

EDITORIALS • COMMENTS • OPINIONS



TO BE EQUAL

by John E. Jacob
Nat'l. Urban League
President

Challenge of U.S. Population Shifts

The United States is well on the way to becoming a truly multi-racial nation and its future prospects are directly tied to whether it manages to include its racial minorities in an open, integrated pluralistic society.

Already, one of every five Americans is Black, Hispanic or Asian. By the year 2000, one in four will be members of those groups.

The Black population will rise to about 33.5 million people. Hispanics are expected to number about 23 million, and Asians, about 10.6 million. So the America of 2000 will include some 67 million people who will be non-white. That means a non-white population larger than the total current population of such countries as France, Germany and England.

Those figures are conservative estimates made by the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, as reported in the national press. They are in line with other estimates based on census data.

The growth of America's non-white minorities raises profound questions for the future precisely because those minorities have been excluded from full participation and equality in the past and present.

The clear message is that unless those minorities become full participants in the rewards and the responsibilities of all sectors of America's economic, social and political life, this country will be incapable of sustaining its economy or its world leadership role.

Today, the tremendous human resources by non-white Americans are largely wasted. Disproportionate numbers are poor, unemployed, and suffer inadequate health, housing and education.

The unemployment rate is one measure of their disadvantage. In the second quarter of 1982 the official, understated unemployment rate for all workers was 9.5

percent.

But Black unemployment was double that, and Hispanic unemployment was almost 50 percent higher than that for non-Hispanic whites. For teenagers, the rates were higher; a majority of Black teenagers were out of work.

And let's not forget that those are only the official figures -- if you count discouraged workers who have dropped out of the labor force because they could not find work and people working part-time when they need full time work, minority unemployment is far higher.

The sharp increase in poverty in recent years is also concentrated among minorities. In the past three years well over five million people were added to the numbers of the poor.

A disproportionate number of the "new poor" are Black, and the percentage of Blacks who are poor has risen to 34.2, while 26.2 percent of Hispanics are poor.

Add to this the fact that the poor and minorities bear the brunt of the sharp budget cuts and you have a setting for trouble ahead since the fastest growing part of the population is also the poorest, the most subject to unemployment and the most vulnerable to dislocation in a changing economy.

When minorities made up a small fraction of Americans, their conditions were prone to be ignored. As their numbers grew and they became concentrated in urban centers, it became harder to ignore them, although the nation certainly did -- and does.

But can America hope to survive as an economic and world power without finally meeting the needs and aspirations of one-fourth of its population? Can such a huge minority continue to be excluded from the mainstream without enormous negative results for the shrinking majority?

Obviously not. Nor will tokenism take care of the problem. Even if white Hispanics, the most assimilated Asians, and the best educated Blacks are grudgingly admitted to full opportunities, the numbers of those left behind will overwhelm the system.

But more positively, the growth of America's non-white population offers our nation a marvelous opportunity. By concentrating on job creation, skills training, and quality education, and by finally ending racism and discrimination, America can tap enormous new human resources.

By initiating a large scale effort to bring full equality to its growing numbers of minority people America can ensure its future growth and prosperity -- for all Americans.

tion of Namibia. The Reagan Administration has continuously linked the discontinuation of the legal presence of Cuban troops to Angola to the withdrawal of the illegal South African occupation troops from Namibia. Troops which have only one objective, the maintenance of Apartheid in Namibia and the defeat and destruction of African freedom.

The insistence by the Reagan Administration on gaining these foreign policy objectives proves an imperialist, racist tendency inherent in the U.S. foreign policy structure. Tendencies clothed in the rhetoric of democratic ideals. This is especially so when the U.S. reaction to the Kenyan crisis is considered.

The United States sent messages of praise and support when it was learned that the government of President Daniel Arap Moi thwarted a coup attempt this month. The official U.S. statement was that the United States considered "...Kenya a good and close friend and that the United States would continue support...the democratically established Government of Kenya." Now on the face of matters these words sound like principled expressions of support from one democracy to another in time of crisis. Yet, the facts would tend to indicate that U.S. foreign policy in Kenya is more interested in strategic advantage in East Africa and the Indian Ocean, than it is in the democratic freedoms of Kenyans.

