

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Thoughts For 1983

Two of the biggest holidays annually close each year. Christmas, with all of its trappings, is characterized by shopping malls filled to satisfy the commercial zeal, and shoplifters too; churches extend themselves to offer spiritual need and food for the downcast; families meet, embrace, and exchange gifts; and children, and some adults too extend their fantasies about old Santa.

And then there's New Year's Day. A time for parties, relaxation, bowl games, spiritual renewal and resolutions, too. No, we are not going to suggest any New Year's resolutions that we can't keep and you won't either. Rather, we offer some comments from our year's editorials and other reflections that may add to your thoughts, perspectives or even resolutions for 1983.

-In an era of new challenges, blacks must be alert to the emerging "new racism" which is a reminder that the quest for equality, justice and opportunity is an on-going struggle.

-The availability of megadollars and the accompanying pressure on collegiate coaches has led to NCAA recruiting violations and the exploitation of many black youth as evidence by the large number who are cast aside without a college degree as soon as their eligibility as athletes has ended. Let's insist that collegiate athletics be kept in proper perspective.

Computer Science

-America's high level of unemployment is related in part to the little known or understood fact that the nation is slowly moving from the Industrial Age to an era of computer technology for which too few people in the labor force have the new computer science skills.

-In the 37 years since the A-bombing of Hiroshima, so-called civilized nations - the USA and the USSR in particular - have been insanely stock piling monstrous nuclear arsenals that can now destroy the earth seven times over.

-The only way black voters can be believers in elective officials is to go to the polls en masse in every election and vote.

-Actor and playwright Ossie Davis has urged blacks to develop a map, not a rap; get a plan, not the man.

"Man can live about 40 days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air...but only about one second without hope."

If star gazing into the 1980s is to have any meaning we must pause to look back and see where we have been in order to sense where we are going.

-Labor analysts have concluded that many American

workers who have never experienced extended periods of unemployment have perceived their extended prosperity as normal, as expectation that have become feelings of entitlements.

-Fred D. Alexander, a man of the century; Coleman Kerry, calmness in a stormy sea; Martin Luther King, an enduring symbol of hope; George Leake, a man among men; Jack Brayboy, a man for all seasons.

-Black history mirrors the past and gives direction to the future.

Black Survival

-The survival of black institutions, businesses, neighborhoods and traditions will be determined by the decisions of black people.

-We can, in the final analysis only be equal if we are individually and collectively in pursuit of excellence.

-Black youth must be directed and led to believe that the specters of racism, sexism or age discrimination should not be a deterrent to the pursuit of excellence.

-Vote for what? Vote to preserve what you have and to gain what your potential may bring.

-As long as housing discrimination exists, the problems of crime, educational dropouts, dependent welfare, tax burdens, and urban blight will continue.

The black church, the major institution owned and controlled by blacks, needs to move aggressively to pool its resources to become a dynamic force in the quest for economic opportunity.

-Progress for black Americans should be measured in terms of our commitment to a positive attitude, the work ethic, trust in each other and faith in Almighty God.

