



EDITORIALS

The End Of Reason?

During the historic civil rights struggles of the 1960s most Black Americans and their non-black supporters subscribed to the late Dr. Martin Luther King's philosophy of non-violence and President Lyndon B. Johnson's call to "let's reason together" as a method for penetrating the consciousness of the nation to do and act in a morally and spiritually right way by expanding equal opportunity to all Americans regardless of their race, creed, color or national origin.

More recently sex - women's rights - has been added to expanding equal opportunity.

These calls for forgiveness and reason among Blacks having grown and impatient from violent attacks, and even death, nevertheless won over the minority of militant young Black radicals who supported the "meet violence with violence" philosophy and the use of gasoline bombs (a bottle full of gasoline with a wet rag stuck in the end, lit with a match and thrown to an unsuspecting target) as their calling card.

While the struggle for justice and equal opportunity is never-ending, substantial progress has been made. Significantly, too, progress has been made because our experience has shown that peace, patience and understanding can and do result in lasting change for the betterment of all.

"We have made these observations out of a growing awareness that the reverse of our nation's progress in civil rights is taking place in South Africa, a nation rich in natural resources and a vast majority Black population ruled by a small minority of whites.

Violent unrest over the past 30 to 45 days in South Africa has exposed for the world to see an indepth anger and emerging frustration by that nation's nine million urban Blacks and how their discontent offers an increasing threat to the country's minority white regime.

Black Power Source

Daily clashes between Black youth and the police have resulted in injuries, death and imprisonment which simply increases Black protest. Nearly 100,000 Black students have continued to boycott class over the issue of an inferior education. Black workers, severely hurt by a three-year recession, have grown militant. Nearly 90,000 gold miners went on strike in September in a quest for higher pay and to establish their union as a Black power source.

South African Blacks, more liberal whites and even some conservative Afrikaner (white people) supporters of President D. W. Botha's government warn that the continued alienation of urban Blacks is wrong and can only lead to national self-destruction. Ernie Wentzel, chairman of the South African Institute of Race Relations, put the issue in proper perspective when he said, "Violence is the

wages of apartheid (segregation). Petrol (gasoline) bombs have become the stock in trade of some political organizations.

Among whites, there should be a great fear of a political jihad (war) on the streets... because the alienation of Black youth has grown to the point where many no longer care for their own lives..."

Black political activists agree; but unlike America, the possibility of imprisonment without a trial for speaking out causes them to be nameless and faceless voices of dissent. Helen Suzman, a liberal representative in the South African parliament and an opponent of the Botha government, calls the turmoil "a spiral of violence, injury, death and even more repression."

Dr. Ntatho Mortlana, a prominent Black Soweto physician and community leader, has commented that, "The complete disenfranchisement and exclusion from all decision-making bodies compels the Black man to vote with a petrol (gasoline) bomb."

Shame Suppression

Since South African whites have not learned from our nation's experience, what might we learn from them and their shameful suppression of Blacks?

First, the continuing insensitivity of the South African government to the needs, wants, and civil rights of the vast majority of their Black citizens is a tragic reminder of the never-ending struggle and pursuit of justice and equal opportunity.

Secondly, when a people are persistently denied their rights and feel that every aspect of their sense of human dignity is continually being eroded, the loss of life itself becomes a small price to pay for trying to right wrongs and to leave a glimmer of hope for their off-spring if even hope dared be thought of.

Thirdly, when due process of law is totally biased, there is no law for some and-or oppression is the only rule for some people over others, anarchy then becomes the ruler- thus the use of gasoline fire bombs by South African Blacks.

Fortunately, we Americans, black and white, rich and poor, racists (black and white) have learned to agree to disagree with a sense of social order with the broader framework of our democratic society. Let us be reminded, however, that it took a Civil War, many legal and court battles and the agony of the 1960s to get us where we are today, and yet, the struggle goes on.

In observing developments in South Africa, let us hope and pray that we are not seeing a reflection of ourselves as an increasingly conservative Supreme Court seeks to turn back the hands of time on civil rights progress.

From Capitol Hill

New Federalism Needs Community Participation

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The 1967 race riots were caused by economic deprivation and continued racism. An array of national leaders met later that year to find a prescription to prevent a recurrence of the '67 summer. This group formed the National Urban Coalition.

Carl Holman, who was one of the founders of the organization, and the present head, said, "Most of the problems are still around. The difference now is that there is perhaps less urgency." Holman contends that the organization's goals have not been met. Instead of a comprehensive policy, there has been a kind of a stop and go policy. When one administration starts to do something, another one comes in and changes the name, if it keeps the policy.

"We haven't had a coherent urban policy in this country," said Holman. He blames the Reagan administration for sending chills down the spines of minority and poor Americans and thousands of local, political and community-based officials who attempt to work on their behalf.

The 60's revolution gave expectations of a change, but those expectations have been changed to a more somber pragmatic reading of what is possible. Holman stated, "what we have now is competition for a more modest dollar outlay. There is the feeling that if you are going to deal with the fiscal problems, the infrastructure and human needs, when both parties want to spend much more money on defense, the room for maneuvering is so much smaller. In such a political climate people would rather not think what the problems



Alfreda L. Madison are."

Urban Coalition assists community-based organizations in profit-making ventures. Especially if this activity is necessary because of the cut-backs in the new Federalism. It also serves as an urban information bank, which acts as a catalyst which seeks to improve ties between groups of minorities.

The National Urban Coalition, recently published findings of the New Federalism and the state response in implementation of the program.

