

Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands

"THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING ECONOMIC CLOUT IS OBVIOUS. CLOUT IS NOT MAINTAINED WHEN BLACK DOLLARS ARE GOING INTO BUSINESSES THAT PUT THE MONEY INTO THE SUBURBS INSTEAD OF BACK INTO THE BLACK COMMUNITY ECONOMY."

MICHIGAN CHRONICLE



SUBURBIA



BLACK COMMUNITY " " " " " "

EDITORIALS

Welfare--Fact or Fiction

As the Carter Administration works to better adjust the welfare problems that have seemingly become the battle cry of millions of middle-income taxpayers, its first task is to secure the actual facts surrounding the Welfare Programs. Before any meaningful or effective adjustments can be made, the Carter Administration must strip the programs down to the point where it can be viewed in the bold relief of truth.

Heretofore, the welfare programs and problems have been hampered and often distorted by rumors and misconceptions that bear little resemblance to the truth as to who really receives needed welfare benefits. Of course, such rumors and misconceptions can be reinforced when Business Week Magazine features on its cover, the \$60 billion Welfare Failure, by showing a collage of food stamps, ragged blue jeans, medicine - and painting of a black mother with two children accompanied by a silhouette of a man.

Even though many protests were made, that picture remains in the minds of many middle-income persons who saw it.

The rumor and misconception that blacks receive the greater part of such aid should be viewed and compared with the latest reported FACTS on the issue.

The typical family on welfare is WHITE, not BLACK, with 2,800,000 white families receiving public assistance as of 1974 and as against 1,500,000 black families.

Whites also outnumber blacks in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) programs. In May 1975, according to the National Center for Social Studies of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 3,400,000 families received assistance under AFDC. Of this total, 1,700,000 were white; 1,500,000 were black.

Consider the Food Stamp Program. In July 1975, a full 4,400,000 households participated in the program. Of this total, 62 per cent were white households and 36 per cent were black households.

A far larger percentage of blacks are poor in this country than whites. In 1976, 27.1 per cent of black families had incomes that fell below the official poverty line, compared with 7.7 per cent of white families. This means that one's chances of being poor are greater if one is black than white.

However, these figures should not lead us to conclude that poor blacks outnumber poor whites. THEY DO NOT. The total of poor white families in 1975 was far greater (3,800,000) than the total of poor black families which was 1,500,000.

When facts and not fiction become a part of the bare truths of the Welfare Programs - meaningful benefits can then be adjusted, advanced and improved for the total good of the nation.

Tax Re-Evaluations

The huge outcry by many Durham city and county residents about the apparent unusually high increases added to their taxable properties calls for a closer look at how such re-evaluations were made.

Many widows, senior citizens and other citizens are now wondering how some eight (8) to ten (10) thousand dollar increases have been added to their property values during the period of a depressed economy. Many of these homes have had neither additions nor improvements or repairs.

Some of the homes, located within the Durham City limites are very old, but yet, on the reappraisal, the evaluation has doubled, while after spending millions of dollars on revitalized properties have received substantial decreases in tax evaluation from this appraisal.

It may be well at this time to recall the old historical warning that the "power to tax involves the power to destroy."

To Be Equal

Carter's Youth Jobs Program

First, the good news. The Carter Administration has announced a \$1.5 billion youth jobs program that it expects will create meaningful jobs for 200,000 people in the 16 - 24 age brackets.

And the bad news? Well, the program stops far short of the kind of comprehensive youth development program our nation needs. It's an important first step toward the goal, but no one should mistake the initial step forward for the final destination.

And it's not an unflawed first step, either. Unless Congress and Labor Department officials plug the gaps, the program could well go the way other well-intentioned programs have gone.

That's because the bulk of the money will go to some 466 state and local governments for youth work projects. The history of other national programs left to local governments to administer reveals a pattern of neglecting the most serious problem areas the programs were originally intended to deal with.

In the youth job program, the intent is clearly to do something to solve the persistent unemployment of economically disadvantaged young people. Many are black - teenage black unemployment is triple that for whites, and in many inner-cities affects two-thirds and more of all black teenagers who want to work.

