

editorials & comments

Foreign Affairs Our Business, Too!

Except for news print about the racist policies of South Africa and the racism American soldiers experience in Europe, especially West Germany, few black newspapers have much to say about foreign affairs policies and programs.

The underlying reason for this sad state of affairs arises largely from black Americans' partly understandable preoccupation with domestic issues that border on survival. By this, of course, we are referring to the nearly 20 percent unemployment rate among blacks (nearly 40 percent for black young men), declining black incomes that are only 58 percent that of whites, half the black births in the nation are to unmarried women, a rapidly increasing number of black female-headed households, and the growing threat to the civil rights gains secured over the past 20 years.

The problem is further complicated by the apathy among blacks toward foreign affairs which has led to a painful level of ignorance and misunderstanding. For example, many presumed black leaders oppose any kind of economic aid or trade with the government of South Africa because of the assumption that such trade simply strengthens and encourages the racist policies of that nation. Yet, some reports indicate that South African blacks believe that a decline in American trade would result largely in poorer economic conditions for themselves.

Apathy and misunderstanding also account for the fact that most black Americans are not

aware that a disproportionate percentage of blacks served and died in Vietnam, and, if a war were to start in Central America or the Middle East, an equally disproportionate percentage of black Americans would be among the first called into armed combat. This would happen because in the face of high levels of unemployment many black youth volunteer for the Armed Forces, and often because of limited skills are placed in combat unit. This cycle of events starts because of racism in the civilian labor market.

It should be understood too by black Americans that the similarity between the Vietnam War and a potential war in Central America is in the fact that the U.S. Government was or would be supporting fascist or other dictatorial governments that claim, falsely, commitments to democracy in presumed opposition to the spread of communism. Yet, in most of these nations democracy may never become a reality.

Finally, our apathy and misunderstanding has led to little knowledge of the ultimate danger and eventual worldwide tragedy that could come from a nuclear war, a war that would have no respect for race or national origin because it would affect us all.

Thus, an emerging part of the survival kit of black Americans should be an awareness of the facts and forces shaping and influencing U.S. policies in Central America and the Middle East. Over time such knowledge may be important as getting a job and opposing racism on the home front.

among the "truly needy."

While both houses of Congress are considering legislation to end further budget cuts in the federal nutrition programs and to speed up the distribution of commodities - dairy products - in storage there is the danger that the highly presumed upturn in the economy may cause too many upper income employed people to overlook the renewed American tragedy - hunger and poverty. Their very existence in America in 1983 is a stark reminder that the old economic isms are not working and we have not discovered any workable, new isms.



BLACK'S DESTINY IN OWN HANDS...

Letters To The Editor:



Preserve A Historical Landmark!

Cannon Cathedral COGIC
200 Tuckaseegee Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28231

Dear Sir:
HELP US TO PRESERVE A HISTORICAL LANDMARK. The Cannon Cathedral Church is presently combining efforts with local businesses to renovate Charlotte's first Auditorium presently located at 200 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, N.C.

Around 1905, Charlotte's first City Auditorium was built at 5th and College Streets. During the period of 1931-33, this Auditorium was purchased for \$2,000 and reconstructed into a church facility, The Garr Memorial Church at 200 Tuckaseegee Road. On June 18, 1933 the church officially opened its doors for worship service.

Forty-three years later, in 1976, Pastor E. C. Cannon, led of the Lord, conferred with Rev. A. G. Garr Jr. and some of the officers of Garr Memorial Church about purchasing the, then up for sale church. On August 28, 1976, interchangeable worship services between Garr Memorial Church and Cannon Cathedral Church was held. (Cannon Cathedral Church is an integral part of the E. C. Cannon Evangelistic Crusade, Inc. founded by Pastor E. C. Cannon.)

Please make your con-

tribution today. Your donation is vitally needed. Make your check payable to: E. C. Cannon Crusade, Inc. Send all contributions to: Project Committee, in care of Cannon Cathedral Church, P. O. Box 31773, Charlotte, N.C. 28231.

A plaque will be placed on exhibit in the church that will reflect the names of individuals, businesses and organizations that

made tangible contributions to this project.

A tour of the facility is available upon request, Monday-Friday, 9 - 5 p.m. Please call 334-9879 for further information.

We graciously thank you for your benevolence in this endeavor.

Respectfully yours,
Cannon Cathedral COGIC
Sylvia Wilkins, Chrpsn.
Doris Hoskins, Sec.
E. C. Cannon, Pastor

Don't Forget "Post" Or Your Right To Vote!

