

## EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

### Map And Plan Not Rap And Man

At the annual meeting of the Congressional Black Caucus in September 1981, the talented-plus actor Ossie Davis urged the assembled group to develop a "map, not the rap; the plan not the man." Today, some 12 months later, just as it has been in the past 40 years, black Americans are still rapping and not mapping (planning). In other words, black America is applauding the man (some leaders) while still searching for the plan, that is, an effective strategy that would result in an improvement in the quality of life of black Americans.

This has been evidenced by a series of major conferences held recently by four national black organizations, namely the Opportunities Industrialization Centers, NAACP, Operation PUSH and the National Urban League. Each of the well known organizations was armed with carefully named agendas. OIC continued its basic traditional theme of "Jobs and Training." The NAACP carried the banner "Ballots, Boycotts and Books." Operation PUSH centered on "Trade, Not Aid" and the National Urban League's series of seminars and workshops focused on the topics "Teen-aged Pregnancies," "Black-on-Black Crime" and "Jobs and Training."

At the core of these conferences, workshops and seminars were attacks on the motion picture and television industries and possible boycotts of its "all white" shows while Jesse Jackson of Operation PUSH was telling the 2,500 delegates at the NUL conference about his arrangements with major industries. In addition, President Reagan's "New Federalism" was attacked by NUL's new top officer, John Jacobs. He noted the declining federal programs designed to aid the poor.

### Concrete Reality

Each of these national organizations should be commended for having identified and held "rap" sessions led by the "man" of the hour on issues and concerns important to the welfare of black Americans. However, there was little evidence of "maps" and "plans" leading to progress in any of the issues discussed. For example, while the NAACP talked about boycotts little was discovered in the way of getting blacks more involved-strategy wise in the entertainment industry. Neither was this viewed in coordination with Operation PUSH's "arrangements" with many industries.

Jesse Jackson's "Trade, Not Aid," has been widely applauded nationwide but when one looks beneath the surface there is no "plan" to make it a concrete

reality. For example, it's fine to "rap" about more black auto dealerships, but first we must ask, how successful are the existing 89 black auto dealerships and what can be done to build more support for them? This is particularly true considering all of the media talk about the significant buying power of the black consumer.

The concern with substituting a "map" and a "plan" for "rap" and the "man" is a reality at the local level too, that is, while blacks have had marches, held rallies, made speeches, listened to sermons, little in the way of mapped out plans and implementation strategies has been developed to create more and better jobs, business opportunities, housing and educational opportunities leading toward an improved quality of life for black Charlotteans.

### Effective Plan

For example, those blacks who took the initiative to be appointed to the Charlotte Area Fund board of directors to help that anti-poverty agency begin to resolve some of its major management problems are to be commended. However, since the agency lacked an adequate "plan" of action and efficient management (am, 17 employees, mostly low income people, were laid off, the Headstart Program has suffered without leadership and there has been general chaos within the agency. Thus, while many blacks, both inside and outside the CAF, were spending time attacking Reagan's "New Federalism" instead of monitoring and supporting what they have, CAF was falling into disarray.


Secondly, while the City of Charlotte had worked diligently to institute an effective minority and women's business enterprise program aimed at assuring that such groups would get a larger share of the City's goods and services dollars, there has been no known effective plan or strategy developed by blacks to share in and increase trade and business with local government. For example, a major reason that black construction contractors cannot get a larger share of local government's public work construction dollars is the inability to post performance bond money. This has been well known for many years but no plan for dealing with the issue has ever been developed. The same problem undoubtedly prevented black contractors from receiving a larger share of the multi-million dollar airport construction project.

This column has often discussed the need for a black agenda, that is, a plan and strategy for the decade ahead.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR A SAFE COMMUNITY



**WALK YOUR TALK**



Rev. Perkins

### Unity Is Still A Need!

The other morning as I was preparing for my day's work, I came to Matthew 16:17 where Christ first mentioned the church. After some discussion about Jesus' true identity, Jesus announced to Peter, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

After I read that scripture, I wondered if we as black Christian leaders have failed the church of the black community. As I read this passage, it was reaffirmed to me that the church was to be the manifestation of Christ within the community as outlined in Paul's writings. We who are Christians, bound together by a geographical community, constitute a fellowship that should work together in the body of Christ. We come together around the common unity of Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

We have joined ourselves to that community because we constitute a body of believers. This group could be a very powerful people within the community.

