



EDITORIALS

Lest We Forget

William C. Friday, president of the University of North Carolina Higher Education system has apprised the Board of Governors that "it should not place itself any longer in the position of attempting to formulate and implement specific commitments in response to vague, confused and unexplained directions from HEW". Friday also proposed that he continue to carry out the commitments the Board of Governors made in the 1974 plan for desegregation of higher education.

Friday's remarks were in reference to Judge John Pratt's admonition that the "process of desegregation must NOT place a greater burden on black institutions or black students' opportunity to receive a quality public higher education."

"The desegregation process should take into account the unequal status of black colleges and the real danger that desegregation will diminish higher educational opportunities for blacks . . . it is the responsibility of HEW to devise criteria for higher education desegregation plans which will take in account the unique importance of black colleges and at the same time comply with Congressional mandates."

Friday's great concern about what he contends to be mutually exclusive goals may stem from his misinterpretation of history.

President Friday stated that to achieve the goals that Judge John Pratt set out would "require that we recognize that the factor that makes the system racially dual is the predominantly black enrollment in those five institutions . . ."

Lest we forget that the duality of the university system did not stem solely from the mere black attendance at those five universities, we should be reminded that these five black institutions historically EXIST for the purpose of keeping the blacks out of the other eleven state institutions of higher education. For example, Fayetteville State University is celebrating its 100th anniversary, but in reality is 110 years old and it actually followed the University of North Carolina; North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University came into being in 1891, after being lifted from Shaw University at Raleigh and started as a land grant college; Elizabeth City State University came into being in 1891 and was set up by Hugh Cale, a black legislator; and Winston-Salem State University, founded as the Slater Industrial Academy on September 28, 1892, recognized by the State of North Caro-

lina in 1895 and chartered by the State as the Slater Industrial and State Normal School and in 1925, had the names changed to Winston-Salem Teachers College, becoming the first black institution in the United States to grant degrees for teaching in the elementary grades; while North Carolina Central University, after several name changes, became the first state supported liberal arts institution of higher education and did not receive state support until 1925.

The official policy and laws of the state commanded DUALITY; that is, one institution for whites and one institution for blacks.

In fact, McKissick vs. Carmichael (1951) and Frasier vs. the Board of Trustees (1956) of the University of North Carolina sought to establish a NON-DUAL system of education. Thus, Dr. Friday's population standards could have been achieved LONG before the Judge John Pratt decision.

Having failed to establish a non-dual system at that time, the better alternative now is to put additional money into the five predominantly black institutions for improved physical facilities, adequate salaries, lower teacher or instructor-pupil ratios and other needed improvements so that these institutions of higher education will be attractive to all the citizens of the state. In order to achieve what has been termed mutually exclusive goals, it will be necessary to reverse the recommendations of the now defunct State Board of Higher Education.

Lest we forget, that Board of Higher Education recommended that the budget of one predominantly black university should be decreased while the budget of a predominantly white university should be proportionately increased until they could attract substantial numbers of black students. Therefore, Judge Pratt's goals can be accomplished by a firm and greater commitment of the State's resources to the historically deprived predominantly black institutions of higher education.

North Carolina can COMPLY with the requirement of not casting the greater burden of desegregation on the historically black institutions of higher education and it can also COMPLY with Congressional mandates.

But, in order to do so, the State must make the commitment that it, in allocating state resources to predominantly black institutions of higher education, must first go through a period in which the State is COLOR CONSCIOUS before it can become truly COLOR BLIND.

Benjamin L. Hooks

A Forward Step In The Public Interest

For more than two months now a Minority Ownership Task Force, headed by Ms. Patricia Russell, deputy director of the Commission's Industrial EEO Unit, has been formulating plans for the Federal Communications Commission's Minority Broadcasters, Ownership Conference.

The conference, a two-day affair (April 25-26) will for the first time in the history of the Commission take a serious look at several aspects of the industry that appear to be stumbling blocks to minority entry to and survival in broadcast ownership of commercial and non-commercial properties.

Some weeks ago, I wrote in this column of a meeting of black broadcasters. They conferred in a day-long conclave in Washington, D. C., under the auspices of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). I addressed the meeting as did FCC chairman Richard E. Wiley.

Apparently the conference was a success. The NAB was concerned that there was now a group of minority broadcasters who belong to the organization along with a group who, for whatever reasons does not. It seems the meeting was a success in that it permitted minorities to air some of their real as well as fancied grievances and to confront in concrete ways some experts who hold keys to the elimination of some of the more pressing stumbling blocks to smooth business operation that don't necessarily burden their white counterparts.

