

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Slavery In 1983?

It seems unbelievable that in 1983, 118 years after the abolition of slavery in America, the Associated Press would begin a news story with a one paragraph sentence that reads, "Making slavery a crime in North Carolina is not easy."

At the center of controversy in the anti-slavery bill sponsored by Rep. Malcolm Fulcher, Democrat Carteret County, is a provision that holds the farmer-landowner responsible if they are knowledgeable of crew leaders who are holding laborers against their wills. While this is obviously an important technical point, the broader inconceivable point is that anyone, farmer-landowner, crew leader or anyone else would even consider holding another human being in servitude.

Rep. Vernon James, Democrat Pasquotank County, has expressed strong opposition to the bill because of possible liabilities

for the farmers. He feels all the responsibility should be placed on the crew leaders.

In these times of presumed enlightened human understanding it is our strong belief that farmers, landowners, growers, crew leaders and others, regardless of rank or profession, would be pleased and honored to assume some responsibility for reporting and testifying against anyone who would attempt to enslave another human being.

Any outcome of this anti-slavery bill that does not hold all knowledgeable persons accountable will be an insult to the people of North Carolina and make our license plate slogan, "First In Freedom," a cruel joke.

Philosophically, morally and for the simple God-directed love of mankind, the General Assembly should pass the anti-slavery bill and not get lost in the mud and narrow mind of trivia.

Power In The Ballet Box!

A recent editorial cartoon in The Charlotte News under the caption "Black Power" shows Black men with raised fists holding cards that state "voter registration." Some people might pass this off as merely political rhetoric. However, the recent elections in Chicago and Philadelphia and the presumed anti-Reagan Black vote appear to indicate that a new-found clout is ending benign neglect by Black voters.

It is by now a well-known fact that a large Black voter turnout helped significantly to elect a Black mayor in Chicago. A similar turnout helped nominate W. Wilson Goode as Philadelphia's first Black Democratic mayoral candidate.

Louis Harris, head of Harris Poll and Associates has said that the significance of what is happening to Black voter turnout has been grossly underestimated. In Chicago 66 percent of all eligible Blacks voted in the mayoral race versus only 57 percent of all the non-Blacks. The non-Black voter turnout was not surprising since it was precisely the same in the 1980 national election. Furthermore, the Black voter turnout in Philadelphia for Mr. Goode was similar to that for Harold Washington in Chicago.

However, if Black voter turnout in these elections had been no greater than the 35 percent in the 1980 national election neither Washington nor Goode would have experienced the success they have achieved to date. In

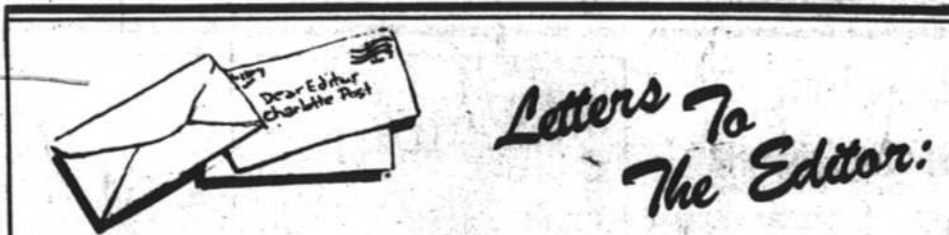
Chicago, ethnic racial politics was a blunt issue. In Philadelphia rhetoric had it that ethnic differences was not an issue. Nevertheless, Mr. Harris claims that underneath the surface, Philadelphia too experienced a very polarized election. For example, Goodé won his nomination because of over 60 percent when compared to the 1980 election voter turnout.

In terms of what all this means for the 1984 presidential election, Harris estimates, and we strongly agree, that if Ronald Reagan runs again the Black vote will oppose him at least 90 to 100 percent.

Significantly, Harris' analysis says that if the Black voter turnout in the 1984 presidential election is equivalent to that in the Chicago mayoral race, Reagan would have won the non-Black vote by 11 points in order to just squeak out with a 50.1 percent or a simple majority of the popular vote. This means too that even if Black and white voters turn out about equally at the polls Reagan would have to win the white vote or non-Black vote by 65 percent. This would be "an incredible development" that will probably not occur.

The assumption here is not that a possible Reagan opponent in the 1984 election will be Black but rather that Blacks generally feel strongly that administration cuts in domestic social welfare programs have a disproportionate affect on Black Americans.

LEADERS MUST ORGANIZE



President Tax Issues Benefit Wealthy

To The Editor:
The President is a fast talker with a false smile. These are only masks which hide the truth about what Ronald W. Reagan has officially done to hurt and twist a country's financial and moral obligations.

