



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

Actions best judge

Jimmy Carter has named Patricia Harris, a Black woman, to his cabinet as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Andrew Young to what is considered by many to be a Cabinet level post, Ambassador to the United Nations.

These are good appointments, and meet his stated criteria of seeking the best qualified person for each position. Carter has failed to meet the expectation of many supporters who felt he was pledged to go beyond his predecessors -- that is, to name more than the usual one Black, one woman.

The most controversial nomination is that of Judge Griffin Bell to be Attorney General. Carter himself has said that this position must be held by someone with the highest integrity. Already it has been noted that Judge Griffin Bell belongs to three currently or formerly segregated private clubs. His support of Harold Carswell, a racist as well as mediocre judge, for the Supreme Court is also questionable.

Much of the opposition of the NAACP to Judge Bell is based on his approval of the Atlanta Compromise, while serving as federal judge in Atlanta. This compromise -- which was opposed by the national office of the NAACP -- was worked out by the Atlanta Black leadership headed by the Atlanta Chapter of the NAACP, the school board, and white leadership. It resulted in less than full racial desegregation but guaranteed Blacks the position of Superintendent of Schools, Chairman of the School Board, and half of the administrative personnel of the public schools. Judge Bell approved the order; the national NAACP expelled the local officers and board members. Whether the compromise was just is still a matter of question -- although Atlanta's Black community is satisfied.

Bell has said he will change his clubs or resign -- perhaps he is another who has grown up Southern but has found the light.

If he becomes Attorney General, Bell will be judged initially on his appointments to administrative positions in the Department of Justice. The first of these is the directorship of the FBI. If this position and others of equal importance go to Blacks and other minorities -- perhaps he is o.k. If not, then there is reason to fear Carter's judgment.

Silence no defense

The Grambling Tigers eased into town almost unseen in a news blackout -- but left with the Portland State Holiday Tournament crown.

The Tigers' game Monday night was played to nearly empty stands -- although a few Grambling fans found their way to the gym.

It is too bad that Portland State University would have brought in a team with Grambling's fine reputation without providing the publicity that would have allowed them to play before a decent crowd.

We doubt that the press was to blame this time since we received notice of the game from Grambling -- not from PSU. We hope this was just incompetence and nothing more. The Portland fans and the Grambling team deserve better.

Another Point of View

A see-saw with death

Guest Editorial
Atlanta Inquirer

Convicted killer Gary Gilmore, who has faced death sentences several times in the last few weeks, is on a virtual see-saw with Death and the "see-sawing" comes from officials in this country who can't seem to make up their minds on whether or not to carry out the country's first execution since 1967.

Gilmore has done everything possible to insure officials that he wants to die for the murders he has committed because, as he puts it, he doesn't want to spend the rest of his life in prison. Prison, he says, is "unreal."

We hope he believes it was also "unreal" for him to take the lives that he snuffed out in Utah.

Last week, Gilmore, who has tried to take his own life while in prison, almost got his wish. Utah declared the execution should go through. The U.S. Supreme Court near the end of the week decided Gilmore should not be executed this past Monday by a firing squad as was his choice in Utah.

And so, the see-saw continues to rock.

We do not want to hear of anybody in this country taking another person's life. We do not want people not now under sentence of death and walking our streets to even think about taking someone's life. We do not want the state to engage itself in the business of capital punishment.

Somewhere we have got to start a program of education to the value of human life, and it seems our officials in government should lead the way and make whatever program necessary to see this become a reality. We simply don't think enough has been done in this area. Our officials simply have said "this was the law, you broke it and here's what you should get."

Former Texas Governor John Connally, highly respected in some quarters, said last week the execution of Gilmore should be put on prime-time national television. That program of "education" is a kind of stock answer to everything, but it is not going to be a deterrent to any kind of crime. The place to begin is not with the end; we must start recognizing the value of human life from every nook and cranny of every point we consider focal in this country.

Right now, nobody wants to be the "first" to order someone to death when he has the power to prevent it. When the first execution comes, the others are going to be like snowballs rolling down Mt. Everest.

And Utah, at this time, just happens by circumstances to be at the top of the snow-capped mountain. Other states with capital punishment laws are perhaps happy to be on the bottom in this case.

Can we in this country not break the "see-saw" cycle?

Equal work for equal pay

by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Equal work for equal pay. It sounds fair. But all of us know that women traditionally have been paid far less than men for the same work.

Until recently, women accepted the situation without strong protest. Dr. Marilyn Stokstad, a professor of art history at the University of Kansas, is an example. She hired male professors at salaries higher than her own in order to build the art department. She said, "I was proud to have the opportunity to do a great deal of work, even at much less pay. And, I always hoped for a raise."

When she joined a women's group that looked into salaries in the Kansas state system, she found she was the highest-paid woman, and her pay was \$4,600 below the lowest-paid male professor. The wrong to herself and other women became obvious to her. Since that discovery, her salary has improved. Now, she earns only \$50 a year less than the lowest-paid male professor.

The outcry against the kind of injustice suffered by Stokstad is mounting. Women are speaking out. They are taking advantage of the federal laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. Employers are recognizing the seriousness of discrimination by the money some are paying in settlements. The American Telephone and Telegraph has

paid \$6.3 million to 6,100 employees followed by another \$7 million to 7,000 employees.

However, change seldom comes easily. Under the executive order that prohibits discrimination by federal contractors, many women have filed charges and must wait years for action. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has a backlog of 124,000 unresolved cases. In the new HEW Office of Civil Rights, cases filed six years ago have not been resolved. This delay compounds the injury. The old saying is true, "Justice delayed is justice denied."