Soon after that meeting, chairman Wiley, I am happy to say, announced that the FCC would hold a two-day conference to look into some of

the more egregious minority broadcaster charges in respect to difficulties in entering and succeeding in the complex and highly competitive world of broadcasting.

It is a singularly important conference and I hope that many interested blacks, especially those in opinion making positions, not merely the owners or potential owners of broadcast properties, will attend.

All meetings will be at the FCC, 1919 M St., NW, Room 856, Washington, D. C. If that room becomes too crowded, provisions are being made to accommodate an overflow audience in a second room which will receive a video-feed from the main conference room.

Topics to be addressed on Monday, April 25, are: (1) Sources of Financing - Federal and Private. This panel will include representatives from various federal and private funding sources, and minority broadcasters; (2) Access To and Use of Professional Help. This panel will include communications broadcasters, attorneys and educators from schools of communications.

On Tuesday, April 26, there will be a panel on Operational Problems as Barriers To Entry. This panel will include advertisers, rating services and minority broadcasters who have diverse program formats. And finally, there will be panel on Public Policy Relating to Minority Ownership. This panel will include each overview speaker from previous panels, Commission personnel, representatives from the House and Senate Subcommittees on Communications and attorneys who are knowledgeable in the area of public policy concerns relating to minority ownership.

FCC Commissioner



All of us know by now that owning and operating a business is difficult. The problems that are attendant to the operations of a bank, an insurance company or a savings and loan association are the same as those of an apple stand, barber shop, shoe shine stand or barbecue restaurant.

There is merely a difference in scale. Of all the small businesses that begin operation in any given year, 20 per cent fail in the first year, and there is an attrition rate of failure that continues in succeeding years. This is true regardless of race or color of whatever the entrepreneur.

So a small business venture is a high risk venture at best and radio being such a highly complex and competitive enterprise, is no exception to this failure-success syndrome. There are, however, peculiar problems that confront the black entrepreneur in this high selected field that do not assail his white counterpart on the same mammoth scale: financing the initial purchase, securing national advertising to insure survival and ultimate operational success; securing skilled help at a cost.

The historic conference will address these vexing problems and hopefully point the way to the solution of some. The FCC wants to bring more diversity of voices to Over-the-air broadcasting. More minority ownership of radio-TV licenses will help bring this diversity to the marketplace.

There, anything that impedes the entry of minorities or operates against their making a success in this competitive field is against the public interest the FCC is mandated to serve.

Congressman Hawkins' Column

By Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins

Jobs and Crimes

The high jobless rate and its relationship to increases in crime is an idea which has been debated over the last few years. However, statistics have shown that, as joblessness spreads and the economy recedes, crime rises. A Federal Bureau of Prisons study indicates a strong correlation between increases in national unemployment levels and federal prison populations, when the statistics are adjusted for the 12 to 15 month usual lapse between the commission of a crime and imprisonment.

The picture is pretty clear; people need money to live and feed themselves and their families, but without jobs and economic security the disillusionment and frustration can turn many of them toward crime. Many of the crimes are "property related," from bank robbing to shop-lifting, and although authorities are cautious about blaming the increase of crime on the economic situation alone, one thing must appear obvious and that is that people aren't going to sit back quietly and starve.

And what about our nation's young people? They are not being offered much help or future if youth joblessness and its result, increase in youth crime remains at a high level. Patrick V. Murphy, the former commissioner of police for

New York City told an ad hoc hearing of the Congressional Black Caucus that, "The answer to the problem of crime must come from society at large, but a society which allowed the unemployment rate to reach almost nine per cent and the unemployment rate for black youths to reach 40 per cent or more must be judged as unthinking in its approach to crime."

It is time to bring out unemployed people back into the mainstream of society. A national policy of fully employment implies an effort by society that every person who is willing and able to work has a right to dignity, a job and a worthwhile wage. A country which doesn't embrace and put into action the concept of full employment is one which may cause a compounding of the effects of social problems which exist in part, as a result of high unemployment.

Blacks and other minorities who grow up in abject poverty in the urban ghettos are often not provided with sufficient tools to better themselves when jobs are difficult to obtain. A book written about the life story of Connie Hawkins, an ex-pro basketball player, brought to life the trying and dreary conditions a young man is subjected to while growing up in the ghetto. The book suggests that, if you weren't good enough

to make a career out of basketball, alternative opportunities were limited. The opportunities that were easily available were things such as dealing in drugs, being involved in gang wars, burglaries, muggings, and other related criminal activity.

