Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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School 5-year plan

Everyone with an interest in the quality of our public school system should note October 14 on their calendars.

On that date at 6:30 p.m., a public hearing to discuss the draft of the city school's 5-year plan will be at Coldstream Park Elementary School No. 31.

Dr. John L. Crew, superintendent of public instruction, states the current draft of the 5-year plan seeks to "provide a comprehensive policy framework within which the administrative and instructional branches of the system will operate in carrying out the superintendent's overall goal and objectives."

This is an ambitious and necessary undertaking. The draft considers 11 elements which make up the 5-year plan. They include curriculum, student assessment, parent and community involvement and pupil services.

In view of the sometimes explosive reaction to school programs that have been part of our recent history as a city, we think it extremely wise the Department of Education has actively invited the community-at-large to contribute in the implementation of whatever final plan is evolved.

If you have an interest in improving our public schools, make your ideas and insights known at the public hearing.

So often parents, students and teachers themselves complain the reason why some public school programs are less than successful is because there was insufficient input from affected parties.

On October 14, citizens have their chance to be heard.

So that everyone concerned knows exactly what the Five Year Plan entails, copies of the plan are available at the Department of Education's Office of Public Information, 3 East 25th St.

Reagan plan on schools

Since the new president has always taken a dim view of bussing to achieve desegregation and to ensure minority children of equal educational opportunities, it is no surprise the Administration is casting about for ways of paying lip-service to equal education.

The Reagan non-bussing approach slowly is surfacing in the Justice Department.

From what information we do have the White House seriously contemplates examining urban school systems (particularly) to see how well they are doing by black and Hispanic students.

If, as is probably the case in most cities, the quality of instruction and services to minority students is less than it should be, the Administration intends to sue local school boards in an effort to make them upgrade their school systems.

We find this approach contradictory to say the least.

President Reagan has promised less Federal intervention in local government and less policy and tone setting from Washington. Yet the Justice Department now considers bringing local school jurisdictions in compliance with desegregation guidelines through judicial process.

What strikes us about this approach is that it does effectively remove bussing as a means of achieving school desegregation.

It also actively ensures resegregation will continue at an even more accelerated pace.

It almost smacks of separate but equal which was the cornerstone of segregationist school philosophy before the Supreme Court's landmark 1954 decision.

In seeking to get local school boards to see that schools, say, in the inner cities are as "good" as those in more affluent settings the Administration would locking in certain kinds of neighborhoods in a tight, unbreakable vise of color, caste and class.

What the racists fear about bussing beside the interaction of various ethnic groups and the exposure of children to cultures other than their own is that minority children would be exposed to the same kinds of experiences and cultural mobility that has been the "right" exclusively of white children.

When children from disadvantaged areas see, feel and hear the same stimuli heretofore reserved for the advantaged their chances for success vastly are improved.

By asking local school boards to make inner city schools "equal" as others is to keep certain classes of kids locked in place, shut off from the larger world.

These are just some opening observations. It may well be that the Administration indeed has come up with a radical and exemplary way of improving educational opportunities for minority Americans.

But our initial reaction is there is too much "separateness" in the concept as it stands presently.

Letters

Age bearing on crime

Dear AFRO:

For too long crime and criminals have made a mockery of the criminal justice system. Further, the juvenile system as related to the law and courts has been a failure.

Therefore, we must begin today to make positive changes. We can no longer harbor the belief that crimes—even violent ones—are not committed by our young.

They are indeed, and if that youngster is under 18, he cannot be charged as an adult. Perhaps one positive change that would help prosecutors accomplish more is to push to have juveniles who are 16 charged as adults for their crimes.

How much longer will we allow persons 16 years old literally not to pay for their crimes? How much longer will the criminal justice system allow people under 18 to commit rape, murder, and assault and not be tried and punished as adults.

Most know the juvenile system, at this time, is a joke and little can be done to force those under 18 to pay for their wrongs and thus perhaps come to realize crime does not pay.

My fellow citizens, we have allowed criminals—especially those under 18—to go scot free for many violent crimes because the law says those under 18 are still juveniles.

