

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Referendum Or Reaganomics?

America will go to the polls on November 2 to vote their convictions on a host of candidates, local, state and national issues with concerns for a possible referendum vote on President Reagan's economic program being the major issue.

Since Mr. Reagan took office in January 1981, unemployment has risen by nearly three percent to 10.1, the highest in 42 years, the federal deficit has nearly tripled to \$155 billion, advocates for the disabled accused him of scrapping programs for the handicapped, and there is hard evidence that his tax policies are in fact shifting income from the poor and lower middle classes to the upper income groups. The income shift means, too, that corporations are not expanding plants and equipment and creating new jobs nor is the business community responding to private social needs as Reagan had predicted.

Furthermore, the President's anti-school busing stand, his support of tax exemptions for private schools that discriminate against blacks, his attempt to weaken the Voting Rights Act, and his general desire to soften the federal government's commitment to civil rights has alienated many black Americans.

Many business people also have become alienated from the Reagan Administration because of its strong opposition to the natural gas pipeline project running from Russia to Western Europe. The ban on participation by U.S. firms has cost Americans thousands of jobs at a time of high unemployment and lost profits at a time of increasing business failures. Is this free enterprise? We think not.

In spite of these rather depressing facts, one national poll shows that 51 percent of a sample survey are willing to heed the President's call to give his program "more time to work," and his popularity remains high. Yet, some Republican office seekers are said to want to avoid any contact or association with the President out of fear that a voter backlash generated from the nation's economy may cost them some votes.

Losing Cause

Another mixed dimension about the election is the report that blacks may play a dominant role in swing elections in areas where 20 percent or more of the voters are black. Yet, this has been said before but with only mixed results. The nearly 95 percent support by blacks in 1980 for Jimmy Carter in a losing cause, some fear may renew the political apathy historically common among black voters. You, the black voters in Charlotte-

Mecklenburg, must rise above that kind of defeatist attitude and demonstrate to other blacks and whites that you will not be deterred in your continuing quest for full participation in the American political process.

No one, we repeat, no one, is going to make it easy for blacks, other minorities or just plain John Doe American to secure a share of the better part of wealth and prosperity of this nation. Blacks, like everyone else, must accept the challenge and continue the need to struggle in order to succeed, like it or not, that is the American way to success and a better quality of life.

It does appear that whatever else voters may have on their minds come November 2, many will cast their votes for or against Republican Party candidates or issues solely as a referendum on President Reagan's economic policies.

Depressing Facts

To the extent that Mecklenburg County voters can focus their concerns on other issues, there are two vital issues on the November 2 ballot that should be carefully studied.