At present, revised regulations are being considered which will weaken enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation further. One method of effective control has been to require federal contractors to provide a hiring and promotional program that eliminates discrimination. A contract is not awarded until this requirement is satisfied. Experience has shown that contractors comply more readily under these circumstances. Unfortunately, the revisions under consideration raise the minimum amount of the contracts to which this "pre-award review" applies from \$1 million to \$10 million. Obviously, this will reduce the number of reviews and will substantially reduce the concern for discrimination.

Those supporting these changes say that by focusing on the large contractors,

the pre-award review will have the greatest impact. According to figures from the Employment Standards Administration, this will not happen. For instance, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded no contracts last year of more than \$10 million. Of the many contracts awarded by the Department of Defense, only 9 per cent are over \$10 million. Only 8 per cent of contracts awarded by the Department of Transportation fall into this category.

In the National Aeronautics and Space Administration the number is 1.4 per cent, and 3.75 per cent in the Energy Research and Development Administration. With the \$10 million minimum in effect, the federal protection against discrimination would be reduced to insignificance.

This is just one attempt to reduce the federal anti-discrimination commitment. There are others. Also under consideration is an easing of the requirement for companies with existing federal contracts to develop programs to eliminate discrimination in hiring and promotion. Those of us who have fought to make these programs effective are speaking against these proposals as forcefully as possible.

All of us must be watchful and speak out wherever we are. Until we do, the injustice and hardship will continue. Unequal pay for equal work has been with us long enough.

New American policy necessary

by John Lewis, Director
Voter Education Project

Having just returned from the Kingdom of Lesotho, in the heart of South Africa, I am now trying to do everything in my power to call attention to the stark, brutal conditions that exist in South Africa.

I am convinced that each day the United States of America continues to support the racist minority government of South Africa, we are personally and collectively responsible for the brutality and genocide which is occurring in that country.

Against all moral reason, United States investments in South Africa only prolong the brutal repression of eighteen million Blacks. Over 600 Blacks have been killed, thousands have been wounded, and many thousands of others have been imprisoned. The graves of children who have been shot down should remind us all of the unspeakable injustices which we support when our nation and its largest corporations support the apartheid system of living death.

The American people must educate themselves and make a commitment to majority rule in southern Africa. But it is not enough to raise our voices as long as government policies are deaf to the cries of Black Africans who suffer as Americans reap economic benefits.

The Blacks of South Africa are involved in a universal struggle for human rights and human dignity. We cannot isolate ourselves from that struggle, because the silent acquiescence of the American people has prolonged their agony and their oppression.

In the civil rights battles of the United States, we came through many dark and difficult days, but we, as Blacks in the southern United States, never faced a governmental system as brutal and racist as the one which now exists in South Africa. We had years of lynching. We had billy clubs and fire hoses and police dogs used against us in our struggle for civil and human rights. But we never faced a situation in which school children were shot and left to die on the streets.

The Black people of southern Africa have been long-suffering and have tried peaceful protest. They have tried passive resistance. They have appealed to the world's sense of justice, to our consciences, to our humanity, to no avail.

In the 1960s, the people of this nation were shocked and horrified when we were beaten in the streets and attacked on the bridge in Selma, Alabama. That shock and horror was translated into government action. Civil rights laws were passed and a national decision was made to uphold the constitution and human rights of Blacks in the United States.

In South Africa we face a greater threat to civilized nations than ever existed in the southland of our country. And, if we have the will, if we have the decency, the United States government, the United States corporations, and the United States people can realign ourselves in support of a peaceful transition to majority rule.

Black people in southern Africa are not bent on destruction and reprisal. They do not seek to drive the white minority into the sea. They are simply seeking the right to self-determination and opportu-

ities which we have universally come to describe as human rights -- the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

As a beginning, the United States can and should:

-Isolate the apartheid society of South Africa from all public and private support.

-Participate in the United Nations embargo against the repressive South African government.

-Take sanctions against our allies who break the United Nations embargo.

-Repeal the Byrd Amendment which allows American importation of Rhodesian chrome, which is the economic bulwark of the southern African nation of Zimbabwe.

-Recognize Angola as a member of the world community of nations.

-Withdraw all military attaches from South Africa.

There are some beginning steps we can take to withdraw from the immoral and degrading role which we, as a nation, have played in propping up the apartheid government of South Africa.

I appeal today to the people of the United States, and especially to Black Americans who have known the weight of oppression, to direct the Congress and our newly-elected President, Jimmy Carter, to adopt a humanitarian national policy on Africa. This means not only lip service to the principle of majority rule in southern Africa, but concrete steps to insure that American policies no longer support the brutality of apartheid government. It means also affirmative steps to provide technical assistance and development aid to African nations which are embarking on self-help programs to uplift the lives of all Africans.

THE BLACK PRESS -- OUR FREEDOM DEPENDS ON IT!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Revive meeting

To the Editor:

I've read the article in your paper concerning the stressing need for unity among the Albina Community and Business. I would like to say this article was very much appreciated by me as well as others who are concerned about a better source of Communication as well as

understanding from certain organizations within the Albina District. I'm employed at the Multnomah County Mental Health Service, located at the Albina Human Resources building on Vancouver. I've found that People here try desperately to help people of all races but at times it's difficult to communicate within this build-

ing with people from different departments, so as it was expressed in your paper we all need to find time to revive meetings for the coming year 1979 and make it a better more prosperous way to deal with our Neighborhood Programs...

God Bless You,
Elizabeth Ann Hayes

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