

## Editorials & Comments

### Nuclear Madness

Historically, the mentality of the federal government and the news media has tended to seek out the opinions and viewpoints of blacks on social, political and economic issues that are directly related to questions of race, poverty and civil rights. However, on issues such as energy, foreign policy, national defense, the environment, transportation or cancer research, there appears to be no interest in the opinions or viewpoints of blacks. Even worse, there exists an attitude that blacks are not intelligent enough to have opinions on such non-civil rights issues.

Unfortunately, black Americans have contributed to this mentality by not speaking out forcefully on issues that are unrelated directly to civil rights for blacks. There is, however, one issue on which blacks and everyone else who desires to see civilization as we know it survive, must begin to speak out about strongly. That issue is the growing threat of a nuclear war.

In the 37 years since the A-bombing of Hiroshima, so-called civilized nations - especially the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. - have been insanely stock piling monstrous nuclear arsenals that can destroy the earth seven times over. During these years there has been a continuing unease that bursts into the news media and the minds of the American people when a new piece of atomic weaponry is announced. Another of these bursts came when President Reagan announced that we were lagging behind the Russians in nuclear weaponry and, therefore, we must catch up.

### Nuclear Arsenal

Nuclear experts claim there is no way to absolutely measure nuclear superiority. Conservative James K. Kilpatrick put this issue in clear perspective in these words, "We are growing impatient with petty haggling over imaginary numbers. What earthly difference does it make if the Soviet Union has 7,868 megatons of destructive capacity and we have only 3,505 megatons?...Does any person seriously suppose that if we were to double our nuclear arsenal, while the Soviets obligingly stood still, such 'parity' would have meaning?"

What President Reagan and the Russian leadership appear to be ignoring is that of these collective 11,373 megatons of nuclear fire power, it only requires 400 megatons to completely wipe out either nation. Bringing the issue closer to home, estimates are that a single megaton bomb would kill the entire population of Charlotte-Mecklenburg. In spite of this and other considerably more horrify-

ing estimates, President Reagan, for obvious political reasons, wants to develop more nuclear weapons.

In reaction to the President's plans there has been a massive demand for a unilateral freeze on the nuclear weaponry build-up. Reagan says he favors a freeze only after U.S. nuclear forces are equal to Soviet levels. As noted, there is no way to measure this and even if we could the Russians are not going to wait for the U.S.A. to achieve parity.

The real issue is human survival - and, the preservation of human civilization and the natural environment. The stark reality of nuclear war is that 20 to 160 million people would die immediately; tens of millions more would die because of disruptions in the economy such as the total radiation pollution of farm land; cancer deaths and genetic damage would occur in millions more; and millions of acres of land could no longer be inhabited by human beings.

### Nuclear Weaponry

While our president chooses to play political games with nuclear toys he needs to give some thought to the words of George Kennan, former ambassador to Russia during the administration of Republican

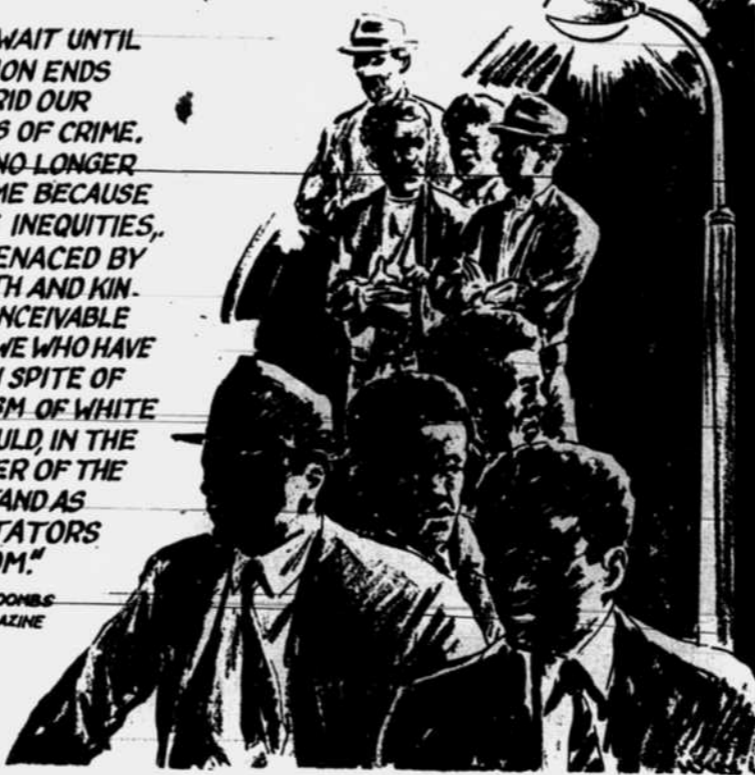
President Dwight Eisenhower in the 1950s. Mr. Kennan said, "...we must remember that it has been we Americans who, at almost every step of the road, have taken the lead in the development of (nuclear) weaponry. It was we who first produced and tested such a device; we who were the first to raise its destructiveness to a new level with the hydrogen bomb; we who have declined every proposal for the renunciation of the principle of first use; and we alone, so help us God, who have used the weapon in anger against others and against tens of thousands of helpless non-combatants at that."

