

EDITORIALS

New Directions Without A Mandate

Last week's national elections were historic, not so much because of President Reagan's landslide win, not because of the national attention and cost of the Helms-Hunt Senate race, and not because Republican Jim Martin was elected Governor of North Carolina; but rather because of the clearly defined philosophical differences between the Republicans and Democrats - differences that have not been so clear since the Hoover-Roosevelt election 52 years ago in 1932.

President Reagan's victory, with an historic first President ever 525 electoral votes, a first ever presidential sweep of 49 states for electoral votes and a 59 percent popular vote majority would appear to suggest a voter mandate for Mr. Reagan to push strongly his programs including anti-abortion legislation, prayer in the schools, cuts in social programs, deficit reductions, strong defense and expanded economic opportunities.

The assumption of a mandate appears also by Mr. Reagan's ability to capture 78

Republicans' New South

Republican Jesse Helms' hotly contested Senate victory over Governor Jim Hunt and Republican 9th District Congressman Jim Martin's win over Rufus Edmisten for the governorship will result in a conservative New South North Carolina, becoming a little more conservative. While North Carolina has the image of being a "progressive" New South state, it is not, nor never has been, "liberal" by any definition.

The larger shift to the conservative right has and will give the state a new image largely as a result of the viewpoints and policy stands taken by Senator Jesse Helms. Hunt, while a symbol of the New South, was by no means a liberal, and, in fact, blacks had become increasingly disenchanted with his policies and programs.

In this regard, and in deed from the national election's standpoint, blacks should not consider Reagan-Helms and their philosophies and policies as racist, but rather as one of class and economic conservatives. This means that they will

continue to favor cutting back on social and welfare programs to benefit primarily the poor and retired people. Already talk is occurring about cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and pensions programs for federal employees including the military.

Underlying the Reagan-Helms-and other like them - social welfare policy is that a progressive and expanding economy will provide sufficient jobs to off-set the need for social programs. While this is an over-

simplification of how to address social and human needs, when these cuts are proposed and opposition occurs, the response will be to tell the people losing benefits to

percent of the Protestant white male vote, 54 percent of the Italian-American female vote in spite of Geraldine Ferraro's background, and the female vote generally. In addition, Mr. Reagan won heavy voter support among labor union workers, Catholics, Hispanics, young voters, conservative Christians, and even eight percent of the black vote.

Nevertheless, neither the 59 percent vote majority, nor the gain of 15 Republican seats in the House of Representatives are sufficient to justify a mandate not to give the President a partisan working majority in the House as his personal victory and "coat-tailing" might appear to suggest.

Undoubtedly, over the next few months journalists and political analysts will be seeking to put in perspective the full meaning of the 1984 election. Underlying all of their conclusions will be the firm fact of a more solidified conservative philosophy much of which is inconsistent with some of the liberal Democratic programs, especially social programs, to benefit many low income blacks and other minorities.

get a job.

A further drift of North Carolina to the conservative right is evident in the defeat of three veteran state legislators - Parks Helms, Craig Lawing and Cecil Jenkins, all Democrats - by cross-over Republicans Jim McDuffie, Larry Cobb and Jim Johnson. Likewise in the N.C. House, veterans Jim Black and Louise Brennan were defeated by Republicans Ray Warren and Ivan Motherhead.

In the Charlotte bond issues, too, a conservative shift was evident. While the street, water and sanitary sewer bond issues were approved with big majorities, the Coliseum bond passed but with a much small victory margin.

In the Mecklenburg County Commissioner race, too, the conservative shift from the Reagan coattail or partly straight ticket voting was evident as Democrat incumbents Fountain Odom and Bob Walton were reelected but lost their Democratic majority to three Republicans - Carla DuPuy, Rod Autrey and Jerry Blackmon.

In summary, the old Democratic Party coalitions cracked and then expanded liberal policies - support for gay rights, ERA, abortion and religion-politics confusion - combined with the charisma of Ronald Reagan, general economic prosperity except for the very poor, and a relatively weak Democratic Party presidential candidate and platform to unseat many Democrats and bring about the Reagan landslide coattail Republican victory across the nation.

Impatiently, historians and the voters alike can only wait to see what the next four years will mean for America.

From Capitol Hill

President's New Federalism Hurts Inner Cities

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

A 25-member National Urban Policy Advisory Committee has issued its "Urban American 1984 Report Card." The Advisory Committee was established by the Subcommittee on Investment, Jobs, and Prices of the Joint Economic Committee. The hard-hitting minority advocate, Parren Mitchell, chairs the group. The study was ordered in response to the uncertainty surrounding the economic recovery and the implication for the Federal role in shaping urban policy strategies.

The Committee calls the current urban policy a tale of two visions. It is a vision of market-determined development, abetted at the federal level primarily by policies conducive to economic growth and non-interference in local affairs. It is not really a policy but a strategy for cities that relies primarily on the impact of economic policy as a whole. The strategy has four elements: an economic recovery program, decentralization of Federal responsibilities, reduced federal assistance to cities, and public-private sector cooperation. Measures which grant cities special federal attention and support are opposed by the Administration. Its policy does not alleviate unemployment, economic distress and decaying infrastructure.

