics, we would like to develop in our children. If they are to develop these, they cannot follow the examples set by the Reagan Administration and leaders who support his economic policies.



Alfreda L. Madison

shows how the Reagan budget cuts the programs critical to children's welfare. These are: education, handicapped, mental health, Head Start, child nutrition, job corp, child abuse, juvenile justice and run-away youth, maternal and child health block grant, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and all programs that aid youth. These were cut by \$10 billion in 1982 with an additional cut proposal for 1983 of \$8 billion.

CDF says that President Reagan with anecdotes and carefully selected "facts" has painted the Federal Government all bad, state and local governments all good, the private sector

efficient, defense spending sacrosanct, and domestic spending for the poor inflationary and "uncontrollable."

The report has listed ten Reagan myths and justification for his austere budget cutting:

1. Social Programs for the Poor are the Cause of Federal Budget Deficits. The public has been told that if these programs are cut, and fraud and abuse are cut out, the economic problems will be solved. What he has not told the people is that these programs constitute only a small portion of the federal budget. He failed to level with the people about the enormous defense increase and the huge tax cuts in the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 which lowered the federal government receipts by \$750 billion.

2. We Are Going to Put People Back To Work Again and Decrease Dependency. Of course the President has not offered any concrete measures for raising employment.

3. Rising Tide Lifts All Boats. The Reagan Administration is lifting all yachts but not the leaky boats of

the poor and working people.

4. Government Is The Problem - Federal Programs Have Been Costly Failures. The majority of these federal programs for protection of the poor which President Reagan is tearing down were not originated with the 1960's war on poverty, but started back with past presidents, just under different labels, beginning with Abraham Lincoln in his "rations" just another name for food stamps, and succeeding presidents have instituted educational, medical, school lunch, foster care for children, mental health and work programs.

5. State and Local Governments Will Be Able and Willing to Pick Up Responsibilities Now Performed by the Federal Government. This shifts unacceptable burdens to already struggling state and local governments.

6. Private Sector Will Meet Employment Needs and Pick Up the Social Responsibilities Dropped by the Federal Government. Since the cuts in public service employment, only one-third have

found jobs, and many of these were in state and local governments, rather than the private sector.

7. Volunteers Can Plug the Gap Left by Federal Government. While volunteers do make an important contribution, they cannot replace the federal support, that is being taken away by the Administration.

8. The Federal Government Has Grown Too Big and Inefficient. State and local governments are more efficient. In the past 15 years the real growth was in state and local governments. In 1980 of every 100 labor force workers, 13 worked for state and local governments. So the federally funded human services programs which were operated by state and local governments can be charged with the responsibility for waste and fraud.

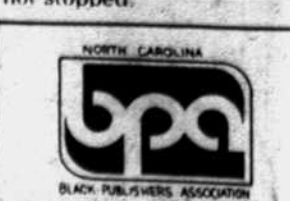
9. We Are Getting Government Off the Backs of Citizens. The Administration is deregulating businesses and giving states no guidelines. It is re-regulating the poor.

10. The New Federalism is New Reality. There were many agencies and

programs set up after the Civil War to help the freed slaves. However, because of fear on the part of many

whites that blacks were beginning to make some political and economic progress, it was decided that these agencies and programs were not the responsibility of the Federal government. So "states rights" took control.

The hard, long and bitter fight began; many blacks were killed, jailed, victims of water hoses, police dogs, bombings and burnings. Mr. Reagan's "New Federalism" is carrying but his campaign statement made in a speech in Mississippi; that he favors states rights. Certainly his actions give comfort and aid to the most conservative elements in the nation, and the evil rights fight will have to begin all over again, if his Federalism is not stopped.



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 Colument 5-0200
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