

Black English - Communication Folly

The teaching of so-called "Black English" to Blacks in place of standard English was forcefully condemned at a recent regional conference of English teachers from 37 black colleges, located in southern and border states.

Speaking on the topic of "The Black Perspective in the Teaching of Communication Skills," noted authority, Dr. Aaron Ford, Alain Locke Professor of Black Studies and professor of English declared that one of the most valuable contributions a black college or any college for that matter can make to a black student is in the realm of communication arts.

Noting that in the world of work the difference between success and failure for blacks who compete for jobs beyond the menial level is largely determined by the degree of their competency in the communication skills, Dr. Ford admonished his audience of teachers from the southern and border states. The urging by "white-pseudo-liberals and black chauvinists" who advocate the nonsense of making so-called black English the norm for teaching black students must be told and fought with vigor and determination. Further, they were urged not to lead our sons and daughters, who are capable of mastering standard English and any other language they so choose, down a one-way street to continued second class citizenship while their white classmates are preparing themselves to pass tests in standard English required for decent jobs that pay a living wage.

This paper has always abhorred the use of so call "black English" for we envision it as a means of decreasing the development of the best of our culture. Any new gimmick, offered by these so-called innovative liberals or chauvinist blacks and often aided by some foundations to spend money for such operations, can lead only up a one way street to a dead end of job opportunities.

It is well past time that all black parents take up arms against the vicious use and teaching of the so-called "black English" that will only stymie the growth and potential of our youth at any level.

When other ethnic minorities were climbing the hard ladder of upward mobility, no attempts were made to pigeon-hole broken mother tongue and broken English as the true language of their culture. Instead, many educational opportunities were available for them to go to evening schools and other classes to improve their communication skills. Even now, many centers are aiding the families of American servicemen who were wed to women that could not speak English. They are being encouraged, if they desire, to always speak and write the standard English. In fact, this is often the over riding factor when native youth of European and other cultures come to spend time with American families. Along the spoken English learned, they often learn many other facets of the written English word. This in itself should be and must be the signal for standard English teaching for all blacks and other minorities as well.

It is hoped that even more motivation, incentive and stress will be placed upon the need for continued teaching of standard English in the important arena of communications.

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Idle Hands Turn To Crime: It's A Community Challenge

"DUTY IS CARRYING ON PROMPTLY AND FAITHFULLY THE AFFAIRS NOW BEFORE YOU-IT IS TO FUL-FILL THE CLAIMS OF TO-DAY."



Praises Nixon's Personal Qualities And Leadership

WASHINGTON - A black former presidential aide this week chastised black groups—including the NAACP and the Congressional Black Caucus—which respond only to emotion and incendiary rhetoric, rather than logic and substance while praising President Nixon's personal qualities and leadership.

Two weeks ago the NAACP's board chairman, Bishop Stephen G. Spottswood labeled the Nixon Administration as "anti-black." The Caucus has been a frequent critic of the President for cutting back programs which affect blacks primarily. The Caucus is comprised of the 15 blacks in the House of Representatives, all of whom are Democrats).

"If I had a son, if I should have a son, I would want him to have the same qualities that Richard Nixon has," Robert J. Brown, former special assistant to the President said. "I have very strong feelings about the President, contrary to most black people. I think he is a fantastically warm person, tough but compassionate, with a sense of direction in doing what is right for all people in this country," added Brown, who was the highest ranking black during Nixon's first term in office before he departed last week.

According to a New York Times article, Brown also expressed support for the President's policies and programs, including the war in Southeast Asia, recent budgetary cutbacks in social programs, and Supreme Court nominees.

"The President has taken a hard look at the various programs, and those that don't work should not be kept. He looks at them objectively and I would hope black people look at them objectively, too," Brown said.

"But some people can't do that for obvious reasons. If I had a poverty job or headed a program, I would criticize too. But I think it says something about the President for having the guts to deal with those programs."

"One day," Brown declared, "at some point, black people are going to have to look at the record and make judgments based on facts rather than emotion, fiery speeches and

Busing Decisions Due Soon

WASHINGTON - Federal courts across the country have been tossing the ball back and forth over the question of busing black city children to suburban schools and the white suburban children to the inner city in an effort to achieve racially balanced school systems.

Last week, the nine-member Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati nullified a Dec. 8 decision by one of its three-judge panels to uphold the mass system-wide busing plan in Detroit. On Thursday, all nine judges of the court heard again arguments in the Detroit case and are expected to issue a new decision soon.

If the majority of the full court remains true to form, it is believed the busing plan will be upheld in Detroit. However, some pro-busing attorneys have foreseen a possible procedural snag that may force a retrial of the case from the beginning.

If the full court does uphold the busing plan, the decision would be in direct conflict with the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals which has invalidated a similar plan in Richmond. This would present two opposing alternatives to the U.S. Supreme Court which has said it will rule on the Richmond case this spring or summer.

Previously, the Sixth Circuit has divided itself into three judge panels and apportioned cases among them. Rarely is the decision of such a panel reversed. However, recently, one panel upheld mass busing in the Detroit area while another struck down a busing order in Chattanooga.

