

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Rev. Falwell biggest phoney

by Jerry Garner

Reverend Jerry Falwell, leader of a Christian organization called the Moral Majority, recently visited South Africa. During his five-day visit to that country, Falwell met with P. W. Botha, South Africa's racist President. On returning from his visit, Falwell called Black South African Bishop and Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu a phony. Falwell also announced he would launch a campaign to head off sanctions against Pretoria's Barbaric minority government. Falwell stated, "he will urge millions of Christians to buy Krugerrands," the gold South African coin, "and to reinvest in the country."

Any person with decency must ask this question: How can a man like the Reverend Jerry Falwell, who claims to represent God, support the most racist and repressive government since Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler? Before I answer the above question, I must first introduce the real Rev. Jerry Falwell.

In 1958, Rev. Jerry Falwell preached a pro-segregation sermon from the Thomas Road Baptist Church. This is what he said from his pulpit regarding the Supreme Court's decision of 1954 outlawing segregation in public schools: "If Chief Justice Warren and his associates had known God's word . . . I am quite confident that the 1954 Decision (Brown vs. Board of Education) would never have been made."

In that same sermon, Falwell preached that a "curse" was put on Ham, the progenitor of the African, or Ethiopian, or colored race. According to Falwell, Moscow was behind the Black Civil Rights movement in this country during the 60s. In 1985 Falwell is also saying that the U.S.S.R. is behind the struggle for Black equality in South Africa.

The real Rev. Jerry Falwell was a segregationist during the Black Civil Rights movement. Says Reverend James Price, an ordained minister and professor at Lynchburg College, "Falwell did a great deal of harm to racial harmony in this community. He announced the establishment of an all-White school in the Spring of 1968. Throughout Falwell's preaching, he stirred up suspicions about church and political leaders who were supporting integration."

The real Reverend Jerry Falwell believed in "Manicheism," the simple division of the world into good and evil. This view explains Falwell's support for the repressive Pretoria government. His belief that a curse was placed upon Ham, and that evil Russia is behind the cursed Hamites' resistance to Apartheid in South Africa. Thus, Apartheid is better than communism.

Now that you have met the real Reverend Jerry Falwell, I will now answer the question, How can Falwell support the system of Apartheid? He is a phony!

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY

Did PCC's board give best man the job?

by Nathaniel Scott

John H. Anthony, Portland Community College's (PCC's) second president, recently resigned to assume the position of founding president at a community college in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Anthony's resignation prompted PCC's board of directors to name Executive Dean James VanDyke interim president.

Before leaving PCC Anthony recommended an interim president as his replacement. The question is: did the board take his advice?

From the standpoint of experience and achievement, PCC's board of directors did not choose the best qualified person for the job. The question is why?

Why was Dr. Paul Williams, the most qualified person, not even considered for the job?

Is it because he is Black? and did the board make its final choice when they made the interim appointment?

Williams became PCC's first vice president in 1981. He came to PCC

with two years of experience as vice president and dean of instruction at a community college in San Diego, CA. Previous to that position, Williams had been dean in the San Diego community college area for six years. Altogether Williams has 12 years of managerial experience.

He says no one asked him any questions concerning the interim position. Furthermore he states: "I assume that it's an interim position and they will be going out for a search."

Williams believes he has made significant accomplishments over the past four years.

He said, "If I make an application I think they ought to consider my application."

Moreover, he added, "Yes! I plan to submit an application."

Roy Lindsay is the college's other vice president. He said: "No, I was not offered the job but I had made my preference known. I won't be seeking the position."

By creating the executive dean posi-

tion, Anthony created a confusing dilemma.

VanDyke's dean replacement at Sylvania campus has already been made. That seems to indicate that the board has made its final selection.

On the other hand, if they carry out a search, PCC's board of directors could create a situation similar to what Anthony faced when he became the school's second president in 1980.

Fresh from Cayuga Community College in Auburn, N.Y., Anthony never lived down the feeling of being an outsider.

Then again, one has to consider the time element.

The process of finding a replacement for Anthony could take upward of a year. In the meantime PCC is left with the second, if not the third best choice.

Paul Williams deserved better than what he got. The question is: will PCC's board of directors rectify its mistake?

Letters to the Editor

Black America:

It is August, 1985. This is the fifth of UNITIES letters to Black America. To date I have received little support from my fellow Black Americans. Yet, I do not despair. It took me years to know and understand the need for Black Unity and what to do with that Unity once it is achieved.

Last month I said my greatest fear is ignorance. My fear is well founded. Already I can see it rearing its parasitic head.

