

# EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

## Some Lessons Blacks Must Learn

Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, the winningest active coach in college basketball, deserves high praise for the message he delivered last week at the 13th annual Athletic Banquet for Lenoir Community College in Kinston.

The famed Winston-Salem State coach reminded the young athletes that "opportunity abounds but it never picks a lock." He challenged each to make the most of his or her opportunities. He also reminded the students that success does not come via handouts and that "we have to look more to individual initiative and utilization of our talents to succeed in a changing society now and in the future."

His remarks were well received. Deservedly so! Mr. Gaines could have directed his remarks to the entire black community.

There are some lessons blacks must quickly learn. The first and most important lesson to be learned is the lesson of economy. Blacks spend too much time complaining about their shortcomings and far too little time considering their potential for achieving in a free society.

As a group, blacks earned \$150 billion last year, constituting the ninth largest nation in the world economically. The problem blacks face is the fact that only five percent of that \$150 billion was spent in the black community, with black businesses. "We're making people rich and getting nothing in return."

## Basic Principles

Our continuing plight and frustration indicates a great majority of our people have yet to familiarize themselves with the basic principles of American life, free enterprise, capital, business, consuming and purchasing power, profits, investment, ownership, etc.

Thus, in our opinion, blacks should immediately make every effort to become more knowledgeable of how the American system works. And they must immediately depart from the wishful thinking that somebody owes them something.

Black leaders would do well to teach these principles as they make black Americans more aware of the shameful fact that all of this money passes through their hands each year, yet they remain pitifully helpless.

Black leaders should make Americans aware that they are fooling themselves if they believe anyone, including federal, state or city government, is going to give them anything, or that the government owes them what they can get for themselves.

Blacks must also develop programs that will create a greater sense of awareness for their youth. They must strive to strengthen family ties to fashion better men and stronger women with the commitment, character, and capacity to sustain a brighter future.

If blacks do not rise to the challenge of developing programs to assure a better future, they will surely succumb to the complaining that they know too well.

## No Easy Street

There is no easy street. Nor any flowered beds of ease. Consequently, sacrifice is necessary. Sacrifice of time, ease, pleasures, comfort, money and anything else necessary to reach the level of independence, self-sufficiency, and self-determination that's necessary.

The spirit of involvement leads to the discovery that blacks must assume the responsibilities of builders. They must build a capitalistic structure which is stronger than racism, prejudice, bias and the competition which will probably increase.

## CAF In Trouble

Recent reports indicate that the Charlotte Area Fund, the 19-year-old anti-poverty agency, is in serious trouble because of poor management resulting in nearly total disorder in nearly all of its component parts.

Federal officials have advised that in the Head Start program "progress has not been acceptable." Delays in the Food-Bank program have created frustration and bitterness among staffers and supporters.

In January, 17 staff members were laid-off because the new grant application was three months late being completed and last weekend staffers had to wait two hours before being paid.

Ironically, nobody in the agency appears to assume the responsibility for the chaos involved. Neither CAF Director Tom Sanders nor board chairman Herbert Hitch appears to know what is going on or how to end the mis-management problem.

It would appear also that if some drastic action is not taken quickly the agency will be lost to the community. More important the needs of the poor will go lacking. Let's hope that some change begins to occur now.

## ANGER, FRUSTRATION, HOPELESSNESS, IS THE PICTURE THAT EMERGES



Tony Brown's Comments

## Will The Real NAACP Stand Up?

The NAACP's law suit against the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. will either make the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization or it will precipitate its gradual demise into oblivion.

And, ultimately, only the support of the black community can save her. Ironically, many blacks have already read the white liberal slant and are blaming the NAACP for being the victim.

The situation is so grave that, along with this column, I am sending a \$1,000 check to the Pittsburgh branch to start a Wilhelmina Byrd Brown Fund for scholarships for black students to go to black colleges and \$100 to the Lynchburg, Va. branch to help pay its share of prosecuting this law suit - not for any busing law suits - but for the courageous action it has taken to halt its own exploitation.

There is also a hidden agenda. At stake is the NAACP's ability to set its own course and control fundraising and legal strategies. If it loses this case, it will forever be at the whim of a succession of white leaders - who pass for friends by exploiting black political and economic power.

When I saw "white liberal," I don't use it as the opposite of "white conservative." I use it in the context of exploitation: those who posture as friends while instituting a racist plantation with black overseers.