This practice must stop. The majesty of the law must be respected.

If a person commits a crime, even a person under 18, we must work with prosecutors and lawmakers not only to see justice is carried out, but also to see those so-called young people are made to pay for their acts.

Our criminal legal system is a national disaster in this country. We can begin to correct the system by changing the law so that juveniles under 18 can be tried as adults.

Age has no bearing to those who contemplate and carry out criminal acts.

JOHN A. MICKLOS

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

'Now what about the rest of the city?'

PARREN MITCHELL

Are you blind Mr. Reynolds?

On Sept. 25, 1981, the head of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department testified before the Congress. In his testimony, William Reynolds stated affirmative action programs should be dropped.

On Dec. 16, 1980, the Justice Department filed a civil suit charging an Arizona bank with refusing to make loans on Indian reservations. This was under the Carter Administration.

On Dec. 2, 1980, the Justice Department filed a civil suit seeking to desegregate two virtually all-black elementary schools in Marshall, Texas.

On Nov. 17, 1980, the Justice Department filed suit against Cobb County, Georgia School District charging the school district discriminated against blacks in teaching and faculty jobs and against women in upper administrative positions.

Are you blind, Mr. Reynolds? Reynolds told the Subcommittee affirmative action programs should be scrapped, because they provide preferential treatment for those who are not victims of discrimination.

On Nov. 20, 1980, the Justice Department obtained a consent decree requiring the Los Angeles' Police Department to hire more blacks, Hispanics, and women and to pay $2 million in back pay to victims of discrimination.

On Nov. 10, 1980, The Department of Justice obtained a consent decree requiring the North Carolina State Highway Patrol to increase substantially the number of blacks and women state troopers.

Under the Carter Administration, the Justice Department obtained a consent decree on Oct. 23, 1980, requiring the Omaha, Nebraska Police Department to double its percentage of black police officers.

Are you blind, Mr. Reynolds? The assistant Attorney General stated the Reagan Administration's point of view is that affirmative action programs had resulted in reverse discrimination.

Under the past administration, the Justice Department on July 8, 1980, obtained a consent decree requiring the Cincinnati, Ohio Police Department to increase substantially the hiring and promotion of black and women police officers.

The Justice Department obtained a consent decree in June, 1980 requiring the Fort Lauderdale, Florida Police and Fire Departments to hire and promote more black citizens and women. Also, on April 11, 1980, the Justice Department obtained a consent decree forbidding the owner of some 2,000 apartment units in Bergen County, New Jersey from refusing to rent to black persons.

No, Mr. Reynolds is not blind. He wants to make it clear the Reagan Administration simply does not care about the discrimination against blacks which is deep and systemic in this country.

In a recent radio show, a white man was asked why he voted for Reagan. The man replied he thought blacks had been getting too much and Reagan would put blacks back in their place. Well, he is certainly right.

The Reagan retreat from affirmative action is despicable and of itself, but is made even more dastardly because it triggers the racists to do things they would not do if the Administration showed even a scintilla of interest in the problems of blacks and other minorities.

There is a connection between federal anti-black policies and the harrassment of a black family in Essex, Maryland.

There is a connection between Reagan's anti-black, anti-minority approach and the reneging of Baltimore City on minority participation in all contracts approved by city agencies.

The Klan thief, who stole the plaque for Kunta Kinte, is overtly and covertly encouraged by Reagan's hostility towards blacks and minorities.

I said it in a previous column, but it must be said again. Reagan's message to black Americans simply put is, "Do not forget that this is a white man's country."

MADELINE MURPHY

The aura of royalty

The Prince of Wales finds he needs more than $4,000 a week to support Princess Di. This increases his yearly tax-free stipend to more than $700,000.

Nancy Reagan needs a new set of china, to the tune of $209,000.

What do these two people have in common?

Well, when Nancy attended the royal wedding, many reporters wondered to whom she was constantly waving since few paid her much heed as she traipsed through the glittering British social event of the year.

After all, there were kings, princes, queens, sheiks and pashas to be fawned upon.