Now, in the community where I live, crime is very serious. Rape is a prevalent thing among the girls in the community. There is theft and burglary which takes place by black brother against brother. There is little creative, organized leadership by blacks within my community to deal with this issue.

Does our church leadership understand the responsibility we have as leaders. This is it—we need to help our people in terms of helping us to deal with the massive problems we now face.

I am a little distressed when I think about the fact that approximately half of the black children in major metropolitan centers are being born out of wedlock. I am distressed when I go to the jails and find that the overwhelming majority of inmates are black. I am distressed when I meet young people who are 15 and 16 years old, reading on a fourth-grade level.

I am distressed, when by our very silence, we condone and support these kinds of institutions.

We have used our churches as a protest base in the past and we still do to some extent. But we have not used our churches as creative, constructive bases. The black church is too much a survival vehicle instead of a pioneering vehicle. It should learn to take the initiative.

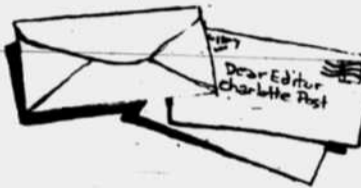
We have become complacent. We have the right to vote; we can elect blacks to positions in the community. We can organize ourselves.

We can start our own businesses, but there is no fervent kind of unity around the type of economic development that can make life better.

The need we have as people and as leaders is to move from our ego tripping. We must move from our jealousy and fear of each other. We need to stop competing with one another and become more united around pertinent issues.

What did Jesus mean when He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"? I believe He meant if people are working together within their community they can be both salt and light, dealing with the whole evil system.

### Letters To The Editor



### Honest People Have Rights, Too

Dear Sir: After you have achieved a high level of ability, you will be the first to insist upon your rights to live with honest people.

When you know the technology of the mind, you know that it is a mistake to use "individual rights" and "freedom" as arguments to protect those who would only destroy.

Individual rights were not originated to protect criminals, but to bring freedom to honest men. Into this area of protection then dived those who needed "freedom" and "individual liberty" to cover their own questionable activities.

Freedom is for honest people. No man who is not himself honest can be free. He is in his own trap. When his own deeds cannot be disclosed, then he is a prisoner; he must withhold himself from his fellows and is a slave to his own conscience. Freedom must be deserved before any freedom is possible.

To protect dishonest people is to condemn them to their own hells. By making "individual rights" a synonym for "protect the criminal" one helps bring about a slave state for all, for where "individual liberty" is abused, an impatience with it arises which at length sweeps us all away. The targets of all disciplinary laws are the few who err. Such laws, unfortunately, also injure and restrict those who do not err. If all were honest, there would be no disciplinary threats.

There is only one way out for a dishonest person - facing up to his own responsibilities in the society and putting himself back into communication with

his fellow man, his family, the world at large. By seeking to invoke his "individual rights" to protect himself from an examination of his deeds, he reduces, just that much, the future of individual liberty—for he himself is not free. Yet he infects others who are honest by using their right to freedom to protect himself.

Uneasy lies the head that wears a guilty conscience.

And it will lie no more easily by seeking to protect misdeeds by pleas of "freedom" means that you must never look at me." The right of a person to survive is directly related to his honesty.

Freedom for man does not mean freedom to injure man. Freedom of speech does not mean freedom to harm by lies.

Man cannot be free while there are those amongst him who are slaves to their own terrors. The mission of a technospace society is to subordinate the individual and control him by economic and political duress. The only casualty in a machine age is the individual and his freedom.

To preserve that freedom one must not permit men to hide their evil intentions under the protection of that freedom. To be free, a man must be honest with himself and with his fellows.

If a man uses his own honesty to protect the unmasking of dishonesty, then that man is an enemy of his own freedom.

We can stand in the sun only long as we don't let the deeds of others bring the darkness.

Who would punish when he could salvage?

Only a mad man would break a wanted object he could repair.

The individual must not die in this machine age—rights or no rights. The criminal and mad man must not triumph with their new-found tools of destruction.

The least free person is the person who cannot reveal his own acts and who protests the revelation of the improper acts of others. On such people will be built a future political slavery where we all have numbers -- and our guilt -- unless we act.

It is fascinating that blackmail and punishment are the keystones of all dark operations. What would happen if these two commodities no longer existed? What would happen if all men were free enough to speak? Then and only then, would you have freedom.

On the day when we can fully trust each other, there will be peace on Earth.

