EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Who Speaks For Blacks?

At a recent private meeting of largely unnamed black elected officials and a few other black people, Arthur Griffin, a 34-yearold local office supply company owner was endorsed as a candidate to replace Phil Berry on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School

We applaud the interest shown by any segments of the black community for showing an active interest in any public office because of the role such an office plays in setting policies that affect the quality of life of all citizens in our community.

However, we have to admit to having some serious reservations about the manner in which a candidate should or might be endorsed by any group that suggests that a candidate, as in this case, might have difficulty getting broad-based black support.

Our reservations are numerous. First, in the absence of a public announcement that a meeting was to be held to consider a possible candidate endórsement for the School Board post denied the vast majority of black citizens an opportunity to participaté in any possible meaningful endorsement.

Secondly, while we certainly favor any legitimate efforts to elect or appoint black persons to public office, especially with an awareness of disproportionate lack of black representation in public offices generally, particularly state and nationwide, we believe that an endorsement that is apparently based solely on race is-pure and simple-a form of racism.

Four factors led a us to this conclusion. One is the extensive background in education that some of the black people have who were considered at the private meeting but not endorsed. Another was the bypassing of a two-time unsuccessful black candiate for the School Board who at least has demonstrated a firm understanding of public school issues and problems and is a known quantity.

In addition, the group's endorsed candidate reportedly indicated he'd rather be appointed than face an election. For ah unknown, unproven public office seeker this does not sound like a candidate briming with confidence or interest.

Lastly, on racism, if a segment in the white community said they want a white candidate to fill Berry's vacated School Board post in order to increase white representation, would not the same private black meeting group allege white racism?

We would like to believe that in Mecklenburg County in 1983 most citizens have matured beyond this kind of mentality.

Political Immaturity Must Stop

We have observed with considerable interest the developing efforts of the Young Democrats of Mecklenburg County to re-

cruit black people and other minorities in an effort to strengthen minority involvement in the Democratic Party and hopefully will become active in politics in general.

The Young Democrats, composed mostly of white professionals, is an arm of the county Democratic Party. They should be commended for their thoughtfulness and interest in broaderbased political participation by all citizens in our community.

However, we would hope that before they gallop off into the sunset that they would look inward at some of the internal problems their Party has and help to get their house in order before soliciting new supporters.

The Party has a number of internal problems, not the least of which is adquate financial support. One outstanding example of this, and an issue that is in reality petty and shows immaturity, has been the flop that first vice-chairperson Pat Patton has created over a \$400 expenditure by Party Chairman Bob

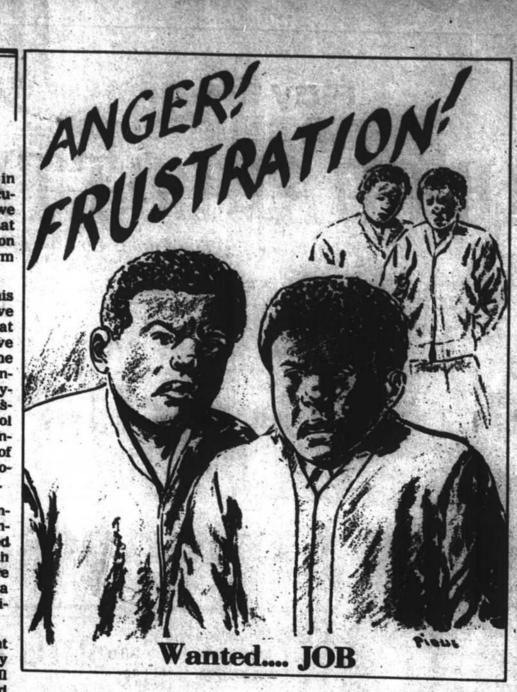
Briefly stated, the Party's executive committee approved a \$400 expenditure for Chairman Davis to attend a mini-party convention in Philadelphia last year and Ms. Patton has been attacking Mr. Davis about it and demanding that he personally repay the money because such an expenditure had never been

While Party Chairman Davis while Party Chairman Davis and we do appreciate has not stated his reasons, fie has anounced that he will not seek ful news to the public. You reelection to his post at the April 30 Party Convention. Neverthe-

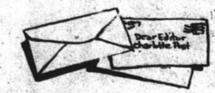
less, this is good reason to believe that one reason he plans to step down is the constant bickering over the minor, legitimate expenditure.

If the Young Democrats want to encourage wider support by black people or anyone else in

local Party activities, they need to help the Party in dividing.



