

Editorials

Mr. Reagan Ignored "The Issues"!

Last week President Reagan insulted the people of North Carolina during a visit to speak on the campus of N.C. State University. Coming prepared to speak on his tax reform plan led even Sen. Jesse Helms to tell news reports, "With all due respect for my president," support in North Carolina for tax reform is "not strong."

The fact is, while the issue of foreign textile imports was uppermost in the minds of most North Carolinians, no mention of textiles was made except for a brief discussion between Gov. Jim Martin and Mr. Reagan enroute to Raleigh and when Martin introduced the President.

While N.C. State University has the largest textile school in the nation, the President made no mention of a bill before Congress designed to protect the troubled American textile industry from the avalanche of inexpensive foreign imports. The only public comment on the issue came when Gov. Martin suggested when introducing the President that Reagan's tax plan be changed to give textiles a break on capital investments.

N.C. textile officials were reportedly upset that Mr. Reagan ignored this issue of vital concern to the state and then refused a request to meet with them during his visit on the pretext of a crowded and limited schedule. The textile industry has been in conflict with Mr. Reagan over his opposition to legislation to place quotas on imported textiles and clothing.

Gov. Martin, who was very supportive of the textile officials' efforts to meet with the President, should be commended too for his two brief efforts to get some reaction from the President on the textile import question.

As if mesmerized by Mr. Reagan's smile

Tax Reform Is A Major Concern

During President Reagan's visit to N.C. State University last week the students provided a pep rally of support for a tax revision proposal to help the President's aim to allegedly "win one for America."

It appears quite evident that the 13,000 or so students in Reynolds Coliseum, who applauded the President's 24-minute speech 32 times, may not have really understood what they were applauding. They cheered for Mr. Reagan's plan to raise standard deductions and to lower taxes on the poor and the rich.

What in reality this glossed-over rhetoric means is a tax reform that will increase taxes on middle income families and reduce taxes on the very rich. It means too that selected local economies across the nation - textiles in North Carolina - could lose even more jobs in the years to come.

The bottom line of the President's so-called tax reform (for whom?) proposal has turned up a major concern for Congress, that is, the tax plan is clearly biased toward affluent families and against middle income families.

Under the President's tax plan consumer purchases, such as second home, an automobile, appliances and furniture would be

and his smooth and articulate manner, the students who joined the President at a private luncheon following his speech reportedly raised questions about South Africa, Central America, NASA funding cuts, but apparently not about textiles.

So often when a President is planning a visit, the people at the center of the visit get so preoccupied with leaving a positive and memorable impression that that contributes making the visit more of a social call and circus act than seizing the opportunity to hear firsthand what the President's views are on the vital issue, especially as they affect the group visited.

Thus, while Gov. Martin was trying in vain to get some positive reaction and support for the textile industry, N.C. State University officials and students were willingly duped by the President's focus on an issue - tax reform - that even Sen. Helms had little support in North Carolina.

Mr. Reagan capitalized on the environment in Reynolds Coliseum and the 1983 N.C. State national champ basketball team's underdog role to echo concerns about tax reform. The State pep band and cheerleaders added to the insult offered by Mr. Reagan in his ignoring of the real issue of concern in North Carolina - unrestricted textile imports.

It is time that we put away such let's-please-the-President mentality and expect him or other national figures who visit our state to address issues of concern to us and not exploit us for other political gain. This means, too, that our state or institutional leaders must exhibit the courage that Gov. Martin used in trying to get the President's attention focused on the textile question.

limited to \$15,000 per year over and above a taxpayer's net investment income, i.e., interest on bank deposits, bonds, stock dividends, etc. The point is a family with little or no net investment income would be placed in a new tax bracket allowing a combined deductible interest on such items as a car, second home and the like to be only \$5,000. Likewise, affluent families would not, in comparison, feel the squeeze under the Reagan plan. Congressional critics are concerned that the President's plan will hit middle income Americans too hard. N.C. State students, most of whom will be middle income persons upon graduation, need to assess and analyze the Reagan tax plan before any more applause.

Something On Your Mind?