L. Ron Hubbard  
"Scientology, A New Slant on Life"

### Law Students

Dear Mr. Johnson: I would like to thank you for your editorial last week regarding the black Harvard Law students' objection to Mr. Greenberg's helping Mr. Chambers teach the race discrimination course. Black racism has hurt the cause for equality as has female sexism for women's rights.

It is hard for those of us who have worked a life time for the rights of minorities to feel the sting of being less than right because we are white. You said it all.

Johnnie McLeod, M.D.

### From Capitol Hill

## Reagan Mid-Session Review Has Bi-Partisan Aspects

By Alfreda Madison  
Special To The Post  
Senate Budget Committee, chaired by Senator Pete Domenici has been holding hearings on the Administration's Mid-session evaluation. This review updated the President's February and April budgets and it adjusted them to update economics which gives new information about spending programs. Domenici noted congressional confusion over which of the budget presentations - February, April or the corrected view - the Administration really wants. He emphasized that the budget attention should be focused on the present economic conditions rather than technical aspects.

Domenici noted confusion in the President's Mid-session defense budget since it is identical to the April budget. Congress reduced the President's defense budget as follows: FY '83 by \$7.3 billion, FY '84 \$9.9 and FY '85 \$13.3 billion. He stated the importance of Congress being clear on the Administration's spending target since they will be taking up



Alfreda L. Madison  
the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act and the Omnibus Reconciliation Act, and passage of these require the President's support.

Stockman, OMB Director, said President Reagan is committed to sustained deficit reductions as a prospect for steady interest lowering and economic recovery. In defending the Mid-session assessments, Stockman said, inflation has declined and business conditions have bottomed out. He failed to prove the business bottom out aspect for which he was greatly attacked by Senator Riegle because businesses are failing at the rate of one

every twenty minutes or 500 a week.

Stockman gave percentages which he indicated were strong signs of a bottomed out recession, by stating the economic growth since Reagan took office. He presented several charts to show the Mid-session assessment. Mr. Riegle lashed into Stockman for coming before the committee a second time with "dishonest numbers." He called the Director's attention to both Secretary of Commerce Baldrige's and Secretary of Treasury Regan's great disparity in Stockman's figures.

Republican Senator Andrews questioned the President's sacredness of defense spending, by saying there are many things that should be cut in the defense budget. Stockman stated that the President cannot fluctuate on defense and that defense decision is the President's right. Andrews noted that the Administration's budget didn't get a single approval in the House of Representatives.

It was emphasized that Mr. Reagan had approved the Latta budget, but later

vetoes it. The Luga housing bill which was passed by both Houses was also vetoed by the President. Senator Chiles said the President makes deals to get bills passed, but then says he is not bound by them. The committee criticized the indicated progress gratification as being insufficient, when there are poor housing, high interest rates and high unemployment.

Committee Democrats advocated some type of freeze on defense cuts and called for social security regulation. Secretary Regan, who fared much better before the committee than Stockman, was told to convey that message to the President to "sober him up."

The President's stand on tuition tax credit was called muddling up things, because he is giving away taxes. Mr. Reagan was said to "lack leadership," which causes the committee to find it hard to determine the President's direction. When Secretary Regan said tuition tax credit was a campaign promise, Senator Hollings stated, nothing was said

during the campaign about the tax credit and that eleven states and the District of Columbia have already voted down the tax credit.

Mr. Regan stated that passage of tax increase and domestic cuts, as recommended by the Administration will lower interest rates and enhance economic growth. Failure to do so will result in spiraling interest rates, higher inflation and a greater deficit. He said the President will make a strong push to get the tax bill passed by the House. Many conservatives led by Jack Kemp are staging a hard fight to defeat the tax bill.

Secretary Regan waffled on honesty of the Mid-session numbers given by David Stockman. He said no one can predict what will really happen but that those numbers could be fairly accurate. Senator Riegle wanted to know from the secretary if dishonest figures were less confusing than honest figures and wouldn't it be more favorable to the President to put honest numbers on the table. President Reagan is

pushing the Balanced Budget amendment, which can be unbalanced by a 60 percent vote of Congress. The committee said that such actions would make mockery of the amendment. Senator Joe Biden wanted to know if the Administration could present a balanced fiscal '85 budget without serious danger to the economy. The response was, there would have to be domestic cuts and perhaps defense also unless we were actually in a war.

The Treasury Secretary had strong reservations about an across the board tax rate, since it would reduce charitable giving and it could inhibit mortgage deductions which could stifle the housing industry.

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