

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

Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNAL AID

Harry Lee Doesn't Live Here Anymore!

by Rosetta C. Tozzo

PART ONE

If you drive up to the Dickens' house in Scotland Neck North Carolina and ask for Harry Lee, you will be told "Harry Lee doesn't live here anymore!" You may wonder, (not knowing what has happened,) just "where is Harry Lee?" He has gone from this earth, leaving you and I here to suffer wars, crimes, diseases, and prejudices: His young twenty-one year old life was "snuffed out" in March of this year, by a white mother of four and wife of a Free Will Baptist minister!

I had the opportunity to meet the Dickens family, Mrs. Dickens (mother), sisters, Mrs. Patricia Powell and Mrs. Katie Lee Smith, and a neighbor, Mrs. Mae West Cofield. Sitting and listening to them relive the incident that occurred on March 11th was very touching. I could tell by the expression in everyone's tear filled eyes that just talking about the March incident was very painful. Mrs. Dickens talked of how much she missed her only son and how he was a good youngster. She related the time that she bought him a little pen knife because at the time all the kids had them, you know, the ones that can be used as a key chain. One day she was standing in the kitchen and Harry Lee came in; he must have been around six years old, and he just stood there not saying anything just looking up at his mother. She asked him what was the matter and he looked up at her and said, "Mama, I don't really want this knife, in fact I don't want to ever carry a weapon as long as I live!" To the day that he died, Mrs. Dickens said that Harry Lee never to her knowledge carried any type of weapon on his person.

Harry Lee's sisters and neighbor, Mrs. Cofield, stated that on

March 11, 1976, Mrs. Sandra Dupree came on to the Dickens' family yard and accused Harry Lee of earlier assaulting her son and relieving him of \$5.00. Her son could not actually identify Harry Lee as the culprit. Witnesses said that Mrs. Dupree struggled with Harry Lee and he was holding her hands to keep her from striking him. She left and then returned a second or third time but with a gun at which point the argument started again. She threatened him with the gun and he wrestled with her trying to get the gun out of her hands. Seeing that he could not make her drop the gun, he fled. When he turned to run, Mrs. Dupree shot him in the back of the head. Hearing the shot, Mrs. Dickens came outside and saw her son lying mortally wounded, part of his brains coming out of his head. Although Mrs. Dickens is a very large woman, she moved hastily towards her son's body and cradled his open skull in her arms. She said that she prayed, "Oh Lord, please put some life back into my son's body. He's the only son I'll ever have, Lord please don't let him die!" While she was praying and crying, Harry Lee was saying, "Uh Uh (meaning no use) and then he died! Listening to Mrs. Dickens, I was overcome with anger and emotion, my eyes began to mist and I realized that I was crying! Crying yes for all the mothers of Harry Lees in the world. Crying for the mother of Emmett Till, although I was a very young child when his life too was terminated in the south by whites. Mrs. Dickens said that her son had a black belt in karate and had wanted to he could have hurt both Mrs. Dupree and her son but he thought he was doing right by running away. He did not know that it would cost him his life.

Continued Next Week

"BLACKS' RETICENCE TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE THEIR COMMUNITIES" SAID DOUGLAS G. GLASGOW, DEAN OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, IS A MAJOR FACTOR AND AN IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITIES' UNDEVELOPED STATUS"

- POLITICAN
- BUSINESS MAN
- DOCTORS
- LAWYERS
- ARTISTS
- TEACHERS
- MINISTERS
- WORKERS
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
- SOCIAL WORKERS
- FRATERNAL GROUPS
- FINANCE
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- INSTITUTION ADMINISTRATION
- ENGINEERING
- PLANNING
- ARCHITECTURE
- BLACK PRESS



'75

Democratic Convention.. Shades Of The Civil Rights Movement

Jim Campbell

When the civil rights movement began to ween in the mid 60s and finally faded off the American scene at the advent of the 70s, it appeared that its spirit and charisma would never be experienced again, at least not soon.

But last week at the Democratic Convention the movement once again came to life. It began with Barbara Jordan, who capuvated the convention with her eloquent speech. While representative Jordan was not as well-known during the civil rights movement, here she was, doing a superb job and receiving national acclaim just as other blacks had done during the movement.

Some of the old vanguard of the civil rights days were fully participating throughout the convention. Two major civil rights activists of the 60s who are now congressmen, played prime roles in the convention-Walter Flautroy of Washington, D.C. and Andrew Young of Atlanta, whose close ties with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and S.C.L.C. is history.

