

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 Point Is...

by Albert A. Campbell

Most people, both Black and white, agree that there is a definite need for the existence of this newspaper as well as the other Black newspapers. It is generally believed that since the daily newspapers fail to respond completely to the needs of Black people, there must be another source that will. Although this is a multi ethnic society, which is as it should be—often certain segments of this society are forgotten, or just completely ignored. For this reason then, the news media must have more than one source of disbursement. When one fails to respond to the needs of all, the other must serve the neglected areas. Believe it or not, the Black community is not completely served by other newspapers.

Some may refuse to acknowledge it, while others actually fail to recognize it, the truth remains the same—most ethnic groups are ignored by the daily press, most especially Blacks. Examples are many. Compare for yourself the many articles and stories published in this and other Black newspapers that are never printed in the dailies. Information found in these papers will never be printed by the other media. If a Black does something good, that incident will get little or no coverage from the other media. On the other hand when a Black commits a wrong, that news is splashed throughout the media serving that particular area. Contrary, Black newspapers print the news of Blacks regardless, from the national level down to the local level. That's what we're all about.

These and other unmentions clearly demonstrate the need for the existence and continuation of the Black press.

As is the case of any other business venture, publications cost money, and this particular one is no exception. The largest source of revenue for this and any other newspaper is advertisement. Without advertisement, there could be no newspaper, especially this one. This fact is recognized by merchants from the giant chains down to the corner general store. Their purchasing advertising space in any publication supports and sustains the security of that particular publication. In return, the merchant's display attracts the attention of the readers, thereby influencing the readers to patronize that merchant. In essence, the advertiser capitalizes on the coverage of the publication, because it reaches more people than the merchant himself could ever visit and talk to. Results: the merchant attracts more customers; the customers know exactly where to find what they want, and the newspaper is allowed to publish the news as it happens without restrictions or intimidations.

Recognizing this then, it is only fair to all concerned to support those who support you. If a merchant advertises in a publication, he is in fact supporting that publication's concept of existence. In other words he approves of its need to the community. In return for him, he gains more customers and earns more money. But the trade doesn't stop there. The publication owes the merchants and the readers obligations. To the merchants, he owes a wide circulation of readers plus a handsome display. To the readers, he owes the news unaltered, and a bit of entertainment. However, there is the third and last party of this triangle, the readers.

If the readers enjoy the publication and wants it to continue, then they must show their support, and their support is that of patronizing the merchants who advertise in that favorite publication. Regardless of the color of the merchants, they need your support in order to support you. "The right hand washes the left."

If a merchant advertises in one publication, but refuses to advertise in another THE TRIBUNAL AID he is refusing to provide you with your publication. While on the other hand, if a reader enjoys a publication, but refuses to patronize its advertisers, he too is turning his back. In today's specialized and blunt society, there is no natural ground. "Either you're a part of the solution, or you're a part of the problem."

In calling on many of the merchants throughout the tri-city area, I have found some who recognize this fact and contribute to the support of this newspaper, as evidence by their advertising. However, there are those who refuse to support our effort and plainly state that they will not advertise in this publication. They want your (the readers) money, and only that. They could care less if you never read anything except what is published in the dailies. I don't think they need my money, what about yours?

ALTHOUGH THE EDITORIALS WRITTEN BY ME ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE THE ONLY ANSWER TO THE PROBLEMS AND CONDITIONS EXPRESSED, SOME PERSONS STILL MAY DISAGREE WITH MY THOUGHTS. BECAUSE OF THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO ANY RESPONSIBLE PERSON WHO WISHES TO REFUTE MY EXPRESSIONS, FREE AND EQUAL SPACE IN THIS NEWSPAPER, IN WHICH TO DO SO.

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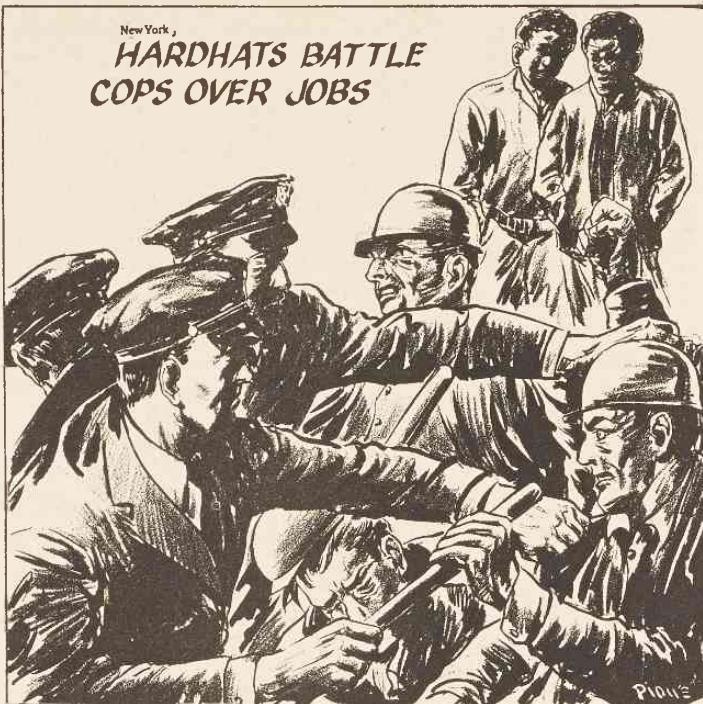
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'LAW AND ORDER'...?



