

# The Charlotte Post

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## Editorials

### Cooperation Brings Progress

BY HOYLE H. MARTIN  
Editorial Writer

While the so-called black revolution of the 1960s has resulted in a degree of economic, political and social gains for some black and other minorities, the struggle for justice and equal opportunity is far from over.

This has been clearly confirmed by at least three reliable sources. First, in March of 1988 a group of people thoroughly knowledgeable about racial and urban affairs issues, met to evaluate the goals achievement level of the 1968 National Advisory Commission On Civil Disorder. The study group, some of whom had worked on the Commission report, said that while considerable progress in race relations had been made America continued to be two nations, one black and one white, separate and unequal. The root causes of this problem, the group concluded, are "quiet riots" in the form of unemployment, poverty, housing and school segregation. "These quiet riots...not noticeable to outsiders...are more destructive to human life than the violence of 20 years."

Secondly, a recent NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund financed poll shows that whites disagree with black views in that the criminal justice system is biased against them.

Lastly, the Urban League's "State of Black America 1989" report states that the George Bush "administration will follow an administration which presided over eight years of stagnation and retrogression in the economic status of black Americans." The report thus "focuses on the broad dimensions of inequality."

It was for this and similar reasons that we concluded our editorial last week by saying that, as we approach Black History Month we need not pause long to applaud our achievements, but rather we need to be developing values and strategies to overcome hopefully the last great wall of resistance to a truly great equal and just society.

Therefore, on this day, February 2, 1989, we must begin anew to mount an assault upon the forces of racism from private individuals to corporations to unjust laws. However, it appears to come increasingly clear that black progress over these past 20 years has been only marginally successful because a major ingredient has been missing. That is, we as a black people have been so preoccupied justifiably, with fighting for equal opportunity laws and seeking government programs, that we have done comparatively little in the way of building economic power bases around, over and in spite of racism and discrimination with the resources that we already have.

For example, past and some on-going discrimination against black construction contractors has limited their efforts in raising bonding insurance money, thus preventing them from competing for major construction contract jobs which could mean more jobs for black workers.

### Black Mortgage Crisis Can Be Solved

Reports about the failure of the nation's Savings and Loan associations leaves us with mixed emotions because their problems stem from stories of mismanagement, corruption and locally-based economic recessions in some areas of the nation. Likewise, we have mixed emotions to learn that white racism is not believed to be a deterrent to such home mortgage loans in the Charlotte area. In either case, the results are the same in that blacks are being denied loans from the S&L's. According to area black realtors, the local problem arises from poor credit histories of the potential borrowers.

The POST's page 1 feature story last week reports, John Ramadan, president of ERA Realty as saying many mortgage applicants are turned down because of past credit deficiencies, such as frequent late pay-

ments or repossessions. J. C. Cousar of Cousar Realty said candidly, "It's getting to the point where blacks have to have perfect credit to get a loan." Cousar's key point, "perfect credit" implies covert racism in the sense that black people are expected to be more perfect or better qualified than the typical white person to get the same service.

This is a typical race relations problem requiring effort on the part of people on both sides of the color coin to "clean up their acts" for everyone's benefit. Let's do our part and be more responsible about how we manage our finances. It is only in this way that we can strongly oppose the racist attitudes thrown toward us. In other words, one wrong does not justify another. Pay your bills on time or don't make any.

While we may be over simplifying the point, it seems to us that if all black owned financial institutions, banks, insurance companies, credit unions, etc...across the nation would establish a national pool of \$100 to \$250 million or more, minority contractors could secure the bonding and compete for bigger jobs and more minority businesses could be assisted and or newly developed.

Furthermore, if black churches would set aside two to three percent of their annual budgets or encourage their members to contribute a weekly dollar amount for investment in black economic developments in their local communities, many minority businesses could expand, others could be developed and thousands of jobs created. Such investments in black business and communities, with a return on investments to the churches, would make a substantial contribution to reducing poverty, joblessness and crime in black neighborhoods.

For such an effort to become workable and truly successful, black civil rights leaders, educators, politicians, preachers and journalists would all need to make a strong commitment to the concept of free-enterprise minority economic development. It would need to be preached and taught through an understanding of and an interest in economic values of self-interest and the work ethic all leading to a new beginning in the idea of self-determination. A high profile marketing /educating campaign such as was initiated to sell the American people on the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) concept may be needed.