The alternative vision recommended by the Committee takes issue with the Administration on the role of the federal government involvement. It argues that cities need the benefit of direct federal involvement in the provision of a range of public goods and in the stimulation of extensive public-private sector



Alfreda L. Madison

partnerships. It calls for federal investment in the cities' infrastructure, education and training of the unemployed, housing and transportation. The most important acknowledgement of the alternative vision is the need for federal assistance to aid cities in ameliorating the hardships experienced by the poor and near-poor.

During this period of modest economic growth, the United States is experiencing employment and production expansion, the dollar is strong, jobs are being created at high rates in certain industries, new technologies are spawning new firms, productivity growth has recovered, and there is a widespread feeling of optimism about the future. In spite of all these facts, the Committee found that for many urban areas and their residents, particularly their minority and less affluent residents, the recovery has stimulated very few, if any, improvements. Fiscal problems limit the quality and quantity of needed services; jobs are scarce, neighborhoods and housing choices re-

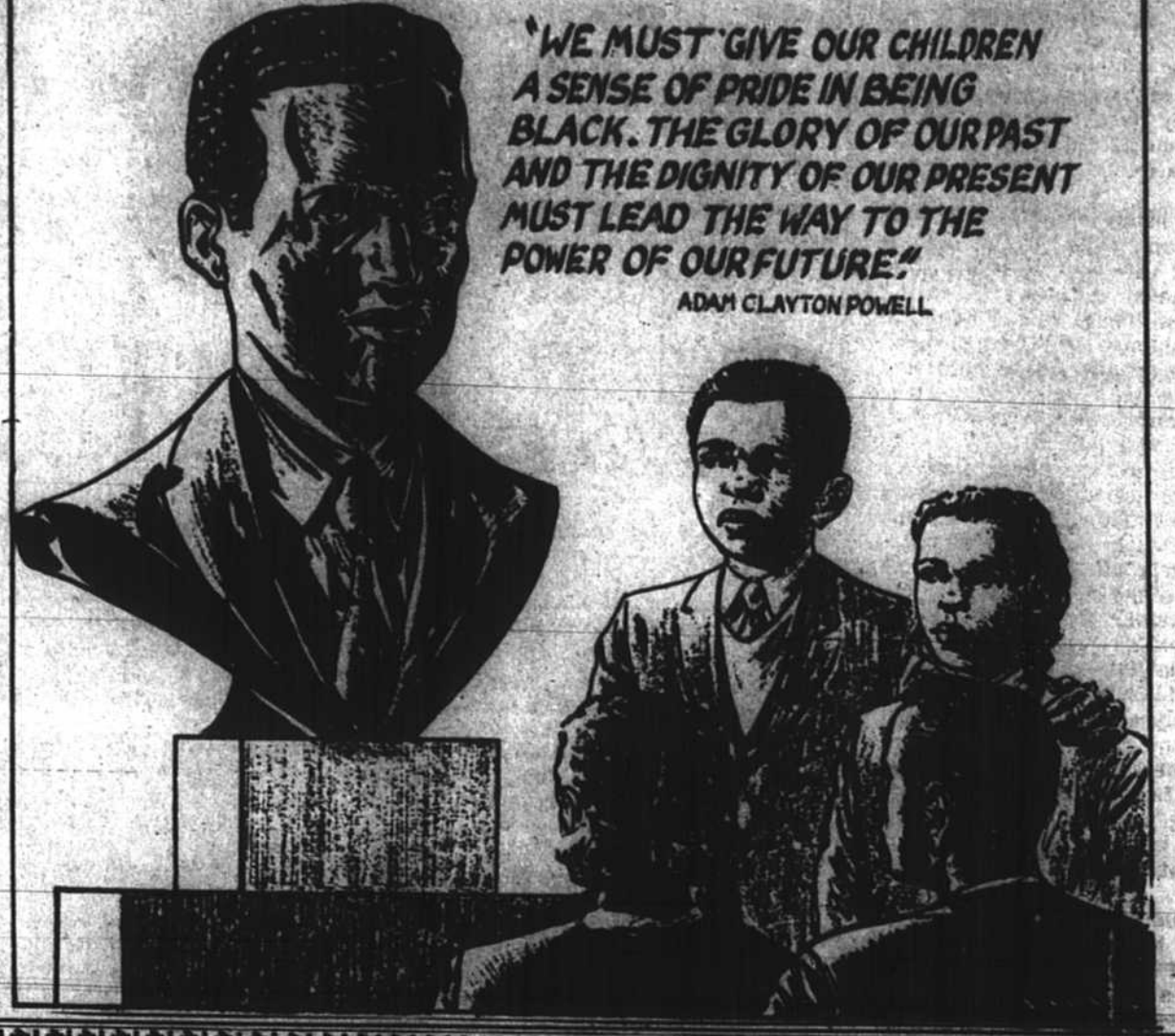
main limited and poverty is increasing.

