

editorials & comments

Our Schools' Responsibilities

Any and all taxpayers, parents, elected officials and even students should be aware of and sensitive to the needs, changes, quality and demands upon our public school system.

In this regard, the center piece of The Charlotte Observer's series on our public schools should be the nature of an need for the new roles imposed on our schools. The December 14 article began: "Twenty years ago, public schools had a clear mission: teach students how to read, write, multiply and divide. Today that mission is neither clear nor simple."

An Observer editorial wisely points out that this mission was aimed at the "normal," non-poor and non-handicapped, etc., only and ignored the pregnant youth or the potential dropout whose needs were not being met by that mission.

Ironically, the public schools' new role in responding to a host of social needs, ranging from

driver education to educating pregnant girls to alcohol and drug abuse programs to special lunch programs to name but a few, arises in part because of a missing characteristic in the schools' mission of 20 years ago.

It was 20 years ago, for example, when sexual permissiveness began to emerge in our society; yet the public schools failed to include it in reading, writing and math and any of the reasoning, analytical and value-oriented thinking skills that might have enabled us to escape the present need for a program such as Teenage Parent Services (TAPS).

Thus, as we assess and evaluate what our public schools have done and why they now have new roles to strain their limited resources, let us be reminded of how our apathy or ignorance as taxpayers, parents and elected officials has undoubtedly led to the current new school roles.

Christmas Is Thanksgiving!

Family, relatives, neighbors, friends, co-workers, playmates and, yes, to even our enemies, it is Christmas - that time of year to put away our fears, frustrations, worries, hostilities and anger for a time of forgiving, forgetting, lovingness and thankfulness.

Yes, as we reflect on the joys and sorrows of the year 1983, we must try and try again to put all things in our lives, good and bad, in a proper perspective and say, "Dear Lord, thank you for my being here on this Christmas Day. Thank you Lord for whatever may circumstances may be, I am of sufficient peace of mind to be able to say in this Christmas season thank you for my very existence this very day."

While we continue to live in a world of too much war and too little peace, too much poverty and too little prosperity, too much injustice and too little justice, too much hatred and too little love, and too much hopelessness and too little hope, there is, nevertheless, peace, prosperity, justice, love and hope that at this Christmas season we should be thankful for.

We should be thankful for life, we should be thankful for what we have though it may be

meager and, most significantly, we should be thankful this Christmas season for the One great gift that we all can share, that is Christ our Saviour.

Our wonderful and great God commissioned an angel to tell the troubled world nearly 2,000 years ago, "For unto you is born this day in the city of Davis a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord," (Luke 2:11).

"Suddenly," The Living Bible tells us, "the angel was joined by a vast host of others that sang '...peace on earth for all pleasing Him.'" We have noted that there is too little peace today but, nevertheless, peace exists and therefore there is hope that it can and will endure and expand and this Christmas may just be God's beginning for a greater peace.

Thus, as we experience the joy and good tidings, be they great or small, of another Christmas, let us begin anew to embrace the courage of true brotherhood, peace on earth and goodwill toward all men and in so doing realize that each of us, collectively and individually, have much this Christmas season to be thankful for.

..Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and especially to you.

BE A PART OF THE NEW AWARENESS



Letters To: The Editor



Ministers Suggest Coliseum Site

To The Editor:
The Ministerial Conference No. 2 of Charlotte, which is composed of 60 local pastors, would like to propose to the Charlotte City Council that the city's new coliseum be built in a downtown area near Johnson C. Smith University.

In our travels over the United States attending the National Baptist Conference, we have found the coliseums built in the inner

South Korea

Dear Editor:
President Reagan should be ashamed of himself, butting up the South Korean government while young Americans are being held in bondage and families cruelly torn apart by Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

Some think that Moon and Korea as separate issues. However, Rev. Moon has been linked to Korean politics and Koreagate. According to L.F. Stone's Hidden History of the Korean War, that was actually started when South Koreans dressed up as North Koreans and attacked the American troops. Several more recent tense events could have also been contrived by Korean fanatics. When the Moonies and other "friends" are finished with America, the Reaganites and much of the new-right might be considered traitors.