Targeting the program to fit the needs of

poor and minority young people would mean very strict federal guidelines and the funneling of program funds through community-based agencies with a history of serving the disadvantaged, and with deep roots in the affected communities.

By diffusing the youth jobs funds to 466 governmental units to distribute, the Administration inevitably leaves the program vulnerable to subsidizing jobs for youngsters not in urgent need of assistance while neglecting other youngsters who desperately need help.

While an urban neighborhood improvement program will be set up, putting young people to work refurbishing inner-city neighborhoods, more money and more jobs will go to a similar program for parks and recreation areas, most of which are removed from central city areas where youth unemployment is highest.

And while a large block of money has been set aside for experimental projects, the Labor Department has to take steps to ensure that the same old universities and thinktanks with no real ties to minority and poor communities won't repeat past performances by skimming off most of the funds.

Despite these and other faults, the program holds great promise; it's an important first step. Still on the horizon is a comprehensive youth employment program that aims to provide every young person with the education, skills, training

By VERNON E. JORDAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE



and work habits to enable him to become a fully productive member of our society.

That's something that requires more than just creating work opportunities; it means a carefully designed program geared to the needs of youth.

And a central part of such a plan should be an educational component that repairs the damage done to so many youngsters by inadequate schools. Alongside of the jobs, there should be classes that teach basic reading, writing and math skills needed for today's decent jobs.

And part-time jobs should not be neglected either. Providing work opportunities need not encourage dropping out of school if jobs and stipends become available to enable young people to continue their schooling. That's the difference between an emergency crash program to get kids off the streets and into work experiences, and a comprehensive long-term program that seeks to widen individual opportunities and encourage independence.

With enlightened foresight and close cooperation with minority groups and community based national organization, the Administration's program can be refined and sharpened to ensure success. Then, it can serve as a base from which a truly all-encompassing program to serve our nation's youth can be developed.

Congressman Hawkins' Column

By Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins

Affirmative Action Fighting Another Battle

The case of trying to provide equal educational opportunities to minorities in this country, will face its severest test, when the United States Supreme Court reviews the ruling of the California Supreme Court's Bakke decision.

Allen Bakke, who is white, applied for admission to the University of California's medical school, at Davis, Mr. Bakke was refused admission.

He brought suit against the university, charging that minority students "less qualified" than he, were admitted to the school, thus pre-empting the slot to which he otherwise might have had access.

There is evidence, however, that Bakke's accusation falls pretty short because while he has unfortunately focused his case against the University's minority admissions program, other white students who ranked below him, were admitted due to their parents wealth or political

power. What Bakke is doing though, is raising the whole question of the access of minorities to equal opportunities through the affirmative action process.

And the consensus among civil and human rights groups is that the United States Supreme Court's decision in this case will prove to be as monumentally important as the school desegregation decision in 1954.

At this point no one knows which way the Court will go in this matter. There are those that believe that the Court should not hear the case, because the University's development of the record is poor, ill-timed, and ill-advised. The University feels otherwise, and has so moved.

The irony in the University's position, is that their support of affirmative action in faculty hiring and minority student admission has been lukewarm at best; and even down-right hostile in some instances.

It took the University of California at Berkeley for example, four years to come up with an affirmative action plan that projected hiring 178 minorities and/or women in 30 years! The plan estimated that within that time, the following might be hired: 97 women, 20 blacks, 42 Asians, 10 Chicanos, no Native Americans, and nine "others". This could hardly be called moving "with all deliberate speed!"

Lest someone get the notion that paralysis and immobilization has struck the minority community, it should be noted that a prestigious array of talent has been organized to battle this thing down to the wire. Included is the Congressional Black Caucus, the N. A. A. C. P., the National Urban League, and the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund.

And they are all ready to bite the bullet!

FCC Commissioner



Benjamin L. Hooks

A Renewed Support of the Black Press

The National Newspaper Publishers Association, representing some 200 Black Newspapers in the U. S., Canada, and the Virgin Islands, held its Mid-Winter Workshop recently in Washington, D. C. The event also marked the Sesquicentennial (150 years) of the Black Press and was the occasion for some soul searching introspection.

The NNPA's theme, "The Search for a Black Ideology - The Role of the Black Press" was indeed appropriate for these uncertain times when the Black Press is becoming more and more the object of criticism, especially by young blacks, some of whom are questioning outright whether there is, indeed, a continuing need for such a medium.