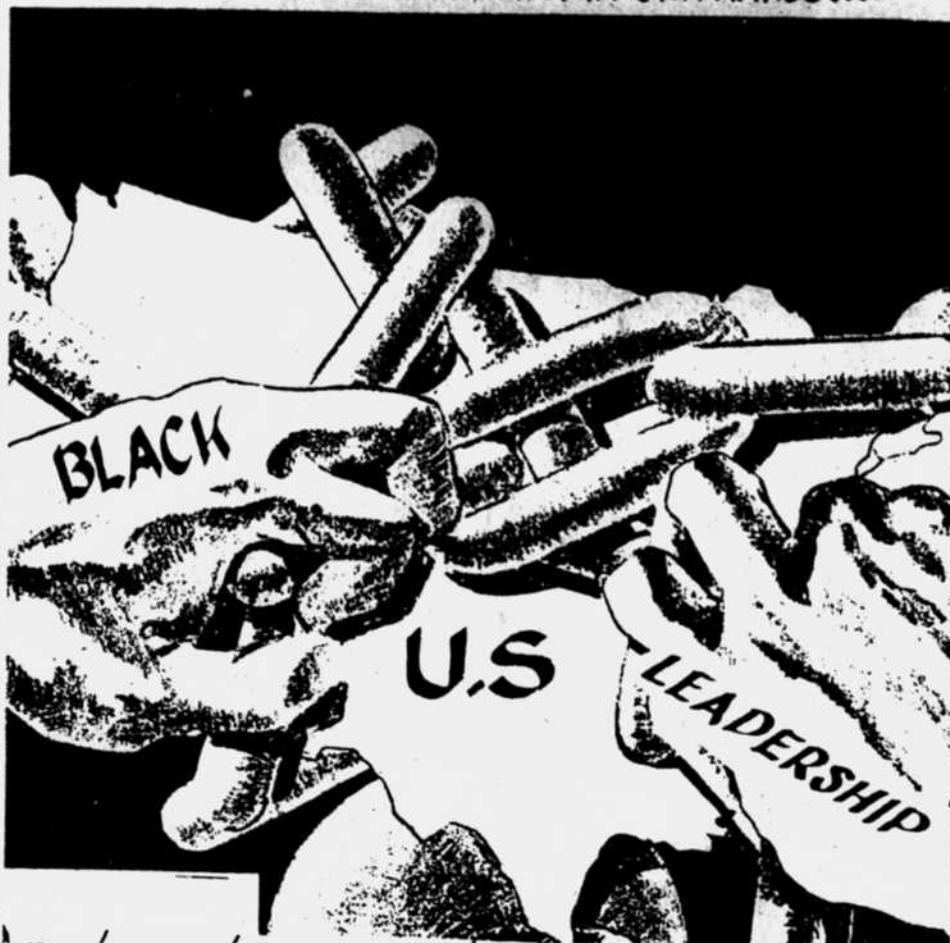
Constitutional amendment that would permit the General Assembly to enact general laws permitting the issuance of tax increment bonds, without voter approval. The really significant question is whether you as a taxpayer want to authorize the law makers to raise your taxes without consulting you first. Do you?

A second and equally, if not more important, item on the election ballot is the "4 District, 3 At-large Plan" for electing County Commissioners. This plan, which some have incorrectly called a district representation plan, would allow for four representatives to be nominated from individual districts but all elected by the County-wide voters just as the three at-large candidates would be. This plan is being advertised as district representation plan which it is not. Think about it, it is not a district plan like the City has. If it is not what you want, don't vote for it.

Then, too, the usual number of candidates, hopefuls and incumbents, will be seeking your support or vote on election day. Study the candidate and the issues or political philosophy they profess to believe in and then vote for or against someone or something, but vote your convictions.

We have made these observations out of a growing concern that the really important issues in this off-year election will in effect be a referendum on President Reagan's economic programs.

BLACKS' DESTINY IN OWN HANDS....



BLACK FOLKS THEMSELVES ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK OUT MANY OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, INSTEAD OF LEAVING IT UP TO THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS.
ROY WILKINS

small business

NEWS & VIEWS

Entrepreneur Magazine

Chase Revel thinks that there are "184 different businesses anyone can start and make a lot of money." In fact he has written a book describing each and every one of these 184 small businesses. Mr. Revel has been a small businessman for over 20 years and has started 18 different small businesses. Naturally some of them were winners and some were losers. In the process however, he became a millionaire and now publishes "The Entrepreneur Magazine."

Most of the small businesses in this book are backed-up by start-up manuals which you can order directly from "The Entrepreneur Magazine." These start-up manuals cost approximately \$45 each and usually provide excellent background material on a specific small business. I personally reviewed three of the how-to-manuals and was pleased with the material. The three businesses I reviewed concerned mini warehouses, a doughnut shop, and how to make money setting up seminars and workshops.

If you were in a city with access to a good sized library it would cost you several hundred dollars just to gather these business materials.

Some of the businesses covered in this book include: equipment rental, dry cleaning, copy shops, travel agency, handicraft co-op, discount painter, coin laundry, financial broker, consulting, vinyl repair, janitorial services and submarine sandwich shops.