Just last month, the editor in chief of Kenya's second-largest daily newspaper was dismissed because he criticized the Kenyan Government for detaining people without trial. Before that, in June, the Kenyan Government transformed Kenya into a formal one-party state to prevent the establishment of a second political party. And all the while these events were taking place, not one voice of official protest was heard from the Reagan Administration in support of the preservation of Kenyan Democracy. Only quick praise to continuation of a governmental apparatus which now rules through authoritarian measures. The contradiction is clear.

The National Conference of Lawyers calls upon the African-American Community to confront all candidates, especially those seeking national office, to specify their foreign policy positions in black and white. Rhetoric is not enough. The Reagan Administration proves this. We must know if national candidates are committed to a foreign policy based on principles of freedom and justice. Principles which must also underlie any domestic policies of such candidates.

If freedom and justice, elements of any progressive community consensus, are not reflected in a national candidate's foreign or domestic policy, then that candidate is not worthy of our support. That candidate is to be considered an enemy and the African-American Community must shun that candidate and work for his defeat.

(We are the National Conference of Black Lawyers. The NCBL is an activist organization designed to use the talents and skills of its members in the battle against racism. If you have questions concerning this broadcast or concerning the organization, write us at NCBL, P.O. Box 675, Seattle, WA 98111.)



Coping

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Yes, You Are Normal!

Do you become just a little nervous when you have to deliver a speech in front of a large group of people? Does taking an examination make you nervous? Are you slightly nervous when you meet a stranger? Does a job interview slightly upset you? Is there anything at all that makes you even a little tense?

If your answer to any of these questions is "yes," do not worry because you are quite normal. No person is completely calm in every situation. Even the President of the United States gets nervous sometimes. Television stars, actors and actresses, contrary to popular belief, tend to be very shy in their personal lives. So, if you sometimes become nervous you are simply experiencing a very normal feeling that everyone has.

The nervousness, tension or stress may be referred to as insecurity or feelings of inadequacy. You simply do not feel that you are "good enough," you feel that you "just don't belong in this situation," you feel that you "will not do well," you feel that you "will fail," you feel that "others will not like you." But everyone feels this way at some time in life.

This feeling of insecurity becomes abnormal when it interferes with your normal behavior or when you are unable to perform appropriately in an endeavor that is important to you. Such feelings are abnormal if they

plague you long before and long after you participate in an activity, or if you feel nervous almost all of the time. In this case, you should consult a competent psychological counselor.

The feeling of insecurity should motivate you to be successful. It should motivate you to continue your efforts to do well and to achieve a goal that you want badly to achieve.

Abnormally insecure people become frustrated and disgusted if another person achieves success. They might even feel such overwhelming jealousy that they will verbally attack the successful person. Physical attacks are also the result of this jealousy.

Why does the insecure or inadequate person respond in this manner? If a person desires very greatly to achieve success in a particular endeavor by strongly feels incapable of doing so, such a person will be reminded of his/her incapability whenever someone else achieves success in that endeavor. When John wins the basketball contest, Joe is unhappily reminded of his lack of athletic ability and might dislike John for succeeding. If Jean wins the speaking contest, Martha will be reminded of her inability to deliver a good speech and might openly criticize Jean.

Some important points:

1. Our anxiety, and insecurity, is often caused by what we think we cannot do rather than what we know we cannot do. Many such people never try to do the very things for which they reject other people.

2. Our insecurity is based upon our negative self-image which began early in our lives.

3. It is normal to feel just a tinge of "jealousy" when someone succeeds at something at which we have failed.

4. Most feelings of stress or inadequacy happen almost automatically. We might feel nervous in certain situations without knowing the reason.

No one is perfect. Do what you can but do it well. Do not expect to do anything perfectly. You are only human.

VIEWPOINT



JULIAN BOND

Bad news for black parents

By Julian Bond

Here's the good news: Researchers at two U.S. universities have discovered a safer prenatal test for sickle-cell anemia.

Here's the bad news: Federal funding for this medical breakthrough is clouded by the politics of abortion.

That's right. The further development of a new technique that will relieve physical and emotional suffering for thousands of black Americans is endangered by its proximity to the heated national debate over abortion.

The two subjects couldn't seem more distant.

