

Editorials

The Charlotte Post

Bill Johnson, Publisher Emeritus

Gerald Johnson, Publisher • Bob Johnson, Co-Publisher • Jalyne Strong, Managing Editor
Jackie Carr, Production Manager • Dannette Gaither, Office Manager
Fran Farrer-Bradley, Advertising Manager

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Why A Black Mayor's Group?

In a recent news conference Mayor Harvey Gantt and the Charlotte Convention and Visitors Bureau announced that the National Conference of Black Mayors will hold their 14th Annual Conference in Charlotte on April 12-17, 1988. As a Post article noted last week, the event will "bring hundreds of influential leaders (and we might add, both black and white), thousands of dollars and national recognition to the City."

In spite of this, there have been a few rumblings or criticisms. Two letters to The Charlotte Observer appear to sum up these negative feelings or impressions. One letter expressed shock that these mayors voted to hold their annual meetings only in those cities with black mayors. He said "it looks like discrimination is alive and well."

The other letter, written by a person who states that he supported the NAACP, the Black Political Caucus and UNCF, says that persons elected to represent all of the people should not be identifying themselves by the color of their skin. He added that if white mayors held such a meet there would be cries of racism.

The facts of life are that Harvey Gantt is repeatedly identified in the media as a black mayor. Fortunately, with very positive con-

notations. Furthermore, much has been written and said in a positive way about Charlotte as an All-American city because Harvey Gantt has been elected twice by a city with a majority white population. This fact alone has given both the City of Charlotte and Mr. Gantt recognition in The New York Times, Ebony, Time, Newsweek and other national and some foreign publications. This fact too, has contributed at least indirectly to some of the new business and industry moving to Charlotte.

What needs to be understood too, is that many of the black mayors who will visit Charlotte were elected by cities with black majority populations created in part by white flight to the suburbs. Many of these cities, unlike Charlotte, have serious economic and social problems and a low tax base as jobs and industry too went to the suburbs. Thus, these black mayors have a common bond -- the need to revitalize cities with problems created partly by a new form of racism--white flight. Hopefully, Charlotte will be a showcase for the black mayors and others on what a city can achieve when it seeks progress for all of its people as Harvey Gantt has so well illustrated.

Unrecorded Constitutional Facts

As the Nation celebrated its independence on July 4th, Yale University Press published over 150 previously unknown and unrecorded Constitutional Convention documents. Among these were:

1. George Washington's pessimistic statement to Abraham Baldwin, a delegate from Georgia, that "I do not expect the Constitution to last for more than 20 years."

2. Paradoxical to the philosophy under which the Constitutional Convention was convened, it was closed to the press and the public. A secrecy rule that was passed on May 29, 1787 was faithfully complied with. James Madison, a delegate from Virginia, defended the rule, according to the Yale Press documents in a letter in which he said, "I think the rule was a prudent one (because it allowed us to) secure the requisite freedom of discussion, . . . it will save both the convention and the community from a thousand erroneous and perhaps mischievous reports."

3. In another document dated June 2, 1787, the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery gave strongly worded statement to its President, Ben Franklin, to deliver to the convention on the evils of the African slave trade and the need to stop it. The Society found out at a meeting a month later that Franklin had not presented the anti-slavery statement to the Convention. His reason was that he "thought it advisable to let them lie over for the present."

4. Now in 1987, we are fortunate that by the grace of Almighty God, the Constitution has lasted not 20 years but 200 years. As we observe the history of many other nations with unstable government and internal chaos we should be able to better appreciate the foundation value of the Constitution.

