

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Welcome SCLC National Convention

.. Within the spirit of the courageous Rosa Parks, who defied Montgomery, Alabama's Jim Crow laws, 60 black leaders, most of them ministers from 10 Southern states, founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in January, 1957. Eventually, headquartered in Atlanta with Martin Luther King Jr. as its president, SCLC has moved on to become one of the nation's leading civil rights organizations.

We are indeed pleased to welcome the 27th annual National Convention of SCLC to the Queen City for its four-day meeting, August 15-18. More significantly, we welcome and thank SCLC for its labors and sacrifices, including the death of Martin Luther King Jr., these 27 years in the quest for equal justice, jobs and decent housing. Appropriately, SCLC's convention theme this year is "Turning To Each Other To Turn The Nation To Jobs, Peace and Freedom."

National SCLC president, The Rev. Joseph Lowery said, "...Charlotte is ideal for the SCLC national convention. This year is a critical year in politics and North Carolina is one of the key states being

watched nationwide."

Charlotte's own Carrie Graves, director of SCLC's Equal Rights Council and a member of SCLC Women, stated, "All the people who attend the conference will come seeking answers to the problems in their communities, regardless of where they live." Among those who will offer some of the problem solutions will be Dr. Ruth Love, general superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools. As the luncheon speaker on August 17 for the SCLC Women's luncheon, Dr. Love will speak on the topic, "The Black Family." Among the other prominent speakers will be Mary Berry, former U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner, who will conduct a hearing on the assault on affirmative action programs by the Reagan administration.

Again, to SCLC and its delegates, welcome and best wishes as you seek new solutions to the old problems of racism, sexism, job and housing discrimination, and continuing unequal justice in many aspects of our lives. God speed because our very lives may depend on your successes here in Charlotte.

A 10-Year Salute To Ourselves!

In reflecting on the past decade of The Charlotte Post, the editorial staff has observed that in 1974, Charlotte's only weekly black-oriented newspaper had a staff of two working in a 100 square foot facility to produce a weekly six to eight page newspaper for 1,400 readers.

This was the setting when Bill Johnson purchased and began to operate The Charlotte Post in June of 1974. He said at that time, and continues to believe, "The Charlotte black community needs a voice that mirrors the opinions of the community." In an ongoing, continuous commitment to this "voice" and "mirror" role, we find that in 1984 The Charlotte Post has 24 employees working in a 4,500 square foot facility to produce a weekly 32 page newspaper read by nearly 90,000 Charlotteans. Led by advertisement from six of the 11 major grocery store chains in the city, The Post's gross revenues have grown over 120 times in size since 1974.

Thus, as The Charlotte Post celebrates its 10th anniversary under the leadership of Willie L. (Bill) Johnson, we believe the mission - to mirror community opinion - is being met.

Your Opinions Are Welcomed!

From time to time we publish stories or editorials that create anger, happiness, frustration or joy just as many other newspapers do. However, too often such people will pick up the telephone and call us to express their viewpoints, usually with hostility, sometimes with praise.

Whatever your opinion on a particular issue, it would be so much better if you would write it down and mail it to us as a letter to the editor for publication. This small effort will generate more response than will the viewpoint of one or two verbal

Since the success of The Post, like any successful newspaper, has had to depend upon the efforts of many, we wish to "thank you" - our readers and advertisers - for your generous support, patience, understanding and constructive criticism. We hope that you will continue to contribute to The Post in this way so that we can make a good newspaper a better newspaper.

We wish to thank also The Post's 24-member staff for its dedication to the production of a newspaper of the highest possible quality. Their untiring efforts are seen in the growing number of subscriptions, letters-to-the-editor, comments and advertising sales that are all so vital a part of the success of any newspaper. Elsewhere in this edition we have provided stories and photos of these dedicated journalists who are the minds and hands that stroke the pens and spread the ink to give you a quality weekly newspaper.

