



EDICRALS

Reagan's Rhetoric Far From Reality

Last week President Ronald Reagan traveled to New York City to receive an honorary doctorate degree from St. John's University. In his address at the university, Mr. Reagan said, "The biggest mistake mankind has made in this century is to think that the big answer to how difficult life is... is the State," that is big government. "But if we have discovered anything in the past few decades, it is that our salvation is not in the State. Our salvation is in ourselves, and what we do with our lives, the choices we make, and the things we choose to worship. If we have learned anything, it is that government that is big enough to give you everything you want is more likely to simply take everything you've got. And that's not freedom, that's servitude. That isn't the way Americans were meant to live."

Mr. Reagan's comments suggest that America and Americans have developed and grown without significant help from the government. The historic fact is government has been an actively involved partner in the development of our nation. It was government that subsidized the first continental railroad that linked the East and West in the early 1860s. It was government that offered free land under the Homestead Acts to encourage people to migrate and settle in the West. It was government that provided protective tariffs to protect the development of American industry from foreign competition. And in this century it has been government subsidy of the airline, steamship and railroad industries. We all know of the relatively recent history of government subsidies and loans to Penn Central Railroad, Pan Am Airways and the Chrysler Corporation.

Yet, our same government today has refused to come to the aid of the basic family farmer, a diminishing breed on the

"He Is Risen"

"He saith unto them. Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified; he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him."

This text of scripture from the Holy Bible's Mark 16:6 tells us of the historic fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his crucifixion. With possible exception of Jesus on the cross, no event in human history has received as much universal attention as the evidence of the empty tomb. Luke 24:2-3 tells us, "And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body."

Paul said that at one time there were 500 witnesses of the resurrected Christ, (1 Cor. 15:3-8).

Jesus accepted persecution and death to pay the price for all the sins of man - past, present and future - and rose from the dead in a triumph over Satan.

Thus, Easter is a time for Christians to recognize how Christ Jesus' conquest over

American scene, and the primary example of what we like to call the free market system. The tariffs, which helped American industry to grow with very little competition from foreign markets, were part of the myth of our nation's so-called self-regulating, individually operated free enterprise system. This system was exploded by the Great Depression of 1929. The system was in a sense buried in 1946 by the Employment Act by which it became the explicit responsibility of the national government to promote maximum production, employment, and purchasing power. Furthermore, recent federal reports show that affirmative action programs have actually resulted in more and better job opportunities for minorities. Yet, as Mr. Reagan's speech indicates, the myth of a free enterprise system lives on.

Mr. Reagan said further, "We will always take care of the poor and the helpless among us." Yet, the President is seeking to dismantle the public housing program, community development programs and other activities designed to aid the poor and helpless.

The poor and the helpless don't want a handout; they just want a hand-up to help them over a difficult period of time. This is the plight of the small American farmer today. Instead of help, large numbers are being forced to sell their family farms often after having been in the same family for three or four generations.

This is not the kind of America we need. Rather, we need an administration in Washington that is sensitive to and responsive to the need of all the American people, not just the large corporations. Mr. Reagan, stop the rhetoric, study our nation's history and begin to use the government to serve the American people. After all, that's what government is all about - serving people who need service.

death and Satan and to reaffirm Jesus as our personal savior. In this season we should give thanks for Jesus in remembrance of the supreme sacrifice He made for each of us.

Something On Your Mind?

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From Capitol Hill

Rights Commission Has Become Race-Baiting Tool

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The 21 year old Civil Rights Commission, which was once a highly respected agency known for its fair, independent investigating and recommendations to Congress and the President, since being reconstituted with a majority of Reaganites, is being ignored. The Commission has made a complete turn-about from the purpose for which it was created - that is, aiding in remedying unfair discriminatory practices against women and minorities to an agency for protecting whites in their advantageous positions.

Commission chairman Clarence Pendleton lashes out with his vitriolic tongue against blacks. He brands their leaders as "new racists." He says the color blind policy is working.

After Pendleton spoke at the National Press Club, with his strong denunciation of blacks, the Washington Post reported that he was becoming somewhat of a burden to the Administration, and Pendleton was reported as saying that he was going to "cool it." The next day, the Washington Post reported Pendleton as saying the President called him and said he agreed with all he said and that he should continue until he reached the rank and file blacks and leaders. This is another example of Mr. Reagan's name-calling and attempts to whip people in line. How does Pendleton plan to reach the rank and file blacks? Is he going to speak to them in the inner-city, using his usual forked tongue: Clarence, beware.

In March, several civil rights groups, academic and business leaders were invited to present



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papers and to testify at a hearing on affirmative action. Those refusing the invitation were: The NAACP, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Urban League, Mexican-American Defense League, National Organization for Women and Women's Defense League. These groups denounced the report that was made public by chairman Pendleton, vice chairman Morris Abrams and staff director Linda Chavez, after meeting with President Reagan. Pendleton said he told the President, "that the panel had succeeded in making racial and similar quotas a dead issue and replaced them with public debate over increasing preferential treatment for minorities and women with a vision of a color blind society. Quotas are a dead issue."