One of the businesses covered is providing maid service. This service involves a team cleaning approach that cuts work time to a minimum and increases your business profits. The average investment is listed as \$4,400 and the minimum investment is \$1,900. The average net profit before taxes is shown as \$32,000. This business is best to start small with two-three workers and then get yourself established before expanding.

Another new idea is a computer trading center. This is a local or regional computer matching service for buyers, sellers and swappers.

One business woman operates her business out of her home with a telephone and a micro computer. The system works fairly simply. If you want to sell a computer, or computer related equipment, you call the service and are entered into the data bank. If a buyer and seller can be matched a sale is completed. The seller is charged a fee based on the items they are selling. The buyer pays \$5 to have his name entered into the computer bank for a two week period.

A carpet cleaning service requires an average investment of \$22,000 but can be opened with only \$7,000. The average net profit before taxes is \$32,000 and the highest net profit is stated as \$100,000. Although there is a lot of competition in this field, a quality, well controlled carpet cleaning business can be successful.

The book "184 Businesses Anyone Can Start and Make A Lot of Money" is sold in most bookstores for \$6.95 in paperback edition and may be in your local library.

For additional information contact the Economic Development Division, Center for Improving Mountain Living, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723

Letters To The Editor:

PAC Endorses 15 Candidates

Dear Editor:
The Political Action Committee of the Charlotte National Organization for Women endorses the following candidates seeking public office in the general elections.

For the North Carolina State Senate we endorse Cecil Jenkins, Jim Polk and Ben Tison.

We recommend nine candidates running for eight N.C. House seats: Phil Berry, Jim Black, Louise Brennan, Ruth Easterling, Gus Economos, Jo Graham Foster, Parks Helms, Jim Richardson and Roy Spoon.

For County Commission, we recommend six candidates in the race for the five-member board: Marilyn Bissell, Susan Green, Fountain Odom, Tom Ray, Joe Sailors and Bob Walton.

Also, we recommend a NO vote to the proposal to change the structure of the County Commission. We favor a true district plan in which representatives are elected by their district. The proposed plan would have all seven commissioners elected at-large in the general election. The much greater cost of conducting an at-large campaign, as opposed to a district campaign, would put newcomers to politics (likely to be women and minorities) at the same disadvantage they suffer under the present system.

The Charlotte NOW PAC

urges you to participate in the November 2nd elections. Don't wish for equality - Vote it!

Marjorie Storch, President

Elections Challenge Myths

Dear Sir:
Dr. Mutual Friends in the Struggle for Equality and Justice...The Primary Election challenged two prevalent myths, i.e., Black people can't stick together. Black people will never get out and vote. We even surprised ourselves.

But the NITTY GRITTY is at hand. All of the highs we experienced will be wiped out by resounding defeat if we don't do even better November 2nd.

Most of us, including me, are novices in the real political arena but how

long will it take us to realize that we will never make it without black representation? Also there are no perfect ones either. Please, pretty please, let's don't allow our excellent chances to go down the drain. We have the rare opportunity to place into office some of the most qualified and dedicated public servants and all of the blacks on the ballot stand head and shoulders to all the rest.

Think about it before it's too late!

Daisy Spears Stroud

Mildred Davis Is Candidate

Dear Voter:
On Tuesday, November 2, 1982 I want your vote and support.

The race for "Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor" does not attract the attention of the general public. Yet, it is one of the most important elected positions.

Soil and water are two of our most vital resources. How well we manage their conservation and use will determine the quality of life and future of our community.

As your elected Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, I will work to insure that the problems of erosion, land

use, pollution and other related concerns are dealt with effectively and efficiently. My overall and primary concern will always be the "best interests" of the community and our residents. Additionally, I will work to generate greater concern about what we can do together to maintain the quality of life, land and water in our city and county.

Please remember to vote on November 2nd, and most importantly don't forget to vote for me by pulling Lever 38-F.