This month's letter will deal with to topics. One, UNITY itself, and two, the Black Media.

If you have read any of my previous letters you should by now know that I ask for Black UNITY. When I ask for Black UNITY, I am not asking that we must all think and act the same. We are as diversified as any other race of people, yet we must for the future of Black America reach an understanding. An understanding of UNITY and Leadership.

What do I mean when I say Black UNITY? I mean unity of will. Oneness of purpose. I mean undivided in our direction. Unity means solidarity in our efforts and solidarity in our resolve. I mean Unity for the sake of our children unborn.

It is crystal clear to anyone that will take the time to look. The future of Black America lies within Black America. What must be done, we must do. Black UNITY is the first step in a never-ending journey. I ask Black America to take that first step with me. Take this first step with me for the sake of our children, and for ourselves today.

I have been asked what do I want from the Black Media? I would ask that those learned Black men and women of the Media discuss among themselves the merits of Black Unity. I would have them consider the truth of UNITIES first five letters, this being the fifth (others available on request, if any were missed).

UNITY needs the ear of Black America. Only the Black Media can reach that ear. White America will never say anything that is truly in the interest of Black America. Therefore, as I continue to say, we must take care of ourselves.

The Black Media must join me in my efforts to bring about a sense of oneness in Black America. The Black Media must put UNITY into the hearts and minds of Black America. How? I leave the how to the professionals.

UNITIES August, 1985 letter comes to a close with my humble, yet profound thanks to the *Minneapolis Spokesman and Recorder*, a newspaper for a better Black America. A newspaper with vision. To its publisher and editor, I say, "continue to march."

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"Economic recovery" nearing end

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

The "economic recovery" which helped to reelect Ronald Reagan nearly one year ago is showing unmistakable signs of nearing an end — possibly within the next six to nine months. Economic growth is continuing, but at a rate much lower than predicted by Reagan Administration economists. We may have already begun what some analysts term a "growth recession" — a period of continued growth, but with increased business failures, sagging consumer confidence, and gradually rising unemployment rates.

What are the root causes and signals that a growth recession has developed? There are many factors, all interrelated, which are sowing the seeds of a future economic crisis:

First, the lack of real income growth of American consumers. Although inflationary trends have been low, real income has also plummeted. According to Joel Popkin and Company, an economic consulting firm, major union contracts averaged wage increases of only 3.7 percent in 1984, and are projected at 3.4 percent for this year. Non-union wages are expected to rise only 4.5 percent in 1985. In the late 1970s, economic growth was largely sustained by mass consumer borrowing. But this avenue to recovery has been almost blocked. Consumer debt is still soaring at a 20 percent annual rate, but the ratio of consumer debt to income is at an all-time high. Millions of households wallowing in debt will be forced to curtail expenditures for consumer goods. Ultimately this means cutbacks in production, factory lay-offs, and increased unemployment rates.

Second, "real" interest rates are still too high. During the recession of 1980, real interest rates — the actual interest rate minus the inflation rate —

was 0.2 percent. Today, real interest rates are over 4 percent. The banks and financial institutions profit from the surplus, but the rest of us have to pay more in real dollars for home mortgages and consumer loans. Inevitably this retards household spending, and directly leads to production cutbacks.

Third, continued massive buildups and waste in the military. Compared to any other form of capital spending, fewer jobs per dollar are created by this sector. When the Pentagon paid the Grumman Aerospace Corporation \$659 apiece for ashtrays, and \$404 apiece for socket wrenches, the American taxpayers were the ultimate victims. If the Federal Government spent the identical amounts of money for the education facilities and personnel as for guided missiles, more than three times the number of jobs would be generated. The Reagan Administration's obsession to have a "first strike" nuclear capability has directly destroyed millions of potential jobs in healthcare, housing, education, and other human services. This waste of fiscal resources directly adds to the unemployment lines.

Fourth, the continued transfer of production capacity abroad, usually to low-wage nations in the Third World. By exporting jobs, the corporations are able to take advantage of lower paid workers and to obtain larger profit margins. This process has also become a political threat to force American wages down — factory owners and managers demand increasing worker concessions. The results in both cases are the actual export of thousands of jobs, and the reduction of household income for domestic employees. This again slows consumer spending, and adds to unemployment.

Fifth, the continued restructuring of the economy. Black economist Andrew Brimmer recently noted that the total number of Black unemployed fell from 2.4 million in 1982 to 1.8 million at the end of 1984. Blacks "landed more than one in six of the new jobs created by the strong pace of economic growth during the last two years," cited Brimmer. Unfortunately, Black workers frequently obtained new jobs in the growing selective services sector at distinctly lower wages than they had earned prior to the 1982 recession. Black employees are still heavily represented in sectors — such as heavy industry — which are experiencing long-term contractions. And although the overall Black jobless rate is below 15 percent annually, this still means statistically that nearly three out of 10 Black adults will be unemployed at some time during the year.