Black Americans must be aware that civil rights, employment opportunities, fair housing and any and all such related issues will mean nothing unless the insane race toward nuclear destruction is placed in reverse gear. It is going to take the collective thinking and good judgment of ordinary citizens in America, Russia and other nations to get world governments to quickly shift their energies to peace time human survival and progressive development. These would be the days Dwight Eisenhower said upon leaving the presidency, that "the people would make the governments of the world stand aside to let them have peace."

**'IF THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PROTECT US AND IF THE POLICE CANNOT, IT FOLLOWS THAT BLACK CITIZENS MUST PROTECT THEMSELVES.'**

**'WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL DISCRIMINATION ENDS BEFORE WE RID OUR COMMUNITIES OF CRIME. WE CAN NO LONGER EXCUSE CRIME BECAUSE OF SOCIETY'S INEQUITIES. WE STAND MENACED BY OUR OWN KITH AND KIN. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT WE WHO HAVE PREVAILED IN SPITE OF THE BARBARISM OF WHITE PEOPLE SHOULD, IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE CENTURY, STAND AS MUTE SPECTATORS TO OUR DOOM.'**

ORDE COOMBS  
N.Y. MAGAZINE



**Teamwork Can Stop Dis-integration Of The Black Communities**



**Tony Brown's Comments**

### West Virginia's Roots Of Love

"You are a lovely person. You have inspired me - thank you. Even from a small television screen, I could feel your warmth and dignity when you recited the 121st Psalm.

"I'm a 29 year-old teacher of English as a Second Language to foreign university students in Los Angeles. May God bless you."

Judy Williams sent that note to Mrs. Ruth Stephenson Norman, my guest on a television program called "Is Work A Four-Letter Word?"

Mrs. Norman was my English teacher at Garnet High School in Charleston, W. Va., the oldest black high school in the state and the source of much love and knowledge for those of us who attended that citadel of learning.

For 53 years, Mrs. Norman ended every class at Garnet High School, precisely as the bell rang, with: "So much to learn and so little time to learn it in." She probably embodied, more than anyone else that I've ever known, all of the explicit and implicit lessons that we would learn in and out of school. She was quick to remind us that g-e-t was pronounced "get" not "git"; goats had kids and humans had children; o-f-t-en was pronounced "often"; you went "further" in degrees and "farther" in distance; and when asked where something was "at" she replied, "Between A and T on Preposition Street."

We learned that if you studied hard, finished school, got a job and saved your money, nothing, not even a racist society, could stop you from having

pretty much what you wanted. But the dream was based on school. Education, therefore, took center stage in our lives. The work ethic and academic excellence were instilled in us.

But she and our other black teachers also instilled a sense of love and God that still draws us back to Garnet High reunions. It's rewarding to see successful business executives, preachers, professors, doctormen lawyers, housewives, labor leaders and others of assorted occupations make the trek back to Charleston-and roots.

It's a great experience. And this year on July 17-18, The Heart-Of-Town Hotel will serve as command post for big fun, directing graduates, their children, spouses and friends who are now a part of our Garnet family to reunion festivities.