Those who suffer day in and day out are the elderly, the poor, the lower middle class and the upper middle class, totaling about 75 percent of this country's mighty motor. He is causing it to stall and clog the serious issues at hand.

His tax issues benefit the wealthy business tycoons and foreign trade. The billions he so quickly gives away without a second thought to radical governments like El Salvador which are so unstable, never offering the price of ease and security to America's-needy. Our tax dollars and shameful handling must be quelled now. The endless struggle becomes more tragic and the people's minds more bitter towards the present party in office.

President Reagan cuts the much-needed benefits for retired citizens. Widows of veterans are either cut or completely taken off the funds that their husbands fought and died for. To preserve this nation's honored policy to care and protect those who offered to give everything, including their lives for. In re-

turn, we get wealthy idiots who never truly fought or served this country, except to gain and collect from the sweat and struggle of the average American who made this land what it is. Only the rich and powerful enjoy the reaping from the pain and sacrifice of others. Reagan and others like him are worthless beings who sit by with their millions and elegant mansions and uncounted investments. Politics sure cleaned up by using the people over the years while they kept harping on loyalty and a person's duty to serve and struggle under our proud flag.

The meaning of American security and equality begins with the needs of its people, all races, all re-

ligions.
Each party in past years has led the average American family astray. Smooth talk, involvement in southeast Asia. Laws that make life beautiful for so few and harsh for the majority. No love or deep thought for those who do not own a decent roof over their heads. This is "America the Beautiful and land of plenty!"

Immigrants pouring in from Korea and Vietnam, being sponsored and taken care of in big fashion. Opening small businesses and wearing expensive jeans on their butts, while those who've been here for the past three generations find nothing falling into their pockets.

James E. Kelly

Reader Appreciates The Post

Dear Editor:
Please allow me to express thanks to The Charlotte Post for the splendid support given to the NAACP Membership Drive for 1983.

I feel that the success of the Drive was due largely by the vast coverage of events by The Charlotte Post. From the very beginning of the Drive, The Charlotte Post was at the forefront in news coverage and remained so throughout the entire Drive. The Post was the only local newspaper to share an editorial with the public of its views on the

NAACP.
Many inquiries and memberships came to the NAACP as a result of articles appearing in The Charlotte Post.

The Charlotte community is indeed fortunate to have The Charlotte Post as a fair, objective and leading weekly newspaper.

On behalf of the Membership Committee of the Charlotte Branch of the NAACP, I say thank you again!

Sincerely,
Anna Hood, Chairperson
Membership Committee
NAACP, Charlotte Branch

From Capitol Hill

Reagan's Actions Require Bayonet Stab

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
President Reagan never ceases to hurl assaults on civil rights gains and blatant insults on the intelligence of Blacks. He has constantly blamed Black leaders for what he terms as untruths that the Black community has of his civil rights actions. Doesn't he know that all Blacks realize that he is attempting to turn back all methods by which civil rights gains have been attained?

The White House hiring and appointment practices reflect racial discrimination. Even the President's "soap opera" press conferences with all the main performers (members of the rich press) whom he smilingly calls by names are seated on the front row, with one or two seated in the second or third row, coupled with his having taken only four questions from the Black press since his inauguration, exemplify discrimination. Blacks, throughout the nation view his press conferences, and response to issues concerning minorities as either being uninformed or that he just plain doesn't care.

Just recently President Reagan has slapped Blacks, Hispanics and women in the face when he has presented the names of three people to replace three present members of the Civil Rights Commis-



Alfreda L. Madison

sion. Clarence Pendleton, the Chairman and Vice Chairman are already Reagan appointments. If his appointments are confirmed this is the first time, in the 25-year Commission history, that any President has politicized this independent agency by removing original members and replacing them with people who will cater to a President's whims.

Pendleton said he asked that four of the Commissioners be replaced—these were non-Reagan appointments. "I'm Commissioner over there but I can't get anything done. You need to appoint more conservatives. If I'm going to be appointed to a political position in which I am ideologically compatible with the Administration, then I need some support." Pendleton stated, "Fewer court cases prove nothing. A school system or a local government saves money with a conciliatory

agreement and so does the federal government." President Reagan's conciliatory agreements have sacrificed the rights of minorities and conciliatory agreements between minorities and local governments have been challenged in the courts by the Administration.

It appeared that Mr. Reagan intended to make Memorial recess Civil Rights Commission appointments, avoiding the Senate's advise and consent right, but the press and civil rights organizations' actions seemed to have caused the Administration to change.

On Tuesday before the Memorial Day recess, several civil rights organizations and Congress persons called a press conference to denounce the Administration's Commission actions.