-Richard Kanegis

city downtown areas are most convenient for convention representatives.

We are sure the council already recognizes the advantages of a downtown location, but has it taken into consideration the added advantages of a downtown location near Johnson C. Smith University? We

feel a coliseum in north-west Charlotte would be a boost to not only the city, but also the university. In addition, it would show concern for an area that has been neglected in the past.

Ministerial Conference No. 2 of Charlotte
James E. Palmer, Pres.

Poverty And Hunger Overseas

Dear Editor:
I want to thank you for your efforts this year in telling your readers how they can help needy people overseas.

Public response to organization like CARE depends upon news stories and public service ads printed by newspapers and magazines like yours. Last year CARE helped over 30 million people through self-help and feeding programs in 35 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Because CARE donations were combined with contributions from the U.S. Government, foreign governments, and private companies in this country and abroad, we were able to provide \$9.21 worth of aid for every dollar donated.

Any message you carry this holiday season telling readers of the continuing poverty and hunger overseas and the value of CARE programs would be appreciated.

All of us at CARE, both in the United States and

around the world, send you and your readers' holiday greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,
Philip Johnston, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Human Rights

To The Editor:
Twenty years ago, I marched, then came home and spent the next 20 years working for human rights along with others of like persuasion and alone whenever necessary.

Personally, in accord with the American environment, I feel it would be far more meaningful to commemorate the day Martin Luther King died. Under the leadership of a president who insists on peace through strength, this is the only valid way to go since hope dies every day.

Cleo V. Robinson-Anderson
Letters to the editor are accepted concerning any subject relevant today.
Write: Dear Editor, P. O. Box 30144, Charlotte, NC 28230.

Along The Campaign Trail...

Vocalizing Problems?

People don't seem to vocalize solutions to local and national problems until they're in the political arena.

Once their names are on the ballot, they can solve the problems of education, housing, transportation, urban growth, unemployment, starvation and the multitude of other problems which communities continue to face.

In North Carolina some of the gubernatorial candidates are promising to remedy the problems in the educational system. Jimmy Green apparently has led the most effective campaign in the area of education thus far. He recently won the support of Ralph Kimel, the executive director of the North Carolina Principals-Assistant Principals Association. Kimel urged 2,045 public school principals to "unite behind the gubernatorial candidacy of Jimmy Green in 1984, showing Green the same support he has shown the school principals throughout the years. He is the only candidate for governor in a position to help us with our immediate needs, not just our future needs...."



Karen

Of course that's Kimel's opinion. But ask a former North Carolina governor, Terry Sanford, whom he feels can best handle the educational needs in the state and he'll tell you Lauch Faircloth. "Faircloth understands the problems and needs of education on all levels," Sanford in-

ed he wants to be too long he has seen Carolina grow into sign their names. "I want to change that through a combination of good jobs and education for all,"

Faircloth revealed.

Then there's John Ingram. One of his priorities he professes is education. "I want to make teachers' spendable income, or buying power, equal to the best in the nation in real dollars. He stressed real dollars making sure people knew what he meant by the term. He explained: "Salaries (in North Carolina) need not equal Alaska or New York, because their cost of living is much higher than ours." Ingram claims he's different from other candidates because he promises fair pay as a father, a former PTA president, and a concerned North Carolinian - not just as a candidate for governor.

When Tom Gilmore lays an issue on the line he usually goes all out to demonstrate just what he means. Perhaps that's why he recently visited a public school classroom to teach history for a day. He wants people to realize how close he is to the educational system.

Gilmore believes that if the money proposed for extending the school year would instead be used for increasing teachers' salaries, there would be less tension in the system. Besides opposing a longer school year, Gilmore also looks down on merit pay. "Merit pay is not the fairest way to attract the best teachers-raising their base salary is far better," Gilmore insisted.

While on the issue of Tom Gilmore consider this action which he took and which had little to do with teachers receiving an increase in pay. He prevented the North Carolina Citizens Who Want Eddie Knox For Governor from contributing more than \$4,000 as an individual contribution.