And speaking of the extended family, it was great sharing our high school standards and achievements and Mrs. Norman. Many viewers saw in her their own "Mrs. Norman" - the teacher who cared.

"I must say I was fascinated with your teacher, Mrs. Norman. She reminded me of my own school teacher," 60-year-old Christine O. McGibbon of Mt. Vernon, N.Y., wrote. She was fascinated with Mrs. Norman's recitation of the 121st Psalm.

Mrs. Norman calls it the West Virginia Quotation: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth..."

"Mr. Brown," Roosevelt

Jenkins II of Reidsville, Ga. wrote, "You and your schoolmates were lucky. You had Mrs. Norman and a lot of others like her." Indeed. And we recognize all of those wonderful black men and women who taught us the difference between right and wrong.

"You showed a precious person named Mrs. Norman," wrote Mrs. Carl Smallwood of San Diego. About the program, Jim Williams of Pittsburgh, wrote, "there were beautiful moments, especially your teacher reciting the 121st Psalm." Robert F. Williams of Jacksonville, Fla. called it: "Sensation!! Garnet High had high standards shown by its teachers and students."

"I was absolutely thrilled by the interview with that marvelous teacher and woman, Mrs. Norman. The entire program was a learning experience," wrote Mrs. Frank Gandola of Rocky River, Ohio.

Bill Steinecke of Greenfield, Mass. plans "to use the transcript of the program with my Senior Journalism class and my Junior English classes." Carol F. Ferguson of Pittsburgh is going to "suggest it to administrators of schools, particularly those my children attend...excellent."

Henry John Olshaw, a candidate for congress in Rye, Colorado, also quoted Henry Van Dyke on work while on the campaign trail.

"Tony Brown's Journal," the television series, can be seen on public television, on Channel 42 at 8 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

By Rev. John Perkins

### Walk Your Talk



Rev. Perkins

### Unique Crossroads

From time to time, people come to crossroads in life. There have been some unique crossroads that I have faced in my own life and ministry.

In 1957, the pressures of my sins were so great that I realized that if God existed, I really needed to know Him. This led me to attend Bible studies through which I realized that Jesus Christ is the savior of the world. I then invited Him to be my personal savior. I went to Him and He forgave me of my sins and freed me from the pressures that sin was exerting on my life. I had come to a crossroad, and at this crossroad, I met Christ. From this point I began to witness for Him, especially in the prison here in Southern California.

As I began to visit the prison, I saw young people who needed Christ. It was a crossroad for some of them when I told them about this need. For me, however, it was a different kind of crossroad.

This prison life reminded me of the poverty from which I had in my home state of Mississippi. This brought me to some crucial questions. Would I value the world? Or would I value the quality of life of others? Should I take this new found joy back to Mississippi? My decision took me to Mendenhall, Mississippi.

After eleven years in Mendenhall, the time came for me to make another important decision: Would I stay in Mendenhall? Or would I expand the Ministry to some other place? I took this to God and after long and careful prayer, we decided to move to Jackson, Mississippi. What will I make of my life from this point?

We all come to crossroads in life. The decisions we make at these crossroads are usually vital decisions. We as a nation are coming to a crossroad. We are faced with some major issues. Moral issues and economic issues. We are witnessing across the board homosexuality in our society and we are feeling the effects of an economic recession. We are also looking at the backing up of justice in our nation as it relates to blacks and minorities. We in the black community must begin to make profound decisions. As we look at the negative statistics, the crime, brutality, death and hostility, we begin to wonder. We used to wonder what political figure would come along and deliver us. We erroneously put our faith in some political party.

If we were to take a glimpse at our history, we would see that in times of crisis, when we were forced to take our destiny out of someone's else's hands and trust God to mold our destiny, that progress has been made. We face that kind of crisis today. I wonder what we as a people will do with our destiny. Will we move forward? Or will we again turn to violence? Or wait in our frustration for someone else to achieve for us? Or will we turn to God? Those are the big questions.

These questions must become personal questions before they can become a community question. Can we make the kind of decision that Joshua made when he came to this crossroad? In Joshua 24, Joshua called the people together and said: "Choose you this day whom you will serve, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." As black people, we must decide whether we will stand together in Christ, or accept individualism and perish.

