

# editorials & comments

## Hooks: Where Do We Stand?

Rewritten from  
The Michigan Chronicle  
By Horace Sheffield  
Special To The Post

Last week in discussing here Ted Koppel's November 3 ABC Nightline program on Jesse Jackson's announced bid for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, space permitted only the response of the distinguished black Chicago Sun-Times columnist, Vernon Jarrett, to Koppel's seeming insistence on the "Black Messiah" concept as the only salvation for "America's Blacks."

Ben Hooks, NAACP executive director, was also on that post midnight Koppel show - which I'm sure most of you missed - and he also had some very thoughtful things to say. In a kind of summation, Jarrett told Koppel, "There is a (Black) grassroots activity on the ground-swell in this country, Mayor Washington (of Chicago) has noted it. And other people (had) noted it long before there was talk of a (Black) Presidency. "But now all we hear is 'a Black man running for President.' And it seems...Ted, it's being done (by the white media) for the entertainment of television viewers and (printed media) readers. Because it is assumed, I would suspect even by Mr. Jackson himself, that he is not only not going to be nominated by the Democratic Party, but that he is not going to win one state."

Koppel picked up Jarrett's bit about "for the entertainment of television viewers," and then said to the NAACP executive director: "Benjamin Hooks is that all we're talking about, a 1984 version of Amos and Andy?"

## Jackson Critic

(Hooks) "No. Let me put it this way. The NAACP does not consider itself a Jackson critic. Let me make that clear in the outset. In April, 1983, the (NAACP) Board met. We had been studying this problem of a Black presidential candidate for a number of months. I had been in other groups' meetings on this problem. We (the NAACP Board) came to the conclusion that there were many positive aspects to a Black presidential candidate and many negative aspects. Our judgment was that the negatives outweighed the

positives."

(Koppel) "Why?"  
(Hooks) "We were trying to achieve more Black voter registration, liberalization of the Democratic Party platforms, raising of issues and choosing of candidates. Of course, there can be negatives associated with (voter registration). You may register more Blacks. But at the same time, depending on how you go about it, you may register more (anti-Black) whites."

## Black Voters

"Everybody talks about how many Black voters could have been registered. But what about all the white voters who are not registered to vote? Secondly, if you are not very careful, you may wind up with (Black and White) polarization. Thirdly, you may end up with a candidate who is less sympathetic to the Black agenda. It is for those reasons that we decided not to push for the Black presidential candidate. Out decision was not aimed at Mr. Jackson. It is not aimed at him now. This declaration of the NAACP was made in April, 1983.

...Now Mr. Jackson has announced. That's a fait accompli. We now have to deal with the reality of his running. However, I don't want to be sitting here portrayed as a (Jackson) critic. We (the NAACP Board)...came to the conclusion that Ronald Reagan's form of government was very dangerous to our community. Therefore it was important that we try to support a candidate who has a chance of unseating Reagan."

"I do not believe that...this country with all its overtones of racism is prepared to elect a Black president. And it was because of that belief that we (the NAACP) have taken the position we have. We were not aiming at Jesse Jackson and we are not now. A great speaker, he brings charisma, some brilliance, dedication and some achievement in the civil rights field.

"...What we are saying is we think there is some inherent danger. We will be spending some time with Mr. Jackson and the other candidates trying to keep this whole campaign on an upward bend so as not to polarize the community.

It seems to be the good, Reverend Doctor Benjamin Hooks and the NAACP make a good case and a lot of good sense. Right on, Ben! Right on, NAACP!



## Letters To: The Editor



### Ask Congress To Support Impeachment

Dear Editor:  
Eight members of Congress have sponsored a resolution to impeach President Ronald W. Reagan on the basis that the invasion of Grenada violated the U.S. Constitutional provision that states that only Congress has the right to declare war.

The resolution also calls for impeachment on the grounds that in barring the press from reporting on the invasion, Reagan violated the Bill of Rights provision of freedom of the press.

The media were prohibited from covering the invasion on the flimsy excuse of military security and the safety of media personnel.

The media has covered many more dangerous military operations without a hint of breach of security, and they have never asked the military to be responsible for their safety.

The impeachment resolution is also based on the United Nations Charter, a treaty which is part of U.S. law and which prohibits military intervention in the internal affairs of other countries by member nations.

When Reagan took office he swore "to uphold the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic." The eight members of Congress are saying that the Constitution needs to be protected from the President.

Another reason for impeachment, which is not included in the resolution,

is the war Reagan is waging against Nicaragua by means of mercenaries. I urge that letters be sent to our Congressman re-

questing their support for the impeachment resolution.

Mike Sletson

### The Day After

Dear Editor:

The recent television movie *The Day After* serves to remind us that the danger of nuclear war is the greatest peril confronting humanity. It threatens the destruction of human civilization and the mass death of a large portion of the earth's population.