I think that it is time for America to institute policies using our human resources in a more constructive and beneficial way instead of leaving vast numbers of these human resources idle and useless. One way is to see to it that all who want work will have the opportunity.

We live in a great country which has achieved great accomplishments and goals. It has always been the desire of our nation to be a model, and a beacon of hope for other countries, but we need to develop this beacon for all of our citizens, by providing them with the opportunities for the good life.

A major opportunity for the good life, is a good job, free from the fear of economic depression.

A society where the economy is healthy and supportive of all who are able to work and want to, has the best chance of beating crime, at any level.

To Be Equal

Urban Aid Needs Better Focus On Poor

By VERNON E. JORDAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

LEAGUE



The Department of Housing and Urban Development, with an appropriate sense of urgency, has sent proposed legislation to Congress designed to advance the economic development of hard-pressed cities.

The plan would free \$400 million to Urban Development Action Program that qualify as "a comprehensive action plan and strategy to alleviate physical and economic distress through systematic change."

Further, such programs "Should be developed so as to take advantage of unique opportunities to attract private investment, stimulate investment in restoration of deteriorated or abandoned housing stock, or solve critical problems resulting from population out-migration or stagnating or declining tax base."

That sounds fine, but in legislative terms, such language is too open-ended, too susceptible to use for purposes that don't actually help the intended beneficiaries - the poor and low-income residents of inner-cities.

HUD, in its commendable haste to get an emergency urban aid bill to the Congress, neglected to consult with a wide enough range of interrelated citizens' groups, with the result that the legislation is flawed.

The language of the bill suggests it's aimed at helping the poor, that it's intended to expand economic opportunities for low and moderate income people. But there are no safeguards to ensure this will happen.

We know from past experience that the federal government has passed legislation supposed to help the poor by putting large amounts of money into cities, only to have those cities spend the money on middle and upper income neighborhoods.

Yes, cities have to apply for the grants by submitting plans, but the Community Development

Bloc Grant Program, to which the new urban grants would be tied, also requires submission of plans and it has not benefited the poor. It is typical of the no-strings, bloc grant programs that whatever benefits they include for the poor are wiped out by side effects: Remember Urban Renewal?

I'm not saying this new plan will go the way others have, but with the kind of track record such programs have compiled, why take chances? Another failure will just provide ammunition for those who would like to see all urban aid programs ended.

Congress does have some options. One would be to cut the number of cities down to make the program a demonstration, in other words, rather than put out a lot of money to a lot of cities, concentrate large amounts of money on a few cities to show what could be done. HUD would select the most promising proposals that provide for urban economic development targeted at the low income groups traditionally left out of such plans, and monitor the projects closely. After such model programs are proved workable, the program can go national in a Marshall Plan form.

Politically, that's hard to bring off. Congressmen want money for their cities too. That's what happened back in 1966 when a ten-city demonstration program was expanded to 150 cities, and then ballooned out of control.

So if Congress decides to keep the program broad-based, it must build in the safeguards that will ensure that substantial expenditures are made directly in lower income neighborhoods.

It ought to be clear by now that no city can improve its economic base without simultaneously taking actions to improve the lives of its low-income citizens. And the reverse is true, too - cities can't improve the situation of their deprived groups without also boosting the local

economy. Without pretty stiff requirements that approved projects will provide economic and housing opportunities for the poor, this new program may prove to be a boon for land speculators and industries knocking down the dwellings of the poor to put up luxury housing or high technology plants that don't create jobs for the jobless.

HUD's mistake in sending this flawed proposal to the Congress is understandable; there is such a crying need for immediate action that it simply didn't consult with all the groups it should have. It listened, heard the mayors call for immediate money, and responded. That's a lot better than the benign neglect of the past, but the stakes are just too high not to call the race off and start again - slower maybe, but more thorough and ultimately of greater benefit to those who need help most.

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Things You Should Know

James P.

BECKWORTH...



BORN IN VIRGINIA AROUND 1790,

SON OF A SLAVEWOMAN & A WHITE OFFICER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR / HE

WORKED AS A GUIDE FOR WAGON TRAINS

BETWEEN THE EAST AND CALIFORNIA - AS A TRAPPER, HUNTER,

INTERPRETER & FEARLESS FIGHTER OF INDIANS - BUT NEVER

GREW RICH / HE DIED ON A MISSION FOR THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT 1868.

"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