

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Making Us More Human

Twenty years ago this month the state of North Carolina took a bold and forceful step in founding the Good Neighborhood Council, now known as the North Carolina Human Relations Council. In April, 1963, a young black minister's unselfish quest for peace, justice and human rights was eloquently expressed in a letter written in a Birmingham, Alabama jail which said in part, "We know through painful

experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct-action campaign that was 'well-timed' (in the fight against) the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word 'wait!'... This 'wait' has almost always meant 'never'. We must come to see, (that) justice too long delayed is justice denied."

It should be obvious that the N.C. Human Relations Council and the young black minister, both born in the month of January, and both in pursuit of non-violent means to secure justice and equality for all Americans, are deserving of a sincere offer of "thanks for a job well done." This is all the more significant when we are reminded that in the 33 years between the birth of this minister and the birth of the Council, America was a nation burdened with a cancerous racism, sick with violence, overcome by hatred, and bracing for a possible race war initiated by the Ku Klux Klan.

Fortunately for all of us, black, white and otherwise, the minister, the later Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., pierced the consciences of the nation with his non-violent manner. Those who knew him intimately contend that he never uttered a word of hatred toward anyone and that his indictment of segregation, discrimination and poverty was a hurricane of fire that opened a new era in the struggle for freedom and human dignity.

Ultimate Goodness

In spite of Dr. King's never-ending commitment to racial tolerance, non-violence, love-neighborhood and peace, he was, as one writer noted, "stoned, stabbed, reviled and spat upon when he lived, but in death there was a shattering sense that a MAN of ultimate goodness had lived among us."

In a less flamboyant, but equally effective and somewhat different approach, the N.C. Human Relations Council has spent its first 20 years pursuing similar goals of freedom, equality and human dignity.

Since its inception under Governor Terry Sanford on January 18, 1963, the Human

Relations Council has been given expanded duties by the General Assembly to study, promote, encourage and assist efforts and ideas that will further equal opportunity for all citizens; and advance understanding, respect and good will among the citizens of North Carolina through clear lines of communication among and between ethnic groups and special interest groups.

The N.C. Human Relations Council's efforts don't stop with rhetoric and wishful thinking. In recent years the Council has originated and helped get two bills through the General Assembly to assure greater opportunities for black participation in jury selection and to reduce the possibility of physical injury by dangerous weapons at public gatherings.

Final Analysis

The Council has also prepared several studies and held four regional public hearings in 1982 that dealt with minority group political participation, black employment in the states public school systems, and community perspectives on employment, housing, criminal justice and extremist groups. Each of these, and many other efforts of the Council, have and will continue to be directed toward the never ending quest for justice and equality.

Thus, as we pause to pay tribute to the birthdays of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the N.C. Human Relations Council, we must realize that neither this man nor this institution has sought fame, wealth or power.

What they have sought, and the latter continues to seek, is a sense of human dignity which means love and respect for our fellow human beings in all aspects of American life and society. In reality this can only happen if all of us as individuals are willing to give a little of ourselves to help make Dr. King's dream of a nation of peace, love and justice a fuller reality.

In the final analysis, King's dream and the Council's continuing pursuits are not for someone else, they are for you—Mr. and Mrs. North Carolina citizen—be you black, white, red, brown or somewhere in between. The quest for and desire to be treated with human dignity is a universal human need. In broader terms, as far and remote as it may seem, the answers to avoiding a possible nuclear war must begin at the local level with simple caring and understanding between two individuals. This is the true beginning to any lasting peace ranging from riots in an urban street to global warfare.

"BLACKS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME, BUT HESITATED TO CRUSADE BECAUSE OF THE NEGATIVE MEANING OF CRIME IN THE STREET AND LAW AND ORDER," SAID ANDREW BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHICAGO N.A.A.C.P.

"BUT THE SITUATION IS SO BAD NOW THAT ACTION IS THE ONLY THING LEFT."