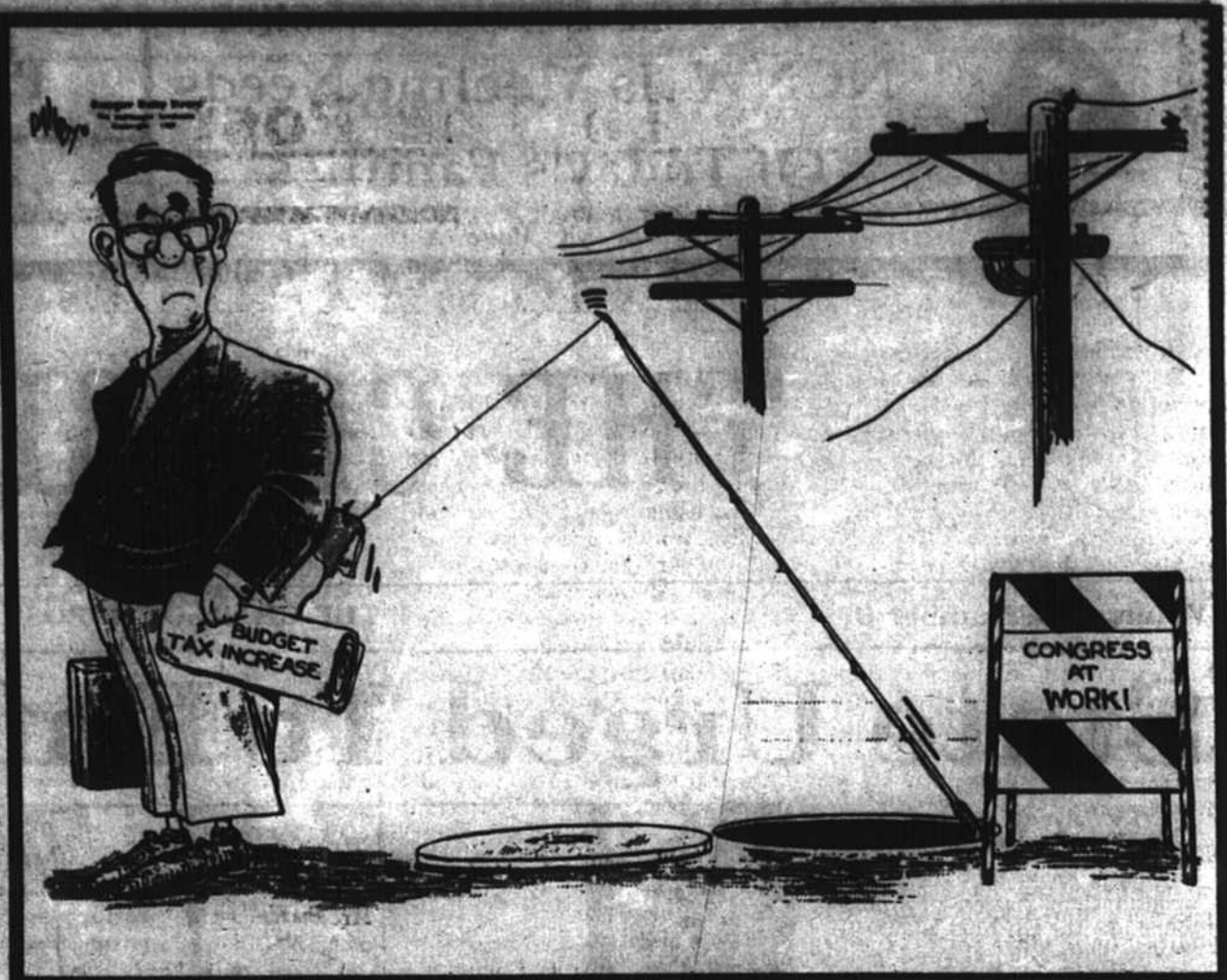
Secondly, for all the apparent need for secrecy of the Constitutional Convention, such a proposal by any level of government today would simply be unthinkable and not tolerat-

ed no matter what the consequences. It is just such an opposition to secrecy that has made the Iran-Contra affair the hot news item that it is. Significantly, the issue has magnified by reports now that Oliver North, a key personality in the Iran-Contra controversy, helped draft a secret plan in 1984 to suspend the Constitution and impose martial law in case of a national emergency. Again, we can be thankful that our system of openness in government has revealed this alarming plan.