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#### From Capitol Hill

### Reagan Uses Caribbean As Russian Negotiating Pawn

By Alfreda L. Madison

Special To The Post

Recently, President Reagan announced his Caribbean policy. He stated that his policy will alleviate the causes of human misery in that area. It will promote long-term sustaining growth, strengthen regional co-operation, enhance security of and prospects for democratic political evolution, protect our economic interests and offer an alternative to marxism.

At the hearing of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs, Representative Mervyn Dymally testified on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, which applauds the Caribbean concept, but denounces the entire plan as being highly insufficient. The Caucus feels that certain aspects of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) deserves serious critical examination. Dymally said Mexico, Central America and the northern tip of South America should not be included in the Caribbean area. He stated that these nations were included because of this



Alfreda L. Madison

Administration's grouping all peoples of color (red, yellow, brown and black) into one category. Serious military implications arise from placing the island states in the same group with the Central American nations. The Caucus is urging the President to change his definition to encompass all the islands surrounded by the Caribbean Sea, including Belize, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana; thereby excluding all of Central America and Northern South America.

Dymally said the economic aid package reminds people of the Teddy Roosevelt policy of "carrots and sticks," since the Reagan

aid package is hardly more than military with the bulk of the meager assistance going to Central America. Two thirds of the CBI aid is allocated for El Salvador, which gets \$128 million; Jamaica, \$40 million; the Eastern Caribbean Islands, \$10 million; Dominican Republic, \$40 million; Haiti, \$5 million and Belize, \$10 million.

The Congressional Black Caucus strongly criticizes the Administration's tariff policy, which indicates that the tariff will be lifted on goods coming into the United States from the Caribbean region. Already about 90 percent of the island U.S. imports are free to tariff. The Administration is allowing a bilateral trade and tariff agreement to be worked out between individual Caribbean countries and the United States. This will create competition between the countries instead of cooperation. Under this policy individual Caribbean nations will be vying for favorable trade economic assistance. Opposition to the CBI plan is coming from these affected

nations, even those who are friendly to the United States. Pro-United States Jamaica newspapers are questioning the aid program as being too little for the Caribbean and that it increases the ugly problem of regionalism in the area. These island countries look with skepticism upon the CBI plan because this Administration has shown no compassion for its own poor and minorities, so they find it hard to believe that it has a sincere concern for their poor inhabitants. The policy is seen as an expansion of trade benefits for American corporations, with a few side effects for the island people.

The most serious pitfall of the Caribbean policy is the linkage of economic aid to our hysterical anti-Cuban, anti-communist posture. The small island of Grenada, with just around 110,000 people, and is in fire poverty was not given any aid at all, because it is friendly with Cuba. This is a clear example of this Administration's policy of choosing one's friends and enemies.

The Congressional Black Caucus says the Administration seems determined to turn the Caribbean Islands and Central America into a war-zone to use as a pawn when we negotiate with Russia. The Reagan Administration's policy is one of destabilizing governments with its determination to declare war on countries with whom it disagrees. The President holds press conferences in which he displays his bellicose, grandiose attitude designed to gain public support for his military and para-military actions against Nicaragua, Grenada and Cuba. However, the United States is finding increasing disagreement with its policy from Latin America, Caribbean and a vast public opinion in this country. Eighty percent of blacks oppose the President's Latin-American and Caribbean policy.

The Caucus emphatically states that the United States must realize that poverty and under development in the Caribbean cannot be eliminated by attempting to overthrow

the governments of Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada. Congressional Black Caucus insists that the Administration must embrace Mexican initiative to intervene in the Latin-American Caribbean conflict.

The Caucus emphasizes that the stumbling block in our foreign policy is racism. An example of this is the treatment of Haitian refugees. The language of CBI refers to the problem of "illegal immigration" as rationale for giving Haiti a paltry \$5 million. This is viewed as a problem for this country rather than one for the thousands of homeless and desperate Haitian refugees.

It is now time for the United States to correct its errors of participating in the Caribbean under development and our belief on the wrong side of history for too long a period of time.