Black Perspectives

BY CARL T. ROWAN

WASHINGTON -- In my last column I quoted a Cleveland, Ohio, psychiatrist's arguments that psychiatry offers no hope of rehabilitation for those who murder, rape, rob and go to prison, and then come out to commit the same crimes again and again.

Okay. So how about this as a solution? There is abundant statistical evidence to show that poor, poorly-educated minority group males aged 17 to 24 commit most of the "high-fear" crimes in this country. Why don't we just lock up in preventive detention camps all the poor, uneducated minority-group people for all of those young years when they are deemed to be high crime risks.

You think I've lost my mind? The idea is not original with me. Political scientist E.C. Banfield, in his book "The Unheavenly City," advocates putting entire ghetto youth populations in penal colonies before they have committed any crimes.

"If abridging the freedom of persons who have not committed crimes is incompatible with the principles of free society, so, also, is the presence in such society of persons who, if their freedom is not abridged, would use it to inflict serious injuries on others," Banfield argues. "If some people's freedom is not abridged by law enforcement agencies, that of others will be abridged by lawbreakers."

Psychiatrist Richard A. Schwartz cited the Banfield proposal in a paper delivered before the American Psychiatric Association's annual meeting last year as evidence of what will happen in this country if judges continue to embrace the idea that imprisonment of perpetrators of serious crimes is both useless and harmful.

Schwartz says a growing number of judges are deciding to grant probation, even to second and third time offenders, on the assumption that, since our prisons are such failures, a criminal left within society has a better chance of rehabilitation than one who is locked up.

Schwartz warns that "since a disproportionate amount of crime is committed by the poor and members of minority groups, the present high crime rates breed resentment across social class and racial lines, greatly impeding the development of social justice...Another

danger of advocating complacent acceptance of high rates of serious crime is that the public might eventually become so outraged that it will be willing to tolerate increasing infringements on basic civil liberties and freedoms."

We already have disturbing evidence of this. Richard Nixon's cry for legislation restoring the death penalty for certain crimes has been taken up in numerous state legislatures. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller once advocated mandatory life imprisonment without parole for drug pushers.

And Schwartz, for all his supposed concern about civil liberties and freedom, wound up his paper with a crime "solution" which, while not so bereft of "due process" as the Banfield proposal to lock up ghetto youth, is most certainly repressive.

Schwartz says we ought to pay more attention to the fact that "most crimes are committed by young men in their teens and twenties...by the time a man reaches age 40 his criminal career is essentially over."

Schwartz proposes, then, that is an 18-year-old robs a liquor store, statistical logic requires that he be imprisoned until he is 40. He argues:

"Although it may seem at first glance excessively cruel to imprison a convicted 18-year-old rapist or armed robber for 22 years, the statistical likelihood of such a first offender committing at least one additional serious crime is so high it is certainly arguable that it is even more cruel to the potential victim of a subsequent violent crime not to remove the offender from society until the aging process has diminished his criminal drives. Emerging from prison at age 40, the released offender would still be a relatively young man and could expect to have ample years available to him to rebuild his life and pursue vocational or family goals."

Schwartz didn't say what leads him even to dream that the "aging process" during 22 years in prison would turn an "anti-social" 18-year-old into a responsible, law-abiding 40-year-old.

Schwartz' bottom-line "cure" is probably his most persuasive evidence that even psychiatrists do not have the answer to crime.

OBSERVATION

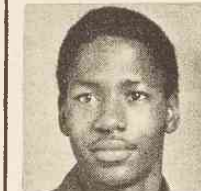
By SANDRA HILL

Much controversy has risen over the Joann Little case. The question most often asked seems to be whether Ms. Little attacked Beaufort County jailer Clarence Alligood in self-defense as he attempted to attack her or whether she was using sex as a bait to entice Alligood into her cell as part of an escape plan. Regardless of which of these are found to be true, one thing that remains fact

is that for a jailer to be lured, enticed, or moved by the possibility of sex with a female inmate is completely beyond and out of line with his call of duty. I'm sure that no where in the list of his duties was it noted that he was to engage in sexual relationships with the prisoners, or be obligated to respond to any advances made by a prisoner. Any suggestion that

Alligood's reputation is being "carried through the mud" must be met with the fact that whether he was to engage sexually with Ms. Little by force or by invitation, his action was completely out of line with his supposed duties as a jailer.

Or is it asking too much to expect high moral and ethical standards of government officials?



INSIGHT: For Teens Only

by Miller Carter, Jr.