Lastly, Ben Franklin's decision to remain silent on the slavery issue at the Convention tarnishes his historic image. Well documented in history is the fact that 25 of the 55 delegates to the Convention were slave owners. Many of them, such as John Rutledge of South Carolina, defended the institution of slavery while Franklin said nothing.

A contemporary note that the State of Arizona might like to have kept secret is that the National Basketball Association (NBA) is reportedly moving its planned annual meeting from Scottsdale out of the state. Likewise, since January of this year, Arizona has lost 30 conventions worth \$11.7 million and may lose another \$12 million in convention business. The reason: the State's failure to pass a bill to observe a legal holiday in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

Another worthy note is in "Today". TV show host Bryant Gumbel's GQ Magazine interview. He said, "I'd like to be involved in baseball in some facet. . . I would like to be commissioner." Considering the growing discussion and apparent concern about black opportunities, or the lack of them, in baseball management - from a team field manager or coach to the CEO - Gumbel's statement. He is talented, articulate and knows the game. Hopefully, Mr. Gumbel will be given consideration for an upper management position in America's game, Major League Baseball.



A Reflection On The Year Past

The Charlotte Post's new direction program was introduced a little over a year ago. It is with great pleasure, that I say it has been quite successful.

Since its introduction, we have been able to install six computers in our production and business areas.

We have placed 18 vendor boxes in various locations throughout the city with more than 20 additional boxes anticipated before year end.

We have picked up major store chains as vendors of the newspaper, including such stores as 7-11 and Eckerd's with Circle-K expected in the very near future.

We have purchased a new van.

We have strengthened our organization by making some key organizational changes and hiring additional personnel to fill skilled positions.

We have completed a successful ABC audit which authenticates our circulation figures and our record keeping procedures in our circulation department.

Our efforts have realized a 20 percent increase in gross revenues over the same period of last year.

Whew! We have done a lot all for one very good reason. We intend to provide you with the best product and service that is humanly possible. Why? Because you deserve the very best and we intend to see that you get it.

Consequently, for the past several weeks, we have been running a reader survey. It is our hope that you will take a few minutes to fill this survey



out and return it to us.

The survey is intended to give us a better feel for our audience. This is very important to us because with all we have done to improve our product and service, it still is not enough. We have future plans to introduce new sections to the paper. To be certain that we introduce sections that are pertinent to most of you, we need to know who most of you are. We need to identify our target market.

Hence the market survey is intended to do just this. The market survey can be found on page 4b of this week's edition of the Post.

Currently, we are investigating the possibility of adding a Travel and Leisure section and a Fashion section. The survey results will help us identify if there is a current audience for either section.

Because your input is so important to us, we've extended the survey deadline to August 30, 1987. We would like to thank all of you who have returned your surveys. Your input is currently being analyzed. But we would like to see a lot more before we start making our plans.

We are also planning several other things in the immediate future.

We have started a new service, The Charlotte Post Printing Service. This new division of the company will handle all of your printing needs from business cards to brochures and programs. We will do church bulletins, menus, announcements, posters, flyers, personalized stationary, and whatever else you might need printed. We are projecting this service to grow quite rapidly, and within two years to generate as much revenue as the newspaper. This equates to more jobs for our community and for our city. A department manager will be announced soon.

As far as the newspaper is concerned, we are intending to expand into surrounding communities. Our near term expansion is targeted for the Monroe area.

Then we intend to make a fifty mile radius sweep of the Charlotte area.

We, here at the Charlotte Post, feel that these are exciting times for both the City of Charlotte and for the Charlotte Post. It is our hope that we all will grow together.