Dear Mr. Johnson:

If you will be leaving Charlotte within the next few months to attend college, to visit friends or relatives, to seek new employment, etc., don't forget to take The Charlotte Post and your right to vote.

In a couple of weeks, I will be leaving Johnson C. Smith University and Charlotte to attend graduate school at Ohio State University. Though I will be hundreds of miles away, I plan to stay informed with what is happening in the black community by getting a mail subscription to The Charlotte Post.

We all should also get ready for the important election to be held in the

city this fall. I have already contacted the Elections Office to find out about my right to vote absentee. It's a simple process. You can find out if you qualify and what you need to do to vote for the candidate of your choice even if you are out of state by calling the Elections Office, 374-2135.

You can find out how to continue your subscription to The Charlotte Post even when you are out of state by calling 376-0496.

Pick up the phone. Give both numbers a call. Your vote can make a difference.

Linda Florence Callahan
Dir. Univ. Relations
Johnson C. Smith

Poverty Strikes Again

Poverty in America has reached a new 17 year high as 34.4 million people were living below the government's defined poverty level in 1982, the highest number at any time since 1965.

The very thought that millions of people in America go to bed nightly hungry is difficult to believe in a nation that literally has tons of food surpluses in government warehouses across the nation. It seems unbelievable too that in the face of mounting evidence of this hunger and poverty, President Reagan insults the integrity of such people by talk of forming a task force to study whether there is hungr-

From Capitol Hill

Minorities' Civil Rights Subverted?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

They spew out their venom against black justice and equality, but they are afraid to "show their faces." In "Agenda '83," a book put out by the conservative Heritage Foundation which asked the Reagan Administration to make getting rid of civil rights an Administrative priority, the chapter on civil rights was written by two members of the Reagan White House. It is stated that they remain anonymous, because of their sensitive positions. If these writers' positions are so precarious, why write the article? The public needs to know their identity to properly evaluate the article.

The chapter's attack on methods for accomplishing civil rights could have been written by William Bradford Reynolds, since he is trying to implement the suggestions, and Ed Meese could have also been a contributing factor since it quotes Walter Williams, Thomas Sowell and the New Coalition; all being very close to Meese. There are many indications that Meese selected Sowell and Williams as leaders for blacks and that his support for the New Coalition, which is closely connected to the Heritage Foundation as an organization to combat the civil rights organ-



Alfreda L. Madison

izations that have been, for decades, in the forefront in the struggle for racial justice and equality. If Ed Meese is guilty of these accusations, his rating is a big "F", and Reynolds gets an "F" for trying to set civil rights back, but gets and "A" for increasing racial tension.

The recent action by OMB to restrict funding of advocacy groups is advocated in the civil rights chapters. However, that OMB's attempt was met with such a barrage of disapproval, that it seemingly died in its infancy.

Court awards of attorneys' fees in civil rights cases are made the responsibility of the plaintiff. The authors say this maneuver "redirects the focus of the fee award scheme toward reimbursing plaintiffs who could not afford to sue on their own." In this vein it forbids the Legal Corporation at-

torneys to bring discrimination suits against the government. So only the rich will be granted the privilege of suing for equal justice under the law.

The reason given in these chapters for reversing school integration and affirmative action enforcement is that racism is increasing in schools. As proof, Tony Brown was cited in a speech he gave at a meeting of the New Coalition, "the only two things that the Klan and Nazi Party use to organize whites against blacks are busing and affirmative action." The writers need to recall history of the origin of the Klan - to prevent blacks from having the rights of citizenship, which was sought through lynchings and every unlawful devious means possible. The Nazi Party is an off-shot of Hitlerism. Are blacks to be denied rights to placate these radical outlaws? Yet, the authors seem to advocate that these are causes for action against busing and affirmative action enforcement.

Focus in these two chapters is proving intent, which is very difficult to prove. It emphasizes individual discriminatory cases and not class action suits.

Blacks have always been discriminated against as a class. A report from the President's own White

House is proof of class distinction. He hasn't appointed one black Federal Judge, no blacks have been appointed in visible policy-making positions, there is not one black in the White House communication department. The effects are that blacks don't hold those positions, so President Reagan should prove his intent.

It is suggested that Mr. Reagan defines discrimination in the light of intent and disregard effect. It also calls for the Civil Rights Commission to determine the extent to which

affirmative action discriminates against white males. This is an impingement on the independence for which the Commission was created. This clearly appears to be one of the reasons why Mr. Reagan is appointing conservatives to the Commission - so it will carry out the Heritage Foundation wishes.

