

# EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

## Question Of Maturity?

Last week Los Angeles officials and neighborhood organizations found it necessary to cancel an anniversary celebration in cautious remembrance of the Watt riots, and presumably what the riots led to in the way of eventual progress. Ironically, it was new riots on the first day of the celebration that led to the cancellation of the historic event.

This incident and the original Watts riots, as well as those in Detroit, New York, Newark and other cities in the late 1960s, remind us of a pattern of intimidation that has been allowed to develop in America. What we are referring to is the fact that too many public officials and civic leaders from the national to the local level are preoccupied with fears that high unemployment among black youth will mean riots in the streets if immediate steps to correct such situations are not implemented. Numerous steps have been taken by many federal and state agencies and local governments have placated black youth to avoid presumed riots. Meaningless jobs, pay for

play and other schemes to avoid presumed riots have been offered.

While it is certainly commendable for any efforts to find employment for youth, it is a bad omen to be motivated by a fear of riots, and at worse, to let the youth be aware of your fears and motives.

Such behavior establishes poor and distorted values in our youth and implants the belief that the threat of a riot will bring instant rewards. As distasteful as it may be, black youth must learn to adapt to unfortunate and hopefully short term situations just as the rest of us in the population have to do.

All of us, youth and adults alike, must come to the realization that any unfortunate situation, unemployment or otherwise requires a level of maturity that would lead to an eventual solution within the social order of our society. To do less would be to invite anarchy and to endanger the freedom of American institutions and the rights of the individual.

## Crime Rate Leveling Off?

Data released by the Charlotte Police Department this week indicates that in the first six months of the year crime had increased by 17 percent. However by the end of the seventh month, July, the increase was only 15 percent, the same as it was last year after 7 months. More significantly, the 15 percent means that the crime increase is increasing at a diminishing rate.

This led Veronica Sorban, the police crime analyst, to conclude that "we're not calling this a trend yet...but we're pleased to see that overall, some categories seem to be leveling off."

This gleam of hope that the crime rate may be leveling off should be particularly pleasing news to the black community because of the relatively high incident of crime committed against black citizens and their property.

On the other hand, it is cause

## Do We Want Togetherness?

The Gannett Company, the owner of 88 daily newspapers, 26 weekly newspapers and 20 radio and television stations is about to bring life yet another newspaper called USA Today with the first edition scheduled for September 15.

Reportedly, the editorial in this first edition, expected to be a national newspaper deals with a movement of people of varying intellectual, social, economic and political backgrounds that might bring about a true unification of the nation. A ranking

for concern to read the series in

The Charlotte News this week about the ravages of crime on the vast majority of law-abiding citizens who happen to live in public housing. As the first of the series notes, "overcrowding, unemployment and frustration... combine to light the fuse of crime." Yet, since all of us are potential victims of crime, it behooves each of us to play some small role through the "Crime Stoppers Program", "Neighborhood Watch" and have a get-involved attitude when we observe people violating the law. We don't have to play the hero role but there are many ways we can help to prevent crime.

It's your city, your neighborhood, your property and your family's welfare; so, won't you do your part to prevent crime? If you do "leveling off" might become a permanent and happy ring for all to hear.

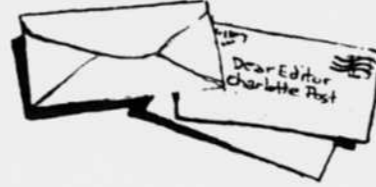
executive in the Gannett corporate structure has expressed support for the presumed editorial viewpoint by noting that he believes people are going to be less different in what they know, what they read, and what they observe and consequently they'll be more alike.

If that's the direction of togetherness, separation will have to mean another Civil War. Togetherness is what we need but not what we have nor what we are moving toward.

### BLACKS DESTINY IN OWN HANDS....



## Letters To The Editor



## Greatest Evil Of Man Stands Out

Dear Mr. Johnson:

When one considers the course of history and philosophically views man's inhumanity to man, the greatest evil of man stands out. Slavery! God never intended for one of his creatures to enslave his fellowman.

Philosophy is the search for truth. Maybe this search will bring forth the answer. Let's hope!

Due to the baser side of man there has always been an enslavement of the bodies of man. In warfare the conqueror enslaved his captives. Oftentimes the slave was superior in intellect and culture to his captor. Demetrius, the Athenian slave of the Roman gladiator who removed Jesus Christ from the cross, was far superior to his master.

