

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Charlotte: A Mature City

Several thousand Charlotteans were evacuated from their homes and businesses late Monday evening in response to a foul-smelling poisonous smoke that engulfed a heavily populated, four-square-mile area northeast of downtown. The evacuation quickened as city policemen drove through the streets with loud speakers requesting that people evacuate.

Calmly, with limited fear, hysteria or mass confusion, and undoubtedly with some thought that World War III, or even worse, a nuclear explosion, the citizens of our city gathered a few meager personal items and fled to the evacuation centers as announced by the police, radio and television stations. Schools and churches opened their doors to the fleeing temporarily homeless sea of people trying to escape the poisonous smoke that followed them. In addition, scores of Red Cross, Civil Defense and professional volunteers manned the evacuation centers setting up cots, supplying blankets, hot liquids and emergency medical services.

City buses were pressed into service to transport the evacuees and a Burger King drive-in gave hundreds of hamburgers and cold drinks to hungry, displaced, tired and somewhat confused people crowding into the Garinger High School evacuation center. At the same time, nearly 100 Charlotte firefighters, aided by volunteer fire depart-

ments from nearby towns, fought the fire that started in a chemical drum of sodium hydro-sulfide about 4:15 p.m. in a North Tryon Street warehouse then spread to a site containing glass bottles of paraquat, a highly toxic herbicide whose fumes can cause lung damage.

Through it all, as tree-lined residential areas were deserted, as over 60 people were treated at hospitals for exposure to the poisonous fumes, as firefighters and policemen became exhausted, and as a growing amount of uncertainty was evident, Charlotte and its people remained relatively calm and maturely went about the business of making quick and timely decisions to get people to safely fight and control the fire, prevent vandalism and panic, and when safe, allowed people to return to their homes, other places of residence, their businesses and college campuses.

As we reflect on this city experience, we can feel a sense of humble pride for the mature and rational manner in which our city - the people - reacted or behaved in a tense few hours for which there was, and probably could not have been, a master plan to guide actions to be taken in a similar situation.

Charlotte - and especially you, our firemen, policemen, the hundreds of volunteers and the evacuated people themselves - we salute you for a job so well done.

It's Time For Judging

Following Ronald Reagan's election to the presidency of the United States in 1980 we cautioned you - our readers - to not pre-judge and to give the new President the benefit of our doubts. We speculated that some prominent blacks like former Senator Edward Brooke would be appointed to some high government post. Furthermore, we noted that historically once a conservative moves into the White House hard realities result in a shift to a more moderate position on most issues. In conclusion, we suggested that if the new President could implement any policies leading to improvements in the performance of the nation's economy, he would have done much to relieve a great deal of the suffering faced by black Americans.

After observing, analyzing and looking for some signs of truth in our assumptions, we have to conclude that after 21 months in the Presidency, Mr. Reagan has not fulfilled any of our prophecies. In fact, a non-partisan study of the Reagan Administration has concluded that its policies have made the affluent rich Americans richer and mid-

dle class and poor Americans poorer. In the latter case the evidence is startling considering the reduced public support for education, health care, housing and mass transit.

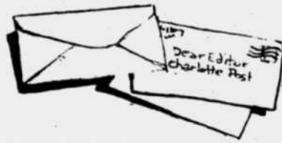
The Urban Institute, a Washington-based think-tank specializing in urban problems, has concluded in a recent study that "the Reagan experiment with economic policy has clearly not worked in the short run and is unlikely to live up to the Administration's expectations in the long run."

As one looks closer, the study shows too that large urban areas in need of the greatest amount of public assistance are receiving a disproportionately smaller share under Reagan policies. Thus, the Administration's policies are expected to further widen the economic and fiscal disparities between the wealthy and growing states on one hand, and less affluent states on the other.

These are the facts as the non-partisan Urban Institute sees them. Thus, as new congressional elections approach, and as they become referendums on the Reagan policies and programs it is now time for you, the voters, to do some judging.



Letters To The Editor



10 Greensboro Citizens Concerned

100 Bluford Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

Dear Editor:
Enclosed is a report by ten Greensboro citizens concerning their August 12, 1982 meeting with the Justice Department attorney in charge of the federal grand jury now investigating the November 3, 1979 attack by Ku Klux Klan and Nazis in Greensboro, N.C., which left five people dead, ten injured and the black community terrorized.