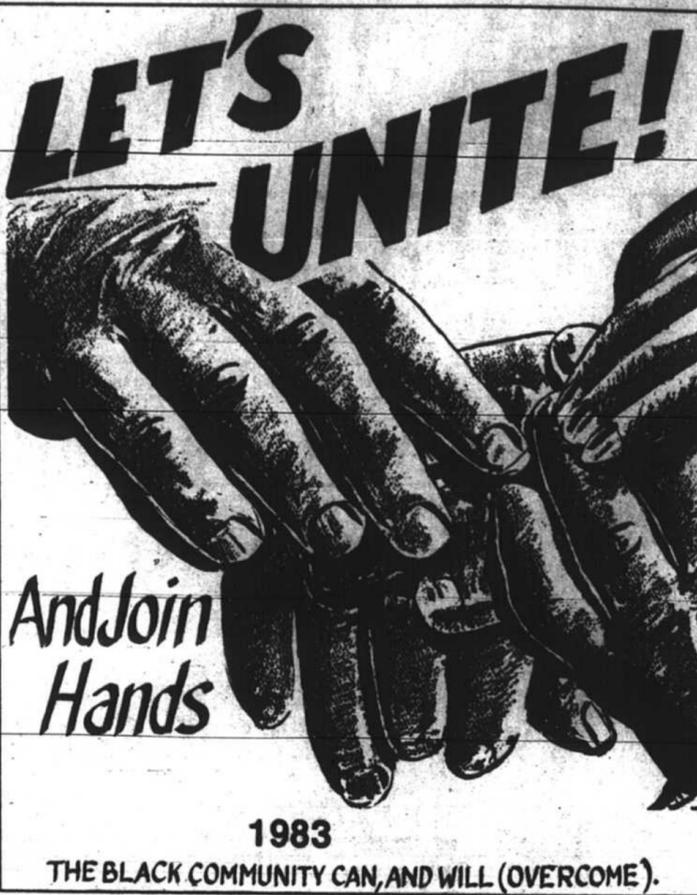
-Christmas is a time to pause and remind ourselves that compassionate feelings for others must be extended to being year-round. To do less would be to degrade the meaning of Christmas and to reject the love of Christ Jesus, a love without which there can be no brotherhood.

Something On Your Mind?

"Something On Your Mind" is a column devoted to readers who want to express thoughts on various subjects, and who wish to share their thoughts with others.

Some subjects that may be of interest are: Racism, New Conservatism, Busing, etc.

Your article should be at least 250 type-written words, and double spacing is preferred. Please include your name and age. Write: Editor, The Charlotte Post, P. O. Box 30144, Charlotte, N.C. 28230.



small business NEWS & VIEWS

A Catering Business

The catering business is an expanding part of the rapidly growing food and beverage industry in the United States. The job of the commercial food caterer is to supply whatever food or drink is needed at specific times to private, government, and commercial locations.

Mobile caterers increased their food and drink sales by over nine percent in 1981, but sales have been soft in 1982 because of the down turn in plant employment and lack of general economic recovery. As the economy points toward solid improvement in 1983 and beyond, the catering business should move sharply ahead.

Catering includes several types of activities including the banquet hall where the caterer provides the location; the locational caterer who drives to the customer's site; and the mobile caterer. The mobile caterer operates a specifically designed truck to carry prepared food to various sites and serves from the vehicle. The basic success of the food service contractor is his or her ability to determine the food service needs of the community and to plan their business to meet those needs.

The dollars needed to start a catering business depend entirely on the method of food preparation and delivery. A large caterer who wants the ability to provide all of the food, equipment, and personnel to handle groups of 100 to 200 people will need a minimum of \$100,000 capital funding. The small mobile caterer can start operations with a much smaller investment. The profits in this business are average, usually returning two to five percent net profit on sales. The major expense items will be food, labor, and equipment maintenance and equipment rental.

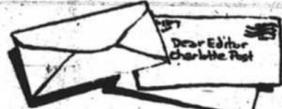
Catering relies heavily on word of mouth advertising as its most effective means of getting new customers. The caterer must be very selective in hiring personnel and must emphasize service with quality. Additional methods of promoting the catering business include yellow page ads, magazines, newspapers, and direct mail. Direct mail can be effective with churches, community organizations, and non-profit groups.

It is important to remember that individuals are the major part of the catering market including private parties, wedding receptions, and holiday special events.

In the beginning catering business, it is a good idea to start with a bold menu and add hot items as your business develops. This is because hot items require more equipment and skilled experience in preparing and delivering. In the beginning, the starting caterer will need only one range-oven combination until sales levels are established. Other equipment needed may include refrigerators, freezers, slicers, and dining appointments. You may also need "light equipment" which includes lines, tableware, glasses, novelties, and paper plates and utensils. A panel truck can be used for food and drink delivery.