Four states were selected for the study. These particular states were chosen because of their different regional locations. They were: South Carolina, Texas, Michigan and California. The Reagan block grant funds were reduced by 20 percent, at the same time giving the state governments increased discretionary power to allocate, manage and target funds among the designated programs. Although many states supplemented the federal cuts, entitlement programs' cuts which affected the poorest populations were not replaced by state

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Pinus

Best Thing Father Can Do For His Children?

By Sabrina Johnson

"The best thing a father can do for his children is love their mother."

Dr. Leon Saul The quote raises a great many questions in the minds of divorced and widower fathers. Questions such as how can I do what is best for my children if I do not love their mother? Dr. Saul was correct in saying that children do need to know love exists between their parents.

Openly seeing parental love does help to reduce narcissistic disorders. Children who do not experience this phenomenon today are tomorrow's new breed of patients with narcissistic disorders. They find it difficult to realize that other people have rights - or the basic definition of being civilized.

In the beginning the child is a self-centered being. As he grows he realizes that a special bond exists between his parents. The brief explanation is part of a monumental stage the child has reached. Realizing and seeing that two people can have a relationship totally independent of him. This concept brings together the concept of civilization and emo-



Sabrina

tional connections between parent and child, and parent and parent.

As divorce rates continue to increase the basic foundation of family steadily declines, thus giving the child little or nothing to build from. The increased divorce rate is basically due to the fact that parents fail to maintain fair amounts of intimacy in the relationship. In years past parents had control and stood up in the family. This was the food for the child to find himself; scenario: parents say no, so the child has something to push off from. Today parents rarely say no, thus causing the child to float from one side to another with no real commitment or persistence.

The problem of inconsistency within the American family finds root in the

competitive society. Family and parenting are no longer top priority - personal success, growth and fulfillment are numero uno. Intimacy cannot adequately take place with all the competition (professional competition) going on: each parent suffers and the child suffers. No intimacy equals no home life. That is why teen suicide is so high and why "successful" people commit suicide at the height of their careers. They appear to have everything but really have nothing.

It is truly difficult to love without feeling loved as a child, teen and adult by one's parents. So where does the lack of intimacy leave children of divorced and widower fathers? Happy. It is far better for the children to live with the fact of separated, happy homes than to live in a together unhappy home.

Children of divorced families are not maladjusted or psychopathic. They are not manic depressives or drug dealers. They are well adjusted toughened children. Toughened to life in that everything does not always work out perfectly. Well adjusted because they are independent and responsible. Children of widowed parents suffer a different kind of loss but most of the characteristics are the same.

The children do not feel deprived because they have the best of their parents - parents that are not fighting, but that are living fulfilled lives with time-specific time for parent-child bonding. The best part of divorce is that the child learns, first hand, that good things do not always happen to good people - that there is joy and pain in life and that somethings are inevitable.

So, maybe the best thing a father can do is not only love their mother but to give them the very best foundation, the most love available, provide a father-child intimacy and help them to lead full productive lives that are based on realism and not facades.

Maybe the only way to have "everything" in life is to get all you can from one's parents. The hold card is intimacy.

dollars. The New Federalism has stimulated competition among the governor's office, state legislature and special groups.

The report found that in California, with a conservative governor, urban interest groups continued to be effective. This was done largely because of Willie Brown, the Assembly Speaker. In other states where constituency groups did not actively participate in influencing policy decision at the state level, cuts in essential program funding of services in some urban areas were found. These findings show the necessity for urban interest groups to participate, actively, in the legislative process. It further emphasized that "Unless city dwellers become organized, active participants in state politics, there is every likelihood that urban areas will be by-passed in favor of rural and suburban districts, and that the most needy population—those who are the least powerful—will receive an even smaller share of dwindling program resources."

Since cities and urban alliances have not played the political game, they lack knowledge of its rules. To be effective, coalitions must be formed between women, blacks, Hispanics and labor unions. Sometimes they will have to confront specialized interest groups in education, housing and health agencies which pursue enhancement of their own professional empires at the cost of broad based programs. These coalitions must join with black and Hispanic and urban state legislative caucuses to promote their mutual and general interests.

Under any President, states will play a larger role, and unless coalitions develop workable strategies with clear priorities at the state capitol, they will continue to lose funding and power.

Since states are assuming a larger role in the administration of direct payments that benefit low-income families and individuals, there are certain issues that stand out. Entitlement programs must be seen as the most important element in the block grant package, and reductions and deflation of benefit levels have adversely affected low-income families.

The study suggests certain conditions for improving block grant services. These include: citizen participation mechanisms, adequate reporting and evaluation criteria, civil rights assurances, targeting to populations in need, with continuation of state general fund support of broad based programs.

Meet New Friends

WomanReach announces the expansion of direct service hours.

The Center will be open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights and all day Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for one-to-one counseling and support groups such as "Fat and Lonely," "Sexual Trauma," and "Mid-Life Divorce," in addition to the regular program of seminars and workshops.

WomanReach is looking forward to meeting some more new friends. There are no fees or dues - all services are freely given and freely received.

For more information, call a WomanReach peer counselor Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 334-3614.

WomanReach is an agency of United Way.

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Published Every Thursday By The Charlotte Post Publishing Company, Inc. Main Office: 1531 S. Camden Road Charlotte, N.C. 28203

Second Class Postage Paid at Charlotte

Member, National Newspaper Publishers' Association North Carolina Black Publishers Association

National Advertising Representative: Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

One Year Subscription Rate - One Year - \$17.76 Payable In Advance