But Nancy valiantly waved nevertheless and, peevishly refused to curtsy to anyone. It would seem this was the tug of supremacy between the once glorious British Empire and one of the present super powers of the world.

Bowing to no one, this indeed is an indication Nancy pictures herself as royalty, without parallel.

Spilling over to the arrogant benevolence of her husband, "King Ronnie," with his on camera smile, always endearing and his good humor. Just like the British royal family, there are perogatives the rulers of the land must have - no matter how many people are unemployed, how many people go hungry and cold or how many people have become disenchanted with the so-called mandate of an election a scant eight months ago.

Indeed, as their backgrounds have indicated, the show must go on.

And it seems slogans such as "Reagan sleeps, while Stockman cuts" have no impact because the coterie surrounding the U.S. "Royal Family" continues to be well insulated, well fed, and well looked after...

When we see that corporate taxes may soon be a found memory!

The law states profits above $50,000 are to be taxed at a 46 percent flat rate. Corporations pay on the average of 28 percent of their profits in income taxes. By 1986, the percentage will decline to 14 percent.

At the same time, in the second quarter of 1981 profits soared to above the 1980 levels.

Of the 516 major corporations, there was a 28 percent increase during one year.

Exxon is first of them all. In 1980, Exxon's sales were $103 billion. And according to Fortune Magazine, those revenues are roughly twice the total amount of economic and military aid the United States supplies to foreign countries.

Those revenues also are larger than the gross national product of more than 100 countries. Exxon's first half year's profits after taxes were $3.43 billion.

Profit figures, however, are merely the visible part of the iceberg because concealment and legal loopholes hide the true figures.

Stock splits reduce the dollar per share; dividends reduce profits.

Cash reserves for contingencies, bad debts, future tax payments magnify costs.

Intercorporate dividends, payments to affiliates, subsidiaries, and other controlled business establishments spread profits thin and avoid taxes.

The list of loopholes and techniques through which profit pictures are understated goes on and on, mostly within the law.

It would seem, as in the days of the robber barons, government stays on the neck, in fond embrace of corporations, while it deceitfully proclaims the opposite for all the rest of us - taxing us to the hilt to support the privileged few.

We might apply this principle to the new Hyatt Regency, where our tax dollars only show the employment of 100 disadvantaged while the future profits of such mammoth largesse by government loans, etc., are controlled by public corporations without checks or balances from the voting public.

This is the kind of aura of royalty and its privileged retinue that surrounds not only this administration, but most, this being more blatantly anti-poor, anti-black and anti-labor.

This is the kind of philosophy of getting away with it and not getting caught, which also trickles down to the poor who feel they also must con, steal, burgle or rob, as fulfillment of an accepted philosophy in the suites although deplored in the streets.

Is there any wonder why crime is on the increase?

Where is the example, anyway?

Tony Brown's Journal

Five presidents' race in dispute

Over the years, we have received a great number of requests for transcripts of our nationally syndicated television series.

Some of the requested programs were "Reagan's Pledge to Black Colleges," "Will Blacks Revolt in the 80s," and "I'm the Black," a discussion of black economic power.

Other programs were "Can Blacks Support Themselves?" "Malcolm X's Assassin," "Are Blacks Smart Enough For Harvard?" and "Has America Had Five Black Presidents?"

As a result of these requests — and for the benefit of our viewing audience — we compiled a brochure that highlights each of these topics.

Understandably, the most popular request was for "Has America Had Five Black Presidents?", a discussion of noted historian J. A. Rogers' research into the allegation five of our presidents had African ancestry.

The discussion is centered around a booklet Rogers published called "America's Five Negro Presidents." Rogers was not surprised he said, that considering the amount of miscegenation that has gone on, some mixed strain had crept into high places.

He would not name one of the five because of insufficient evidence. He admitted, however, to demine who was black in America required an expert whose first qualification was to be crazy. His intent was to denounce the idea of race, other than, of course, the human race.

Rogers research on civilizations known to all of us, such as Western Europe, Egypt, Rome and Greece, turned up evidence of African ancestry in many a household name, who by current laws and customs would be black.

