

THE VIEWS OF THE WRITER'S ARE NOT ALWAYS THOSE OF THE PAPER'S

## 'You're A Part Of The Solution, Or You're A Part Of The Problem'



## THE POINTER

by Albert A. Campbell

Last week, THE TRIBUNAL AID newspaper held a telephone interview with Reginald Bryant of the "Black Perspective On the News" program originating out of Philadelphia.

In talking to Reginald, we discovered that so much of our impetus on Black involvement is sometimes considered by other ethnic groups of this country in various ways. Contrary to common thinking, Black involvement is not considered by them as radical participation. Likewise, there is a general feeling among others that Blacks are totally and completely united in their efforts and struggles toward equal opportunities.

This is excellent, but for those Blacks who are not completely involved, there should be a word of encouragement. Along with that kind of thinking, Reggie also explained that Black newspapers, or newspeople, are often accepted by persons being interviewed. He strongly stressed that the time has passed when a Black can show his face and say, "I represent the Black community" and get some undeserved respect.

His point was that Blacks should prepare themselves for the task they plan to undertake.

My question to him was, "Do Black newspeople get standard answers from political personalities?" His answer, "If the Black is well informed on the subject and has a good knowledge of the person being interviewed, not only does he get a candid answer but often he will get even more than anticipated. However, it depends, primarily, on the quality of the Black newsperson."

Asking him further about what Black newspapers could do for the betterment of, or to encourage, improve, aid, help, or whatever, his news program which is televised on W-UNC, Channel 4 and Channel 26. He said that our responsibility is to provide a wider coverage of news and be more willing to take a stand on issues, be they controversial or admirable.

Black newspapers, in his opinion, play a very vital role in disseminating information to the Black community that would otherwise not be.

Looking at the national, political scene, I asked his opinion of Black improvement, politically, and any national rising Black elected officials.

Presidentially Bryant said, that Julian Bond appears at this point, not only to be strong, but favorable to whites as well.

In the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan epitomizes sound and efficient thinking which lends a credibility in the House that no other Black has offered.

Of course, he said, there must be more participation throughout the nation beginning at the local level from all Black citizens. The time has passed when the major political parties will provide assurance of involvement for Blacks, i.e., quota systems.

With these thoughts in mind, it now becomes apparent, that the burden of advancement rest solely on the shoulders of the recipients.

If we want improvements like any other attainment we will have to turn our palms down instead of up and work for these things we deserve and want.

## Black Perspectives

BY CARL T. ROWAN

Thoughts while fleeing Washington for a brief vacation:

My old home state, Tennessee, sure knows how to stay in the limelight. Just when people are about to forget the "monkey trials" the cops in Cumberland Gap, Tenn., arrest almost 100 people from three states for watching two roosters fight.

But the federal government embarrasses me even more. I've long argued the right of government to make manufacturers produce pajamas that won't burst into deadly flames if a child winks at the radiator. I've applauded governmental safeguards against TV sets that throw out radiation which turns living rooms into miniature Hiroshimas. But can I really be reading that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission wants to ban mail-in coupons and other advertising on matchbook covers?

Yes, it seems people tear off the covers, and about 9,000 of them get burned every year striking matches when the whole matchbook catches fire.

Now the Safety Commission wants matches that burn only 15 seconds instead of the present 30? Even though I'm constantly cursing matches that burn up to my knuckles before I find what I'm looking for.

It all strikes me as a case of consumer protection gone mad, just as that nonsense of being unable to start your car unless seat belts were fastened was a case of Big Brother pushing a laudable effort at auto safety to a ridiculous extreme.

It also leaves me thinking that some people in that Consumer Product Safety Commission

are fighting hard to justify their jobs.

All of which reminds me of my perplexity when a rotten-egg smell from the catalytic converter fills the compartment of my new car when I pause at the red light.

The smell will go away, I'm told, but only after this new device which is supposed to stop filling the air with old, smog-like pollutants now loads it with sulphates that somebody claim are more dangerous than the smog we're getting rid of.

How come we have to pay a fortune for cures before someone tells us the cure is more dangerous than what ailed us?

Funny, how Oklahoma Congressman John Jarman could be in Washington 24 years and I never heard of him until he quit the Democratic Party to join the Republican party. I figured there must be something wrong with me till I realized that I had heard nothing from him since he joined the Republicans either.

Poor old Gen. Alexander M. Haig, Jr.! Nothing but embarrassment since he moved from White House Chief of Staff to commander of U.S. and Allied troops in Europe!

First he shells out \$46.92 when it's revealed that an "overzealous" underling has had his dog chauffeured 100 miles across Germany. Then Haig forks out \$91 to repay the Army for shipping over some vodka and wine which

were incorrectly labeled "glassware."

I'm all for "post-Watergate" morality. I'm especially in favor of Army officers who know when they're doing something that is small in cost but potentially big in embarrassment.

