

# EDITORIALS

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

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



## THE POINTER

by Albert A. Campbell

The time is rapidly drawing near for the city elections. This year, 1975, for the first time, High Point will elect some members to its school board.

As we all know, the present school board now has 2 Black board members who were appointed by the City Council. This is in no way an indication that the same will happen in the elective process. I, therefore, submit to the Black citizens of High Point that the need for locating that "one" person or someone to run for the school board is upon us.

If for some reason we have been lulled to sleep in believing that we will be represented through the elective process equally as much as we are represented through the appointee process, we are sadly mistaken.

As an example, I would like to just point out some of the shocking and revealing statistics that we are going to have to reckon with if we are to elect a Black member to the school board. In the last election, it was discovered that 4500 votes was required to get someone elected to the City Council. This, then, does not have too much of a meaning considering the number of registered voters in High Point. But, when you consider the low number of Black registered voters and the even lower of percentage of Black voters, it does create anxiety.

High Point has approximately 2600 registered Black voters. Keep in mind, that it takes 4500 votes to elect! With the low percentage of Blacks going to the polls (approximately only 1500 blacks vote), where does that leave us???

The above statistic simply says that in order for a Black to be elected to an office in High Point, he is going to have to gain 3,000 votes from the white community! Assuming, of course, that he gets all of the 1500 Black votes!

In my opinion, we must seek to find a black who is popular in the white community as well as in the Black community. The kind of popularity needed to obtain 4500 votes in this city cannot be acquired in just the short filling period of an election!

As Blacks, we need to get together and look at some of the realities that we will have to face. In addition to finding that "super" person, we must popularize him, through involvement in the community, to both ethnic groups.

The time is now -- not September! For if that person is to gain the popularity that he is going to need, he must now be doing his homework. He must now be visiting the various functions that are coordinated in this city. He must also be a proven respected person with a deep concern for whichever office he will seek. THE TRIBUNAL AID would like, in some way, to emphasize the importance of this responsibility. And if through the churches and the ministers, we can locate that person, popularize that person, and get the job done, we can also get that person elected.

This, then, should be our Number One goal in the city of High Point between now and the filing date in September. If you haven't thought about it -- September will be too late to think about it!

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## Black Perspectives

BY CARL T. ROWAN

WASHINGTON -- At the Embassy of Iran the other evening I sat down to dinner with the uneasy realization that only the dainty wife of Rep. James Symington separated me from Henry Kissinger.

Not much protection, considering that I had just written a column and done a radio-TV commentary that were sharply critical of Kissinger.

(Why is it I always get seated next to someone I've just given a journalistic karate chop?)

Kissinger wasted not one second in attempting to upbraid me for criticizing his insistence on making Nathaniel Davis head of African policy -- even over the objections of just about every black African foreign minister. Kissinger challenged me for saying that he had lost his cool in writing a bitter letter denouncing the African ministers for publicly criticizing his choice of Davis, our former ambassador to Chile.

Not exactly being a shrinking violet myself, there followed an hour of confrontation vastly different from the chit-chat one usually must suffer at embassy dinners.

"I am obligated to defend Davis," Kissinger argued. "The integrity of the Foreign Service is at stake. If I withdrew Davis's name now he would become unacceptable in most countries of the world and the career of an excellent man would be ruined."

Kissinger denied reports in the New York Times and elsewhere that he sought to replace Donald Easum with Davis because Easum had

been too outspoken against South Africa. His only reason for replacing Easum, the Secretary said, was that some time ago he realized he had no African policy and no Latin American policy, and he wanted to "shake up both bureaus from top to bottom."

"An incredibly honest admission," I said to myself.

While the shakeup has been moving along in Latin America, Kissinger said he felt especially bad that Africa had been neglected -- mostly because he had been too busy dealing with China, the Soviet Union and the Middle East to give Africa proper attention.

Kissinger said that he first offered the job of assistant secretary for Africa to John Rinehart, a black officer who has recently been ambassador to Nigeria and has been named assistant secretary of state for public affairs. Rinehart turned down the Africa post on grounds that he didn't think a black officer ought to take on that job, Kissinger said.

The secretary said he then turned to Davis, whom he regards as one of the finest men in the foreign service. He said it never occurred to him that Davis would be pilloried because he served in Chile because "Davis did nothing wrong" during the period when the Marxist regime of Salvador Allende was overthrown.