Ideally, a truly successful economic revitalization effort of this nature should be built around a black owned and operated national bank with its basic deposits accumulated from a \$1.00 per week per person or \$52.00 per year per person from at least 65 percent of the nation's black civilian labor force, that is, 8,255,000 workers (1986 data). Over a ten year period the deposited funds would have exceeded \$4.2 billion. Seventy percent of the funds should be used for direct investments in black owned businesses and black communities. Low interest loan rates to the minority borrowers should be based on the borrowers' level of affordability and the number of potential jobs the loan would make available. The remaining 30 percent of the loan funds should be placed in a high yield interest investment to assure a fair return on the investment of the bank's depositors and to offset the bank's below market interest rate loans to its borrowers.

With this kind of economic development, blacks can through their own commitments and actions in self-investments assure that the next 20 years will not find them still jobless, in poverty, caught up in crime or spaced out on drugs. This would truly raise the joy of a Black History Month of celebration. Bankers, educators, preachers, journalists, economists and fellow black Americans, is this worth a try?

While we were in the final days of the Reagan administration, I would normally ignore these funding requests. But I am concerned that the incoming administration may go along with some of these figures, including program cuts in education and the painful reductions in child nutrition.

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### Charlotte's Power Pyramid

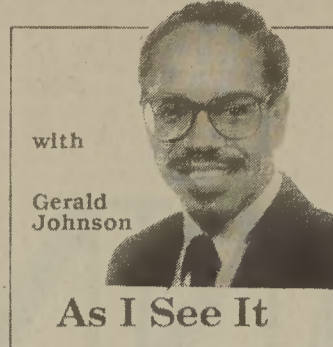
At a recent Civic Index meeting the question was asked: "How do you distinguish between power and leadership?" I didn't hear a good answer to the question, so I left the meeting pondering: "What is the difference between power and leadership?" Finally, I convinced myself of the distinction.

Power is the ability to get things done, whereas, leadership is to have influence on what gets done. Power is positional. Leadership is charismatic. People in authoritative positions wield a lot of power, but don't necessarily have to be true leaders.

There are people of power that aren't true leaders, and most true leaders aren't people of power. Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of major corporations are in positions of power, but there is no corollary between becoming a CEO and leadership. Martin Luther King, on the other hand, could be classified as a true leader, but he had very little power. He was able to accomplish a lot by influencing people of power.

I concocted the "Power Pyramid" to demonstrate the distinction between power and leadership. By taking our local community and dividing it into three institutional sectors; business, government, and non-profit, the flow of power can be demonstrated. It must be understood that all sectors may have both people of power, as well as leaders.

The sector wielding the most power in our community is its business sector. The business sector has the financial and people resources to put behind projects it deems important. If enough major corporations in a city feel strongly about something, it will be very difficult to keep it from happening. Leadership is not as critical in this



sector for two reasons: 1) the sphere to be influenced is small, and 2) there exists the authority to manipulate resources.

The government would be the next most powerful sector. Though, like the business sector, it has availability of resources, the resources are under close scrutiny by the other sectors. Moreover, the resources aren't as discretionary in this sector as in the business sector. Resources are appropriated to a

man services, neighborhood groups, churches, and the like. This sector has little or no power because resources are not readily available. In order for this sector to accomplish major objectives, it must rely on tapping the other two sectors for needed resources.

Hence, the ability to influence others is critical for this sector. It is this sector where true leaders are born. The closest this sector ever comes to power is when it utilizes influencing weapons against the other two sectors. The major influencing weapon against the government sector is the vote. The major influencing weapon against the business sector is the boycott.

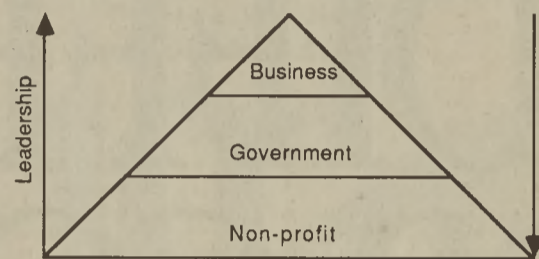
Charlotte has been fortunate in that these sectors currently, have a good working relationship. The local business community has been very careful to wield its power for the basic good of the community. Government for the most part has been very sensitive in attempting to balance the needs of the community. All of the sectors in this city have a genuine interest for the quality of life in the city.

