

## LED ASTRAY BY THE POVERTY 'EXPERTS'

(By Walter Williams)

Much of what's wrong in our country is the result of heeding the words of "experts" and "intellectuals," whose advice defies every notion of common sense.

Take skyrocketing black illegitimacy. But first, let's put it into perspective. In 1940, black illegitimacy was 19 percent. Today, it's 68 percent and estimated to be 75 percent by the year 2000. As early as the 1870s, up to 80 percent of black kids lived in two-parent families. Between 1905 and 1925, 85 percent of Harlem youngsters lived in two-parent families. Today, fewer than 40 percent of black kids live in two-parent families. The black family could survive slavery and Jim Crowism but not the welfare state.

During the '60s, now-Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan wrote a report concluding, "At the heart of the deterioration of the fabric of Negro family." At that time, black illegitimacy was 30 percent. Liberals attacked the report. Civil rights leader Bayard Rustin said, "What may be a disease to the white middle class may be a healthy adaptation of the Negro lower class." Floyd McKissick, director of COPE, echoed that sentiment, saying, "Just because Moynihan believes in middle-class values doesn't mean they are the best for everyone in America."

Those sentiments were supported by many, including supposed intellectuals. Andrew Cherlin, a Johns Hopkins professor and sociologist, argued it had yet to be shown that the "absence of a father was directly responsible for any of the supposed deficiencies of broken homes." Mr. cherlin concluded that the real issue "is not the lack of male presence but the lack of male income." In other words, fathers can be replaced by a monthly welfare check. That's a stupid idea, but we bought it.

When Mr. Moynihan completed his report, according to Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, attempts were made to repress its release. Professors Lee Rainwater and Williams Yancey suggested "it would have been well to reduce the discussion of illegitimacy because of the inflammatory nature of the issue with its inevitable overtones of immorality."

According to William Bennett, writing in the American Enterprise (January-February 1995), "More than 70 percent of black children will have been supported by Aid to Families with Dependent Children payments at one point or another during childhood." He adds, "The most serious problems afflicting our society today are manifestly moral, behavioral and spiritual, and therefore remarkably resistant to government cures." That recognition is thankfully slowly dawning upon us after years of listening to experts and their destructive nonsense.

But the experts are doing their level best to keep us befuddled. They continue to preach nonsense like the proposition that crime and other forms of antisocial behavior are caused by poverty. The truth of the matter is the causal direction may be the other way around: Poverty is caused by crime and antisocial behavior. After all, poverty is the likely result when a person does not respect the rights and property of others and ignores the values of hard work, sacrifice and deferment of gratification.

Congress has put welfare reform high on its agenda. In seeking advice on what to do, they should summarily disqualify all the experts whose advice we've listened to in the past that has resulted in today's calamity. If I had it my way, there'd be a blanket exclusion of anyone from any government agency dealing with poverty and anyone who has received a government grant to do research on poverty.

## DEMOLAY MONTH

## HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 1995

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, March is DeMolay Month, when the Order of DeMolay—an international Masonic-related, fraternal, civic service organization for young men 13 to 21—celebrates its 76th anniversary. DeMolay is a youth development organization based on seven virtues needed in today's society—filial love; reverence for sacred things, such as God; courtesy; comradeship; fidelity; moral and physical cleanness; and patriotism. DeMolay promotes scholarship and provides a full package of leadership, athletic, social, and civic service activities to interest today's young men.

This year Delta Chapter, located in Jenks, OK and 1 of 4 DeMolay chapters in my congressional district, celebrates its 60th anniversary. For the first time in its history, Delta Chapter was recently named 1994 Oklahoma DeMolay Association Chapter of the Year. Last year, the chapter sponsored two recycling drives and a severe weather seminar for the Jenks community and held civic service and charitable projects for the Tulsa and Jenks Community Food Banks, Scottish Rite Childhood Language Clinics, Tulsa Area Book Bank, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Green County, and the Oklahoma Masonic Home for the Aged.

Several prominent scientists, educators, business leaders, astronauts—and several former or current members of Congress—were active DeMolays in their youth. Distinguished political commentator and Tulsa-native Paul Harvey is a former member of Delta Chapter.

At a time when teenage drug use and gangs command the attention of the media, and teenage violence has reached near-epidemic levels, it is refreshing to recognize the leadership and good citizenship demonstrated by members of the Order of DeMolay.

## THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMUNICATIONS DEREGULATION

## HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 1995

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, Government regulations impose a tremendous burden on our Nation's economy. Excessive regulations result in higher prices for American consumers and fewer jobs for American workers. One of the primary goals of the Contract With America is to reduce onerous Government regulations and break down unnecessary barriers to competition. In that regard, I was especially interested to learn of a new study released by the independent Wharton Econometrics Forecasting Associates [WEFA] Group. Their study documents the positive impact that would result from greater competition in the U.S. communications industry. They conclude that full, immediate, and simultaneous competition in all communications markets would result in more jobs, lower prices, and a stronger economy. I urge my colleagues to carefully consider the results of the WEFA study as we continue to

more forward with our efforts to deregulate our Nation's economy.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DEREGULATING THE U.S. COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRIES—HIGHLIGHTS OF FINDINGS

## OVERVIEW

The 104th Congress is in the process of reforming the nation's outdated communications laws. A fundamental concern in this process involves when and to what extent cable TV, long distance and local telecommunications markets should be opened to competition. Opinions range from opening all markets immediately to creating lengthy approval processes for competitive entry.

A study released by renowned independent economic forecasting firm, The WEFA Group, quantifies the impact that various policy options will have on diverse economic indicators, including job-creation, economic growth, technological innovation, consumer savings and the balance of trade. Specifically, the WEFA study compares three approaches:

Immediate, full competition—removal of legal and regulatory barriers to market entry; change from traditional rate-of-return regulation to price-cap regulation for any noncompetitive service; complete deregulation of competitive services; and, all markets open simultaneously on January 1, 1996.

Competition phased in over two to three years—local competition occurs a year ahead of long distance competition, with full competition by 1998.

Competition phased in over four to five years—local competition occurs a year ahead of long distance competition, with full competition by 2000.

## FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

## I. Immediate competition means new jobs, economic growth, consumer savings

Full, immediate and simultaneous competition in all communications markets will result in more jobs, lower prices and a stronger economy than any other option. The study finds that immediate and full competition in the telecommunications industry will achieve:

## New jobs

3.4 million additional U.S. jobs would be created over the next ten years as a result of full, immediate competition in all communications markets. These jobs would be spread across all states and all major industry groups, including: 498,000 new jobs in manufacturing; 423,000 new construction jobs; 923,000 new jobs in wholesale and retail trade; 1.4 million new jobs in the service sector.

## Economic growth

Once competition is brought fully and immediately to the communications industry, the benefits of lower prices, enhanced services and newer technology will boost economic activity throughout the economy. Specifically, within ten years, America would experience: \$298 billion increase in annual Real Gross Domestic Product; \$162 billion increase in annual Real Personal Consumption; \$14 billion improvement in annual balance of trade; \$140 billion improvement in the annual national budget deficit; an average increase of \$850 in the per year disposable income of each U.S. household.

## Consumer savings

American consumers would receive substantial benefits from immediate competition in all communications markets. The study concluded that competition, which will bring greater network efficiencies, including bandwidth expansion and increased use of digital services, will result in a 23% decrease in telecommunications prices over