

EDITORIALS

Budget Cuts: Too Much Too Soon!

Consistent with his conservative political philosophy, President Reagan formally kicked-off a strong public relations campaign on behalf of his controversial 1986 budget plan earlier this week. With a projected \$180 billion maximum deficit for 1986, if the proposed budget is approved as is, and this is not likely to happen, and with the interest rising so fast on the nation's debt that funds must be borrowed just to pay the interest, something surely must be done to substantially cut the deficit. To this extent we strongly support the intent of Mr. Reagan's efforts to get control of the nation's debt and begin to make an effort toward debt reduction.

However, we adamantly oppose the timing and method that Mr. Reagan proposes to use to reduce the deficit. In fact, his approach to debt reduction is so unsound that we wonder whether he is in fact sincere or concerned about the nation's debt level. To begin with President Reagan's budget calls for increasing the defense budget by \$31 billion and cutting or eliminating numerous domestic programs to save \$39 billion, avoid a general tax increase, leave Social Security at its current level and tolerate a \$180 billion deficit. What this means in effect is a shifting of \$31 billion from domestic programs to the military-industrial complex budget.

Even distinguished Republican Senators such as Barry Goldwater, Robert Dole and Mark Hatfield disagree with President Reagan's obsession with an increased defense budget. Goldwater said, "defense is no exception" to the budget cuts ax. Dole, Senate Majority said the defense budget is "negotiable."

Democrats simply outright rejected the budget as totally unacceptable. They have vowed to explain to the American people how the Reagan budget proposes to cut programs that benefit low, moderate and middle income families. In specific terms, this means eliminating or substantially reducing low-income housing programs, job training programs, college loan programs and the Small Business Administration

which aids small and new businesses with technical assistance and low interest loans. Cities, many of them on the brink of bankruptcy, will lose desperately needed mass transit and general revenue sharing funds. Farmer, especially the small family

farmers, will lose their price support and subsidy programs and government insured home loans may become a thing of the past.

Ironically, the Reagan administration has accused its budget critics as groups of "wounded special interest" groups. These "groups" just happen to be Mr. and Mrs. Average American since the proposed budget will adversely affect every segment of American society except the military-industrial complex and its proposed inflated defense budget.

Secondly, in an act of near outright blasphemy Reagan used the Bible to urge a group of religious broadcasters to support his budget and oppose any efforts by Congress to cut his defense budget. Taking Luke 14:31 out of context, Mr. Reagan gave the impression that Jesus' position for peace was to favor war.

Returning to our original point, we support Mr. Reagan's commitment to reducing the national debt but we oppose his methodology. First, as a nation we must stop playing politics with the debt. Secondly, we need to adopt a national bi-partisan policy - that is - a policy that transcends political parties - to allow for a planned 10 to 15 year approach for debt reduction. It is simply impossible to abandon 40 year old programs like the farmer subsidy program literally over night and not expect some farmers to go bankrupt. A strong bi-partisan but firm policy, carefully developed, with reasonable defense expenditures and allowances for inflation and certain international monetary considerations could lead to significant debt reductions if developed with sincerity and given the support of the American people.

It's not too late to gain control of the nation's debt, but we must all commit ourselves unselfishly to the task at hand in a bi-partisan way to keeping America strong.

Rosa Parks, A Lady Of Humble Dignity

In 1943, a frail black woman was evicted from a bus in Montgomery, Alabama because she refused after getting on the front of the bus and paying her fare to get off the bus and go the rear door to reenter the bus. That incident probably accomplished little except give the woman a renewed sense of pride.

Twelve years later the same frail woman's insistence upon sitting and not giving up her seat on the same bus route to a

white man led the nation to stand up and rethink its moral commitment to civil rights and human dignity. Out of this event too arose Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who led the consciousness raising movement

for new civil rights legislation.

The woman who opened the doors to new freedoms and opportunity for blacks was Ms. Rosa Parks, a guest in Charlotte this week as a part of the "Black History Month Celebration." Mrs. Parks' "quiet and courageous act changed the face of America as it viewed Black people and redirected the course of history."