Therefore, the full court has taken the unusual step of rehearing both the Detroit and the Chattanooga cases in order to adopt a uniform policy on school desegregation in the four states of the Sixth Circuit, namely, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

New arguments in the Chattanooga case were heard by the full court last Dec. 14, but no new decision has been reported.

D.C. Two other offices are planned to be open in 1973. James E. Mack, president of B&C, said Mr. Brown will return to B&C Associates, Inc., as chairman of the board and chief executive officer. B&C, which is the nation's largest black-owned Public Relations firm.

TO BE EQUAL

By VERNON JORDAN
Executive Director, National Urban League

What Kind Of Peace?

It didn't end the way other wars have ended—with celebrations in the streets and with general rejoicing. The Vietnam truce was met instead with a kind of sullen gratitude that at long last this hateful, wasteful adventure was over, that the killing would now stop, and we would be freed from the daily assault on our consciences that this vile war brought us.

It was a war that gained nothing and cost much. The cost in human lives was terrible—about 46,000 Americans dead, 300,000 wounded, over 3 million Vietnamese dead and wounded, and over 8 million people made refugees.

The treasure spent in creating these horrors is staggering. The Pentagon admits to over \$100 billion in direct military costs, and many economists estimate a real cost to the economy on the order of \$400 billion. It's increasingly difficult to swallow such figures at a time when public poverty is given as the excuse for cutting domestic programs.

BEYOND THE COST IN LIVES and money, the war dealt a crucial blow to the spirit of the nation. The moral fervor that brought strong popular support for the civil rights movement and for broad social reforms at home, died in Vietnam's jungles. The war not only drained us of our young men and our tax dollars, it drained the self-confidence and righteous spirit needed to complete the reconstruction of America.

But this is all behind us now. Treaties have been signed, soldiers are coming home, the prisoners will be back, the war is over. The big question today is what kind of peace shall we have. It's a question posed by the President, and if the proposed budget is to be taken as an answer, it will be a very shaky peace indeed.

THE BROAD CUTBACK IN domestic spending, the planned end of the Office of Economic Opportunity and community action programs, higher Medicare payments, the freeze on housing, the dismantling of vital education and anti-poverty programs—all these add up to an attempt to roll back the little progress that has been achieved in the past decade.

There is no question that some domestic programs are expendable. Either they've outlived their usefulness, or they aren't succeeding. If such programs were the only ones getting the axe, there wouldn't be much to complain about. But other programs of proven usefulness and of major importance will fall too, and the people getting it in the neck will be the poorest and most in need.

IF ALL GOES UNDER THE explanation of keeping costs down to fight inflation, but the sacrifices are being asked of that part of the population that benefits least from a low-tax, low-inflation economy. And the man who is asked to make sacrifices so that programs that aren't working can be done away with, is not the man responsible for the malfunctioning program, but the fellow who has been let down by it.

To illustrate, look at the housing freeze. Some programs weren't working because some federal employees and some unscrupulous realtors and mortgage bankers conspired to steal the program dry. That was the problem. The solution: a freeze on all federally-backed housing. Who suffers from such a solution? The poor family that can't afford housing at today's inflated prices.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE: hospital costs are going up, so federal health aid to the aged costs the government more. The answer: charge old folks twice as much. Who loses: everybody, but especially the elderly. Who wins: no one.

This massive retreat from programs and promises of the past two decades amounts to a terrible breach of faith with the American people, a betrayal of the government's solemn word and deed. The excuse for hanging on in Vietnam was that we had to honor our commitments to the government there. Shouldn't we now honor our commitments to our own people?

WHILE DIPLOMATS are negotiating for the reconstruction of Vietnam, the Second Reconstruction in America, which promised so much and delivered so little, is being dismantled. The problems won't go away; they'll just grow and fester. This budget, short on dollars, is the most costly in years from the standpoint of the social changes this country so desperately needs.

What Ever Happened to Black America?

The above question was posed by a nation wide magazine weekly Newsweek of February 19, 1973. Vernon Jordan, national executive director of the National Urban League has answered the question in a most enlightening way for all Americans to see and read.

Speaking out on "Black America Now" Jordan emphasized the sad plight of black Americans now after the new Reconstruction Surge begun in the 50's, accelerated in the Kennedy-Johnson years, and now has been entrusted to an Administration elected only with marginal support by blacks and as such, feels no political obligation to them. It appears that in actuality, the Nixonians have in fact, delivered black America more tangible help than they have been credited with. However, those limits have now been narrowed to suit what some staffers say is an "understanding of the Majority will."

Non the less, the sad fact of life for blacks is that there is little pressure on the government to do anything more. America's conscience, captured in the 1960's have been either lost or forgotten by many of the liberal coalitions. They have been overwhelmed by the Black separatists who captured the attention of the media primarily shouting that black people did not want integration or any majority help at all. This coalition now has scattered in all directions with disaffection, despair and plain combat fatigue. White youths have now moved on to other causes.