Ralph Neas of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, in speaking of the Commission's independence, said, "Commissioners, traditionally, have been insulated from Presidential election results. It appears that President Reagan is about to shatter that proud tradition in an unprecedented move to ensure that the Commissioners reflect this philosophy."

Congressional Black Caucus stated, "President Reagan is making an un-

precedented attempt to replace three of the six current members with persons who are opposed to affirmative action programs." The Caucus said it would be a grave mistake to mold the Commission into a rubber stamp. Representative John Conyers said the House and Senate should see what's happening in civil rights and that they should lead the way in preventing these gross mistakes. He said constituencies are demanding congressional accountability.

Representative Pat Schroeder, representing women said, "The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights must be doing something right, if President Reagan wants to make a clean sweep of its governing body. It must indeed be pursuing the Administration's enforcement of civil rights laws which is clearly an embarrassment to President Reagan." Schroeder said the President is against civil rights remedies, "If he felt as intensely about the wrongs of discrimination as he does about remedies, the President would not replace the current commissioners."

Representative Garcia of the Hispanic Congressional Caucus said, "The President has tried to win over women and minority voters with token rhetoric and appointments.



Racial Discrimination

On Tuesday, May 24, the United States Supreme Court ruled in an 8-1 decision that federal tax exemptions for private schools that discriminate against racial minorities be prohibited. The Courts have encouraged the IRS to collect the millions of dollars in payroll taxes from schools such as Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C., and Goldsboro Christian Schools in Goldsboro, N.C.

The argument used as a defense mechanism by such schools is that the Bible commands Blacks to be treated differently than whites—merely a different way of describing racial discrimination—which is practiced by both and all institutions. One question at the root of the situation is how can two so-called religious schools discriminate against races when their religions' backbone—the Bible—teaches one to love thy neighbor: it says nothing of loving thy white neighbor.

The decision came about as a result of 13 years of back and forth arguments between the IRS, Justice Department and the White House. Since 1970 the IRS has taken a policy of withholding tax benefits to approximately 100 racially discriminatory, private non-profit schools. January, 1982, brought some deviation to the cause. Some Southern members of Congress put pressure on the White House and Justice Department saying that the IRS lacked legal authority to deny tax breaks for Bob Jones University and Goldsboro.

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger understands that racial equality is far more important than religious freedom accusations made by the two larger schools. For an institution to receive tax breaks, it must first benefit the public and is not converse to general public policy. Secondly, racial discrimination is fundamentally wrong as described by the Constitution, civil rights laws and acts of Presidents from President Harry S. Truman to the present. The history of racial discrimination has been a movement in time with a modified goal - racial equality; and those instrumental individuals who have tried and are trying to reconcile the Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the ending).

Bob Jones III feels that the United States government is interfering in religious rights and practices. But is prohibiting interracial coupling of students, expelling those who participate and not admitting minorities just under the basic civil rights acts and man's guaranteed rights? Jones feels betrayed by President Reagan due to the pressures put upon him by the press and civil rights groups. Logically speaking, Reagan would have to be insane if he did side with Jones and his associates. Reagan realized that the one thing the White House did not need more of was protesting by women's and civil rights organizations. Also it would not have set a good example for the U.S. to El Salvador, Lebanon and the like!

The Supreme Court acted in the best interest of the people of the United States. Those nine justices were appointed to act as interpreters of the Constitution and make decisions that will benefit the majority. The "heathens and vain woman" as Jones called them, chose to take the philosophical approach to the situation in that all men and women are free and equal - and idea Jones could not comprehend.

It is that (Jones) type of small, mindless thinking that has put the restraints on this nation's morality and warmth. Ignorance of each other has produced a cold climate within such a contained state. Separation of the races is the product of this ignorance of each other and the only way to win the war against racial discrimination is to stop it before it happens: present the self in such a way that is complementary to the human race, American and to oneself. Presenting an image of pride and dignity. Henceforth, these things are to be pursued because the false pride and religion of Bob Jones University and Goldsboro Christian schools will blow us (thinking men and women) off the face of this Earth.

B.O.N. Helps Businesses

Continued from Page 1
postmaster for Mt. Holly N.C. During the last election, he ran for the N.C. House and served on various boards and committees for North Carolina and Mecklenburg County. Some of his posts include Member of the Housing Authority, Chairman of Mecklenburg County Social Services. He and his wife, Mary, are the proud parents of two sons, James Jr. and Gregory. Mr.

Richardson is also a member of Memorial United Presbyterian Church. His involvement in the Charlotte community, Mr. Richardson feels, is an asset to his position as manager of B.O.N.



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