Ms. Parks' act shows clearly that one person can make a difference and clearly shows why she is affectionately referred to as the "Mother of the Modern Freedom Movement."

May God continue to bless Ms. Parks for her humble dignity and courageous spirit.

From Capitol Hill

Reagan Begins Second Term By Insulting Blacks!

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

President Reagan's second term beginning is a continuation of his first term's censure of Black leaders, for the Black population's failure to accept his policies that have made them poorer, assaulted their civil rights gains which have caused them to face more intensified racism.

The President said in his inaugural address, "I remember a time when people of different race, creed, or ethnic origin in our land found hatred and prejudice installed in social custom and law. There is no story more heartening in our history than the progress we've made toward the brotherhood of man." Scrutiny of the President's minority policies have impeded that progress.

Under Mr. Reagan Blacks have experienced tremendous impediments to their civil rights gains, through the Administration's attempt to overturn congressional and court-mandates for remedying injustices and inequities. Blacks have suffered, since the beginning of this country.

Under this Administration, Black unemployment has been higher than it has been since World War II. While the Administration gloats over inflation reduction, it fails to say that it was done by a trade-off of unemployment. Blacks and the poor have borne the burden of reduction of inflation.

The vast majority of Blacks are worse off today than they were four years ago. The recovery has not significantly reached Blacks. Recovery has been for whites, but for Blacks it is only a rumor. The Democratic study shows that income has dropped for one third of