The effects of the recovery are felt in the inner-cities in various areas. Federal reduction of federal assistance, and household ability to pay for housing threaten to choke future progress, coupled with lax enforcement of legislation forbidding housing discrimination threaten to limit minority household choice. As a result doubling up and homelessness are on the rise.

The National Commission on Excellence in Education issued a report which gave startling facts about education of inner-city children. It showed that 40 percent of all minority youth are functionally illiterate. Even with minimal support inner-city schools have helped to reduce the historical educational gaps between minority and non-minority children. In 1960 nearly four out of ten black youngsters completed high school, compared to almost 70 percent of white youngsters; by 1980 almost 70 percent of all blacks finished high school compared to 80 percent of all whites.

The report further shows that during the seventies, nine year old black students made gains in reading and in mathematics, while white students experienced a decline in mathematics and they showed less gain in reading than the black students. Because of economic cuts, urban schools cannot easily respond to special needs of the children because of inconsistent national and local commitment. In 1970 the urban school population was just about equally divided between minorities and whites. In 1982 minority enrollment had exceeded 70 percent. Cut back in funds have greatly hurt the inner-city schools. It has

A HERITAGE TO BE PROUD OF



Consumers Are Nearing Their Limit?

By Sabrina Johnson
Post Columnist

News in brief. Consumers have been borrowing money to buy automobiles, furniture, appliances and other "big ticket items" at an incredible pace this year, fueling continued economic growth.

The spurt in auto loans, credit card purchases and personal borrowing has raised the question of whether consumers are nearing their buying and borrowing limit. This Christmas' shopping rush begins with economists being aware that spending and borrowing is pacing the year's economic recovery.

Many economists feel that there is still room for consumers to increase the borrowing. Others tend to be more cautious. They predict a good, strong Christmas in consumerism but venture to expect a halt in 1985 - believing that consumers will run out of "rope" and will begin to slow down or cut out some spending.

Consumer installment debt in 1984 has increased 12 percent, or \$47.2 billion, to total \$443.2 billion at the end of August. A proportion of personal income, the debt in



Sabrina

August held at 14.56 percent, up from 13.57 percent in January and the highest since May, 1980.

Borrowing reached a record high as a proportion of personal income in May, 1979 when it hit 15.03 percent.

One major problem. If consumers decide they cannot afford to make additions to their installment debts - overall decline in spending could result which, in turn, equals economic downturn.

Some economists say that consumer installment debt figures are misleading largely because they include credit card balances, part of which does not represent real borrowing. Consumers buy goods with credit cards and pay for the purchases when the credit card statement arrives, taking advantage of the float in the meantime.

Although overall consumer debt burden, as measured by the ratio of debt of personal income is nearing the all-time high of 15.3 percent, it would not be unusual to see a new record in the coming year. Possibly the growth trend in consumer debt will point towards a ceiling for the debt-to-income ratio at 16 or 17 percent at present.

The psychology of buy now, pay later has increased and gained strength since World War II. Years ago it was considered immoral or "un-American" to go into debt. However, today credit has become acceptable and very American.

Thirty years ago, the credit card was a rarity. However, today that is not the case. More than 80 percent of American households have credit cards and live by credit cards.

The willingness of Americans to borrow for fun-want items reflects a growing confidence in the longer term future of the American economy. High inflation in the 1970s made borrowing a smart financial move - today it is a smart "make myself happy" move.

Melonie Irvin

Continued From Page 1A
fesses, "I miss my friends but we keep in touch by writing."

Already Melonie says she's made many friends in Charlotte and also has a new boyfriend.

Melonie's boyfriend is 5'8" and six foot Melonie claims, "When we go out people stare at us." Melonie laughs saying she'd initially thought young men in North Carolina would be taller than she's found.

"I love being tall," she asserts. "I always catch people's eye and they always ask me do I model."

Melonie, who claims she gets ecstatic when she thinks about modeling, says her interest in the profession peaked essentially because she is "tall and skinny." "I like taking pictures," she admits, "and I love to see them on magazine covers." Of course, her favorite television show is "Paper Dolls" the glittery series about the high-fashion in New York.

Besides modeling Melonie's ambitions include attending college and majoring in English. She'd like to travel more. She also plans to work with handicapped children one day.

Melonie has two brothers and one sister and height runs in their family.

UNICEF Cards

UNICEF cards are now available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. at both the Uptown and Park Road Centers of the YWCA.

In addition there are note cards, children's puzzles, paper dolls, and three different calendars on sale.

The tradition of sending UNICEF's multilingual cards began 36 years ago. "The exquisite 1984 collection enables you to spread holiday cheer and help the world's needy children at the same time," said Donna Arrington, YWCA Creative Learning Director.

The Charlotte Post
North Carolina's Fastest Growing Weekly 704-376-0496
"The People's Newspaper"
106 Years Of Continuous Service
Bill Johnson Editor, Pub. Bernard Reeves Gen. Mgr. Fran Bradley Adv. Mgr. Dannette Gaither Of. Mgr.
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