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance is asked to amend Executive Order 11246 to outlaw quotas, goals and timetables for federal contractors to set non-discriminatory policies.

The authors criticize EEO, which must approve anti-discrimination hiring and promotion practices in federal agencies, for requiring goals and timetables.

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON



Sabrina Johnson's column will reappear next week

To Drink Or Not To Drink?

Contrary to popular notions, the children of problem drinkers are unlikely to follow their parents' drinking habits, says a University of Michigan public health researcher.

His findings are based on a detailed study of the drinking habits of adults and their parents in a small community near the university.

"The conventional wisdom is that the parents' behavior sets the course of a child's drinking career, especially in the case of the problem drinker," says Dr. Ernest Harburg, research scientist of epidemiology and psychology and director of the Urban Health Research Program. "But this study counters that idea."

Harburg and his colleagues, Deborah Davis and Dr. Roberta Caplan found that children tended to follow their parents' drinking behavior except when their parents were at either extreme of the drinking spectrum - either abstainers or trim under "very" heavy drinkers. In those cases, the number of children imitating their parents' behavior fell off.

The researchers suggest that the children of parents who either abstained or were problem drinkers broke away from their parents' behavior because "in both cases their parents' drinking style was a source of stress. Children of abstainers were at odds with the community norm. Children of very heavy drinkers appear to have been responding to the stresses of alcohol-caused problems within the family."

What was important in the study was not the absolute amount of alcohol consumed but how those amounts related to community norms of drinking behavior, Harburg notes.

The respondents labeled their parents as abstainers, or rare, light, moderate, heavy or very heavy drinkers. They labeled their own drinking and calculated how much beer, wine and liquor they consumed each week. From this information, the researchers were able to determine the community norm, that is, what the community considered to be light, moderate or heavy drinking.

The researchers analyzed the information for relationships between mothers and daughters, mothers and sons, fathers and daughters, and fathers and sons.

Children of light drinkers drank lightly, children of moderate drinkers drank moderately and so on. This imitation was most apparent for the behavior of the same-sex parent - like father, like son.

But children of teetotalers usually drank and children of very heavy drinkers did not drink as

much as their parents. This inverse relationship was especially true in response to the opposite-sex parent. For example, daughters of heavy drinking fathers tended to drink rarely.

Harburg says that some intriguing results are the relationships between drinking and family composition and birth order, but he cautions that the numbers in each category are small. For example, the researchers looked at the relationships between only sons and only daughters and their parents' drinking.

Only sons showed a "U-shaped" relationship; they drank more when their fathers were abstainers or heavy drinkers. Only daughters show a negative linear relationship; the more their fathers drank the less they drank.

Another provocative result, which deserves further research, says Harburg, is that last-born sons tend to drink more than would be expected by chance alone, especially if they have very heavy-drinking fathers.

The researchers also looked at the effect of education on imitative behavior and found clear differences between men and women. The drinking of college-educated men leveled off at a lower consumption point than their parents' habits, but better educated women tended to follow their parents' drinking to a higher level of consumption than did less educated women.

Children's reaction to their parents' drinking have important implications for public health programs aimed at controlling abusive drinking, says Harburg.

First, it is clear that adults raised in families where alcohol was consumed follow their parents' drinking habits except children of very heavy drinkers. Parents need to be made aware that how much they drink will influence how much their children drink, says Harburg, and that even moderate alcohol users can have alcohol-use problems. Moderate drinking by a pregnant woman, for instance, can lead to fetal alcohol syndrome, a leading cause of mental retardation in infants.

A special group at risk may be children of abstainers. "Problems may occur because they have not been taught moderate drinking habits; they are pressured by norms an attitudes outside the family to drink and carry with them a standard of drinking as an 'all or nothing' affair," suggests Harburg.

The good news, says Harburg, is that many children thought to be at risk of becoming alcoholics based on their parents' drinking habits, will in fact likely turn away from the drinking style that causes distress within the family.

CPCC Schedules Fall Registration

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The fall schedule also includes personal enrichment and physical fitness programs, plus liberal arts courses that lay foundations for bachelor's degrees: history, philosophy, math and the like.

Classes start October 3 and end December 20.

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from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. September 6-9, and 5-8 p.m. September 6-7; from 9 a.m. to noon September 10; from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. September 12; and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. September 28-29.

Students may register on campus or at CPCC Area Learning Centers in Matthews, Cornelius, or Freedom Mall. For information, call 373-6940.

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