Barry Goldstein of the Legal Defense Fund in a letter to the Commission Counsel, in which he responded to the invitation that was sent to Julius Chambers, executive director of Legal Defense, to appear on the panel or present a paper, said, "It appears that the principal issues which we were asked to address in

"BLACKS' RETICENCE TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE THEIR COMMUNITIES" SAID DOUGLAS G. GLASGOW, DEAN OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, IS A MAJOR FACTOR AND AN IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITIES' UNDEVELOPED STATUS"

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COMMUNITY COHESIVENESS

Black Teens Unemployment Disturbing

Currently in the U.S. more than 18 percent of teens aged 16-19 are unemployed; almost triple that seven percent of the overall unemployment rate. More disturbing is the number of black teens unemployed - that number being 43 percent.

The current administration believes it has found a route to create more jobs for the nation's teens - over 400,000 more jobs which include unskilled jobs of a vast multitude (i.e., restaurant bus persons, gas station attendants, etc.). But how?

President Reagan, for the third time, has proposed reducing the minimum wage of \$3.35 to \$2.50 an hour for teen workers. The bill would be in effect from May 1 through September 30 for those 16 - 19 years old working summer jobs.

The controversy arises because organized labor feels the lower wage will not create additional jobs but that employers will replace adults with teens for 85 cents less per hour. According to the bill, those employers who cheat face six months in jail and fines of \$10,000. However, no one is certain of the creation of 400,000 additional



Sabrina

jobs.

For 10 years the unemployment rate for all black teens has been between 35 and 50 percent. This is the reason many black mayors support the bill. At present, Congress is moving quickly to pass or veto the bill so that businesses can make summer employment plans. If passed the bill must be experimental for one summer and monitored by the Labor Department. If it works, then continue on, if not - drop it.

The social aspect of the bill has many faces - some good some not so good. Today's teens are a significantly different breed than those of 10,

15 or 20 years ago. The contemporary teen does want to work but later in life. Today's teens receive allowances on an average of \$10 per week just for continued existence. The tasks required to perform are those of everyday living - cleaning one's room, taking out the trash and the like. This does not mean that teens do not want to work; they do, but later for some. The whole question between job and career comes into play at this point. From his point of view a "job" is boring and meaningless. A job is a means to an end but a career is a way of life. This is partly true. However, teens must be taught that the road to achieving is not entirely glamorous and that if a family is economically disadvantaged a job is a way of life (it provides food, shelter and clothing in varying degrees).

Another face to the bill is that teens need training and pay. Why should he put in equal work days mastering a skill and be paid less? This goes back to E.R.A. equal pay for equal work. Under Reagan's proposal teens 16-19 will be hired for \$2.50 an hour because it would "create" more jobs for minorities - although the bill is well meaning it can hurt all teens especially minority teens. The problem being that they may not be able to afford to work. Transportation and clothing expenses may outweigh the teen's salary of \$2.50 an hour. Whereas the \$3.35 standard will allow him to make provisions and show a profit in working. The available training is fine and wonderful, but if the teen cannot afford to get to work - what good does that do him?

A positive face is that the subminimum wage for teens may actually lower the unemployment rate for black teens and bring back jobs lost to modernization. In 1948 black teen unemployment was 9.4 percent whereas white teen unemployment was 10.2 percent. The lower minimum wage, as stated previously, would bring back the movie ushers, bag boys and other old and new jobs lost or created. From this point the money is not the issue - job experience is. The job experience will teach teens that things in life are to be earned through personal endeavors, that self-pride, esteem and respect help to make individuals better parts of the society. And that experiences learned now do indeed help later in "careers."

the legal panel for the consultation not only have been decided by the Commission but also those decisions have been communicated publicly to the President. The consultation appears to conform to the procedure for legal proceeding in Alice in Wonderland: first the verdict, then the trial. It does not seem fruitful to spend time addressing the Commission when it already has made up its mind and announced its decision.

Julius Chambers, in his response to the invitation, gave specific reasons why he did not accept the invitation, stating that he had handled numerous discrimination cases, among them - the Charlotte, N.C., school case. Chambers stated that Chief Justice Burger, writing the opinion for the Supreme Court, strongly stated the appropriateness of race-conscious remedies and ratios. Chambers said, "To my knowledge my view of affirmative action has never been called immoral, until the statement issued by Mr. Pendleton and Mr. Abrams. I am not going to appear before the Commission and present a position which the chairman and vice chairman have denounced as immoral at a press conference."

The day of the Commission hearing, the six civil rights organizations that were invited to take part in the discussion had a number of representatives present, but did not take part. They remained until Representative Parren Mitchell made his statement, and then they walked out of the hearing behind him and remained outside the hearing through Mitchell's press conference. When called on, Mitchell rose and accused chairman Clarence Pendleton of being an ad-

ministrative lackey for calling some black leaders immoral and racists. He said, "You neither deserve my response to any question, nor do you deserve any recognition, nor do you deserve any respect."

In a press statement Mitchell said if Pendleton wants to be a lackey for those who would crush black aspirations, fine. If he's chosen to play that role, he will not play it with my support.

David Swinton, director of the Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy at Clark College, charged that the Commission has abandoned its role as an advocacy group for minorities. He said, "This Commission was not established to be neutral or to promote the interests of white men. They don't need help. They control everything."

Douglas Glasgow, explaining why the Urban League would not participate in the hearings, said, "The upcoming consultation hearings on affirmative action set the stage for confrontation rather than deliberation, because the Civil Rights Commission's position already has been established and made public. Another reason for withdrawing from participation in the hearings are recent insidious attacks leveled at the National Urban League's president by officers of the Commission."

The joint hearing of the House Education and Labor and the Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitution Law, bypassed the Civil Rights Commission, where previously the Commission has been one of the chief witnesses in civil rights matters.

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