The ten citizens met with Justice Department attorney Michael Johnson to ask questions and to express concern. Their joint statement reports the answers they received, and their conclusion: that because of the serious questions about possible involvement of federal and local law enforcement agents in the events, a special prosecutor from outside the Justice Department should be appointed to oversee the Grand Jury. As they stated:

The possibility that the government in one or several agencies played some role in these killings makes public disclosure of the facts in this case crucially important. We believe that government activity should be subject to review and we are appealing to the Attorney General to reconsider his position (i.e., not to appoint a special prosecutor).
To avoid possibility of compromise due to conflict of interest, we continue to call for the appointment of a special prosecutor to oversee this case in order that the system can function at its best and to dispel the clouds of suspicion which plague the city and the country.

The ten people went as individuals, but they are representative of a broad segment of the Greensboro community. They included

black and white, young and old, Christian and Jew, and people from all walks of life - workers, academics, a lawyer and a minister - and active in organizations as diverse as the Democratic Party, the NAACP, and the American Friends Service Committee, as well as those who aren't active in organizations.

As one of the ten citizens, and at the request of the whole group of ten, I am submitting our report to you for publication. We hope that you will print it as an opinion piece, or a letter to the editor. Many

people all over the country are concerned about this tragic and highly significant incident, but few have the opportunity to pursue the matter as we did. We would like to share our information, as well as our conclusions, with them. As the grand jury is said to be drawing to a close, with the final decisions of indictments or not, this is surely timely.

For further information, please contact me or any of the ten members of the delegation. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Charles Davis

Miss Gay America Pageant

Miss Deborah M. Gilbert
425-F W. Craighead Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28206
September 8, 1982

Dear Sir:

It was with great sadness that I read in a Charlotte newspaper of the upcoming "Miss Gay America Pageant" which is to be held in this beautiful city. In a city where God and His Son Jesus Christ are so respected and loved, it is shocking that the most unrighteous of acts is being proclaimed as normal.

In Romans, chapter 1, of the Holy Bible, God tells those who desire to know His will what homosexuality and lesbianism is all about.

In verse 24, He calls it dishonoring their own bodies between themselves.

In verse 25, those who do dishonor their bodies (by homosexual or lesbian acts) are worshipping the creature, or creation, of God more than the Creator, God. This is idol worship.

The first of the ten great commandments God gave Israel as set forth in Exodus 20:3 is "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." In I John 5:21 God tells His people "Keep

yourselves from idols" in order to maintain our relationship with Him.

It would seem obvious that an event such as the "Miss Gay America Pageant" is an affront to God, along the lines of Sodom and Gomorrah and God withdrew His protection from those two cities in a big way. God, of course, would not handle the situation now as He did then. We're in an age of grace but the tacit consent of people who should know God's heart in this matter, the religious leadership in this community, will lead this city down into the same pit as San Francisco.

If the Holy Bible is Truth, homosexuality and lesbianism are not diseases or birth defects. If the Holy Bible is indeed God's will for His people and contains "all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (II Peter 1:3) then a person who is a homosexual or a lesbian has made a decision to act in a particular manner, they have developed a habit pattern which can however be changed. The basis for the change is also in the Holy Bible (Romans 10:9).

Deborah M. Gilbert

From Capitol Hill

President Continues Closer Ties With South Africa

By Alfreda Madison
Special To The Post

President Reagan, is placing sanctions against our European allies for trading certain materials with Russia, as a protest of Soviet treatment of some Polish citizens. At the same time he is strengthening ties with apartheid South Africa. Since his ascent to the Presidency, 620 Black South Africans have been detained, 95 released, charges have been placed against 226, 180 are still detained and 297 are unaccounted for.

While tightening economic sanctions against the Soviets, Mr. Reagan has abandoned the South African sanctions of President Carter. He has issued directives for U.S. corporations to sell chemicals, industrial equipment, computers and calculators to South Africa. These materials are used to guide air missiles, in chemical warfare and can be converted into tanks and combat armored cars. What this Administration is really saying is; it is all right for a country to commit the most inhumane treatment, to 90 percent of its population if



Alfreda L. Madison

the 90 percent have black skin.

Just recently the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held an informal meeting in Tripoli, Libya. Both Representative Walter Fauntroy and Randall Robinson of TransAfrica felt that the frustration of the OAU was caused partly by the United States discouraging attendance by friendly African countries. It is reported that President Moi of Kenya who was the OAU outgoing President was asked by this Administration not to attend, and the Liberian President whose U.S. ties are very close was

also persuaded by our government to stay away. Some OAU members had a disagreement on allowing the Polisarios to become a member, and others failed to attend because of differences with Quaddafi. Thirty-four countries constitute a quorum but only 31 attended so no real OAU session could be held, but only informal meetings took place.

Mr. Fauntroy says he regrets failure of the countries to have a formal meeting because the United States had the opportunity for African unity aid in settling the Namibian question. The Africans resent U.S. failure to have a dialogue with them by dealing with Africans in a North-South policy rather than as an East-West problem.