Just as Kissinger began the dialogue with remarkable candor in saying he disliked what I had written (most bureaucrats would never admit they had even read it), he was frank in admitting that "the whole thing was handled badly." He conceded he and his aides should have been more aware of African paranoia

where anything that smacks of "CIA intervention" is concerned. He conceded that if his goal was a bureau shakeup and the institution of a realistic policy toward Africa, then he should have called in the African ambassadors and told them this. He should have said to them: "Beside me is Nathaniel Davis. He is no ogre. No CIA assassin. Just a good, tough officer who will end the era of neglect of Africa." Such a briefing could have headed off that unprecedented meeting in Addis Ababa where the ministers in the Organization of African Unity tried, in effect, to declare a Washington-based State Department officer persona non grata.

Kissinger wound up that dinner confrontation with a decision to ask his deputy (Kissinger left for the Mideast the next day) to meet with all the African ambassadors and explain to them what the Davis appointment was supposed to do. And when he gets back, he says, he personally wants to say to the ambassadors: "Watch us for a year. If Davis and I haven't made great progress in relations with Africa, then criticize us."

Though the gesture comes late, it is right. And it takes a special measure of statesmanship for Kissinger to make it in the wake of all the criticism he has suffered. It will take the same high statesmanship for African ministers to say: "Fair enough. We don't want Davis's scalp. We want a positive policy toward Africa. We'll take your word, and we'll judge Davis -- and you -- by what he does."

It just might be that something good and decent for everybody can come out of what has been an avoidable diplomatic mess.



## TO BE EQUAL

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

One of last year's most popular movies was "Death Wish," about a man who becomes a one-man vigilante squad, killing and maiming criminals, lying in wait for them, and in general, playing a Superman role in defense of public safety.

The film's popularity tells us a lot about the fear of crime today. Crime films have always offered fantasy, escape, and delusions of righteous power but never before has there been a movie that resulted in such a lust for blood on the part of huge audiences.

Many people left the theatre willing to set aside civilized notions of trial and due process, enthusiastically backing the vigilante approach of executing law-breakers on the spot.

This illustrates the danger that the public's fear of crime may result in increased toleration for vigilante action, for police excesses, and finally, for a strong-arm police state.

We can see some of this in the widespread trend toward use of lethal weaponry by some police departments. As if .38 caliber revolvers aren't enough, new, more powerful weapons are being issued and some policemen want higher caliber weapons besides.

A most dangerous aspect of this urban arms race is the new popularity of dum-dum bullets which rip and tear, leaving horrible wounds and which cause death or permanent maiming where ordinary bullets inflict less serious wounds.

In fact, the dum-dums are so extremely vicious that they are banned from use in warfare by international conventions which the United States has signed. So we are in the logically incomprehensible situation of refusing to use these bullets against enemies in wartime, but condone their use by police officers here at home.

While some police spokesmen are insisting on adopting these and other unnecessarily lethal weapons, some states are considering action to make dum-dums illegal. I don't understand why the federal government, which bans them from its war arsenal, can't ban them from the home-front as well.

This is not a matter of coddling criminals, or being "soft on crime." It is the vitally important

matter of establishing a rule of law and a moral posture on the part of the state that encourages respect for the law.

Some people may think that highly-publicized crime can only be stopped by "unleashing" cops and giving them more dangerous weaponry, but such a course is more likely to result in serious abuses of police power, escalation of criminals' weaponry, more harm to innocent people, and even a higher crime rate.

Brazil offers a good example of such a cycle. After the murder of a popular police chief back in 1964, policemen organized "Death Squads" that murdered known gangsters in retribution. The murder binge has continued, with documented cases of convicts dragged from their cells to be executed, petty thieves killed, and inevitably, many victims of mistaken identity, personal grudges, or jealousy.

What started as a crusade against crime and the red tape of the courts wound up as a reign of terror by police officers in some cities. It is hard now for people to tell the difference between law-breakers and lawmen. And crime rates are still rising.

But that couldn't happen here. Or could it? A Maine police officer was recently brought up on charges of trying to organize a death squad to kill criminals. A Long Island man was subjected to a search of his house without a warrant and to personal abuse by police officers looking for a man he'd never even heard of.

A scandal buried by the news of Watergate last year dealt with narcotics raids in which federal police smashed into homes without warrants, waved guns under people's noses, wrecked rooms, and then left, admitting they had the wrong houses.

With headlines about abuses by CIA and FBI operatives, unauthorized wiretaps, disregard of civil rights, and other abuses by agencies sworn to uphold the law, I wouldn't be too trusting of police who claim they need more power or far-out weapons.

Crime can be brought under control without recourse to internationally-outlawed weaponry, abuse of civil liberties, or turning law officers into executioners.

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## Things You Should Know

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HE BECAME A SOLDIER AT AGE 15, SO DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF IN BATTLE THAT HE WAS SET FREE! EXPERTS FIND HIS POETRY EQUAL TO THAT OF HOMER, VIRGIL AND TASSO!

ARTIST'S CONCEPTION AT LEFT

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