The things that we do are always measured. Measured by the means of how much, how little, how good or how bad.

How good we do the job depends greatly upon our aptitude. Our aptitude is our ability to do a certain task and the degree or intensity to which it is done. Aptitude is one quality by which everyone is chosen to qualify for a certain task; but there is another quality that is more important.

This quality sounds like aptitude but it is not to be confused with aptitude. This quality is our attitude. Our attitude is also an important quality that everyone is judged by. Without good attitude, we might never get a chance to test or use our aptitude. A poor attitude can knock us out of a lot of things that we have the aptitude for.

Let me use one of my experiences as an example and maybe you can get a clearer picture of what I'm talking about: I drove a school bus for Andrews High School and considered myself one of the better drivers. I had never had an accident or ticket or even got stopped by a police officer but because of a little disagreement with the bus supervisor I got fired. The disagreement had nothing to do with my ability or "aptitude" to drive a bus but in the supervisor's opinion I took a bad "attitude" as far as the disagreement went. My attitude caused me to lose my bus driving job.

After looking back on the situation, I thought that maybe I was at fault. So a few days later, giving us both time to cool off, I went back to apologize to my supervisor and ask for my bus back. It didn't do me any good in getting my bus driving job back but I felt good for apologizing. In my opinion, that was more than my supervisor would do if he were in my shoes.

There are two other means by which our work is measured. These two means are quality and quantity. The most important of these two, I feel, is quality. The quality counts very high in most work areas. Let me give you another personal example: One day I went up to THE TRIBUNAL AID office to turn in the manuscript for my article. On that particular week I had written a fairly lengthy article. Mr. Albert Campbell (the editor) commented that he was glad to see me write my article a little longer. Then I commented in a few well known quotes; "big things come in small packages", and "quality is more important than quantity." These quotes simply mean that "it's not how much work you do but how well you do it."

If we take time to think, we will see that these four characteristics (attitude, aptitude, quality and quantity) work hand in hand in as high as we can set our goals.

Thought for This Week: The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart.



TO BE EQUAL

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Executive Director of the National Urban League

The Black Economic Depression

Statisticians have discovered a remarkable way to move people in and out of the labor force. They call it "seasonal adjustment." And one way to make the unemployment figures lower is not to count people as unemployed if they're given up looking for work in a job market where no employment opportunities exist.

The Labor Department's February unemployment figures showed a rate of 8.2 percent, or about 7.5 million people out of work. Those are seasonally adjusted figures, theoretical constructs to account for shifts in work patterns that occur from month to month.

But when real people are counted -- bodies, not theoretical constructs -- the picture changes somewhat. Then we have an unemployment rate of 9.1 percent and 8.3 million workers -- real people with bills to pay and families to feed -- out of work.

And even these figures are grossly misleading. In February, some 580,000 workers gave up looking for jobs. So long as they registered each week that they were actively looking for work, they were counted as unemployed. In February, after weeks of fruitless job-hunting and no leads or interview possibilities they gave up the search. They thus became, in the official statistics, non-persons, no longer part of the labor force and no longer counted as unemployed.

Seen from the vantage point of a person who wants to work in a society that has no work for him, these statistical exercises become a sort of shell-game deceiving the public, legislators and the Administration about the seriousness of the Depression.

I'm not calling it a recession any more, because we are currently living through an economic Depression. For black people, there isn't the faintest doubt about this.

One of the biggest barriers to getting the kind of federal action to end this Depression is the public's ignorance of the seriousness of the situation. The National Urban League's Research Department just released its quarterly economic report on the black worker, and, along with up-dating to cover the

last month or so, it presents a devastating picture of the black economic Depression.

It estimates true black unemployment including those out of work, working part-time when they want full-time work, and those who have given up trying to find jobs, at about 25 percent, one out of every four black workers!

For black teenagers, the official rate is over 40 percent. In some urban ghettos, up to half the people are without full-time jobs they want.

And that's not all. There are as many blacks out of work today as in the darkest days of the Great Depression. About a quarter of the black unemployed have been out of work for at least four months. About 700,000 of the black unemployed are not eligible for unemployment compensation benefits, because their unemployment did not result from direct job lay-offs, a requirement for such benefits.

And one striking finding is that blacks, who comprise 12 percent of local government employees, make up almost half of all local government workers who were unemployed, offering striking testimony to the disproportionate lay-offs of blacks by local governments, demonstrating lessened commitment to affirmative action.

Some people, noticing the concentration of black workers in the laggard auto industry, think that alone accounts for high black jobless rates. Not true. Far more blacks have lost jobs in the construction and food processing industries.

And this Depression is not confined to blacks, it cuts across the board. High white unemployment is also hidden by the official numbers game. In addition to the 6.9 million white workers officially counted as unemployed in February, add another 6.9 million discouraged workers, and people in part-time jobs who want full-time work and you've got a grand total of close to 14 million white people out of work today.

No amount of fudging can hide the fact that this nation is in a real Depression. It's time to stop haggling over what to call it and get to the business of ending it.