It was interesting to observe some of the representatives of the Black Press, many of whom are legendary or near legendary figures, wandering casually through the lobby, halls and meeting rooms of the International Inn when the conference was held. They were casually exchanging greetings, enjoying a brief hearty laugh, engaging in small talk, or off in a corner lost in serious conversation, or solemnly eating, singly and in groups, their minds racing ahead to next meeting or seminar.

There were, to name a few: energetic Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, NNPA president who is also publisher of the Sun-Reporter in San Francisco; blunt talking, but shrewd William O. Walker, NNPA chairman, Black Press Archives, and publisher of the Cleveland Call and Post; John H. Murphy, III, slender, pre-occupied, he of the famous Baltimore Afro-American Murphy clan; John H. Sengstacke, of the Chicago Defender, his strong bulldog-like jaw symbolizing the toughness and tenacity that has kept the Black Press alive and thriving for a century and a half; charismatic John H. Johnson, of Ebony-Jet magazines; Ms. Ophelia De Vore Mitchell, still looking more like the famous beauty consultant whose De Vore

Girls in the 50's and 60's were among the most sought after models in the nation, publisher of the Columbus Times; Mrs. Lucile Bluford, whose gentle demeanor gives no indication of true occupation - editor of the Kansas City Call; quiet, efficient Longworth Quinn, editor-publisher of the Michigan Chronicle, one of the nation's most successful black newspapers.

And so they were gathered there, a group of intelligent hardworking men and women whose watchword is commitment - commitment to the ideal of making this country one in which every man and woman is treated as a decent and deserving child of God and country, where all are equal under law.

They are worthy successors to the founding fathers of Black Press; the fiery Rev. Samuel Cornish, Presbyterian minister, and John Russwurm, the second black college (Bowdoin) graduate in the history of the country. In March, 1827 in New York City, conditions for blacks were almost as wretched as they were for the chattel slaves in the south. The "draft" riots in which largely mobs of immigrant Irish took to the streets and killed more than 1,000 blacks, was yet to come.

But employment, housing and social conditions for people of color were such sympathetic observers were appalled. It was at that time that Russwurm and Cornish started Freedom's Journal, the first black newspaper in this country.

It was designed to give a voice to the voiceless, to agitate against the wretched living conditions of blacks in the north and to champion the abolitionist cause against hated slavery in the south.

Today, the Black Press is yet the advocate against prejudice and discrimination; for decency, equality, fraternity.

Yet, the ever lengthening stream of young blacks, armed with degrees in journalism and communications from the nation's universi-

ties are unsure where to place their hearts and skills. They are idealistic and sensitive to black concerns, but decry their limited options: going to the white press for a decent salary and limited reportorial freedom or working with the Black Press with wide-ranging freedom to write, report and investigate - a young reporter's delight - but small salary.

The Black Press is aware of this. A broad capital base is needed but there is difficulty, yet, in securing the blue chip national advertising that makes this possible. But NNPA - the Black Press is tackling this thorny problem head on with the never-say-die spirit that has characterized its astonishing survival in the past.

Washington, D. C.'s first elected mayor in a century, Walter Washington, told NNPA: "There has never been a time in the history of this country that we needed the Black Press more."

And successful black publisher John H. Johnson put his finger on a crucial point. "We deal with stories and events that the white press does not always deem important or worthy."

The Black Press needs no new ideology, just a continuing vigilance and vigor and a renewed support from all of us.

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UNEQUALLED AMONG LATIN POETS,

HE WAS ALSO ONE OF THE GREATEST HUMANISTS OF ALL TIME / BROUGHT TO ROME AS AN AFRICAN SLAVE, HE WAS SO LEARNED THAT HIS MASTER FREED HIM / HE LEFT SIX MAJOR PLAYS - 1 PUBLISHED COUNTLESS TIMES IN ALL LANGUAGES - WHICH SERVED AS MODELS OF FLAWLESS LATIN STYLE FOR STUDENT PLAYWRITERS INCLUDING JULIUS CAESAR, CICERO & HORACE /



"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who propose to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the oceans majestic waves without the awful roar of its waters."

- Frederick Douglass