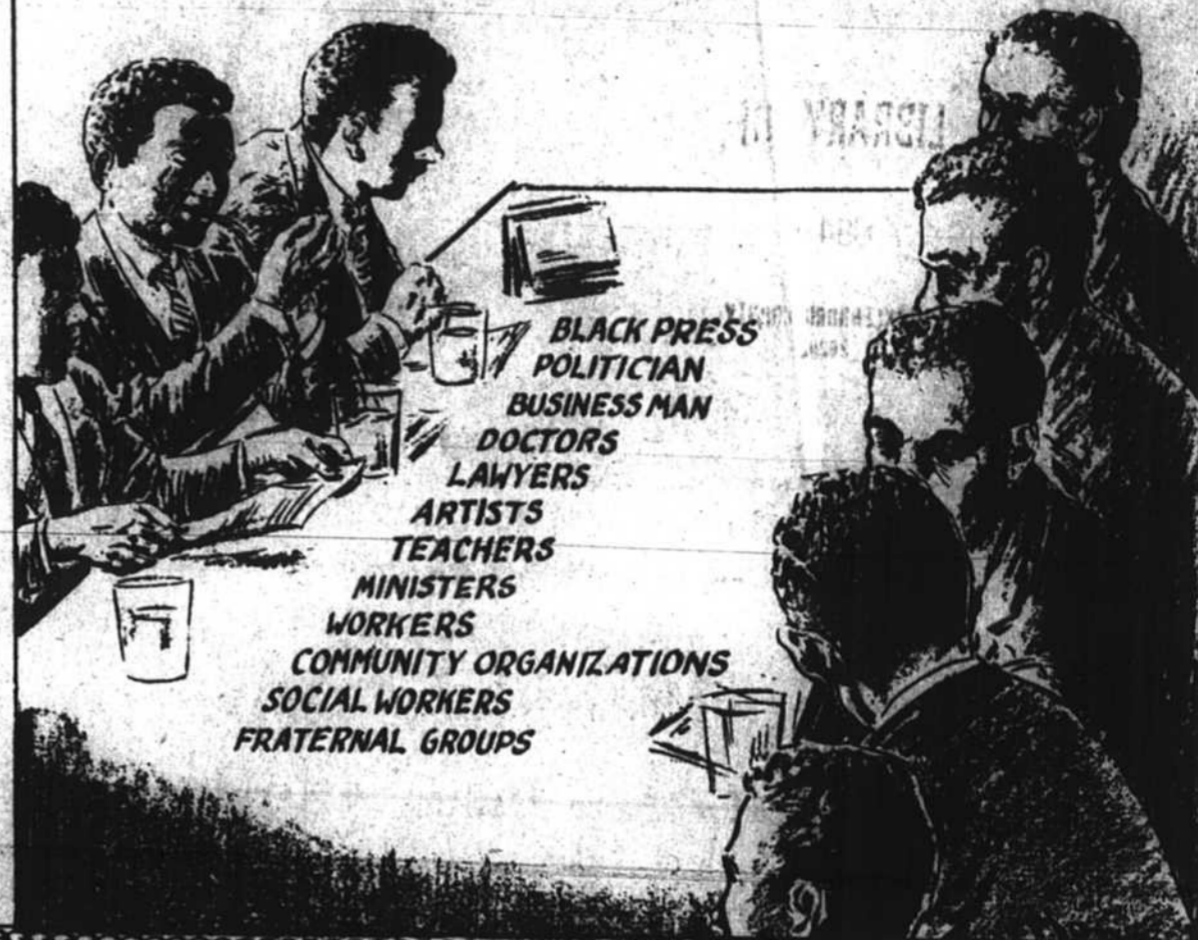
Finally, to Bill Johnson, thank you for your guidance, encouragement and thoughtful editing (not this piece) in helping to help us write better editorials. We salute you for a job well done.

comments by our staff.