And predictably, the wrath of the white liberal establishment descended on the NAACP last week simply because it went to court to stop the white-dominated LDF from using its initials and representing black people by fiat. The white liberal press

### First in a series

cranked up their awesome propaganda machine to denigrate the actions of the NAACP and stop this break from white dominance.

The capstone of white liberal journalism delivered the occasion's most vicious - and racist - assault. In an editorial, the New York Times called the lawsuit "petty and mean spirited." A columnist in the Washington Post referred to it as Amos 'n' Andy. It was racist in the sense that the white liberals are saying, as the Times did, that their blacks were wrong because they were upset with their white man-Jack Greenberg who runs the NAACP LDF.

The Times, instead, tried to divert attention to President Reagan as the real enemy. "The NAACP would do better to drop the suit" and focus on Reagan. Certainly, Reagan will not qualify for a civil rights fanatic, but neither does he qualify as the source of the NAACP's problems with Jack Greenberg's organization. Both issues can and should be addressed separately and equally.

Therefore, in its own wisdom, the NAACP is doing just that by ending a long-simmering dispute by taking the case to court. Both the Washington Post and the Times reported that Vernon Jordan would represent the LDF when, in effect, a white lawyer, Jay Topkis of a prestigious white New York firm will lead the defense. Jordan, now a formal black member of the white establishment, will obviously lead the window dressing.

But the LDF will have no problems with legal fees; it has a fat \$6 million-a-year budget, almost equal to the entire NAACP's \$7 million budget. "We see nothing to

be gained by merging. We have developed our own constituency: clients, contributors and cooperating lawyers," Greenberg boasted. He's right.

The LDF has raised funds, the NAACP's suit charges, and pursued legal strategies that confused the public and harmed the NAACP. Fuel was added to that argument in the Washington Post on the day before the court action.

A one-sided article by Charles Babcock explained how the heroic LDF was back in court to ensure "desegregation" in higher education in Virginia. LDF representatives were referred to as "NAACP lawyers" and no distinction was made between the two organizations. One was clearly left with the impression that Jean Fairfax, Greenberg's black liaison to black groups, was speaking for Margaret Bush Wilson and Benjamin Hooks' NAACP.

In state after state where the LDF has been involved, very questionable "desegregation" of black colleges has taken place. In my opinion, black colleges were under the gun to become white and white college made whiter. The LDF's concern for black colleges is very questionable.

And the NAACP has been blamed for what many perceive as the legal destruction of the black college as an institution. In turn, the two "NAACPs" have disagreed over this dubious legal strategy.

Hooks notified his leadership in a letter of May 14 that "position taken by the LDF 'do not appear to be in accord' with the NAACP's long record of support for the 111 black colleges which have trained over 80 percent of the black professionals and continue to graduate over See WILL on Page 16

## WALK Your TALK



Rev. Perkins

## Stoning The Prophets?

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the scientist who led the Manhattan Project which developed the atom bomb, made a television statement just before he died in 1967. I remember his face as he spoke. He talked about the things that frightened and disturbed him most, about "civilized man's inhumanity to his fellow man," about the lack of reason in light of knowledge, and about how it seemed that rational, civilized people would not be able to negotiate peace and, therefore, would not be able to live on this planet together.

In the last few years, I've had opportunity to speak to various groups, mostly Christian, around America and in Europe. I too have become disturbed with "rational, civilized man," especially "evangelical man" and those who profess to know the gospel of Jesus Christ. What disturbs me most is that civilized, evangelical leaders hold much of the power and control in our nation and in our world. Yet our evangelical leadership is not creative or compassionate enough to deal with the truths that burst in upon us every day—the economic-social truths of race hatred, energy crisis, crime, hunger, and poverty—in light of the healing mandate of the Scriptures.

Why is this so? In Luke 11:52 Jesus says, "Woe to you lawyers! for you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering" and that the "blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation" (11:50).

Today I believe we have an evangelical leadership that is not allowing the prophetic message of the gospel or those who preach it to penetrate the rank and file Christian community. Yet this is a time when I see what appears to be a genuine revival—especially in white America—which may be second to none in our history. The revival is producing people who are less divided denominationally and theologically and are more open to the radical implications of the gospel than ever before. I am finding pastors and young men and women who desire the truth and are ripe for innovative ways to make that truth—even the tough truth of justice—real in their everyday lives.