Letters To The Editor:



National Black History Month

Every American can be grateful to the Association for the Study of Afro-

Appreciates The Charlotte Post

Dear Editor:

We, the members of the staff and residents of Boys Town would like to extend our appreciations to your very fine staff and newspaper company for the re-markable work you have provided in covering news of Boys Town and related

Your coverage of the Alpha Gamma Pai Teen Fraternity and resident counselor Jazz LaDuke were impressively done

have projected us very well and we are extremely

If for some reason Boys

like to return the favors. With much appreciation

Sincerely Appreciative, The Staff and Residents of Boys Town of N.C.

Have Something To Say?

Do you have something to say? Then do so for everyone to read. The Charlotte Post, the only other voice in town, wel-comes all letters on various Letters to the editor must

include your signature and address, both of which may or may not be used per request. For purposes of identification only, writers should include their telephone numbers.

American Lite and History for its dedicated efforts to promote both popular and scholarly interest in Ame-

greatful and hope that we will be able to establish a well-rounded relationship.

Town can be of any assistance to your company, please don't hesitate to call upon us. You have been very kind to us in every way possible and we would

and concern.

All letters are subject to editing for grammar, libelous content and, when ne-cessary, brevity. Please limit letters to 500 words. Letters should be addressed to: Editor, The Charlotte Pest, P. O. Bex 30144, Charlotte, N.C.

Read The Charlotte Post each week. It's your best source of news about the people you know.

rican black history. From 1915 forward this organization has served to familiarize our citizens with the outstanding contributions of black Americans. Through its work, we as a nation can more fully per-ceive the meaning of the events that have shaped our destiny.

The observance of Afro-American (Black) History fonth affords all of us a fine opportunity to recog-nize further and to appreciate the role of black Americans in the develop-ment of our nation. This annual observance pro-motes heightened aware-ness of the significant par-ticipation of black citizens in every level and aspect of our national life. It is a time when we transcend past struggles for advancement and gratefully ac-knowledge our rich and valuable diversity. Our heritage lends strength to the fiber of our country. Understanding black his-tory is fundamental to a thorough comprehension of

the full scope and sweep of the American historical experience. By more fully appreciating America's commitment to freedom and justice, we can avoid the mistakes of the past and fulfill the hopes of the

Conversion Process

It is very useful to think of manufacturing as a conversion process. This takes the mystery out of manufacturing by making

manufacturing identical regardless of product or process. Manufacturing is a conversion process that turns labor and material into products, and capital into profits. A businessman invests capital in machines, materials, and overhead and produces a product to be sold at a price that includes return of capital and profit,

I have just finished reading William Sandman's "How to Win Productivity in Manufacturing" and recommend that any business owner who operates a "job shop" read and use some of the techniques described in this book. The book is not about "flow shops" where the speed of a producfion cycle is not a problem because products and capacity are jointly engineered for constant machine utilization. This book is about "queue shops" where work batches can vary in quanity, physical size, material required, and routing sequence. The work batches do not flow from machine to

machine in a perfectly engineered pattern. Frequently, shop supervisors cannot assign work fast enough to keep up with machine capacity, and so machine capacity often waits for work assignment. To prevent the unintentional idling of capacity, super-visors build-in safety loads of extra work. These are call "queue lines." A queue line is basically a quantity work-in-progress waiting for additional manufacturing processing. This extra work-in-process (WIP) protects the supervisor from the inability in control the many variables in the dynamic environment of a queue or job shop. At some point, however, this attempt at extra workin-progress worsens the control problems by lengthening the queue lines, increasing the cash investment in WIP and slowing completions.

Profit is the key word in Sandman's book and his point is that time can be controlled, and when it is controlled, profits will multiply. The productivity problem in a queue shop is the result of excessive queue time reducing the utiliziation of work-inprogress. It is entirely possible that the amount of time jobs waste in queues at each work center is actually 90 percent to 98 percent of an order's life cycle in a queue

One of the examples given is a firm manufacturing hand tools which 212 working days to pass a "batch of tools" through its modern machine shop. The work time necessary for any one batch never exceeded a single eight hour work day. As might be expected, this firm was bought out an the take-over firm promptly eliminated 90 percent of the models, standardized their product line, and achieved instant results. It reduced in-shop traffic jams and increased productivity, which drastically increased

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

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From Capitol Hill

Equal Employment Opportunity Is Challenge For '80's

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post The 33rd annual Leader ship Conference on Civil Rights' theme is Civil Rights Challenge for the 80s with emphasis on equal employment opportunities. The Conference witnessed its greatest attendance ever. The Conference is composed of more than 166 organizations. They include labor, women, elder-ly, handicapped, blacks, Hispanics, Asian Ameri-Alfreda L. Madison ns, American Indians as

Ralph Neas, Executive Director, in his Conference opening statement, said, "In the wake of the 1960 elections and of the Reagan legislative juggernauts of 1981, we were threatened from all directions. We faced the distinct possibility of a Second Post Reconstruction in which the civil rights gains of more than two decades

well as all civil rights

pardy."