There can be no more important political objective than the avoidance of nuclear war between the nuclear superpowers.

We believe the foremost political priority of the United States must be to achieve an agreement with the USSR on the control, limitation and destruction of nuclear weapons, beginning with the mutual cessation of nuclear weapons development.

Arnold J. Silver

### Reader Finds Charlotte Post Interesting!

22 Union Ave.  
Mt. Vernon, NY 10550  
November 21, 1983  
The Charlotte Post  
Circ. Dept.  
P. O. Box 30144  
Charlotte, NC 28230  
Dear Circulation Mgr.

Please find enclosed a check (No. 2160) for seventeen dollars and sixty-eight cents (\$17.68) for renewal of one year subscription.

I have found the publication interesting which has reflected or voiced the problems and goals of the black ethnic people and also that of Hispanics. The crises are pandemic.

Wishing you a successful New Year.

Sincerely,

Hattie M. Cleveland,  
OTR, MABI, LFABI  
P.S. I wish to congratulate the citizens of Charlotte for their stance and unity in electing the most qualified candidate for mayor, the first black to be so honored in Charlotte, NC.

### Jesse Jackson

Dear Editor:

The year 1984 promises to be an interesting election year with Jesse Jackson in the race giving straight-forward answers to questions and issues as he did to Mike Wallace on 60 Minutes.

If the other candidates continue to sidestep issues with their bland, patented and traditional responses, we just might end up with a black Mr. America.

Hezekiah Nickelson

### From Capitol Hill

## Jackson Is Candidate For All People

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post  
Jesse Jackson, the presidential candidate, "should not be judged by the color of his skin but by the content of his character," which is an outgrowth of his experiences.

Rev. Jackson endured the dangers and turmoils of the civil rights movement, which resulted in ridding Americans of the guilt of ignoring the mandates of the Constitution, to implementation of them. The struggle not only gave the ten percent black citizens constitutional freedom, but many whites, Jews, women and other citizens who wanted to be able to stand up for constitutional rights for all citizens, but who were afraid to do so. They were given the freedom to contend for their beliefs. It was through the movement of which Jesse Jackson was a prime factor that afforded blacks better education facilities and opened up jobs that had been closed to them - given the nation a more educated and profitable citizenry. Jackson has been a strong force in proving that civil rights violations were not just confined to the South and blacks but that they are nationwide and cross-lines of ethnicity, sex and caste.

No presidential candidate, including Ronald Reagan has awakened the public to the civic duty to



Alfreda L. Madison

register to vote as has Jesse. So Jesse Jackson has a unique position of people concern which towers above all those who are now running for President.

There has been great criticism that Jackson has had no political experience. The seven Democrats and Ronald Reagan have all held political positions. First term Presidents and Congress persons place more emphasis on getting reelected than they do on what's, generally, best for the public. This is a stigma that has not saddled Jesse.

We've also had several U.S. Presidents who had no previous political experience; George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Tyler, Wilson and Eisenhower, just to name a few. John Chancellor stated that Jesse Jackson will pull black voters away from the other Democrats and Reagan will win by a land-

slide. Are blacks going to be blamed for Democrat losses? What about the white voters? Aren't they interested enough in the issues and what the political parties and their candidates stand for to register and vote?

It is reported that Coretta King, Julian Bond, Rev. Lowery, Bep Hooks, Coleman Young and Andy Young are not supportive of Jesse Jackson. The same blacks who, along with others, largely, through Jesse's efforts in getting blacks to register, caused fruition of the King holiday and the election of the present black elected officials and they are members of NAACP and SCLC. So those black elected officials and organizations would act wisely, if they will board the Jackson ship or remain silent.

In his presidential announcement speech, Rev. Jackson's title was, "The Quest for a Just Society and Peaceful World." He said, "...we are here to fulfill our mission to defend the poor, make welcome the outcast, deliver the needy and be the source of hope for people yearning to be free everywhere." He stated that he wants to provide that leadership which seeks to ensure justice, equality and see that freedom and liberty remain the common heritage and reality of all.

Jackson spoke of the ten million unemployed persons, loss of homes and farms, plight of the homeless who sleep in the streets, the large welfare rolls, students unable to attend college because of cuts in grants, schools closing, teachers losing jobs and more jails being built. He related his concern about the unjustifiable tax code, our government's support for oppressive regimes in El Salvador, Philippines, and South Africa, the unfair immigration policy against Mexicans and Haitians, while welcoming refugees from Poland and the Soviet Union. Jesse deplored treatment of American Indians, discrimination against people because of sexual preferences, failure to enforce civil rights laws.

Jackson said he seeks the Presidency because he wants this nation to again become the hope of the free world, to affirm his belief that leadership is colorless and genderless, and because he is disturbed that our nation is in jeopardy when half of the American people feel voting is worthless.