For additional information, contact the Economic Development Division, Center for Improving Mountain Living, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723, 704-227-7492.

Letters To The Editor:



Wage Increase Hit Poor Hardest?

Dear Sir: Recent news reports have signaled an increase in North Carolina's minimum wage beginning the first of January. The wage hike affects workers not covered by federal minimum wage laws and raises the wage rate from \$3.10 to \$3.35 an hour. While friends of big labor may be dancing in the streets, those concerned about youth unemployment should view further increases in the minimum wage with great dismay.

Ironically, raising the minimum wage creates greater unemployment, hitting the poor and the minority worker the hardest. Black economist Walter E. Williams has cogently discussed these concerns in several works. Williams informs us how these minimum wage laws have worked in effect and who these laws have benefited the most.

Minimum wage laws force employees to pay their workers an arbitrary wage selected by lawmakers as "just." These laws were created, in theory, to prevent employers from "exploiting" their workers. However, what happens to unskilled employees who are only able to produce \$3.10 per hour when the minimum wage is raised from \$3.10 to \$3.35 an hour? Professor Williams points out that such increases in the minimum wage prices these unskilled

workers out of a job. An employer cannot pay someone \$3.35 when they can only produce \$3.10 and stay in business for long. Employers must reduce the number of unskilled employees by either automation or by hiring workers with greater skill. In the example above, workers in an on-the-job training program who can produce at least \$3.35 enjoy the benefit of higher wages and those produce between \$3.10 and \$3.35 will likely find themselves once again unemployed.

The negative impact of an increase in the minimum wage falls disproportionately on those who are unskilled. Traditionally, youths, poor people and minorities tend to be over-represented among the ranks of the unskilled worker. As such, an increase in the minimum wage unmatched by an equal increase in productivity is a disaster that increases unemployment among these groups.

Who, then, benefits from a higher minimum wage? Does big labor back such legislation out of some altruistic concern for unskilled workers? I think not. Professor Williams uses the simple yet illuminating example of building a fence to demonstrate how skilled workers are able to demand higher wages as the minimum wage for unskilled labor increases.

I decide to build a fence and can use either three unskilled workers or one skilled carpenter. If the minimum wage for unskilled labor is \$3.10, the carpenter can charge up to three times that rate and still be competitive. The Legislature comes along at this point and decides that \$3.10 is not a "livable" wage and raises it to \$3.35. Now the skilled carpenter can increase his own rate by three times the minimum wage increase and still be competitive. Through minimum wage legislation, unions are able to get their overwhelmingly skilled membership lucrative wage increases largely on the backs of unskilled labor. It should come as no surprise that it is BIG LABOR WHO BENEFITS MOST FROM MINIMUM WAGE LAWS.

Artificially high minimum wage rates are a major factor in black teenage unemployment. Skilled union leaders do not lose their jobs due to high minimum wage rates and can use these rates to improve their economic position. The same assertion cannot be made about unskilled laborers. As long as minorities are disproportionately represented in the ranks of unskilled labor, minimum wage increases, unmatched by growth in productivity, are a major obstacle to equal employment opportunity.

Vernon L. Robinson

From Capitol Hill

Conyers Block Conservative Criminal Code Strategy

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post Representative John Conyers, Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice said on the floor of the House that he was shocked and appalled at the action of Congressman Peter Rodino, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, for acceding to Republican Senate conservatives and House Republican conservatives to take last minute action on critical portions of the Criminal Code in the lame duck Congress.

Reform of the Criminal Code began in the 1960s with an appointed National Commission on Reform of Federal Criminal Laws. The commission's final report was in 1971. Implementation of the findings were left with the Senate. The Senate efforts were denounced by legal scholars and organizations concerned with civil liberties. In the 96th Congress the House Judiciary, having rejected the Senate efforts, produced its own version. After numerous hearings and witnesses by the House Judiciary Subcommittee



Alfreda L. Madison on Criminal Justice, a bill was reported to the floor in the spring of 1982. This bill struck a balance between the rights of the defendants and protection of the people and their government. It also separated the role of the state and federal government.