Blacks Should Take The Initiative In The Fight Against Crime

Letters To The Editor:



Black Destiny Tied To Rest Of U.S.

While attending college in 1972, I wrote a paper on civil disobedience by way of comparing and contrasting the 1760's Sons of Liberty to the 1960's Black Panther movement. From my research and the real-life 1960s news stories that were current events of that time, I drew the conclusion that certain types of civil disobedience have been historically a "Catch 22" reality guaranteed to some yet denied to others.

That "Catch 22" reality is much like being an American and therefore constitutionally guaranteed certain rights, and simultaneously, being Black in America and therefore, periodically re-guaranteed those rights in the form of constitutional amendments, civil rights legislation and more recently, in affirmative action policies.

And in 1982, it is the continuation of a long-term national insult by guaranteeing the racist, violence-prone Ku Klux Klan the right to assemble and the vehement protection accorded this group by Boston and Washington, D.C. police at the expense of a larger group protesting not so much the Klan's right to exist and assemble but the divisive ideology through which they perpetuate the national embarrassment that racism is.

Those Blacks who were ready to once again raise the consciousness of the District of Columbia or raze the district itself were angry with good reason. Any Black in America who did enough to remember the turmoil of the 60s

remembers the extinction of the less violent but more vilified Black Panther Party by design of (Nixon's) federal government.

Yet groups like the Klan, with a long and violent history, especially against Blacks, and the American Nazi Party, another mob with protected status, thrive. They plot, plan and put guns in their children's hands. No president or federal agency has waged a war against these groups as was waged against the Panthers.

Black America is not concerned with undermining this country. Our destiny is unfortunately tied to the rest of the country, and in the future will be increasingly tied to the destiny of the world.

Declining Enrollment

Dear Sir:

The declining enrollment on colleges throughout the country is disturbing; but, the decreasing number of students enrolling in black colleges is more troubling.

Many blacks who really want to go to college have been made to believe that unless they can afford the tremendous tuition costs, there is no hope. True, financial aid assistance has taken a dip economically, but the outlook is not quite as dismal as publicized to be. Not only that, many black universities, alumni of these colleges and black interest groups are supporting students who want to attend black universities of higher learning through programs such as the United Negro College Fund.

But in 1982, I was glad that the Klan cannot march into this nation's capital which contains the largest concentration of Blacks in an urban area, wearing crash helmets to a peaceful rally and not expect to be confronted by Black people wondering what they are up to now!

It will be difficult for America to continue to profess this good neighbor policy she (America) wants to believe she is or can become if she is thrown back 100 years by the racist practices and perpetuated by a small group of her population. Very difficult indeed. The incident in D.C. on November 27, is proof of that.

Michael Sylvester

These are the fact that need to be publicized so that black Americans will not give up on enhancing their knowledge which is so desperately needed to compete and survive in the social, economical and political structure of our country.

There are over 100 black colleges in the country and they can prepare students with academic excellence. But they do one other thing that is seldom done in other colleges, they inform students of the strategies used against them to keep them from becoming decision makers in the U.S.

Also if blacks no longer attend black colleges, they will miss out on so much of their heritage.

C. R. Reynolds

From Capitol Hill

97th Congress Failed To Address Country's Needs

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The 97th Congress held its pro-forma session which consisted of swearing-ins and the introduction of a few new bills, coupled with the formality of selecting leadership of both Houses. That first day found the galleries and halls filled with the hustle and bustle of visitors, who came to see their candidates sworn in. Then there was the usual rounds of parties given by individual members of Congress for their constituents.

Reporters who were trying to get 97th Congress assessments and 98th Congress prognosis often found themselves in offices, talking amid boxes, furniture arrangements and hanging of pictures, plaques and awards. Representative Bill Gray gave a comprehensive interview while shirt-sleeved, busily hanging pictures and plaques and arranging furniture and files in his personal office.