Sickle-cell anemia is a hereditary disease that may afflict as many as 50,000 black Americans. Some Arabs, Greeks, Italians and others of Mediterranean heritage are also susceptible.



The Black Family

By Ray Willis
Family Life Education,
Catholic Community Services

Are You Ready?

(Part I)

Looking at my calendar it appears once again time to bid farewell to summer vacation and begin preparing oneself for another school year. Parents, students and teachers who may have anxiously counted days, weeks, and even months for whatever reason (yes, your hour is almost near).

Forgotten will be those days of sleeping till noon, late curfews, parents saying find a job, and/or parents raising headaches worrying about what can be done to keep their teenagers out of trouble. Yes, the time is near with everyone crossing fingers praying for a better school than the one before.

Reality, however, has created an acute awareness that the honeymoon period won't last very long. It is foreseeable that certain events and incidents will repeat themselves again.

Many Black students will excel in academics, the performing arts, athletics, and other school related programs. Yet, an even larger number of Black youths will fall victim to poor motivation, behavior, and academic performances. Sadly others will receive suspensions or expulsions from school for various violations of behavior codes, only to continue the dismal cycle of failure.

The negative attitude and outlook that seems to develop within Black students in schools across this country continues to boggle the minds of parents, communities, school representatives and even students. We realize changes are needed in stereotyped attitudes and beliefs, school community relationships, out-dated school programs, and goals for teaching youths.

Perhaps this is the year such changes can be made for

The disease is characterized by abnormalities -- "sickling" -- in the red blood cells.

For many, the disease is mild and attacks are infrequent. But for others, it can be life-threatening.

One black American in 10 carries the sickle-cell trait. A child conceived by two carriers faces a 25 percent chance of having the disease.

Sickle-cell anemia can be detected by sampling fetal blood, a technique that poses serious risks to the fetus, or by a combination of laboratory tests on several family members.

The new test uses the technique of amniocentesis, which allows doctors to extract a small sample of amniotic fluid from the uterus of the pregnant woman. Chromosomal tests are then performed on the fluid to determine whether the fetus has the disease.

Amniocentesis is already used to diagnose nearly 100 genetic defects in a developing fetus.

Researchers believe that amniocentesis will reduce the risk, cost and length of time required to make an accurate diagnosis of sickle-cell anemia.

If the benefits of the new test are so clear, why hasn't research on it proceeded?

Because about half of all parents who learn that the child they conceived is afflicted with sickle-cell anemia choose to terminate the pregnancy.

The safer and swifter the test for determining sickle-cell anemia, say abortion opponents, the surer it is that parents will choose abortion over bearing a child who faces an early death or a lifetime of suffering.

Now the Reagan administration has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to give state and local governments greater power to restrict abortions. This puts the government squarely on the side of anti-abortionists.

If the new test for sickle-cell anemia falls victim to the administration's abortion politics, freedom from fear for thousands of black parents will have been aborted as well.

reaching your established goals. It would seem advisable that you make a commitment for working hard from the first day as a preventive step for breaking the patterns of failure that seems to be established in certain students, parents, and schools.

Next week, Are You Ready? Part II.

HEARINGS CALENDAR

The City Council's Budget Committee will hold six community meetings throughout the city to discuss 1983 budget priorities and alternatives available to the City Council for solving the City's financial situation. The meetings will consist of a briefing about the City's 1983 financial situation and a public discussion about 1983 service priorities, ways to reduce costs, and ways to raise additional revenue.

Norm Rice will chair the meetings. The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend these very important meetings. The location of the Town Hall meetings are as follows:

Northwest, Wednesday, September 1, 7:30 p.m., Ballard High School, 1418 N.W. 65th; Central Area/Capitol Hill, Thursday, September 2, 7:30 p.m., Langston Hughes, 104 17th Avenue South; Queen Anne/Magnolia, Tuesday, September 7, 7:30 p.m., McClure Middle School, 1915 1st West; Southeast, Wednesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m., Rainier Beach High School, 8815 Seward Park South; West Seattle, Thursday, September 9, 7:30 p.m., West Seattle High School, 4075 S.W. Stevens.



It is said that the famed cellist Pablo Casals owes his musical career to his mother, Pilar. His father, Carlos, a music teacher, wished him to become a carpenter.

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