Never in the history of mankind - except in one instance - has not only the body but also the mind, heart and soul of man been enslaved. This instance is a wanton enslavement of a black by his white captor. Only by recognizing the greed of man can this be understood.

Present day racism forces us to throw out the history of the previous 350 years regarding this breach of all rationale.

An economic need - due to cotton - existed in the South for slave labor. Greed and lust prompted the enslavement of a fellow creature of God, but who had a different pigmentation of the skin. It is difficult to understand this travesty of man. It appears that man experienced a complete aberration. White men just wrenched the blacks from their homeland. Previous history has

recorded the blacks were thought of as a primitive beast. With wantonness the white race enslaved the black. And not in a humane manner. Horribly! The peaceful agrarian African black was trapped by his white captors and transported to a new land to serve the supposed economic need of their white captors. Here he was treated as chattel - a human being deprived of all dignity. His mind was shackled. It was not recognized that he had a soul.

Deliberately by legislation he was deprived of the right of education; womenfolk were defiled. The white master felt the need to suppress the blacks whom he considered his inferior. A grave injustice is seared into the conscious of the white man.

As time progressed a strange paradox existed. It is difficult to reason that a man as gentle as Robert E. Lee owned slaves. My great grandfather owned 75 slaves.

The better side of man came to prevail. An anti-coalition came into being. Two divergent situations began to exist. There is a typical slave-owner who raped Chicken George's mother and exploited the skills of his son. Then there came into being the benevolent master - the slave-owner who loved his slaves. He granted manumission to his slaves. In other instances, the white man fell in love with a slave and would have taken her as his wife. Never! Miscegenation was prohibited. Finally slavery ended with the division and rupture of the white race.

The freed black, due to the fact that his every

effort was thwarted, was freed as an illiterate race. Illiteracy gave way to literacy due to the philanthropy of certain whites as the Biddle family from Philadelphia. These whites realized that the blacks' only hope was education. Thus such institutions as Johnson C. Smith at Charlotte came into existence. The solution to the blacks was because many had God-given talents in the crafts such as blacksmiths and leathermakers.

For the next 80 years it was an uphill battle for the blacks. Whites resisted all along the way. In 1898 the Supreme Court decreed the equal but separate rule of law. This case was reversed in 1954. In 1964, because of the Civil Rights Act, and in 1964 because of the Voting Rights Act, the black came into his own. From 1964 until 1982 is a relatively short period of time. Many more healing years are needed. Witness the voting rights protest march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama. Today the blacks excel in every facet of intellect, culture and social graces. They have developed a sense of pride of race, for which they worked and achieved on their own.

The race situation today is by no means settled. Both the blacks and white wear a facade.

Would it not be better if each race be pure?

A black minister writes, "Blacks and whites must forgive each other." What a statement coming from a black!

Richard T. Elmore

## WALK YOUR TALK



Rev. Perkins

## Who Is The Greatest?

My heart is burdened for our black children. Our future generation is being threatened. Juvenile courts are packed with our young people. Jobs for black young people are scarce and often nonexistent. The schools are in such a state of unrest that our children are not being prepared to take a meaningful role in society. And in Atlanta

the precious quantity of life itself has tragically been lost by 26 of our children.

Violence has even penetrated the Jackson public schools with one example being a student shooting an assistant principal. I am concerned about the conditions in the schools today. In order to see changes in the present educational system, we are going to have to take more responsibility both within the home and in the community.

Families are going to have to provide an environment that includes love, care and discipline. Our children must be taught within the home a sense of discipline while they are young.

We will have to take responsibility for the quality of education within the community. Historically the black school teachers; have been leaders in giving our children a sense of black identity and pride. Our teachers have a responsibility to instill

proper values within our children. Mrs. Ineva Pittman is an example of a teacher who is committed to her people and to the community through participation in the NAACP and the cooperative movement.

As government budget cuts take place, we may have to rely less upon the public schools. I believe we will eventually need to develop alternative school systems. This will not be as a competitive system to the public schools, but it would give our teachers who will be out of work an opportunity to participate in a more creative educational system.

People would have to take more responsibility since they would be involved in the development of the school and its financial support. Our children need this kind of attention. It is time for us to begin to talk about how we can develop creative alternative school systems within our own community.