"The Senate," said Conyers, "in trying to pull a fast one, sent back to the House bill H.R. 3963 with riders which threaten individual liberties." These threats were in Titles I and V. Title I is the "bail reform" which is only a preventive detention; it permits a court to detain a defendant prior to trial based on predictions that the defendant might be dangerous to the commu-

ity if released on bail. Title V, sentencing reform, which authorizes longer prison terms, appeal of sentences by the government if the prosecutor thinks the judge was too lenient. This, of course, would rob judges of their discretion to individualize the treatment of defendants.

The rider also changes Title VI to permit the federal government to give property to states to be used in building more prisons. Title VII calls for mandatory prison terms in certain circumstances. Tremendous pressure was put on the House and Senate conferees to compromise on these issues.

Mr. Conyers was greatly irked by House Judiciary Chairman Peter Rodino, for attempting in the lame duck Congress to change "bail reform," sentences and forfeiture procedures, without having as is usually done, the subcommittee report go through the full Judiciary Committee. The Subcommittee Chairman said, "...decision to remove key portions of the Code from the Subcommittee's jurisdiction during the

lame duck session, that is operating under the gun of the Administration, is the worst kind of usurpation of power and a dangerous precedent."

The Subcommittee professional staff members who were highly familiar with the Criminal Code issues were ordered by Mr. Rodino to participate in the Senate conference. Conyers ordered them not to meet. This placed staff members in a tough situation. However, since these staffers were under the direct supervision of Mr. Conyers, they obeyed his orders and refused to meet with the Senate conferees.

Conyers took his case to the House floor, stating that Chairman Rodino had undermined his role as Subcommittee Chairman, and that he wanted the American people to know that the Criminal Code, provisions were not ready for House action. "The proper place for their consideration is the 96th Congress, that meets in January."

Representative Sawyer anticipated producing an amendment to force a vote on the Senate bill, but this

was never brought to the floor. Instead of the Sawyer's amendment, a bill was introduced by Congressman Hughes, Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime. The Hughes bill makes tampering with consumer goods (such as the recent Tylenol case) a federal crime, assault on a CIA official a federal offense, establishing a cabinet post for drugs control, and establishing procedures for forfeiture for drug offenders.

In floor discussion of the Hughes bill, Conyers stated that the bill was the result of a conference in which no conference was ever called. Even when a bill is removed from a conference it can only be withdrawn after 30 days; that such a procedure for bringing a bill to the floor in the manner of the Hughes bill has never been done.

Representative Kindness, a conservative, stated that such procedure was used in 1907 and once again in the 1930s. In checking with a staff member of Conyer's committee I was told the parliamentarian stated there has

never been any such procedure. Even if Mr. Kindness was correct, only two instances in around 200 years, would hardly be considered a precedence.

Representative Conyers succeeded in preventing a change in the bail reform and sentencing, from being acted upon in this lame duck Congress.

Campbell Schedules Registration

Registration for the spring semester at Campbell University will begin on Wednesday morning, January 12. Classes will begin the following morning, January 13, at 8.

For further information concerning registration for spring classes at Campbell University, contact: Registrar's Office, Campbell University, Bues Creek, N.C. 27506, 919-893-4111, Ext. 219.



THE CHARLOTTE POST
 Second Class Postage No. 965500
 "THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER"
 Established 1918
 Published Every Thursday
 by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.

Subscription Rate \$17.00 Per Year
 Send All 3579's To:
 1524 West Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28208
 Telephone 704-376-0496
 Circulation 10,433

104 Years of Continuous Service

Bill Johnson Editor, Publisher
 Bernard Reeves General Manager
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Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid At
 Charlotte, North Carolina
 Under the Act of March 3, 1878

Member, National Newspaper
 Publishers' Association

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

Deadline for all news copy and photos is
 5 p.m. Monday. All photos and copy
 submitted become the property of The Post
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