

Editorials

The Crop Walkers' Flip Side

About 9,000 men and women, the and the young, blacks and es, walkers and runners as nteers participated last Sun- in a 10-mile CROP Walk-Run ainst Hunger. For each mile walked or ran someone gave contributions with initial total estimates at \$175,000.

CROP Walk-Run is the community hunger appeal of Church World Services. Twenty-five percent of the funds collected from the sponsors of the walkers and runners will be given to the local Loaves and Fishes and Crisis Assistance Ministry hunger-fighting agencies. The remaining funds will be used to benefit Church World Service programs.

Jennifer Kimmer, a 13-year-old, eloquently personified the joyous mood of the 9,000 walkers and runners when she said, "I'm walking for all the hungry people in Charlotte and the world. I hope I don't die (while doing it)."

The gathering of 9,000 people to give an afternoon in the some-times difficult task of walking or running, often carrying or pushing an infant in a stroller, to benefit other less fortunate people is indeed a comforting and pleasing site.

Another pleasing site was in what some might call trivia or insignificant within the total universe of the CROP Walk-Run. In particular, we are referring to the CROP walk route this year that brought the walkers and runners to the west side through the campus of Johnson C. Smith University and then downtown into the Earle Village public housing community.

We think these parts of the CROP Walk-Run are significant in that they brought some people, both black and white, on the JCSU campus who had never before been within even one block of the university. They were greeted by a group of beautiful cheerleaders, offered cups of cool water and saw the historic Biddle Hall. Many of these same people, whose only association with Earle Village has been through the windshield of an automobile hurriedly passing, had an opportunity to see Earle Village more closely. In so doing, some new sense of appreciation, regardless of how small, undoubtedly occurred with regard to this inner city public housing project and a historically black educational institution in our community.

English, The Official Language?

It seems strange to learn that the state of California will have a constitutional amendment on the November ballot declaring English to be the official language of the state. Polls show that the English language question or Proposition 63 is favored by 70 percent of the California voters and a suprising 54 percent of the state's Spanish speaking people.

Proposition 63's supporters argue that English must be made the "official language" of the state in order to provide some unity and cohesion in the state where, believe it or not, 100 languages are said to be spoken. They also favor "63" to prevent attempts by Hispanic politicians to create islands of Spanish speaking culture in the state. Such "culture" groups could, among other things, guarantee Hispanic

blocks of voters because in reality the "cultures" would become more isolated from the English speaking majority.

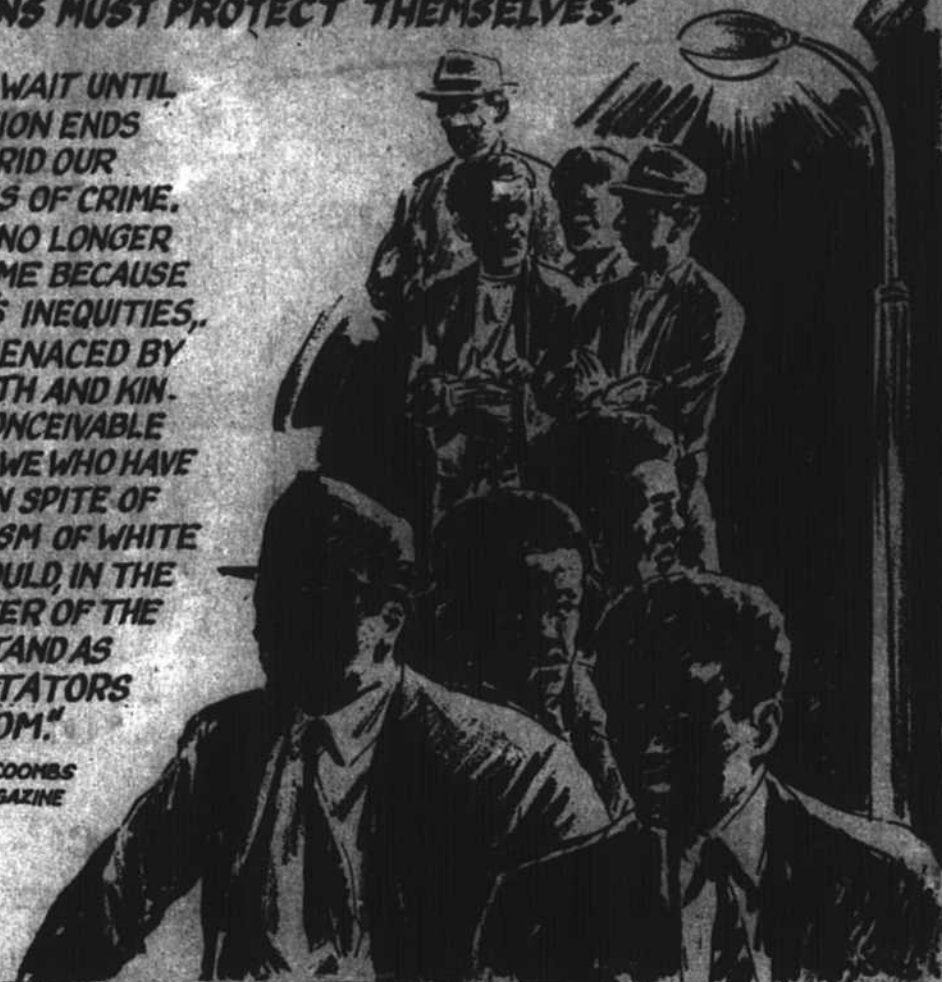
Opponents of Proposition 63 contend that the proposal is unnecessary because the English language is not threatened by Spanish or any other language. In more blunt terms, Hispanics claim that the real interest is in suppressing Spanish language and culture and that therefore the amendment is discriminatory, un-American, and would have the affect of making immigrants second class citizens.