J.A. Rogers does not list any person as black unless his research proves at least one-eighth of African strain.

Thomas Jefferson, born in 1743, became the third president of the United States in 1801. Rogers points out, in Johnny-Come-Lately Papers alleged Thomas Jefferson was the son of an Indian squaw who had a mulatto father.

On the eve of the 1920 presidential election, political opponents of Warren G. Harding published reports that he was black. A book, "Warren G. Harding, President of the United States," appeared. The author was William Esterbrook Chancellor.

The evidence was substantial. J.A. Rogers said the Justice Department did its best to eliminate the book.

Of one of the two or three copies that survived, there is a hand written disclaimer, allegedly by the author, that he ever wrote the book.

But also in the book is Chancellor's signature under a confirmation of the contents. The book said white civilization's destiny was at stake and President Harding's ancestry and "inherited and acquired traits were directing it."

It is rumored Harding's allies made a big bonfire that destroyed most of the copies."

Rogers researched the Virginia Magazine of History, which said Andrew Jackson, who became the seventh president, was the son of a white woman who had intermarried.

Abraham Lincoln was viciously attacked by his enemies and called "Abraham Africanus the First." And his father allegedly was black.

An ironic footnote to Lincoln's so-called African blood line was underscored in an event set up to honor h.m. "Attorney Thomas P. Bowmar of Washington, D.C., the AFRO-AMERICAN newspaper reported on January 27, 1940, had won a Lincoln look-alike contest.

"But when it was discovered the AFRO-AMERICAN continued, "that he was colored, everybody forgot the whole thing."

Dr. Sandra Scarr, the first woman professor in the Psychology Department of Yale University, in a study on race and intelligence, examined the degree to which individuals who are socially classified as black have African ancestry as compared to European ancestry.

The U.S. black population is, in biological terms, a hybrid population with ancestry from both African and European populations. U.S. blacks, on the average, have something like 20 percent European ancestry.

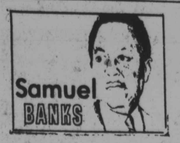
"Some individuals have more than half European ancestry. Some have less than five percent. So, there's considerable variability among people we socially classify as black as to their degree of African ancestry.

"African populations tend more to be a type of Rh-negative. European populations tend more to be Rh-positive, for example. And at each locus there are more or less differences that have a sound evolutionary basis.

"These populations in Africa and Europe have been partially segregated as gene pools for many hundreds of thousands of years.

"So we looked at these contemporary black individuals and developed a probability that any particular gene a person had came from one population, that is,

(Continued on Page 5)



Samuel BANKS

'What did I do wrong?' A national and local lament

Each day it becomes demonstrably and painfully apparent the program of Reagonomics is causing enormous human suffering and dislocation within the body politic.

I recently encountered a former Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) worker in my office. She asked me plaintively, "WHAT DID I DO WRONG?"

She had been faithful and conscientious as a clerical worker and was taking courses at the Community College of Baltimore in order to improve her employability.

The worker now is an embittered, frustrated and despondent unemployment statistic: a clear and present victim of Reaganomics.

The lamentable example of this young woman can be replicated by more than 3,000 CETA workers in the Baltimore metropolitan area and more than 300,000 youths on a nationwide basis who have lost their jobs because of the dismantlement of CETA.

These youths, black and white, in reality, more whites than blacks, notwithstanding the Reagan administration's euphemistical "safety nets" and pious expressions of succor for the "truly needy," are being consigned to the socio-economic scrapheap of our nation.

It is palpably clear, given the "bearish" activity and consternation of Wall Street as reflected in the Dow Jones, Standard and Poor's Index and other indicators of the economy, there is little confidence the theoretical supply-side economics will lead to a balanced budget, even interest rates or reduce structural unemployment among blacks and minorities in the United States.

Each day it becomes more and more apparent the recent Reagan Administration request for $13 to $16 billion in cuts will be inadequate to reduce the national deficit to $42 billion.

The fact of the matter is the cuts will have to be doubled to achieve the goal Reagan has touted as required.