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Point Of My Pen

Rev. Jerry Falwell Is The Real "Phoney"

By Elizabeth Hood
Special To The Post

The Rev. Jerry Falwell's plea to white, born-again Christians in the U.S. to support the apartheid government of South Africa comes as no surprise. Many have supported evil structures in the name of the Lord. Denouncing the Black Bishop Tutu as a phony and traveling around the U.S. encouraging friends and business people to continue investing in South Africa are modern abuses of religion.

Mr. Falwell's use of the cloak to cover the wrongs of racism is understandable. He does not want his people to suffer. White South Africans, caught in the grips of national unrest, unrelenting violence, and critical eyes, feel much pain.

The pain surging through South Africa, however, had to come. It was born from one people inflicting centuries of abuse and neglect upon others. In the interest of his people's "values" and economic position, Prime Minister P. W. Botha insists upon the right to continue the oppression. By "values," he means the culture imposed upon South Africa by its white colonialists - religion,



Sherman

"Miller Says" will resume next week.

economic structures, education, language, and general world view.

Possession of European values allows Botha and his people to profess Christianity while exploiting blacks. They begin simply with the Parable of the Talent, four million Whites expanding European technology to gain wealth, power, and control. Eliminating any competition from 24 million Blacks becomes the means of maintaining control. The process of wiping out competition from Blacks in South Africa is similar to that which the U.S. has employed. Isolate the masses from mainstream culture. Educate them poorly. Limit their access to

BLACKS' RETICENCE TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE THEIR COMMUNITIES, SAID DOUGLAS C. 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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The Sure Way.....

Affirmative Action Carries Special Significance

Twenty years ago this month, President Lyndon Johnson signed an order committing the federal government of the U.S. to a policy called AFFIRMATIVE ACTION.

Affirmative action, the term, carries special significance to blacks, Hispanics, females and anyone else who feels that race or sex has been the reason they were denied a job or promotion.

The term assumes that employers in both the private and government sectors will disregard or erase past patterns of discrimination in the job place. In response to this, minorities and women sometimes received preferential treatment. Affirmative action also has another side - one of cases of reverse discrimination. They have occurred and are oftentimes settled in federal courts.

With all its ills, affirmative action is needed at present, just as it was needed 20 years ago. But this time the federal government must ensure that it is enforced.

Many employers complain of the time spent and the money used to change their habits of hiring - the major opposition to affirmative



Sabrina

action. Meanwhile, other major employers are willing to pay the price.

IBM, General Electric, AT&T, and Monsanto are totally committed to making affirmative action work. Hewlett Packard attributes the onset of affirmative action to the increase of its female employees to 42 percent and its minority employees to 18 percent.

The Reagan Administration has devised a new executive order that would release federal contractors from the responsibility of setting goals and meeting deadlines in minority and women hiring practices. If the President chooses to

exercise an ounce of common sense, he should kill the proposal. If the proposal is approved, it would gut affirmative action. It would destroy the remedy for correcting the many wrongs of lifetimes and turn back the clock on justice in the job market.

Affirmative action was forcing employers to do human resource planning and development better than 40 years ago; and it has been done for the benefit of all employees, regardless of race or sex. It has incorporated itself into industrial jargon the concept of diversity - taking different cultures, melting them together and extracting the best each has to offer. If diversity can make America great, why not its businesses? This diversity has increased the learning of how valuable the different perspectives on getting the job done can be.

Many believe affirmative action has lowered the job standards of many companies - when in actuality it has raised them for the benefit of employees and quality control. Some people voice their belief in voluntary compliance. Well, voluntary compliance does not work. If it did Moses would have brought from the mountain 10 guidelines; instead he came down with the Ten Commandments.

Americans observe the 55 MPH limit on highways and pay income taxes "voluntarily" knowing that if either is not done financial penalties will be inflicted. The same philosophy should be used for affirmative action. At present, affirmative action works because there is a regulatory framework supporting the words and provides a reprimand for those who cheat.

Major critics of affirmative action say they want decisions made on merit. Fine, but political appointments are the grandest form of an anti-merit system existing in America. If someone adheres to the hiring of an individual solely on qualifications and outstanding achievement, many political appointees would never have jobs. Think about it.

Indeed the speculation of a day will come when affirmative action will not be needed, when employers will accept and respond to the fact that talent and potential, without regard to race or sex, are the key to insuring profit and stability. Unfortunately, that day has not come.

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