Ness stated that in spite of the Administration and its strong alliance with the Radical Right, Congress blocked them from enacting a single item on their

ald be in a serious jeo-

vements. The stre st Voting Rights Act of all



times was passed. "What was enacted," said Neas, "exceeded our greatest expectations." Besides getting Congress to restore the results test and bilingual results test and bilingual provisions for more than ten years, the bail-out sec-tion was extended for 25

years.

The leadership coalition dealt Senators Jesse Helms, John East, their Radical Right and the Administration a terrible blow by defeating their efforts to curb the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts over Constitutional issues. David Brink, formissues. David Brink, form-er President of the Ame er President of the American Bar Association called this attempt, "the gravest threat to our Constitutional scheme of government since the Civil War." This defeat had bi-partisan Senate leaders— Packwood, Weicker, Baucus, Bumpers and Moyni-

President Reagan's brazen attempt to prevent the Internal Revenue from denying tax exemption to schools which discriminate on the basis of race served as a galvanizing force for preserving civil rights. Again the Administration's actions started the leader ship conference wheels rolling and the President and the Radical Right went down to an embarrassing defeat.

Mr. Regan's nomina-ons of William Bell as Chairman of Equal Emloyment Opportunity commission and Sam Hart as Chairman of Civil Rights Commission were ally an insult to the ince of the citizen the United States. Con-firmation of these nomin-ees and others who lack a commitment to civil rights ere thwarted by the

leas emphasized that all Ness emphasized that all of these successes are attributable to direct bi-partisan support, well organized broad-based national lobbying campaign and a well established coalition at reached far beyond

Concerning the 1983 gends said Ness, "We will ave to continue our rear and actions against the apts of the Radical

Right to repeal or weaken the legislative enactments of the past." He warned the audience against relying on the press about the Radic-al Right. In 1961, the press spoke of the strength of the Radical Right, and now it gives the impression that it is just about dead.

Sar Levitan, George Washington University professor, said, "Staying professor, said, "Staying the course will only result in deprivation of millions of jobless Americans." Levitan acknowledged that additional federal programs would increase the present deficit, but the alternative means higher future deficits, since every one percent rise in unemployment. cent rise in unemployment raises the federal deficit by 25 to 30 billion dollars. Lane Kirklane of labor stated that labor knew

from the start that Reaanomics wouldn't work. It was an economic disster," he said. "We suidn't afford to wait for amage to be done and oliticans to act. "We know politicans to act. "We know we were right so we sent a message to the President on election day, Labor leadrs were intimidated by politicians, multi-million dollar landlords and cor-porate managers."

Douglas Fraser of UAW and "Industry in this

said, "Industry in this country is operating at only 70 percent capacity, auto-

mobile moustry 50 percent and steel industry at only 40 percent."

A bi-partison represent-ation attended the confer-ence breakfast. Some of whom have designs on the White House. Senator Hol-lings said, "Reagan's dislings said, "Reagan's dis-service makes government the great enemy. Govern-ment has always stood for eqal justice under law." Senator Bob Dole, who has changed his conservative robe for a moderate cloak said his Finance Commit-tee will begin, immediate-ly, to address health care extension, unemployment and tax credits. Senate aucus, congratulated the edition on efforts which opped Jesse Helms in the h Congress, but he ad-ed the group against coming complacent be-see Helms is sure to try in in the path Conagain in the 98th gress Senator Ken said, "The Constitut cluded founding fathers and mothers, human ser-vices, equity and fairness in economic policy and

Benjamin Hooks, Chairman of the conference was asked if he considered President Reagan a racist. Hooks said, "I don't think the President is a racist, but he just lives in a dream world. There maybe some around him who are ra-

stally, I'm just as dead.

Safe Woodstones While you can save money heating with a

woodstove or fireplace, there are dangers. The Charlotte Fire Department suggests that you follow these guidelines to insure your safety.

-Since more than ¼"
thickness of creosote in a
flue can lead to chimney
fire, maintain a slight draft of air in a woodstove to prevent a rapid creosote build-up. Have flues cleaned and checked on an annual basis.

-Keep all combustible aterials a safe distance from the fire. Use a screen prevent sparks from mping out of the first hen the firebox doors are

-Do not wear loose fit-ng clothes while starting res. If clothing does igto, remember to DROP ad ROLL to extinguish the