Locally and nationally, whatever the extent of the deficit reduction, given the federal budget reductions for fiscal year 1981 approximating 25 percent, the socio-economic outlook for blacks, minorities and the poor can be summarized in one word: BLEAK.

In Baltimore, the situation has reached desperate proportions when one considers Baltimore and Detroit share the ignoble distinction of leading the nation in terms of unemployment among youths.

The unemployment figures for both cities hover around 55 percent for those still seeking gainful and productive employment.

As was true of the young woman who asked me, "What did I do wrong?" there are, across the nation, particularly in urban areas, forlorn youths and adults with hangdog countenances posing the same question.

While a response is the Reagan Administration has determined to balance the budget and "rearm" America at the expense of blacks, minorities, the "working poor" and the certified poor.

It is, to be sure, a national disgrace. C'est dommage.

The situation has, in particular, calamitous consequences for 31 million black Americans.

It provides incontrovertible and melancholy evidence black youths will now join their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, some of whom have not had regular employment or have been structurally employed since the end of World War II in 1945.

While the vast majority of unemployed black Americans past 40 have despaired of ever having consistent and regular employment for themselves, there has been a fierce and troubling nurturing of the hope their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren would have an opportunity for full-time employment.

The present implementation of Reaganomics dashes that remote hope.

In the message of the U.S. Employment Act of 1946, the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978 and subsequent legislation, our nation made a commitment to the proposition that every person who wanted a job would have the opportunity in the national workplace.

The program of Reaganomics instituting severe budgetary cuts in health care, education, legal aid, housing, Medicaid, Medicare, school lunch programs, among other vital programs, diminishes and defers the possibility of jobs and human dignity for all Americans.

The Reagan Administration has turned its backs on blacks and the poor.

The grim and stark reality, as was indicative of the period of the Great Depression, is that black America is, once again, under siege.

On virtually every socio-economic front blacks are reeling from the compassionless, calculated and meanspirited onslaught of Reaganomics. No surcease or palliation of the fracturing onslaught will be provided in the forseeable future.

Black Americans as was true of our ancestors' forced and ignominious arrive 362 years ago at Jamestown, Va., must close ranks for sheer survival.

Black churches, as they pray and work for the "Other World," must now concentrate more on THIS WORLD.

Black churches, sororities, fraternities, Masonic orders, civic groups, professional and skilled groups and civil rights organizations must now begin to mobilize and organize food cooperatives, counseling and health centers, clothing banks and develop places of refuge for the masses of our people who have become the casualties of a national economic austerity and retrenchment.

It is essential black academicians and middle and upper income blacks take the lead in this herculean effort.

An urgent comment made by John Gardner, former director of the National Urban Coalition, 13 years ago has enormous significance for all of us:

The national has not reversed the movement apart. Blacks and whites remain deeply divided in their perceptions and experiences of American society.

The deepening of concern about conditions in slums and ghettos on the part of some white persons and institutions had been counterbalanced—perhaps overbalanced—by a deepening of aversion and resistance on the part of others.

The mood of the blacks, wherever it stand precisely in the spectrum between militancy and submission, is not moving in the direction of patience.

The black neighborhoods in the cities remain slums, marked by poverty and decay; they remain ghettos, marked by racial concentration and confinement.

The nation has not yet made available — to the cities or the blacks themselves — the resources to improve these neighborhoods enough to make a significant change in their resident's lives. Nor has it offered those who might want it the alternative to escape.

The time has come, albeit late, to end the institutionalization of programmed despondency, fear, impotence, hopelessness and failure. Langston Hughes provides a challange and direction:

O Yes, I say it plain
America never was
America to me
And yet I swear
this oath, —

It is time to get moving and to take the high ground. There is no hiding place for any of us. In the words of the ancient Portuguese refrain: A Luta Continua—The struggle continues.

Thanks for plaza fun

Dear AFRO:

We want to extend our appreciation and thanks to you for your participation in our daily noontime events in War Memorial Plaza.