Without a doubt, none of our successes would have been possible without the gracious support we have received from you, our readers and advertisers. Your loyalty and patience have been an inspiration and an incentive to our efforts.

We intend to be second best to none. Our goal - number one. With your support it will be done.

Will It Be Socialism Tomorrow?

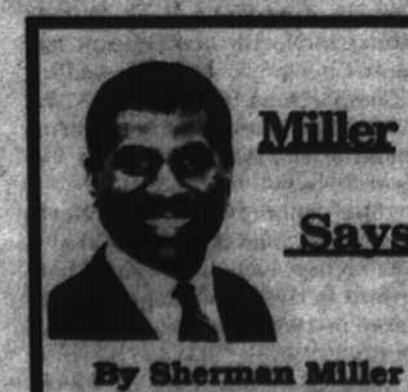
Nevada Governor Richard Bryan has signed into law a hospital cost containment bill. The Ohio Senate has passed a bill to permit E. E. Cross and Blue Shield of Ohio to contract selectively with Greater Cleveland hospitals. Are we witnessing the evolution of cost effective health care delivery or are we merely observing some politicians displaying their ineptness at marketing?

Although Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) highly tout their illness prevention virtues, they have remained a mystery to me. Nevertheless, I have discussed the HMO concept with a vice president of a national hospital management corporation. This chap (who I shall call Johnson) gave me plenty of food for thought.

Johnson argued that HMO's are targeted at well-people. He labelled them, "Yuppie health plans." His comment caused cold chills to run down my spine as I pondered, Who will provide health care for America's sick and poor people?

Johnson broached the subject of HMO actuarial soundness stating that some of the pots of money set aside for some illness are insufficient for real world conditions. He asked, What does one do if there is an epidemic and its pot of money runs out?

Johnson further contended that



people are showing up at some HMO's and finding treatments unavailable. I shuddered again when he talked about the industry battles over the length of time for in-house (hospital) care versus outpatient care.

On the other hand, there is a move afoot to force employers to provide medical insurance coverage for their employees. This program resembles New Zealand's socialized medicine program.

Initially, this forced medical coverage concept was appealing to me because I felt poor people would not have to worry about medical care. My enthusiasm was quickly dampened when I recalled New Zealanders speaking about their deathly wage tax and the very low probability of anyone becoming wealthy in their country. Thus, I now find myself worrying about high insurance

premiums and/or exorbitant taxes decimating American small businesses who are the prime generators of new jobs.

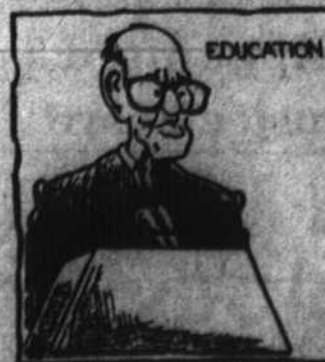
Yet, I have not seen a new cost effective full feature medical plan that truly supplants the traditional programs. I hold little hope of seeing a near-term cost-effective full featured health care program because of the foolhardy actions of politicians like Delaware's Insurance Commissioner. This chap wants Delaware car owners to have a sticker on their automobile stating the expiration date of their insurance policy.

This sticker plan will guarantee a market for the insurance companies. But many poor people have opted to drive without automobile liability insurance because premiums are too high to justify the benefits of insurance protection. That is, poor families really have nothing to lose.

Clearly, socialized medicine and guaranteed automobile insurance market concepts infer a lack of business acumen on the part of America's political leaders. I get the distinct impression that our political leaders are consulting soothsayers with crystal balls to address the crises in America's insurance industry. Surely, further procrastination on solving America's health care delivery crisis will forebode American socialism tomorrow.

Aids Primer for '88 candidates

Be careful what you say about...



...PRESSING THE FLESH IS OUT! (UNLESS YOU WEAR RUBBER GLOVES.)



KISSING BABIES OR OTHER WELL-WISHERS IS OUT!