Perhaps the greatest "economic time-bomb" of Reaganomics is the massive fiscal deficit. At current projections, the Federal debt will reach between \$2.2 trillion to \$2.5 trillion by 1990. As former Budget Director David Stockman now freely admits, the 1981-83 budget cuts were designed to permanently cripple the welfare state. Given these deficits, the Federal government would be unable to launch new programs for jobs, education, and human needs, no matter whether a Democrat was elected president in 1988. Over the long-term, the legacy of Reaganomics may provoke a future crisis of social and economic unrest which is far greater than the present dilemma of the growth recession.

Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University, Hamilton, New York.



Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

Health Care in the New Nicaragua

Part one of a two-part series

by Cheryl Smalley, N.D.

Nicaragua has been in the news a lot lately, but more often than not news stories reflect the attitudes and actions of our government toward the Nicaraguan political situation. Only rarely do we hear about the battles going on within that country to improve the quality of life, education, and health for the Nicaraguan people. Earlier this summer I had a chance to spend a month in Nicaragua to see for myself what I had heard so many conflicting stories about. As a naturopathic physician, of course, I had a special interest in health care developments there.

Since the end of the revolution in 1979, huge steps have been taken in the fields of health and education. The money spent for health programs has increased nearly 600 percent since the late 1970's. Since 1979 most attention has been focused on the countryside, where there had been very little available in the way of health care. It's been estimated that 90 percent of all medical facilities and personnel before 1979 were in the cities serving only 10 percent of the population.

The Sandinista government has been guided in its health reforms by a set of basic principles adopted when it came to power in 1979, including:

—Health care is the right of every individual and a responsibility of the state.

—Health care will be made available to the whole population, geographically, economically, and culturally.

—The community ought to participate in all health activities.

Ivan Tercero, a Vice-Minister of Health in Managua, says, "Our success is an achievement not of the health ministry, but of the people. The mas-

sive campaigns are done by the people. You can talk to Nicaraguans and ask them what they did in the campaigns. They have given immunizations, and they feel proud when they see the results of their work. They have gone to workshops after work and on weekends. That's one of our policies — to broaden popular knowledge of health and not to have it just as a privilege for a minority."

The first steps taken after the revolution were to identify and control the major causes of disease and deaths in the population. Nationwide campaigns against polio, malaria, rabies and dengue fever involved the training of tens of thousands of community volunteers. The leading killer of infants and children had always been dehydration from diarrhea, and within months after the revolution over 250 rehydration units had been set up in clinics and health posts all over the country. Tens of thousands of latrines have been distributed in an effort to remove one of the major sources of intestinal parasites. One of the first steps taken was to purify the municipal water supply of Managua, the capital city.

The next major goal was to develop a workable system for educating the health workers needed to carry out the new programs. Since 1979, over 4,000 new health workers have been trained (in a country of only 2.8 million people). The number of nursing students has increased six times, and medical students, five times. Local communities help to choose who will study, and financial barriers to education have been largely eliminated. Popular Health Councils have been formed in all geographical areas, both to identify the local problems and to help organize the community in campaigns to

solve them.

The results have been impressive. Infant mortality has dropped by one-third. Polio has been virtually eradicated, and measles, tuberculosis, whooping cough and malaria have been reduced by from 40 to 90 percent. And all of this has been accomplished by this tiny and very poor country in spite of constant attacks from the U.S. supported anti-Sandinista guerrillas. The Nicaraguan war against these "contra" forces uses up 40 percent of the national economy — money which could be spent on humanitarian programs. Since 1981 the contras have waged a war not so much against the Nicaraguan army, but against the material base of the society. Rather than attack military centers, they have targeted plantations, villages, schools and clinics. Since 1981 they have attacked over 50 rural health clinics and posts and have killed and kidnapped doctors, nurses and paraprofessionals. During the time I was there a doctor and nurse in N.E. Nicaragua were kidnapped and their clinic destroyed by contras.

There are many international volunteers in Nicaragua now — health professionals and others — giving their time and expertise. Their hope is that, as foreigners and witnesses to the situation, they can bring international attention to Nicaragua and make it more difficult for the contras to carry out this war on civilians.

(To be continued next week)

Doctor Cheryl Smalley is a 1983 graduate of the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, and recently returned from a self-supported trip to Nicaragua.

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