Our young people and their development should be one of our greatest concerns. In Matthew 18 Jesus asked His disciples, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a child to come sit with them and said, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." He goes on to say that "whoever receives one such child in my name receives me."

Jesus tells us here that the attention we give our children and how we develop them determines our own greatness in the kingdom of heaven. He also identifies the key to being great in the kingdom of heaven as humility.

Our children have an important place in our present and future society. We cannot afford to neglect our greatest hope.

## From Capitol Hill

# SBA Actions Greatest Economic Debacle Of All Times

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post  
In commenting on today's United States economy with unemployment higher than its been in 41 years; more than 12 million unemployed, the greatest small business bankruptcy since World War II and with the halt of social economic progress of the poor, Representative Parren Mitchell calls it the greatest economic debacle of his life time. He and several other congressmen called a press conference in which they explained how the Reagan Administration has changed Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations which will eliminate minority businesses from consideration for lucrative federal contracts.

The Small Business Act was established in 1953 for the purpose of empowering SBA to contract and subcontract with federal agencies, along with providing these contractors with business aid.

Under section 8(a) SBA is to give these contractors assistance which will enable them to overcome economic disadvantages



Alfreda L. Madison

through ownership. This would be done by providing these businesses with contracts and technical support that will aid them in becoming competitive businesses in a reasonable period of time.

Public Law '96-481 requires SBA, acting under section 8(a) to negotiate individually, an anticipated date when the firm overcomes its economic disadvantage and will be ready to move out of the 8(a) program. Instead of following Law 96-481, SBA has substituted its own regulations which set a fixed time for all minority businesses to move out of the program. As a result 400 businesses which have

increased their productivity have been dropped from consideration for further federal contracts. It is alleged by SBA that their production is too large for receipt of government contracts. Congressman Mitchell said he refuses to accept such a rationale since Lockheed and Boeing, multi-million dollar corporations never gross too much business to be denied federal contracts.

Frequently testimony before congressional committees and debates on the floors of both Houses of Congress emphasize that small business provide the greatest number of jobs, since they are not as highly mechanized and specialized as big corporations. Withholding of federal contracts from the 23 minority businesses, threatening them with bankruptcy will result in the loss of 7,500 jobs.

Four people who are employees of these threatened minority businessmen related sad stories of their situations. Two of the women said they had learned skills since being employed by the firms, and

have received promotions. Both are heads of families with children. They were in despair because the threat of losing their jobs, leaves them with no where to go. A third lady said her husband's job does not provide sufficient finance for their family and the loss of her job will certainly cause them to lose their home.

Steve Monroe, a young man who is a nineteen year old and is paralyzed from the neck down, resulting from an accident when he was in eighth grade, is employed in a data processing rehab center. Steve has been promoted to a supervisory position with a salary of \$20,000 a year. He is able to take care of himself and his life-in attendant. Bob Goldstein, vice president of the rehab center says SBA has informed him that funds for this program will be cut off within six months. Steve and other handicapped persons in the program will be placed in some ill-provided institution and allowed to languish there, in an unhappy state until death. This will prove costly in self-esteem of the individual and there will be a

financial cost to some agency or organization. The government will lose financially by preventing these handicapped persons from continuing to be self supporting tax paying citizens.

President Reagan stresses the fact that he is a compassionate man. Where is compassion when he cuts, very severely, funds from programs for these handicapped people? While it's unusual for a President to observe committee hearings, these are unusual times and Mr. Reagan has already done some unusual things, such as; visiting a black family that has had cross burning in front of their house and visiting a pig farm, he could have shown more compassion for humanity if he had attended this press conference rather than riding in a coach, donned in a cowboy hat in Montana.

The congressmen stated that during this time of high unemployment, the Administration's rewriting of SBA laws shows just how far it is going in implementing racism and burdening the poor. The

panel called for a pulling together of these affected groups to bring pressure on Congress to stop its hypocrisy and require SBA to fully implement congressional mandates.

While SBA calls delisting minority business from federal contracts a graduation, the congressmen strongly stated that it's not a graduation but a "push out" and execution of minority businesses. The Administration's actions are heralded as unfair, undemocratic and barbaric, by the congressmen. They said that SBA's actions are devastating to the large industrial cities.

A letter was sent to President Reagan urging him to intervene in the SBA's ignoring congressional mandates in its treatment of minorities.

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