

Point of View

Letter to Editor

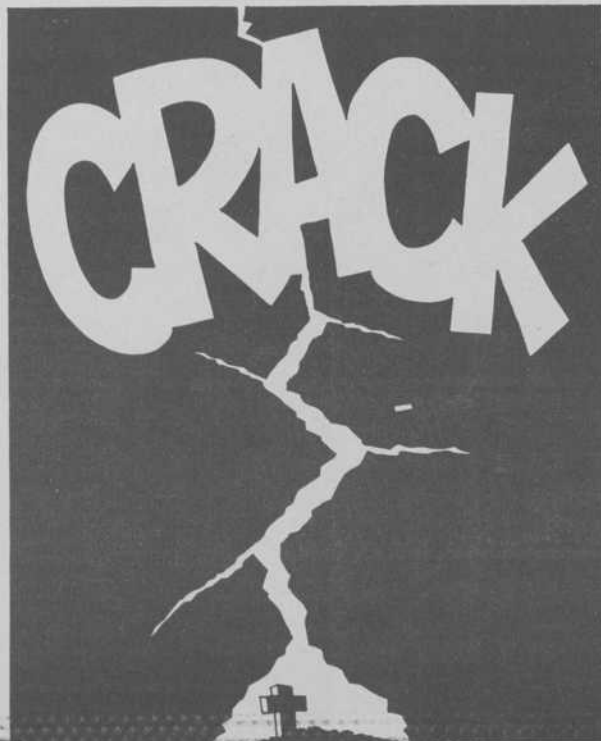
**MONEY, MONEY EVERYWHERE,
BUT WHERE WE NEED IT**

Dear Editor:

"Money can't buy everything," or so the saying goes. Well, if that is true, and maybe it is, what is more certain is that poverty will buy you even less. Still, given the choice, you have got to believe that most people would rather have money than not. Sometimes, the well-heeled do not speak of dollars and cents as such, they talk about their "lifestyles." Poor folks talk about "survival." Their lives don't have much style by anybody's definition of the word.

"Why doesn't the government do something," you ask? Well, they do. They institute all kinds of Federal grant studies and spend millions of taxpayer dollars in the process. Recently, one more Federal grant was given to study problems within the black community. This \$2.5 million grant is to be spent to study the reasons why so many blacks smoke. I know what you're thinking. The University of Massachusetts, who is doing the study, could save all us taxpayers \$2,499,999.75 by placing one telephone call and asking us. We would just tell them the simple truth. We smoke because we enjoy it. Now these college folks would probably never understand so simple an explanation. Good intentions aside, if all the millions of dollars that have already been spent to study the problems of the black community were given directly to the needy in the black community, our problems would be solved. If, for example, you deduct the 25 cent telephone call for our advice, the balance of this latest \$2.5 million study grant could be divided among 125,000 needy families providing them with \$20,000 each. Trust me, that would solve a lot of immediate problems.

Of course the Federal Government is not going to take this suggestion, for any number of reasons, including the fact that they have thousands of people working in Washington offices whose job it is to find recipients for such study grants. Just think of all the researchers and sociologists who are kept off the streets and on salary because of sociological studies on poverty. On the other hand, if they were on the streets, they might really get to see close-up, the reality of the serious problems some folks face each day, just trying to keep body and soul together.



BACK RESOURCES INC.

©1986 BRANDON JR.

To Be Equal

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION GETS THE GREEN LIGHT

by John E. Jacob

The Justice Department's war on affirmative action has been shot down by the Supreme Court, and it is now a flaming wreck.

The Supreme Court has just about finished defining what is permissible and acceptable in affirmative action plans. And in almost every instance, it has consistently upheld affirmative action programs — even those that use quotas to remedy blatant and intractable discrimination — in defiance of the Justice Department's stand.

The Court has recognized that past and present barriers based on race must be overcome by race-conscious measures that restore balance.

In the WEBER case, in 1978, it ruled that a private employer could reserve a specific number of places for blacks to remedy old patterns of segregation.

In the New York Sheet Metal Workers case in 1986, it approved court-ordered quotas to remedy blatant discriminatory practices by a union.

That same year, in the Cleveland firefighters case, it ratified the lower federal courts' discretion to issue consent decrees in which employers agree to preferential minority hiring and promotion plans, even if their employees object.

Earlier this year, the Court approved temporary quotas in promotions as well as in

hiring, to remedy the effects of past discrimination.

About the only area in



John E. Jacob

which the Supreme Court has ruled against affirmative action programs is when they conflict with existing seniority agreements.

Last month, the Court gave its broadest endorsement yet to affirmative action. And it may be the most important of all its decisions, because it covers the most common form of affirmative action.

The Supreme Court approved an employer's right to give preference to a female or

minority candidate for promotion, even without evidence of intentional past discrimination.

The Court's recognition of an employer's right to correct under-representation of women and minorities

that affirmative action plans do not trample on the rights of the majority and are framed to provide safeguards against abuse.

Affirmative action NEVER means hiring or promoting unqualified people; it does

*John E. Jacob is President Of
The National Urban League*

should spur companies to implement affirmative action programs without fear of reverse discrimination suits.

The case in question involved a woman promoted over a male candidate, but the principle extends to blacks and other minorities, as well.

And since the action approved by the Court was similar to the affirmative action programs mandated under federal executive orders for government contractors, the ruling has far-reaching implications.

In all of its rulings, the Court has acted to ensure

assure that qualified minorities and women get a fair chance to hold jobs from which they had been excluded.

Because the Court has overruled the Justice Department's position against affirmative action plans, numerical goals and guidelines, and remedies to past discrimination, affirmative action is now safe — a legal tool that provides employment opportunities to women and minorities long denied them.

CHILD WATCH

By Marian Wright Edelman
President
Children's Defense Fund

The Odds Facing Today's Teen Mother

When we worry about our children becoming parents in their teens, we have good reason. A teen mother's life today is a difficult struggle against the odds. The odds are even worse if she is black.

First, a teen mother faces a high risk of dropping out of school. Half of teen parents younger than 18 never finish school. Four out of 10 teen women who leave school cite pregnancy or marriage as the reason.

Those young mothers who do drop out are likely to have much lower income than their peers who finish school. They will bring home, on average, roughly half the income of young women who received their diplomas. Many of these young mothers who drop out have poor basic skills such as reading and math — a short coming that lower their

earning potential even further.

Not only are her earnings often low, a teen mother often must raise her child as a single parent. This type of family is especially common among black teens: nine out of ten births to black teenage girls today occur to unmarried women.

The black teen mother is especially likely to face a shortage of marriageable young black men — those who can support a family. Because of inadequate educational and employment opportunities, there are now only 43 employed young

See CHILD, Page 4

So, once again we taxpayers are going to underwrite a multi-million dollar study. This one, on why blacks smoke. Are they kidding us? Black communities have been studied to death. Problems were identified, labeled, examined in detail, and millions of dollars have been spent studying black poverty, single parent families, teen pregnancy, high school dropout rates and drug abuse. Well and good. These are all serious problems and concerns of the black community. The question now remains that since all these millions of dollars are available for a study on blacks' smoking, where is that money coming from and when are we going to get some funding to start solving some of our serious community problems?

Warren G. Jackson

The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one indicated as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication.