

## EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

### Voters: Change Course?

Last week's off-year (between presidential elections) election was recorded as the most expensive in American political history with at least \$300 million spent on U.S. Senate and House of Representative campaigns alone. Furthermore, estimates are that an even larger sum was spent on local races for governorships, to county commissioners and other local offices across the nation. Yet, with all of this financial outlay, the steady 20-year decline in voter turnout for off-year elections was expected to result in no more than a 35 percent national voter turnout at the polls when all votes are counted.

In spite of the somewhat disappointing number of Americans who cast ballots, especially with a referendum on the future direction of economic policy and nuclear freeze being such vital issues, voters did state in definite terms their preferences on these issues and many others.

The fact is the 1982 election was a referendum on President Reagan's political philosophy to redirect American government, particularly its distribution of wealth for the poor and middle class to the affluent and business interests on the assumption that additional wealth would lead to expanded capital investments leading to new jobs for Americans and more revenue for all levels of government.

Not only has this not happened, but George Stigler, a recent Nobel Prize winner in economics, emerged from a White House visit with President Reagan a few days before the election and told new reporters that Reaganomics had led America into "...a depression...as serious as the Great Depression of the 1930s." Significantly, not even liberals had referred to the nation's high unemployment and business failures a depression.

Nevertheless, Dr. Stigler's remarks appear to have been a reflection of the views of the voters as returns indicated the Democrats had picked up as many as 25 seats in the House of Representatives; 200 percent more than the party not in control of the White House usually gets in an off-year election. The Democrats also made a net gain of one seat in the U.S. Senate.

### Sharp Contrast

In related developments, the President's policies, and more specifically Sen. Jesse Helms' alter ego, National Congressional Club candidates—five NC Republicans—were all soundly defeated. This is in sharp contrast to the Club's victory two years ago when it helped John East to defeat incumbent Senator Robert Morgan.

Voter returns indicate that Democrats have won the vast

majority of the 36 governorships in the election. Knowledgeable political observers consider this significant in the coming 1984 presidential election because energetic governors can help get voters to the polls to contribute to the party's presidential candidates.

Therefore, it appears evident from a national perspective that the voters' message to the Reagan Administration is "change the course" or direction of our domestic and some aspects of our foreign policy and get Americans back to work. The voters appear to be saying too that the Reagan team has had long enough to effectively implement their policies and they now want change.

### District Plan

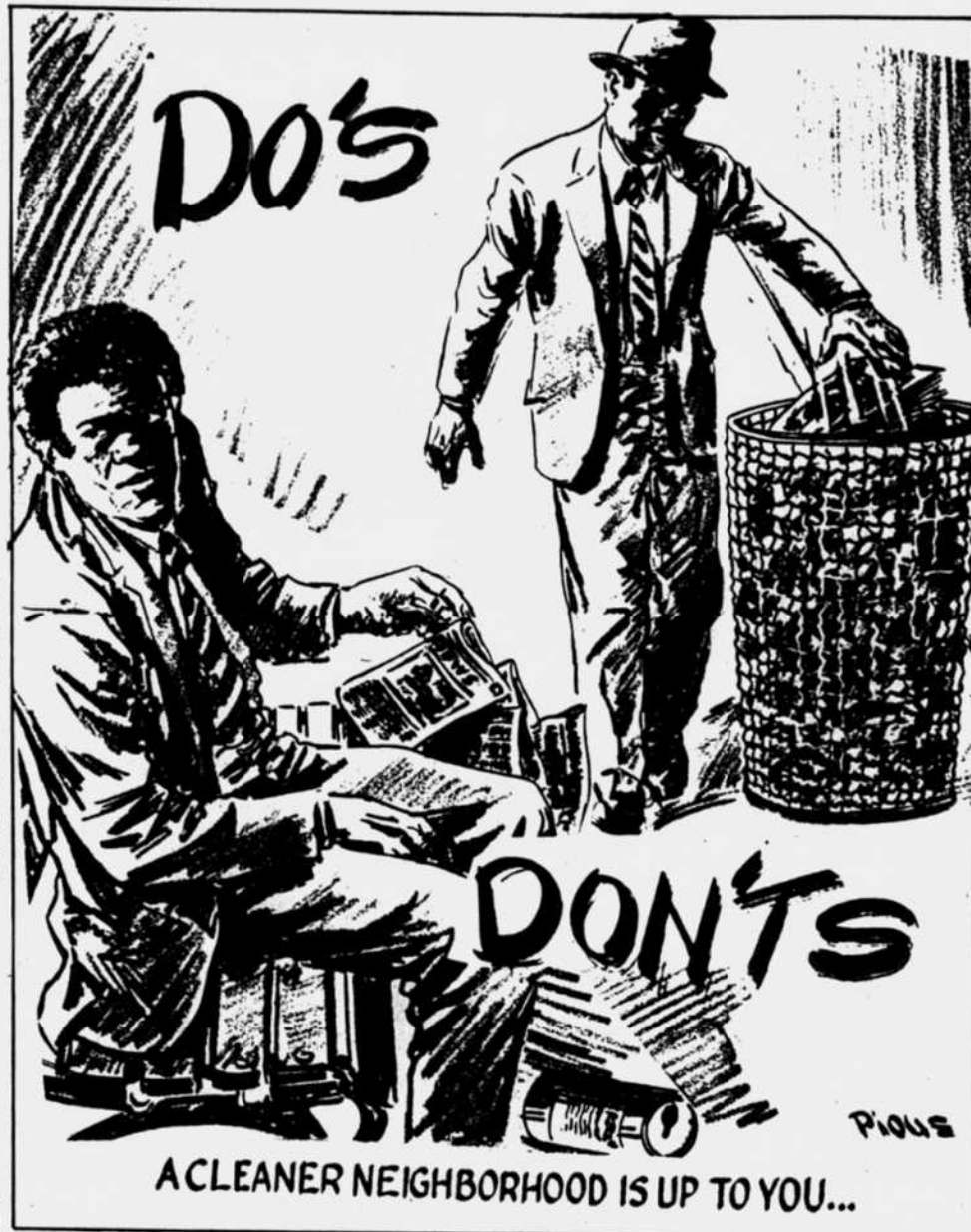
At the local level incumbent Republican (Reagan supporter) Jim Martin defeated challenger Preston Cornelius; the five incumbent County Commissioners Odom (D), Green (D), Ray (D), Walton (D), and Bissell (R)—were reelected. And C. W. Kidd (D) defeated Donald Stahl (R) by a landslide for sheriff.

With regard to the NC House, Mecklenburg County voters returned incumbents Jim Black (D), Louise Brennan (D), Jo Graham Foster (D), Parks Helms (D), Ruth Easterling (D) and Roy Spoon (R). In addition, newcomer and school board chairman Phil Berry (D) a first-time black candidate for the State House was elected. Two other black candidates—Jim Richardson and Jim Polk—list in their bids for a State House and Senate seat, respectively.

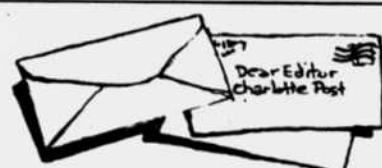
Another issue of paramount concern to Mecklenburg County voters was the proposed 4-3 so-called district representation plan as designed by County Commission Chairman Tom Ray with the 4-district seats and 3-at-large seats. The issues was defeated by the voters by a 53 to 47 percent margin. The plan was defeated because it did not represent true district representation with the proposed district candidate being selected by the districts but elected by county-wide voters. Talk has already begun to get the issue before the voters again but with a format similar to that of the city's district plan.

Undoubtedly, the most significant aspect of the election returns, still being analyzed, has been the still low, but yet significantly higher number of overall voters who went to the polls on November 2. As has often been said, if and when American democracy declines it will not be from outside forces like communism but rather from voter apathy within.

Next Week: Detailed analysis of the election returns.



Letters To  
The Editor:



### Save The Children?

Dear Sir:

This morning (Sept. 15), "The Phil Donahue Show" on the housing projects in Chicago was frightening. The white women in the audience, sitting like an army of Nazis, expressed no sympathy for black babies who have fallen to their deaths out of screenless windows and own unrepaired elevator shafts. Instead, a white caller said that black women should use "birth control."

How much birth control? Total involuntary sterilization of all black women? When the most innocent of all victims—babies—are the target of death threats en masse, I tremble with the fear of genocide. Having two little black children of my own, I tremble with a rage, too. I take it very personally.

Look at the black baby in North America. Reagan has taken one-third of the dollars for school lunches, from food out of their mouths which, for many children, was their one sure meal each day. He has not reduced the budget with this "saving" but produced more bombs with it. He adds to the budget, not detracts from it—this smiling baby abuser.

Later, American blacks took up that cry. Marvin Gaye's song was popular in the early 70s and nationally. Operation PUSH's Rev. Jesse Jackson used that as his first slogan.

"Save The Children." Save them from What? From the racism in America which poisons its hearts as surely as anti-Semitism poisoned the hearts of otherwise "good" Germans? (U.S.) racism is not some abstract attitude, some intellectual mistake; it is direct violence against black babies.

Black babies do not get enough to eat. Black babies are not free of rat bites or lead in their little brains from their poisoned environments. Must we just sit on our hands and watch this slow Auschwitz rise around us until some hot summer's night we just cannot stand it any more and rebel without any hope of winning? No, there is another way.

What do white folks mean when they say "save the children"? They are not concerned about food; they mean from nuclear War. Life or death for the black baby is starvation, not radiation. That the black baby is paying more for Reagan's cowboys and their worldwide death wish is clear. The money goes directly from babies to bombs.

The rich, heartless ones in this world are trying to hang on to their dwindling power by H bombs. It is a policy doomed to failure. Nothing can stop the animal drive of hundreds of millions of starving people in their fury for food. If the

world blows up, what do these starving people have to lose?

So it's time to take back the slogan, "Save The Children," and insist that the only way to save the rich children from radiation is to save the poor children from starvation. Let's Deal. - Dr. William Bunge, Arthabaska, Quebec, Canada.

### PENC

Dear Sir:

There is an alternative for educators in North Carolina who are concerned about the direction taken by professional organizations over the past number of years. Professional Educators of North Carolina (PENC) was chartered by the state of North Carolina on November 20, 1979. Since that time there has been a steady growth in the organization.

Educators must protect their freedom to decide for themselves which organization to join and support. Educators must provide an uninterrupted education for the students.

If you believe that these are the goals educators must seek in North Carolina, I invite you to request further information by contacting PENC at P. O. Box 221374, Charlotte, N.C. 28222.

Sincerely,  
Preston Gulton  
President

### From Capitol Hill

## Reagan Seen As Weakening Civil Rights Commission?

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

A few days ago President Reagan met with Attorney General William French Smith, Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds and Civil Rights Commission Chairman Clarence Pendleton to discuss the Administration's progress on civil rights. Larry Speakes, White House Deputy press secretary, informed the press of the meeting but told them no information would be given out following the close of the meeting.

Civil rights organizations feels that instead of civil rights progress having been made by the Reagan Administration, that the gains have been set back. They state that President Reagan has made the greatest assault on civil rights than any President in the past three decades.

These groups are greatly disturbed by the President's wholesale change at the Civil Rights Commission. It is felt that the changes in nominees will destroy the Commission's independence and instead turn it into the Administration's

mouthpiece. William Taylor of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights says, "the move reinforces our concern that the Administration is trying to silence the agency that has been the conscience of the government on civil rights issues all these years."

The group first began to express concern over the agency's future when President Reagan nominated Clarence Pendleton, a conservative Black Republican to replace chairman Arthur Fleming. At the confirmation hearing, Pendleton gave the assurance that the Commission would be active, independent and vocal in making civil rights recommendations.

A Commission staff member said, "Pendleton has been low key and very receptive to staff suggestions, but he didn't have the votes to challenge the majority opinion." The Commissioners are concerned about what will happen after Mr. Reagan has replaced five of the six original Commissioners.

Civil rights leaders are shaky about the Commission's future since, legislation passed in 1978 only



Alfreda L. Madison

extended its authority to September 1983. If it is not extended beyond the September date, the Commission will become non-existent.

Just recently, the Civil Rights Commission expressed deep concern about Assistant Attorney General Reynolds' statement regarding dismantling of desegregation plans where busing is a component. He acknowledged that the Justice Department "is opposed to relying on mandatory busing as a remedial technique to desegregate public school." Reynolds indicated that the Department will give serious con-

sideration to, and where appropriate, request modification of court-ordered busing plans.

The agency's position is that busing should be accepted and debate ended when a court of competent jurisdiction has determined it a necessary remedy for segregated education.

The Commission noted the Supreme Court's 1968 ruling that school boards must take affirmative steps to develop desegregated plans and in compliance, attendance zone restructuring often require busing of students who were not previously bused. The court noted in its decision that busing has been an integral part of the public education system for years and that it was the most important factor in transition from the one room school to consolidated schools.

The court stated that busing is just one of many tools, but that desegregation cannot be limited to walk-in schools.

The Civil Rights Commission found that numerous school districts have found busing to be a very convenient method for im-

## small business

NEWS & VIEWS

### Employee Separations

Each employee hired by a small business is an investment in time and money. In fact it can be a sizable investment if the employee is especially trained for a technical job. A certain amount of turnover can help keep vitality and freshness in a business, but an excessive number of employee separations should seriously concern the small business owner. If you have a high turnover in your business, you should determine the reasons and try to eliminate as many of the causes as possible.

In an attempt to find out why your employee turnover is high, you could ask yourself the following questions: Does the employee have personal problems that contribute to bad performance? If so, how can you help the employee solve his problem? Is there a lack of information about the employee's job duties and company regulations? Is the employee's performance suffering from lack of direction in his job? Is the employee underachieving because there is no challenge in his job, or discouraged because the job is too demanding? Is there a supervisor or another employee who is making the work-situation unpleasant?

If you are considering dismissal of an employee, a prior warning should be given and signed by both employer and employee. This warning may be sufficient to improve the employee's work and attitude toward his job.

One or two written warnings are usually given a month or so before the final dismissal. Copies of this written notice are made for the employee, the firm's file, and for the union, if one is involved.

In some cases severance pay is given to dismissed employees, but the decision is up to the employer. Many employers prefer to give two weeks' notice rather than two weeks' pay, unless it is essential that the employee leave the job at once. The employee should be terminated immediately if there is any danger of the employee undermining the other employees, causing damage, or removing valuable tools and materials from the firm.

In an exit interview employees should be asked their opinion of the company in general and of their job in particular. This can be a good opportunity for the employer to get frank opinions about what employees really think about the firm. You can also learn how your job training and shop working conditions affect your employees. An alternative to the personal exit interview is a questionnaire to the employee who has just left your firm. Some firms find that mail questionnaire responses are often more candid and objective than those answers given in an exit interview.

An excellent 14-page booklet on "Personal Guidelines" is available for \$2. This can be ordered from Small Business Reports, Bank of America, Dept. 3401, P. O. Box 37000, San Francisco, CA 94137, 415-622-2491. Ask for Volume 15, Number 3.

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

plementation of the "Brown" mandate. It quoted Jerry Shinn, Editor of the Charlotte Observer in speaking of integration of the Charlotte, North Carolina schools, that all but Jesse Helms, and his cohorts, say, the plan is working marvelously. "If despite the constitution and the courts, politicians find a way to do away with busing, they will be cheating some children out of something very important: the experience of functioning in an integrated society, which is the kind of society their generation is going to have to live in—that, or a house divided against itself, which cannot stand."

The Commission members strongly confirmed their support for mandatory busing, the Chairman, Clarence Pendleton abstained.

In an interview with Mr. Pendleton he stated that he is against mandatory busing and that he is for finding alternatives to public schools. He said busing has torn the Boston school system apart. Pendleton took a strong position against the Administration's stand on tax ex-

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