Yet, as I move into the institutions where these leaders are trained, I find—with notable exceptions—a frightening situation. I find men who are presidents and seminary professors and board members of these institutions who are so tied to this present economic order that they cannot afford to do anything but to depower the gospel.

I stress economic order, because as long as I criticize the political system, the welfare system or even the church I am OK. But as soon as I question the economic order that has made America unfairly rich and is creating massive poverty—maybe worse than the world has ever known—at the very height of its massive productivity, I find myself in very, very hot water. You must be a communist if you criticize the economic system. If you're white, you're called red; if you're black, you're called militant. And so we bomb and kill communists, and we have lots of militant niggers in jail.

Or you are simply barred from the evangelical institutions of our nation.

## From Capitol Hill

# Reagan Administration Narrows Civil Rights' Remedies

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post  
The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights established a committee of lawyers from: NAACP, AFL-CIO, Civil Liberties Union, women's groups and several other organizations. The chairman is William Taylor. After broad and intensive study, it published a report which found that the Reagan Administration's Justice Department narrows the available remedies when the rights of minorities have been denied. It states that the Reagan Administration is seeking to close the doors in school desegregation, voting rights, affirmative action, private school discrimination and other matters of social justice.



Alfreda L. Madison  
Congress

The report accuses Attorney General William French Smith and Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds of repudiating the Supreme Court's definitive interpretation of the Constitution and laws and announced that it would refuse to enforce the law of the land, abruptly switching sides in impending Supreme Court cases, seeking to undermine confidence in the judiciary system by its sweeping attack on the federal courts for constitutionally protecting minority rights establishing itself as the focus of anti-civil rights activity of the federal government,

and by cooperating in the corruption of the legal process through being influenced in its decisions by politicians.

The report gives examples of the Justice Department's repudiation of Supreme Court decisions, which states that as a remedy to school segregation, busing may be used.

Mr. Reynolds very strongly stated, "We are not going to compel children who don't choose to have an integrated education to have one." There has been overwhelming testimony that the Charlotte, N.C. school desegregation system is working marvelously. However, as always when issues arise concerning rights of blacks, Jesse Helms begins frothing at the mouth and spitting out trumped-up evidence to reverse all black civil rights gains to the old blatant racism days. It is quite likely that William Bradford Reynolds was influenced by Jesse Helms when he said that involuntary busing has failed to advance educational opportunity goals. The Justice Department

switched its position in the Chicago school desegregation. In September, 1981 the Department and Chicago School Board entered a consent decree to end school segregation. In August, 1981 the Department retreated from the position. The Department changed its position of support in the Jones University and Goldsboro Christian College suits, where the federal court denied these colleges tax exemption on the grounds they discriminated against blacks. The plaintiffs appealed the action to the Supreme Court. The Justice Department switched to the President's position for allowing tax exemption to schools that discriminate. Another switch by the Justice Department was in Texas when the state denied free public education to illegal alien children. It changed from support of the aliens to one of abandonment.

The report supports its accusation of political influence on the Reagan Administration by citing several cases. The University of Tennessee case which required the merger

of all-white University of Tennessee (Nashville) and all-black University of Tennessee. The Justice Department has ignored the Court's higher education decision in the Tennessee case in the North Carolina and Louisiana higher education suits. Instead it has opted for improvements in the black colleges, allow for higher duplication and perpetuation of segregated universities. The report says the North Carolina decision was the influence of Jesse Helms.

The report states that the department changed its position in the Mobile at-large election case from support of the efforts test to requiring intent of proof, after a conversation between the Department and Senator Jeremiah Denton of Alabama.

The Justice Department issued a 65-page denial of all the accusations made by the Leadership Conference. However, it stated absolutely no cases to support its report.

In a conference with Mr. Reynolds, he emphasized that all of these accusations were untrue. He

stated that the Reagan Administration had settled more civil rights cases than any other previous Administration. This was done largely through consent decree rather than litigation. Many of the consent decree cases are seen by blacks as accommodation to anti-black justice. Mr. Reynolds continued to talk about the Fairfax case where 2,600 employees were awarded back pay for discrimination. He

mentioned three other similar cases without specific facts. Mr. Reynolds pointed to rejection of Norfolk's redistricting by the Department.

The Assistant Attorney General disagrees with the Weber decision because it was based on race. He stressed the Department's recruitment program which requires businesses to go into communities and recruit minorities.



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