In specific terms the opponents of "63" claim that non-English speaking people would lose such essential public assistance as the 911 emergency service, health care and bi-lingual treatment in the court system.

'IF THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PROTECT US AND IF THE POLICE CANNOT, IT FOLLOWS THAT BLACK CITIZENS MUST PROTECT THEMSELVES.'

'WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL DISCRIMINATION ENDS BEFORE WE RID OUR COMMUNITIES OF CRIME. WE CAN NO LONGER EXCUSE CRIME BECAUSE OF SOCIETY'S INEQUITIES. WE STAND MENACED BY OUR OWN KITH AND KIN. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT WE WHO HAVE PREVAILED IN SPITE OF THE BARBARISM OF WHITE PEOPLE SHOULD, IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE CENTURY, STAND AS MUTE SPECTATORS TO OUR DOOM.'

ORDE COONBS
N.Y. MAGAZINE



As I See It

Blacks: The Trailing Minority

By Gerald O. Johnson
Special To The Post

In the September issue of Inc. magazine their was an interesting article by a Mr. Kotkin on the lack of black entrepreneurship in America. Mr. Kotkin concluded in the article that the lack of black-owned businesses is a primary cause for the following:

1. The highest male unemployment rate.
2. The lowest median family income.

The comparisons were among Blacks, Whites, Asian Americans, and Hispanics. Of all the groups studied Blacks had the lowest percent of businesses owned per population. For every 1,000 Black people there were nine businesses. Hispanics had 12 for every 1,000 and Asians had some high number like 60.

The lack of pursuit in Black-owned enterprises owes its roots to how we became Americans. The other groups entered America as



Gerald

immigrants. They chose to come on their own free will. We were brought here as slaves against our wills. Our role was not to reap the benefits of the capitalistic society, but to sow the fruits of the society. We were ripped away from family ties, stripped of self-esteem and pride, and brain-washed from any independence we may have had. Consequently, we never learned the

lessons of the free enterprise system. Vestiges of a disruptive beginning in America linger with us today.

Because of integration our best minds have been removed from the Black community. Our brightest have opted to be tucked away in work safe havens of Corporate America and Governmental agencies. Thus, they are not available to start businesses in the community. They have opted to live in communities that demonstrate to others that they have made it. Thus, they are not available to provide consultation and training to those who need it the most. They have opted to spend their money in the very same places that denied their fathers and grandfathers entrance. Again, a sign of making it. All of this success is not to be taken lightly. It does in fact demonstrate great strides that have been made.

However, the successes are few compared to the masses. Integration has sifted a few out to show that the American dream is possible even for a Black in America. But to have any effect on the masses, integration is not the answer. Self sufficiency is the answer. Only when we develop our own businesses can we uplift the community at large. Our businesses will create jobs for our people which in time will create wealth for our community.

This implies a support network that will guarantee that our business stay in business. We have to stop allowing our money to turn over only once in our community. Money in the Jewish community turns 12 times before it leaves! Hispanics, five. This means that we spend our money in non-Black stores as soon as we earn it. Spending habits such as these will not allow Black businesses to stay in business.

What boils my skin is that we spend our money in non-Black stores that will not put

Miller Says:

Clarence Pendleton, Have The Decency To Step Aside!

By Sherman N. Miller
Special To The Post

When I hear the demise of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights I quietly lament its fate. Then I begin to feel disdain for its present chairman. I see this foolhardy chap as a mere political octooroon sitting outside the conservatives' door. I do not recall having heard a single black person utter a kind word about this chap, so I felt compelled to try to find out whom he represents.

Recognizing that Clarence Pendleton, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, is a black Republican leadership symbol in the Reagan Administration, I decided to ask some black Republican leaders for their views on Mr. Pendleton.

"I am a black Republican that takes



Miller

opposition to a Clarence Pendleton. I don't think he needs to be there!" declares Doris Carson Williams, Deputy Chairman of the Pennsylvania republican State Committee.

This statement begs the question of whether Pendleton should step down from his position as chairman or completely sever his ties with the Commission. Roy C. Noel, Director of Equal Opportunity

and Fair Housing for the City of Chattanooga, TEN, recommends both.

"First resign as chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights," says Noel. "Then resign from the Civil Rights Commission and go into private business."

It is one thing for black Republicans to publicly suggest that Pendleton step down. But have they taken steps to foster this process?

I asked Williams if concrete actions had been taken to topple Pendleton. "That was done about five months ago when a group of prominent black Republicans went to Washington and called for the resignation of Clarence Pendleton," replied Williams.

As I recounted these and other black Republican leaders'

comments, my conclusion was that blacks consider the U.S. Civil Rights Commission to be a very necessary

organization, but they are frustrated by its current survival crisis. Le Gree Daniels, Former Chairman of the National Black Republican Council, tried to assuage the Republican Party's guilt in the demise of the Civil Rights Commission by pointing the finger at the black Democratic Congressional Delegates in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Since both the black Democrats and the black Republicans want Mr. Pendleton to resign, it is clear he has outlived his usefulness to the Reagan Administration. Clarence Pendleton should have the decency to step aside.

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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
USPS No. 965500 POSTMASTER Send Change of address to Charlotte Post 1531 Camden Rd. Charlotte, N.C. 28203