Positive results from the efforts of the civil rightist a decade ago were clearly evident when it was observed that the leader of the Mississippi delegation was a black who gave that state's roll call.

The Kennedys were there. Not just Senator Edward Kennedy but Ethel and Jaqueline Onasis were also present, reminding us of the support the movement gained from this family.

Hundreds of influential non-convention member blacks were present including the Reverend Jessie Jackson, who reminded reporters that his ouster in 1972 at the Democratic Convention of powerful Mayor Daley of Chicago was due to the mayor's refusal to abide by the rules of the convention. This time around Mayor Daley was surrounded with his fair representation of minorities and smiling as if nothing ever happened.

Finally the Kings were there--Coretta and M. L. King, Sr., affectionately known as Daddy King. His son, Martin Luther King, Jr. always began and closed his meetings with prayer. It was with Reverend King, Sr. that the convention reached its zenith. His down-home prayer seemed to have reached the audience and the convention burst into singing "We shall Ovrcome".

There were many eyes in Madison Square Gardens. There were millions more hopeful people watching on television across the nation.

One wonders what the Republicans will do for an encore?

TO BE EQUAL

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.



What Poor People Want

One of the problems with being poor and powerless is that a lot of people assume they know what's best for you and don't ever bother asking what you want, what's on your mind, or what you need.

That's why a recent survey by the Washington, D.C. Urban League is so important. That community organization designed a questionnaire and conducted a survey of selected poverty neighborhoods in the nation's Capital to find out what the people themselves think about their situation.

It's true that poor people have been studied to death, most often by scholars trying to prove that something's wrong with the poor. Remember all of those pseudo-scientific studies purporting to show that black families are disorganized, that blacks IQs are low, that schools don't matter, and all the rest?

Such studies mad the poor into objects, things to be studied the way scientists study lab animals. They didn't treat the poor as people whose opinions counted and whose perceptions were valuable and worthy of consideration.

The Washington Study treated people with respect and further, was action-oriented. It tried to pinpoint areas of concern that could be followed up with sound action to improve people's lives, not blame them for what's wrong.

Some of the findings are interesting, and applicable to other communities. I don't have the

space here for a comprehensive report, but here are a few of the findings that ought to get some attention.

A basic community problem was found to be the high cost of food, in part a reflection of the lack of competition in the ghetto economy as large markets and chains have abandoned inner-city neighborhoods. Many people reported they to travel far from their homes to buy food and other necessities, and four out of five said such goods are available cheaper in other, more affluent neighborhoods.

The answer to this situation, supplied by the people themselves are for more and better consumer education and for establishing better shopping facilities in their neighborhoods. Co-op arrangements and putting markets on city-owned land would go a long way toward making this a reality.

Not surprisingly, lack of jobs and decent income are continuing problems. The interrelatedness of social problems is demonstrated by the fact that half of the unemployed blacks in the survey lost their jobs because of health problems.

The popular assumption that unemployment is effectively cushioned by jobless benefits was disproved: only about 16 percent of the out-of-work blacks surveyed were receiving such benefits.

A majority said they need job-training and even those who were working indicated they were looking for another job, probably because of the low pay scales. All of this suggests that training programs, with jobs at the end of the line, are desperately needed in urban areas. And consumer-oriented health facilities are tied to the job issue since they're needed to assure the better health that enables people to work.

Child care ranked high on the list of citizens concerns, with four-fifths of the people calling for more day care centers. Existing child care services are a drain on their low incomes, but are necessary if adults are to be free to work.

Crime is a pressing problem, and this most victimized community wants more and better rehabilitative programs and is less hooked on the vengeance that the law and order supporters are always shouting about. The willingness of the people in the survey to join citizens' patrols indicates that curbing crime in low-income neighborhoods can better utilize citizen and community solutions than has traditionally been the case.

There's a lot more, but the essential point is that we as a nation have to stop berating the poor and start listening to their needs, their solutions, and their aspirations.

Things You Should Know

MAKEDA...

960 B.C.



...THE QUEEN OF SHEBA! HER STORY WAS TOLD IN THE BIBLE, THE KORAN AND THE KERAR NAGAST, A CHRONICLE OF THE KINGS OF ETHIOPIA! SHE VISITED KING SOLOMON WITH A FABULOUS CARAVAN OF SPLENDID GIFTS INCLUDING \$3,690,000 IN GOLD TALENTS! ALTHOUGH HE HAD 700 WIVES, (ALL PRINCESSES), AND 300 CONCUBINES, HE BUILT HER THRONE NEXT TO HIS!

ARTIST'S CONCEPTION ABOVE

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