It appears also that Democrats in Congress and in post-McGovern politics have grown nervous and gloomy about their long identification with blacks. Federal programs have long been a prime source of jobs for blacks. With the broad cutback in domestic spending; the dismantling of the

OEO, community action programs, higher Medicare payments, freeze on housing, the ending of vital education and various anti-poverty programs, will all add up to the attempt to cut back or roll back what little progress blacks have been able to achieve in the past decades.

However, not only will blacks suffer, but many, many millions of the white poor and working poor will suffer with the dismantling of the many helpful programs to improve their quality of life.

Of course, like any business operation, some federal employees, some unscrupulous real estate dealers or realtors and even mortgage bankers dealt unfairly and sought to steal the programs and the monies involved. Thus the freeze is on and as people say, the poor gets poorer and the rich gets richer.

However, the massive retreat from the many helpful programs and coupled with the return of veterans and with the war's cease fire, additional federal aids must be continued. America must not abandon all of its commitments to the poor too soon. Enormous progress has been gained from the black revolt and white response during the '50's and '60's, greater and much more than all the early quarters of century since Reconstruction.

However, even now while diplomats bargain for peace and the reconstruction of Vietnam and other areas, the second reconstruction in America, which promised so much and delivered so little, is being rapidly chipped away by administrative directive.

Don't expect the problems of the blacks and millions of the poor just to go away. They will just grow and become even more damaging unless adequate remedies are put into force immediately.

BLACK HISTORY

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
"WHAT IS THE ANSWER - WHITE ACCOMMODATION - ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY. THE DEBATE GOES ON."

DR. W.E.B. DUBOIS
"FOUNDER OF THE NIGERIA MOVEMENT, FORERUNNER OF THE N.A.A.C.P. AUTHOR OF BLACK RECONSTRUCTION."

MARCUS GARVEY
"BLACK NATIONALISM. A RACE WITHOUT AUTHORITY AND POWER IS A RACE WITHOUT RESPECT."

MALCOLM X - THE MAN, THE PROPHECY, THE REVOLUTIONARY, THE MARTYR.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING
"HE DID NOT EMBRACE NON-VIOLENCE OUT OF FEAR OR COURAGE. HE CHALLENGED INJUSTICE WITHOUT A GUN!"

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL
"HE FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHT OF THE BLACK COMMUNITIES TO SELECT ITS OWN REPRESENTATIVES."

Things You Should Know

CHAKA

1786 - 1836

RANKED BY SOME HISTORIANS AS HISTORY'S GREATEST CONQUERER, THIS ZULU WARRIOR CONQUERED MILLIONS WITH HIS ARMY OF 100,000! CALLED "ELEPHANT" BECAUSE HIS FOOTSTEPS SHOOK THE EARTH, HIS GENIUS REVOLUTIONIZED MILITARY SCIENCE

YES, WE ALL TALK

By Marcus H. Boulware, Ph.D.

There is no sense in reading a manuscript; that is the approach that Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm takes when making a public speech. She tries to present her materials in a manner that both reinforces and emphasizes the subject. Her oral presentation is reasonably direct, especially emphatic in gestures indicative of the major points, clearly enunciated, and easily heard.

THIS WOMAN has been on the platform many, many times. Although she has spoken often in public, she considers each speaking engagement her first important challenge. This provides the opportunity for her oratorical talents to unfold as never before.

Mrs. Chisholm uses a "pressure type" delivery to get her audience to do something worthwhile. This pressure seems to indicate that "No" will not be accepted as an answer. There is a certain credibility that highlights her message.

LOOKING BACK TO THE FORTIES

FRANKIE 'SUGAR CHILE' ROBINSON
"THE AMAZING 6-YEAR OLD PIANO PRODIGY (1945) WHO NEVER TOOK A LESSON IN HIS LIFE BEGAN TO PLAY SIMPLE TUNES AT 1 1/2 YEARS. HE LEARNED HIS ALPHABETS AND BEGAN TO READ AT 2 1/2. AT 3 HE ASTONISHED HIS FAMILY BY RANGING 'OUT' 'TUXEDO JUNCTION' HE STARTED SCHOOL AT 5 AND IN THE FIFTH GRADE AT 7. BORN AND DISCOVERED IN DETROIT, MICH. A TREMENDOUS BOX OFFICE ATTRACTION HE EARNED AS HIGH AS \$12,000 A WEEK AT AGE OF 8. HIS BOOGIE-WOOGIE PIANO STYLE CAREER LASTED UNTIL 1954 WHEN HE RETIRED. AFTER HIGH SCHOOL HE ENTERED OLIVET COLLEGE (MICH) IN 1957."

VALAIDA SNOW
"WORLD-FAMOUS SINGING STAR AND TRUMPET PLAYER, SPENT 20-MONTHS IN A NAZI-PRISON CAMR. SHE WAS FREED IN 1942. A GREAT VERSATILE STAR, SHE ONCE SANG IN RUSSIAN, JEWISH, ENGLISH AND PLAYED THE TRUMPET, VIOLIN, PIANO AND DRUMS IN A BROADWAY SHOW."

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