Since one purpose of a newspaper is to inform and promote thinking, it would, therefore, be helpful to have your written opinions to promote thinking by reacting to your viewpoints as well as ours. After all, giving and encouraging people to express their own opinions in a free press uninhibited by government is a basic right, a basic freedom in our democratic society. Your viewpoints are important to us and our readers. Write us.

STOP DAILY FLIGHTS OF BLACK CAPITAL FROM BLACK COMMUNITIES

"WHITES APPEAR DETERMINED TO FORFEIT THE CITIES TO BLACKS AND IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE PEOPLE WHO THROUGH FORCED SLAVE LABOR BUILT THIS COUNTRY FOR OTHERS, CANNOT NOW WILLINGLY UNITE TO REBUILD OUR COMMUNITIES FOR OURSELVES."



The Vanishing Middle Class?

Reports of a vanishing middle class may prove to be overstated. Fears of the U.S. moving towards a low wage economy with many low paid workers and few high paid workers are running towards epidemic levels. Experts warn that the U.S. middle class living standards are being threatened by the disappearance of the manufacturing portion of our economy: concentrated in America's heartland - the Midwest.

Presently, the economy is creating a disproportionate percentage of low paying jobs because the automobile and other industries - high paying jobs - have declined while low paying service industries have increased. This problem may also expand with the onset of high tech - henceforth high tech pays low wages.

On the flip side, other experts and economists realize that the percentage of wages for middle income has decreased during the past decade, the trend is unlikely to persist. Three reasons have been offered as to why this vanishing effect will not occur:

1) The shift from manu-

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON

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facturing to service is decreasing at tremendous speed;

2) Factors that have held wages down will now have an adverse affect; and

3) High tech wages are not as low as statistic make them out to be - the death of the "low wage" theory.

Foreign competition has been a major contributor to the shift from manufacturing to service jobs. And a few companies replaced human labor with machines. While the shift is notable it is not written in stone. An average 64 percent of the private work force today is made of those from short order cooks to consultants; in 1968 the number balanced at 54 percent. Also to be compared,

manufacturing fell 7.2 percent from 29 percent in 1968. If the trend continues the average wage earning: service wages are 85 percent of the manufacturing wages.

The government has predicted that by 1995 the number of service jobs will rise two percent to 66 percent. And that manufacturing's share will drop only to 21 percent by 1995. Another avenue in the low wage theory is that service jobs are historically low paying and will remain so. This too may also attribute to the 1995 forecast.

Full-time workers are earning middle income wages - \$13,000 to \$26,000 - which constitutes 46 percent of the work force. The reason is demographic not structural.

Increased female employment and the coming of baby-boom males has increased labor supply and decreased wages - mostly in services.

It is the service jobs that absorbed the highest percentage of the new-found labor supply. As this force gains new and more skills and stability, the middle wage curve will grow, reversing the shrinkage it experienced within the last 15 years. This phenomena is proving true: although women on a scale earn less than men currently, the proportion of middle income wages earned by women has increased to 44 percent today from 39 percent in 1969.

Without unions the wages of service jobs have increased and the gap of wages between service and manufacturing is growing close. Actually service job wages have been growing at a more rapid pace than manufacturing since the 1974 recession. This is partly due to the fact that unions took a severe beating then and that unions do not always mean job security. The high tech industry is also bringing in more workers not part of unions. This new breed of worker feels less strongly in union loyalty and more strongly in company loyalty.

From Capitol Hill

Mythical Views Of Blacks Have Become Frustrated

By Alfreda L. Madlson
Special To The Post

Reagan and Shultz said it couldn't be done.

But Jackson, with faith, replied, "Maybe it couldn't."

But he'd be the one who wouldn't say so, until he tried.

So he buckled right in, with no trace of a grin on his face, if he worried, he hid it. Reagan and Shultz said it couldn't be done.

But Jesse Jackson did it.

Rev. Jackson was able to return to the United States with 22 Americans and 26 Cuban dissidents. He brought back the message that has given reason to believe that Fidel Castro expressed a willingness to begin talks on taking back Cuban criminals exported to the U. S. in 1980 in the Marial boat exodus. Jackson said Castro wants to exchange ambassadors with this country.