Yet, I recall that in my days in government my inclination was to say, "—#&— your silly rules. Love me, love my dog! Want me, ship my vodka!" And I'd have insisted, successfully, on the right to have both hauled to my destination.

Whatever happened to those glorious days when every red-blooded boy knew every make of car by its grill and every cigarette by its slogan? There are so many versions of Chevy, Plymouth and Ford these days that nobody can keep track.

And remember when Old Gold urged you to "treat yourself to a treat instead of a treatment"? Or perhaps you were inclined to "walk a mile for a Camel." And unless you really believed that "Chesterfields -- they satisfy" was the last word, it sort of broke your heart when "Lucky Strike green" went to war.

Well it isn't confusing enough that people now are smoking "what's up front" and "spring mint", but they've suddenly got to choose between "Embra" and "Tramps" and "More and only your ad agency knows what else."

But one thing for sure. If we don't straighten out the economy, there'll be a lot of people rummaging in attics for those roll-your-own machines that they used to stuff with Bull Durham.

MONEY MADE IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY HAS TO BE PUT BACK INTO THAT COMMUNITY



## TO BE EQUAL

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

There's very little to be said in favor of people who are outspokenly against desegregating the schools except that they are at least honest about it.

There's no mistaking the feelings of the people of South Boston who hoot at and throw rocks at black children bused into their neighborhood. Nor is there any mistake to be made about the old-line last-ditch segregationists who never heard of the 1960s and cling to their racism.

But all of these people, however mistaken they may be, however vicious the result of their racism, is, still say openly what's on their minds. That is something you can deal with -- it's all out in the open.

But there's another kind of new segregationist who's made an appearance. And this breed is more subtle and sophisticated than the old. He'll pay lip service to the ideal of integration. He'll even talk at length about what a shame it is that schools are still segregated.

And in an excess of dishonesty, he'll even condemn those who throw rocks and act in such an ugly manner. After all, why throw rocks or drop your good manners when the same results can be accomplished in other ways.

What spurs me to these comments is the most recent -- and most blatant -- of the acts of what I call the subtle segregationists.

The New York State Board of Regents is the policy-making body for the New York State school system. It has the reputation of being a liberal body that governs one of the most progressive systems in one of the most progressive states. That reputation is worthless today.

The reason is that the Regents recently issued a new policy on integration that, stripped of its double-talk, means that it is adopting the South's old discredited "massive resistance policy." New York Regents seem determined to demonstrate, to their shame, that there is more than one way to stand in the schoolhouse door.

Their policy statement is framed in such a way as to gain support by using code words. For example, it starts out by saying that "integration does not, by

definition, require that racial quotas be used...." But waving the red flag of quotas backfired. The American Jewish Congress, long opposed to racial quotas, quickly condemned the Regents' statement, declaring:

"We have difficulty understanding how the extent of integration in a school district, and the effectiveness of an integration program, can be ascertained without reference to numerical progress in a school-by-school basis."

I've got the same difficulty, and I suspect anyone who's advanced beyond the third grade could see behind the Regents' double-talk.

"Racial integration," the Regents' claim, does not "imply quantitative balance in all schools..."

What in the world does it imply then? How can you have racial integration without some sort of numerically-fair distribution of white and black pupils?

This statement of policy, which will deal race relations in New York a terrible setback, was opposed by the state's top educational authorities, who were about to launch a series of integration orders to various cities still operating segregated school systems.

The statement is also bound to trigger similar actions by other state bodies elsewhere, which must lead to confrontations between state authorities and the courts. This is because the Regents and similarly-minded authorities conveniently forget that desegregation is not their's to grant or to withhold. It is a constitutional right, one the Supreme Court has promulgated and upheld in numerous cases.

There is no doubt that once the courts sink their teeth into the Regents' new policy, it will be torn to shreds. But there is also very little doubt that they have poured oil on troubled waters and have made an already difficult and tense situation far worse. Instead of helping to desegregate the state's schools on behalf of all its children, the Regents have instead provided them with a civics lesson in how officials sworn to uphold the law can try to evade it.



## Things You Should Know



Ebenezer D. BASSETT...

THE RECONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1867  
AND THE 14th AMENDMENT, 1868, GUARANTEED  
CIVIL RIGHTS TO FREEDMEN. BASSETT, A RE-  
CONSTRUCTION LEADER, WHO STUDIED CLAS-  
SICS, MATH & GEN. LIT. AT YALE & GRADUATED  
FROM BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY & CONN. STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,  
WAS APPOINTED U.S. MINISTER TO HAITI / BETTER HOUSING  
CAME YEARS LATER, EXAMPLE: HARLEM RIVER HOUSES, JUNE 16, 1937!

**THE TRIBUNAL AID**  
1228 Montlieu Avenue  
Post Office Box 921 Phone [919] 885-6519  
High Point, N. C. 27261

Published Every Wednesday  
by Triad Publications, Inc.  
Mailed Subscription Rate

\$5.00 Per Year Payable in Advance

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Second-Class Postage Paid at High Point, N.C.