Both Mr. Robinson and Mr. Fauntroy strongly emphasized that the entire African continent will be free of colonialism, and this fact must be recognized by the Soviets and the United States. Frustration of the recent OAU has only delayed freedom. The OAU is not dead. There will

be an emergency OAU meeting in the next few months.

Contrary to the Washington Post's attempt to castigate Representative Fauntroy for his Tripoli trip, the congressman was invited to the OAU meeting by the Organization President and the expenses were borne by Mr. Fauntroy himself. The Post ignored the fact that many members of Congress and American Jews constantly visit Israel, without any Post criticisms, so why can't blacks be accorded the same right and privilege for showing concern in the African countries?

As continued proof of the Reagan Administration's South African partnership, the Department of Justice has decided to investigate the New York office files of the Southwest African Peoples Organization (SWAPO).

The Congressional Black Caucus, fired off a letter to Secretary of State, George Shultz, protesting the investigation. Representative William Gray, Chairman of the Caucus Foreign Affairs Task Force, stated that "the

WALK YOUR TALK



Rev. Perkins

No Balm In Gilead?

For this next series of "Walk Your Talk" articles, I'd like to give a little background to the prophet Jeremiah. My text is taken from Jeremiah 8:22. Jeremiah raises the question: "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why, then, is not the health of the daughters of my people recovered?"

The question that Jeremiah is asking has to do with the situation he sees in his nation at that time, Let me set this in focus. Jeremiah lived at the time of the Babylonian captivity. He lived to see the nation of Israel taken into captivity, their second since Egypt.

They were divided into 12 tribes and the kingdom was established under David and Solomon. But upon the death of Solomon, the kingdom divided. There were two tribes in the south called Judah and 10 tribes in the north called Israel. In the north, Israel never had a good king. But from time to time, God raised up kings in the south in Judah that would turn back to God and worship Him. But as a whole the nation never returned to the king of nationsit was under the leadership of David or Solomon.

Therefore, God raised up the prophets of the Old Testament to call the nation back to its historical purpose: That they would be light. From the nation knowledge was to go out to the rest of the world. They were to be the glory of God, and He would abide with them.

God gave them a land, but as they lived there, they became as wicked as the people who lived there before them. Because of that, God punished them, first the northern tribes, then the southern. He made them suffer, trying to discipline them. So God sought to break them from their idolatry in Babylon.

Jeremiah lived in that day. He was a patriot and faithful to God. He loved his nation because he recognized that God established it to be light. He understood the holiness and righteousness of God and he knew that God had to punish wickedness.

As a prophet, Jeremiah was unpopular. He told the people of their sins. And he told them that God had destined them for captivity because of their sins. They hated Jeremiah because he had the unfortunate responsibility of sharing with them the bad news. But Jeremiah shared the news while shedding tears. Because of this, Jeremiah became known as the weeping prophet.

Describing the condition of his people he says, "Oh, that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep a day and night for the slain of the daughters of my people! Oh, that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring man, that I might leave my people, and go from them! For they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men."

"And they bend their tongues like their bows for lies, but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not Me, saith the Lord." That was some judgment for a prophet to have to lay on people who had the responsibility for the oracles of God.

Today I feel much like Jeremiah as I look out into my community. And as I look out at American as a whole, both black and white. I see the consumption and greed. We have squandered the resources that God has given our nation.

investigation appears to be a collusion by the U.S. government and the SWAPO opponents to uncover information which could be used to damage SWAPO in Namibian negotiations of post-settlement elections. This collusion appearance is heightened because the inspection follows closely a suit by SWAPO opponents challenging SWAPO's compliance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The Caucus says an investigation of SWAPO's files, correspondence and telegrams violates the mutual trust and respect for confidentiality that parties to negotiations must have."

The Justice Department informed SWAPO that their investigation will include inspection of all correspondence, memoranda, cables, telegrams and teletype messages as well as an audit of all bookkeeping.

The Caucus letter to Secretary Schultz stated, "We understand that there is no statutory or regulatory requirement for the Justice Department to proceed with an investigation of SWAPO at this time.

Registered foreign agents are not routinely investigated at fixed intervals. Some are not investigated at all."

Mr. Woodard of the Justice Department, in a telephone call informed us that nothing on the investigation has been done as of now. He stated that SWAPO registered with the Justice Department in 1965 as a foreign agent. No fixed date has been set for the investigation. A South African inspired group called Citizens for a Free Namibia filed a suit against SWAPO, calling SWAPO a Soviet inclined organization. Mr. Woodard said the Citizens for Free Namibia group has no legal authority to file such a suit. A call to the State Department failed to comment on the investigation.

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