If American hasn't matured to the stage where it can accept a black President, Jesse Jackson will certainly open the eyes of a lot of people and their innate intelligence will be stimulated.

## Along The Campaign Trail...



Karen

## Hunt Is Focusing On Drug Addiction

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is one of few organizations to publicly denounce the sentencing of three major league baseball players to three months in prison for attempted possession of cocaine.

ACLU doesn't condone cocaine usage or usage of any other drugs, but executive director Ira Glasser, made a significant point when he stated: "Even if these individuals were addicted, putting them in prison makes a little sense as putting an alcoholic in prison for attempting to buy liquor."

"Drug addiction, whether the drug is alcohol or cocaine, is a personal tragedy," Glasser added. Willie Wilson, Jerry Aikens and Jerry Martin, the players mentioned above, have a health problem that should be corrected through counseling and rehabilitation programs. According to Glasser, the judge was unfair and hypocritical when he noted he was sending the men to prison because "they were an example for the youth of America."

Everyone is an example for the youth of America. Youth should just be taught right from wrong, primarily in the home. After all, by the time they reach adulthood if not by the time they reach their teens, decisions will be made strictly by themselves anyway. Everyone must be mature enough to decide if a particular practice is a good or bad influence upon their lives.

Meanwhile in North Carolina, Gov. James Hunt is focusing on alcoholism and drug addiction and how it's affecting North Carolinians. He believes alcoholism and drug addiction is a serious health problem in North Carolina and across the nation.

Instead of throwing everyone in prison who seems to be suffering from the problem, the governor is publicizing the problem to get everyone, including YOUTH, to face the reality and try to do something about it. As a result, Gov. Hunt has proclaimed November and December as "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Months."

"An estimated one million North Carolina children and families suffer from the pain and heartache connected with alcohol and drug misuse and abuse, and that North Carolina has made the prevention, intervention, and treatment of alcohol and drug abuse a top priority," the Governor commented.

Steve Hicks, deputy director of Alcohol and Drug Services for the North Carolina Department of Human Services pointed out, "approximately 150 alcohol and drug programs are provided across the state through community mental health facilities and alcohol rehabilitation centers." This system of treatment is administered by Human Resources' Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

Dr. Bob Hannon, the only black candidate thus far to announce for the North Carolina gubernatorial race recently outlined his platform which covered issues and problems dealing with energy, environment, economy, agriculture and education.

Dr. Hannon told a Young Democrats organization, "Education is a crisis because of the low salary North Carolina teachers are getting." Dr. Hannon feels teachers should be making \$20,000 annually; experienced teachers and administrators should be entitled to more than \$20,000.

A graduate of A&T State University, Dr. Hannon favors tax increases on

alcoholic beverages as one way to increase the salaries of educators. He opposes the merit system in education because it "provides opportunities for sex and race discrimination." "If I'm elected I will ask the General Assembly to increase the budget for the community and technical college system so it can provide more current retraining programs for younger and displaced workers, preparing them for newer jobs in high technology or in more stable industries," he said.

Yesterday, at noon, the Charlotte Housing Authority went on record as the first agency of its type in the Southeast to receive certification in the Maintenance Apprenticeship and Training Program.

"While it has long been recognized that the quality of maintenance services directly impacts on the livability of apartment complexes and the satisfaction of residents and managers with their complexes, few, if any, management firms have structured apprenticeship programs for their maintenance staffs," stated John Hayes of the Charlotte Housing Authority.

The Charlotte Housing Authority will seek to remedy the situation by establishing a two-year structured apprenticeship program which combines on-the-job training with classroom instruction through Central Piedmont Community College, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Area Fund.

Indentured apprentices registered with the North Carolina Bureau of Apprenticeship will undergo a two-year program. Afterward, the apprentices will be awarded certificates of completion from both the N.C. Bureau of Apprenticeships and the U.S. Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training and will be certified as Maintenance Mechanics.

The program is expected to provide more jobs and job training for low-income Charlotteans. Commissioner John Brooks of the North Carolina Department of Labor, and Frank Steagale, Region IV Director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training for the U.S. Department of Labor were in Charlotte for the certification.

### Packaging

#### Tips For Safe Mailing

"The Postal Service wants to help mailers get the best service," Postmaster W. E. Crowe of Charlotte said today. He offered these tips for safe, timely delivery of your holiday packages.

-Address your package correctly and completely and use the right ZIP Code.

-Use a sturdy container such as a corrugated box for items of average weight.

-Cushion each item in the container using crumpled or rolled newspapers, plastic chips or plastic or fiberboard inserts.

-Seal your parcel with reinforced filament tape.

-You don't have to use wrapping paper on boxes; simply cross out old addresses and clearly print the new address on one side of the parcel.

-Ask your postal clerk about delivery items and prices for parcel post, priority mail and express mail. Then decide which combination of fast delivery and economy best meets your needs.

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