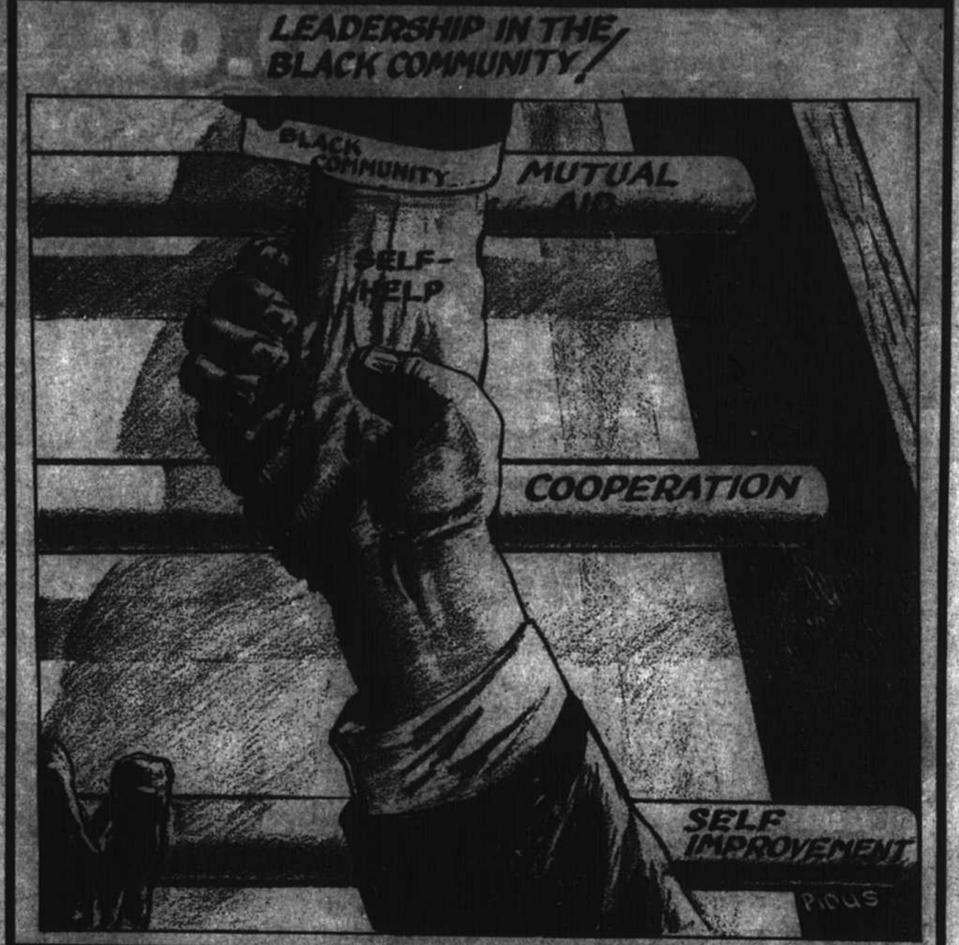
Alfreda L. Madison

the families with an annual income of \$10,000 or less. They have experienced a loss of \$1100, through taxes and cuts in health care, food stamps and other federal programs. The Center for Budget and Policy priorities shows that 1.3 million Blacks became poor between 1980 and 1983.

The House subcommittee on employment opportunities said in its study on The State of Affirmative action in the Federal Government, that in all of the 45 agencies investigated, there were gross violations of affirmative action, resulting from the Administration's lack of enforcement.

In an interview with USA Today, President Reagan said, "Black leaders are protecting some rather good positions that they hold." He stated that if Blacks knew the truth about his accomplishments as their behalf, 90 percent of them would have voted for him. He continued, "If they ever become aware of the opportunities that are improving, they might wonder if they need some of their organizations."

John Jacobs, National Urban



Where Does Cosby's Wife Get The Energy?

Now that the New Year Holiday has passed and Black History Month is upon us - many folks particularly those of other ethnic groups find it necessary to ask certain questions of certain folks. One such individual was the writer of this piece.

Constantly the question of whether or not the Bill Cosby Show is a true or accurate adaptation of middle class Blacks arose. The reply is basically yes. Why? Because (1) Both parents maintain careers, viable careers outside of the home. (2) The children are taught to be independent and self sufficient. (3) The parents of the couple are displayed as being hardworking, caring individuals who wanted the best for their children and did all in their power to give it to them.

(4) The children are individualists within the family and work as a family. (5) The family does not live an excessive or lavish life but one that is comfortable, accommodating and useful, a room for each child and



Sabrina

insufficient bathroom space for the children to fight over.

On the flip side, how can Cosby's television wife have a successful career, be a wonderful wife and mother and prepare two meals (breakfast and dinner) and never bring work or worries home. Where does the woman get the energy, patience and time? Someone please let the public know? Another question - how does Cosby maintain, in the show, a medical practice and appear at home each evening on time for dinner?

The television show Different Strokes is another questionable show for some folk. For those not familiar with the broadcast - the show is about the lives of two boys, black, adopted by a wealthy widower who happens to be white. The boys seem to lead a normal life - school, peer problems, and other natural growing pains. The only visible difference is that the children do have access to above average amounts of money. However, their new found father tries to teach them the fact that money must be earned - which is a good, pure, basic fact. This show seems to personify the fact the affluence must be earned and not given just because of birth or adoption.

These two examples of positive images of blacks in the media is the beginning of a changing tide. Finally blacks and other ethnic groups are being depicted as viable parts of common American life.

Less and less we are seeing the servant, and more and more we are seeing the aggressors.

No the images seen on television, in newspapers and on the radio are not typical of all blacks and other ethnic groups but neither are the images of whites in the media. If all believed what is presented on soap operas, then that would mean all white people are wealthy - buffalo chips. All white people are not wealthy and all black people are not poor. This American society is structured in a way so that one percent of the total population is wealthy, approximately 33 percent of the population make up the new rich, upper middle and middle class and the remainder makes up the basic people with and without jobs known as "common folk." In each group their are Blacks, Hispanics, Jews, whites and all other groups.

Shows such as the Bill Cosby Show and Different Strokes are representative of a small portion of black society such as is soaps of wealthy and upper class whites. The shows help to bring about more positive images to both blacks and whites. From fictional situation shows, blacks and ethnic groups are represented in more positive and influential ways; news broadcasters, key public officials and politicians, authors athletes, musicians and on and on.

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