Alex Brock, Secretary Director of the North Carolina Board of Elections, had hardly uttered his ruling in favor of supporters contributing more than \$4,000 during a calendar year and another \$4,000 in 1984 before the May primary, when Gilmore had the decision overruled by a Superior Court judge. Knox, the former mayor of Charlotte, could not be reached for comment; however, Brock argued the decision gives an unfair advantage to incumbent officeholders. But Gilmore replied, "I feel strongly that the governor's office should not be for sale to the highest bidder or to the candidate who has the wealthiest supporters. Can this suggest Gilmore is intimidated by an opponent with a lavish political pot of gold?"

Can you imagine Eddie Knox being the governor and still working closely by the side of Mecklenburg County Manager Gerald G. Fox? Well, if Knox wins governor that may very well be the case.

Fox was recently appointed by present Governor Jim Hunt to the Governor's Crime Commission through March, 1986. The 39-member commission serves as the chief advisory body to the Governor and the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety on matters dealing with the State's criminal justice system.

From Capitol Hill

Reagan Weak On Rights Enforcement

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post
"It is a presidential commission and they serve at the pleasure of the President. Well, I wasn't getting much pleasure. They seem to be devoting their time sniping at me with accusations and things that weren't true," said President Reagan in defending his actions for firing Civil Rights Commissioners.



Alfreda L. Madison

In 1981, Mr. Reagan removed the chairman and vice chairman and appointed Clarence Pendleton chairman and Mary Louise Smith as vice chairman. White House officials says that Mrs. Smith, who succeeded Vice President Bush as chairman of the Republican National Committee, will not be reappointed. Reasons given are: she is for quotas and busing and they are afraid she will not support Pendleton for commission chairman, since under the compromise, the chairman, vice chairman and staff director must be elected by the commission majority. Republican and Democratic women are highly incensed over the removal of Mary Louise Smith.

The Civil Rights Commission recently issued its final report. It cited in detail disparities in employment of women, Afro-Americans and Hispanics. Title VII and the Federal

Contract Compliance Program are the primary laws for combatting discrimination. Affirmative action is the centerpiece for implementing the laws. The courts have approved the use of goals, timetables and numerical objectives.

The commission documented significant disparities in income and employment between minorities and women on one hand and white males on the other. It found that economic expansion and industrial variations in the economy, education, training and age are some factors which account for the disparities.

There has been some reduction in the differences because of improvement in education skills of minorities, but not the elimination since discrimination continues to be an important determinant of employment disparities. The commission strongly emphasizes that the goals, time-

tables and numerical standards based on race, sex and national origin are affirmative action methods that must be considered for the purpose of remedying discrimination. There must be effective law enforcement that convinces employers that serious negative consequences will flow from noncompliance is essential.

William Bradford Reynolds, Assistant Attorney General, says, "...using discrimination to end discrimination, using race to get beyond race - I don't believe that technique has proven helpful or useful in moving us down the path that we all want to go."

The Voting Rights Act, which was strengthened and extended for 25 years in 1982, "...extended voting protections to voters who are blind, disabled or unable to read or write." The commission report showed the great improvement in minority registration and voting since passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. It's the responsibility of the Justice Department to enforce all mandates of the Act. However, some jurisdictions fail to submit voting practice changes, and others implement changes contrary to the mandates. These are clear violations.

The commission has found that the Department of Justice is not fully enforcing all parts of the Act.

The U.S. attorneys are not taking steps to ensure jurisdictional compliance. It is the duty of the Attorney General to provide for effective enforcement.

In the past 26 years, desegregation has produced great strides in opportunity for all to have quality education. Yet, many students still attend schools almost totally by race or national origin, and inequities in the treatment of minorities, females and handicapped continue to exist.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination by any agency of programs that receive federal financial assistance, and that school funds can be terminated if schools refuse to desegregate. The Attorney General has the authority to bring a suit against any school district that refuses to abide by Title VI.

"In 1981 the executive established a policy opposed to busing as a desegregation remedy and has consistently sought the reversal of court decisions that transportation is necessary to remedy segregation." The Administration is backing away from implementing Title VI.

The commission report has found the Reagan Administration is attempting to dismantle desegregation and anti-discrimination methods in all facets of American life.

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