Jackson also talked with Zamora and three other representatives of the rebels in El Salvador who are fighting the United States-backed government of that country, which is headed by the recently elected Duarte. After urging rebels to cease fire and begin talks with Duarte, Jackson was welcomed by him. He presented the rebels' conditions to Duarte, even though Duarte said he'd never negotiate with arms across the table, he admitted that Jackson's trip had improved the climate for future meetings.

Now the red-faced Reagan and Shultz are embarrassed and humiliated because Jesse's empathy, understanding and humanitarian concern have succeeded where their arrogance has failed.

Shultz said Jackson's acts were "disruptive diplomacy; that Castro



Alfreda L. Madlson

had used Jackson to score a propaganda victory." Reagan and Shultz refused to meet with him even though he had secured the release of American citizens and dissidents, that the President constantly upbraids communist Russia and Poland for continuous imprisonment of dissidents. Mr. Reagan needs to explain to the American public his selective American citizen and dissident release policy.

If this administration is truly concerned about the welfare of humanity and peace in Central America, the policymakers could at least talk with Rev. Jackson, it may just be that a crack has been opened in the door for friendly discussions. If this attempt proves fruitless, the policymakers will remain in their same positions.

Jesse Jackson understands what it means to be denied equal opportunities, justice, to have his intelligence and capabilities ignored and to suffer the humiliation of attempts to reduce him to the state of being less than a whole man. He knows what it is to have faith in himself and

stamina and strength to withstand criticisms and obstacles, while continuing the fight to attain his rightful place for himself and those who suffer from the same conditions.

These are the reasons Jesse Jackson understands the plight of the Third World people. He can empathize with them because he has been there. The Third World people are not knowledgeable of the inequities and injustices meted out to Blacks in this country. They feel a close affinity with him.

Rev. Jackson suggested a plan of talks and reconciliation between the opposing factions, instead of a chosen side with extensive military support, which can only mean death to a large number of people.

The white media, as usual, with its mythical view of Blacks has become frustrated over Jesse Jackson's capabilities. Reston of the New York Times said, "Jesse was interfering with the Constitutional rights of the President and Congress to conduct foreign policy." Both Reston and Hugh Sides of Times Magazine stated that he might have violated the Logan Act, which makes it a crime for a private citizen to try to influence a foreign government on issues involving a controversy with the U.S. Evidently Sides and Reston didn't know that Jackson checked out things with the State Department before making the trip. The entire McLaughlin talk show group denounced Jackson's action as a political feat which will hurt the Democratic Party. Buchanan said Jesse had received money from the Arabs and Libya. The Arabs own banks in this country and have contributed to the building of schools. If Rev. Jackson has broken any laws in receiv-

ing money, then handle him as a criminal. If not, then shut up.

The white media has constantly said that Rev. Jackson's actions will build up with backlash. This is a shame and a disgrace on white folks, and not Jesse. This just shows how wrong their mythical views of Blacks, as being inferior to them, are. So when Blacks stand up head and shoulder with them or tower over them, the whites become afraid of losing their insecure feeling of superiority, that their racism bursts forth.

The press is making a strong effort to keep alive the Farrakhan issue. If he has created all the harm the press tries to paint, then why not punish him? If he is only talking, since he neither holds or seeks a

political position, why not ignore his rhetoric? Rev. Jackson is no more responsible for Farrakhan's rhetoric than white politicians are for the bitter hatred that spews out of the mouth of the Klan and their senseless murders.

The white press is saying that the Black leaders are not with Jackson, because some of them endorsed Mondale. That does not mean that

they disavow Jesse's ideas. That's the age-old white game of trying to divide Blacks. They are much too sophisticated for that trick now.

To the white press: don't get on the talk shows, and talk about Blacks, talk about Blacks on your shows, read Black literature, Black newspapers and magazines and meet with Black leaders before airing and writing your assessments.

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