The Mayor's Office of Special Projects has as its aim to provide cultural, entertaining and educational enjoyment for its lunch time audiences, and your performance has certainly contributed tremendously to the success of our Plaza summer season.

We will be in contact with you when we begin scheduling for the summer of 1982.

VIRGINIA S. BAKER
LYNNE GUGERTY

FOR ALL WE KNOW

Anwar Sadat received AFRO award in 1978

ANWAR SADAT was a guest of the Congressional Black Caucus at Blair House when he visited President Carter in 1978. Seated on the couch are Cong. Parren J. Mitchell and President Sadat. Surrounding are other members of Congress.

His mother was a Nubian, a totally black woman

PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT a real world leader

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

PERSONAL REMEMBRANCES OF ANWAR SADAT

I MET President Anwar Sadat on two occasions. First in 1978 when he was President Carter's guest at the White House. Congressman Parren J. Mitchell made it possible for the AFRO to present the handsome man an AFRO citation which Sadat said he was proud to receive.

NEXT TIME we met was in Cairo, Egypt in 1979 when I was with a party of editors visiting the Middle East on a month - long tour. He was always warm and pleasant with an engaging smile, a black Egyptian.

U.S. State Department photo

AFRO EDITOR Elizabeth M. Oliver with women from Sudan at the foot of the Great Pyramid at Gaza in 1979. The editors who remained in Sadat's Cairo 12 days were sponsored by the Middle East Institute, the AFRO and the State Department.

ALWAYS haunted by thoughts of an early death from enemies, the man, who was only 62 when he was slain Oct. 6, was the son of a Nubian, a totally black peasant woman, a native of Sudan.

Before his assassination, Sadat said he wanted to be buried beside his mother when and if. However he is to be buried Saturday in the tomb of the unknown soldier. Egypt and Sudan are on unfriendly terms.

CONG. MITCHELL says if he were asked in the past to name THE world leader, the greatest leader on earth, he would have named Anwar Sadat, the African leader whose desire for world peace made him a beacon light.

IN EGYPT where we remained for 10 days, everywhere there was evidence that Anwar Sadat's country has remained since creation the most mystical and fantastic of all civilizations.

Here at the dawn of civilization were the scientists and learned men who cannot be surpassed even today. The Great Pyramid of Gaza and the Sphinx, for example, still remain the marvels of all time.

WE WERE TOLD as we sailed down the Nile one deep, warm night, that true indeed it is that Moses was found in the bullrushes on the banks of this soft mystical river.

The Sahara Desert is included in Egypt's 386,682 square miles. A nation of 42 million persons, Egypt is the land history will never forget, Anwar Sadat will be remembered as the great black ruler as time goes by.

MY MOST TREASURED possession is a huge book commissioned by Sadat on the history of Egypt. It arrived by surprise after I came home from the Middle East. My most treasured memory is that once upon a time I saw Anwar Sadat, a rare human being, a black brother.

—Five presidents'

(Continued from Page 4)

African populations or European populations, and said, on the basis of 12 different loci, this person has roughly this much European ancestry and this much African ancestry.

"We established a rank order of individuals from having a great deal of European ancestry to very little."

J.A. Rogers' book will not let us rest, will not let us remain comfortable with man-made racial terms.

He used history and historical events and personalities supported by massive evidence to demonstrate the accuracy of a human history, composed mainly of triumph and failure by people or members of a human race.

If you would like more information on these subjects write: Tony Brown Productions, Inc., 1501 Broadway, Suite 2014 New York, NY 10036.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, is shown every Saturday, beginning Aug. 29, on WBAL-TV (11), at 2 p.m.

U.S. State Department photo

SADAT'S LAND, the land of the Sphynx and the Pyramids, is recorded as the most magical of all creations and the greatest civilization the world has ever known.

DAUGHTER OF THE NILE... year-old Wardet Abdel Rassel, daughter of Mohamed Abdel Basset of Assuan, Egypt, was guest of the Robert Richmond of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo when this photo was taken. He Richmond is a resident of Washington, D.C. The lovely lady wears pure gold jewelry, a sign of wealth.