Congressman Gray said the 97th Congress clearly failed to address the country's needs. Initially, it gave President Reagan everything he wanted and



Alfreda L. Madison

that was not good. As the election time approached, there was some modification and that the lame duck Congress produced some minute benefits, such as; the job training program and a few jobs resulting from the five-cent gas tax. Gray also counted defeat of the MX as an accomplishment. He stated that the Reagan Administration has made a concerted effort to set back civil rights gains. The Voting Rights Act was extended over the Administration's effort to weaken it. In the Boston police-fireman case, where the Justice Department has filed a brief on behalf of the white plaintiffs, Gray said such action is not only an as-

sault on affirmative action but it also shows a complete lack of concern for justice and human rights.

Since being a member of the House Subcommittee on African Affairs during the 97th Congress, he stated that the Reagan Administration's African policy of constructive engagement which takes a persuasive approach to South Africa on eradication of apartheid and Namibian disengagement, the Congressional Black Caucus from the very beginning sensed the fact that the Administration does not understand the nature of racism. Thus South Africa has emboldened its attack on Angola and Lesotho which strengthens apartheid. The policy has led this country down a trial of embarrassment and isolation from the majority of other Black African nations. Representatives Gray and Julian Dixon plan to introduce legislation to prohibit the American representative on IMF to vote against South African funding. During the 97th Congress Representative Gray introduced HR 3597 in the Subcommittee on Afri-

can Affairs, which prohibits American businesses from making any new investments in South Africa. This is the first time a disinvestment bill on South Africa has ever been voted out of the subcommittee. Another good aspect of the 97th Congress was that through the efforts of Caucus members Gray, Daymally and Crockett, members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, many economic and development programs were substantially increased which aid the Third World countries.

Representative Ron Dellums, the defense expert stated that money voted for MX research and development only bought more time before the MX will become a thing of the past. He spoke of the Pentagon as operating under a status symbol - there must be aircraft carriers so admirals will have something to control. Dellums said the Pentagon has a real fear of nuclear arms race, and if the economic problems continue to emerge there will be more skepticism about defense spending and a tendency to cut defense

small business NEWS & VIEWS

Innovation Research

Small business "innovation research" is now receiving special attention from federal government agencies. This month the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded \$2.6 million to 104 small science and technology firms in a new program to increase the public's return from federal research dollars.

The awards were made to small firms in 26 states and the firms ranged from a one person company to a firm with 315 employees.

The major objective of this program is to increase the opportunity for small science and high technology firms to take part in National Science Foundation research, and to support high quality research in areas that have high potential for industrial manufacturing.

The 104 small R&D awards were made in the following areas: material research; alternative biological resources; marine and fresh water resources; mineral resources; scientific and industrial measurement; microelectronics; computer science and applied mathematics; computer engineering; robotics and control; information control; communications and systems; science and technology to aid the handicapped; advance manufacturing processes; advanced chemical processes; chemistry; biochemical engineering; water treatment research; atmospheric technology; radiation processing and control; heat transfer; light machinery and components research, and tunneling, drilling, excavation and dredging.

The individual small business awards are for \$30,000 for Phase I. These grants give the small R&D firms, or the firm that has a good idea for a R&D project, a six month period to determine if the idea is technically feasible and and if the small firm is able to perform high quality research.

The second phase will support those R&D projects that appear to hold the highest promise for development. The Phase II awards have averaged \$200,000 for one to two year periods. Phase II usually involves follow-up private funding from venture capital, or large industrial firms. Thus far in this program, over \$40 million from private investors has been received in support of further development efforts. Most of these small business firms have doubled their employment during this R&D program.

This National Science Foundation program is the model for a new act of Congress signed by President Reagan on July 22, 1982. This law (P.L. 97-219) requires ten large Federal agencies to set aside a small percentage of their budgets for R&D type programs.

For information on how you can participate in the Small Business Innovation Research Program of the National Science Foundation, write to the Division of Industrial Science and Technology Innovation, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC 205-375-9498.

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

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