Yours for Progress, Mildred Baxter Davis

From Capitol Hill

Rights Commission Moving To Reflect Reagan's Image?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The Civil Rights Commission was established by Congress 25 years ago, charged with the responsibility of monitoring government policies and legal developments affecting the civil rights of minorities, women, aged and handicapped, and to report its findings and recommendations to the President and Congress.

The Commission was created as a non-partisan agency, not subject to the views of any president of political party. The Commission makes contributions to the country's efforts to ensure justice and equal opportunity for everyone. This has been done through research and reports that have informed public debates, aided legislation and called attention to weaknesses in civil rights enforcement.

The Commission has been very active in researching education policies, and pointing out the government's failure to effectively enforce these policies. It has also rendered invaluable service to congressional committees and



Alfreda L. Madison

civil rights organizations on the effectiveness of affirmative action, voting rights and the government's enforcement of them.

Mr. Reagan has broken the tradition of all of his predecessors in making appointments to the Civil Rights Commission. Other than Richard Nixon's removal of Father Hesburgh as chairman of the Commission and replacing him with Arthur Fleming, no President before Mr. Reagan has made any appointments to the Commission unless a vacancy occurred.

President Reagan has replaced both the chairman and assistant with two Republicans. The Commission

is composed of six members. In keeping with its non-partisan influence, the membership is required to be made up of three Republicans and three Democrats.

Recently, the President sent the names of three new appointments to the Senate Judiciary Committee as a replacement for Dr. Mary Berry, Blandina Cardenas Ramirez and Murray Saltzman. These recommendations aroused

quite a fury among civil rights organizations. Althea Simmons, Director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, in testifying for the NAACP before the Senate Judiciary Committee strongly urged the committee not to confirm the nomination of Robert Destro. She stated that in the past Mr. Destro has made very strong attacks against the Commission. At one point he called for abolition of the Commission because of what he alleged as its biasness in choosing issues to be investigated. He called the Commission a government lobby for special interest groups. Ms. Simmons said, "He took the Civil Rights

Commission to task for its alleged inattention to the problems of religious and white ethnic discrimination in favor of inordinate attention to the problems of what he called the approved minorities, i.e., Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, and other non-whites and women."

In commenting on Mr. Destro's statement Ms. Simmons stated that no Catholic or white had ever been prevented from voting because of religion or ethnicity, but Blacks and Browns have, or Catholics or whites who have been denied bank loans, entry to schools of their choice, or housing, but Blacks and Browns have met with denials in all of these categories because of their race.

Althea questioned Mr. Destro's knowledge about the Commission's mandates. While the Commission is mandated by Congress to collect information on discrimination, submit reports, findings and recommendations to the President and Congress, Destro calls this Commission work, "conclusion making."

Reagan's Image?

Ms. Simmons closed her testimony, "with the concerted assault on government assistance to and protection of the poor, the elderly, minorities and women, with the congressional and administration attempts to roll back over 50 years of social programs, we in the civil rights community need a Commission for Civil Rights that is more vigorous and vigilant than ever."

Ms. Simmons wrote a very strong letter to Senator Robert Dole about the President's three appointments to the Civil Rights Commission. She states that the three nominees' own testimony before the Judiciary Committee raised concern about their Commission qualifications. "The nominees: Robert A. Destro, Rev. Constantine M. Dombalis and Dr. Guadalupe Quintanilla, clearly lack the broad experience and informed understanding required to effectively discharge the duties of Commissioners. None reflected a significant grasp of the Commission's role in vindicating the rights of victims of government dis-

enfranchisement and oppression," said Ms. Simmons. The Senate Judiciary Committee sent the names of the nominees back to the President before Congress recessed, without taking any action on them.

Civil rights groups view these Civil Rights Commission appointments as another attempt by Mr. Reagan to build the Commission in his own image. The groups strongly consider this as just another step in this Administration's efforts in dismantling all measures which have made contributions to civil rights gains. Blacks sincerely believe that President Reagan is moving the nation back to the days of segregation and discrimination.

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