

Marines need black officers

When Ed Gree was a freshman at Westchester State College in Pennsylvania, he had never met a black Marine officer. In fact, he had never seen one. But through a Marine recruiter he had heard of the Platoon Leaders Class, a summer program leading to a commission as a Marine second lieutenant after college graduation. So he joined.

In the summer of 1956 Ed Gree was one of two blacks in the program. At that time he felt a few more black brothers would make him more comfortable. Today, as Major E.J. Green, USMC, he still feels the same way. He is one of 300 black Marine officers.

Major Green has been tapped to become a racial trouble shooter for the Corps. He is the new Special Assistant for Minority Affairs, for the Commandment of the Marine Corps. He was born in Henderson, N.C., and his wife, Lillian, is a guidance counselor. They have three children.

The outlook for many blacks in the service until recently, according to Major Green, would have made good material for a Kafka novel.

"The black serviceman enters the military from a society which he has learned



to distrust, and he joins a society he does not know. "He is more aware of and sensitive to past injustices than ever before and unfortunately, the recollections of past injustices merely tend to solidify the mistrust that he may already possess."

"If you're white, visualize a court martial where you will confront a black military judge, an all black court, a black trial counsel, and a black defense counsel. And, if that is not enough, discover that if convicted, the case will initially be reviewed by the black convening authority who referred the case to the court in the first place, and subsequently reviewed by a black supervisory authority, and finally by the all black Board of Review."

Major Green says his example is an exact reversal, in racial composition, of the military justice system that some black servicemen confront every day (with minor exception). He draws a similar picture of the selection and promotion system.

"These are but a few examples," says Major Green, "of why it is of paramount importance to correct the under-representation of blacks in the officer structure of the services. Until we achieve an adequate black officer distribution throughout the command and policy-making levels, the basic fairness of the entire institution

will remain in doubt."

The Marine Corps currently has an extensive recruitment program underway to increase the number of blacks from its current 1.3 percent of Marine officers.

Major Green has been doing his part to get more black Marine officers. For the past three years he was assigned to the Naval Academy as an instructor—the first black Marine to have his post.

Due probably to Major Green's awareness of black-white relationships, eight of 12 blacks who were graduated from Annapolis this year joined the Marine Corps.

The 34-year-old career officer received his master's degree from John Hopkins University in Baltimore during his assignment at the Naval Academy. The degree was in 20th century U.S. History, giving him perhaps more perspective on the current racial conflicts than the other officers.

"The sense of alienation, the bitterness and the anger being vented in increasing incidences of racial violence in the military is very definitely related to the failures and disappointments of racial relations in our civilian society. It is becoming increasingly clear that the racial problems in the military are inextricably bound to the racial problems of our nation at large."

Coach says Olympic referees poor

If there is to be a future for the Olympic Games, there needs to be more equality in the way the referees and appeal boards are chosen, according to Cordell Tittle, mathematics teacher at the Oregon Episcopal Schools, who recently returned from the Munich event.

"The Olympics should seek to bring about greater friendship between countries and strive to remove political barriers. Not only did the Munich games result in tragedy and disaster, but the scoring was very unfair. The referees overlooked certain

players and fouled others for no good reason. In addition, the appeal boards were largely controlled by the Communist countries," Mr. Tittle said.

"My son, Mark, who is 12, attended the games with me. On one occasion, during a water polo event, one of the players was given a penalty shot. My son turned to me and said, 'Daddy, why are they giving the fellow a penalty shot when the other guy did the same thing?' I couldn't see anything wrong either, so I told my son, perhaps the referee saw something we

didn't see. I don't want my son to believe that sports events are controlled by politicians."

Mr. Tittle attended many of the sports events, including the track, field, swimming, water polo, diving and soccer events. Originally he was scheduled to be at the games in order to coach the Sierre Leone team, composed of John Koroma, track, star, who attended the Oregon Episcopal Schools. Koroma did not attend the games, however, due to a communication mix-up with his country.

Book Review

(Cont. from p. 5 col. 6)

ured the attention of the government and citizens alike. In 1900, the Black man's position was not markedly improved over his status as a slave. He was outside of the law and his legal attempts to seek justice, as well as his militant enterprises, were frustrated. There was still no enlightened view of how to solve the problem of racial violence within the framework of the United States Constitution.

Treatment of Blacks altered only slightly with the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's. There was no national anti-lynching law, and though the number of persons lynched was decreasing, Blacks were still repressed and racial violence continued. The latter 1940's and early 1950's saw the beginnings of a new era of reforms in race relations with the administrations of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Both of the latter administrations had responded to increasing public pressure and to the exigencies of maintaining moral leadership in the world with innovations in the area of race relations. Military power had been used to enforce court orders favorable to Black citizens. School desegregation was upheld by the federal government. There was hope that constitutional authority could be used to equitably adjust Black-white relations.

By enacting the 1964 and 1965 Civil Rights Act, the national government, indicated its willingness to provide, at least, a basis for the achievement of full equality for Blacks. The legislation resulted in part from pressure generated by a civil rights movement that had taken to the streets. While the three previous administrations had taken some interest in the enforcement of the civil rights of Blacks, it was the Kennedy administration that seriously intervened in cases of racial violence under the authority provided in Sections 241, 242 and 333 of the United States Code, which had been in existence since the Reconstruction. Now states found it more difficult to hide behind

the facade of states rights to abdicate their duties.

The book surmises that between 1965 and 1970, the "We Shall Overcome" principles of the Black Liberation movement were merged with, and in some cases, overwhelmed by an increased emphasis on violence as a tactic and strategy. Where the Kennedy Administration had been forced by the movement to use federal military power to protect Blacks within the framework of constitutional law, the Johnson and Nixon administrations found themselves using governmental power against Blacks, who seemed to be law violators. The administration's conservative position seemed to be that police and military power would be used to suppress those who refused to submit to the system, a position which required no real alteration in constitutional theory: the techniques for instituting local and federal suppression of rebellion and disorder had always been in the Constitution and had always been effectively utilized when considered necessary.

Gilcrease

(Cont. from p. 1 col. 5)

questionable. Does the City intend to expand and open up that many positions, particularly at the senior levels indicated? This is unreal, as it is most evident in the present Civil Service system that few leave unless by death or retirement. The proposal also briefly deals with "bumping and appeal privileges". Poverty programs and Model Cities programs have, in most cases, been in existence less than five years, while some City employees have as much as twenty years tenure. The question is, if bumping becomes a necessity, even the staff members who have been aboard through the full existence of these programs could possibly be "bumped"?

I want it to be clearly understood that I am not totally question the commitment, the

integrity, nor the promises that have been made by Commissioner Neil Goldschmidt. But I, as an individual, can not place all my trust, belief, and confidence in one man, when there are so many people to be affected. Change the Civil Service System first and then I would be willing to give consideration to the promises made by Commissioner Neil Goldschmidt in his proposed changes in the system, which he and his comrades contemplate will integrate black, minorities, and disadvantaged whites into the City Civil Service structure.

I would strongly urge the publisher of this newspaper, prior to forming any further opinions on this matter or any other, to fully investigate and research the matter before releasing erroneous information to the hundreds of readers of this newspaper.



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