But the delicately balanced working relationship between the three sectors is not guaranteed in the future. The rapid growth Charlotte is experiencing will continue to attract new businesses. The new businesses will continue to attract more people. Eventually, the key players representing the three sectors will change.

As this change gradually unfolds, preserving the well being of the community as opposed to gratifying individuals, will become more difficult to manage. This, to me, is Charlotte's greatest challenge.

A giant step to preserving the quality of life is to keep the lines of communication open between the various sectors.

Power Pyramid



great extent based on pre-set mandates from all sectors. Leadership is more critical in this sector because appropriations are budgeted based on the ability of elected government officials to influence each other as well as to influence members of the other sectors. Moreover, some semblance of leadership is required just to become an elected member of this sector.

The non-profit sector is the base of the power pyramid. This sector includes, non-profit hu-

**Q. WHAT COSTS \$500 MILLION AND CAN'T FLY?**

**A. THE STEALTH TURKEY....**

HEY! ISN'T THAT A BRADLEY FIGHTING TURKEY OVER THERE?

BOB LANG'S SYNDICATED WRITERS & ARTISTS 12-88

### Neglect Won't Make Nation Kinder

Guest Editorial  
By Cong. Augustus Hawkins

As Ronald Reagan rode out into the sunset last week, he left behind a budget that was of the same vintage of prior years. More money for the military and less for children and families. In the last eight years he has run up the biggest budget deficits in history, leaving behind a fiscal mess that will undoubtedly pit one good program against another.

While we were in the final days of the Reagan administration, I would normally ignore these funding requests. But I am concerned that the incoming administration may go along with some of these figures, including program cuts in education and the painful reductions in child nutrition.

The Reagan budget is so absurd in terms of its deep cuts in "people" programs it sets up the possible scenario of a "bad cop, good cop" routine. If Bush asks for a few increases in some education, housing and health programs he will appear to be a

welcomed improvement to his predecessor. But the problems in education and urban America are too significant to simply throw scraps at them.

For example, cost effective federal programs are now reaching levels far below their eligible populations:

- Head Start, a super pre-school program for poor children, reaches less than 18 percent of the eligible population;
- Chapter 1, a math and reading programs for low achievers, reaches less than 50 percent of the children who need these services;
- The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutritional assistance program is available to only 50 percent; and
- Medicaid, a health services program, only covers half of the poor population.

These programs are not budget busters, and in fact represent a long-term return to the U.S. Treasury. For every \$1 invested in the prenatal part of WIC returns \$3 in short-term hospital costs; for every \$1 in-

vested in prenatal care for Medicaid recipients \$2 is saved in the infants' first year; and for every \$1 invested in Head Start, \$4.75 is saved through lower costs of special education, public assistance, and crime.

I would urge the new President to take a different approach and increase significantly (not marginally) spending for cost-effective programs. This would assure him bipartisan congressional support and give him a boost along the way in achieving his desire to be the "education President."

The Congress will fashion its own budget, which will be considerably fairer and more equitable than the one submitted by the outgoing President. Undoubtedly, the new President will need time to fashion his agenda and spending priorities. The Congress will meet the new administration with a cooperative spirit. But this time around we cannot let our nation suffer from neglect and indifference. We are desperately seeking a "kinder and gentler" society.

### Let's Table Our Search For Villains....

There's another point about guilt. The way we kept it alive in the 1950s and 1960s was by demonstrating how pitiful we were. We made the case with great bravery, great courage, great restraint that nothing would change for us until white people changed. Fortunately, a lot of white people changed. But the whites were not the only ones who heard us talk about how pitiful and helpless we were. Our children heard it and one result is that too many of them became convinced that it was useless for them to try.

We did it then and we're still doing it. By blaming everything that goes wrong in our community on white people, we lead our children into believing that somebody else is in total control of their fate. We have to put people back in control of their lives. It's time we table our search for villains and start figuring out how to change our situation for the better.

William Raspberry, Washington Post columnist, in remarks delivered before the Herman Sweatt Symposium on Civil Rights (University of Texas, Austin), April 10, 1987.

**"UPWARD" BEGINS WITH YOU**