

Closing the Door After the Horse is Out Doesn't Get Black Votes

Black elected officials, ministers, heads or black organizations, college presidents and leaders in various walks of life were invited to a meeting at the White House. These were blacks from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. The meeting was called by Presidential Assistant Louis Martin at the request of the President. During the two and a half hour morning session, Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs, Pat Harris, Dick Watson, Assistant to the President on Intergovernmental Affairs, Bill Dyess, of the State Department and Hamilton Jordan talked to the group. The invited guests had the opportunity to question these officials. They reported that many tough questions were asked. It was said that Hamilton Jordan spoke of the many things the President has done for blacks; that he has appointed around four black Federal Judges in the South and one Appellate Court Judge; he has appropriated 20 million for black colleges. This is hardly a drop in the bucket for the colleges, when one considers the appropriations for scientific research and the arts that the white colleges get from the federal government. Jordan



FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

By ALFREDA L. MADISON

also said that the President has reduced unemployment among blacks.

Secretary Harris told the group that she is committed to providing more housing for the low-income people.

At one thirty, the group gathered in the Blue Room, where the President addressed them. He said that he and these officials were both elected by the people to serve their best interests. He stated that not only have many blacks been elected, but they have moved into more elevated positions. He said that all of this was a result of the civil rights movement, and that blacks are still in the civil rights movement, working for more gains.

Mr. Carter spoke of his fight to reduce inflation which has been plaguing the country for ten years. He

said that health care cost is astronomical and that doctors and hospital owners are fighting the reduction of the cost, the oil people are fighting windfall profits tax. He implored the officials help in putting pressure on their congressmen to get this proposals through Congress.

The President said that Secretary Harris is doing a superb job in providing low-income housing. He stated that 2.2 million homes were built in 1977 and the same in 1978. These provided jobs. The President also said that one hundred thousand new jobs have been provided for black teenagers.

Mr. Carter got the only applause from the group when he spoke of the United States' great interest in

Africa. He said that the colored people of the world don't consider us mean any more and this was because of the work of Andy Young, who always speaks his mind.

The President ended by saying that he didn't come to brag on what the Administration had done, but that the Administration had listened carefully, and that both he and the group will walk shoulder to shoulder to realize their hopes and dreams and that he will never betray their trust.

One elected official from Texas said that he is greatly concerned about the Federal revenue sharing funds, that these are spent in the white section, but not in the minority area. He feels that some type of guidelines should be made on the federal level to correct this condition. Mayor Morial of New Orleans said that he did not have that situation to worry about because he sees that they go where they are needed, but his big problem is still high unemployment.

Most of these people voiced great concern over the high costs and unemployment.

One official from Oklahoma said that he really didn't get many answers at the meeting, but that it was a visit to Washington and the White House and meeting and talking with friends.

The majority of those to whom I talked felt that this was really a campaign gesture.

New Job Initiative Lacks Real Partnership

White unemployment is on the rise again. Black unemployment continues its double-digit status. So official Washington is again looking for new ways to create jobs. Unfortunately, when most people talk about creating jobs, minority institutions are not involved in the discussion. This is evident in government's new private sector jobs programs. The thrust of this program is to find jobs for the disadvantaged in the private sector. To make it work, government is prepared to provide \$400 million to "encourage" the business community to hire more people.

The program is another wrinkle in the CETA Program (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act). It would establish private industry councils, made up mainly of local business and labor leaders, to secure more private sector jobs for the unemployed poor and ensure greater private sector involvement in all aspects of local employment and training activities.

As a condition for funding, the councils must review and approve all funding plans and proposals. They will have broad responsibility and great flexibility in the implementation of this program. The theory behind this initiative is that bureaucratic red tap has crippled

down to business

By Dr. Berkley G. Burrell

previous job programs and discouraged private sector participation. Currently, the government estimates that four out of every five jobs in the labor market are created through the private sector.

The general aim of this program is sound. Just how it will be implemented is a source of great concern. We are told that the success of this program requires a "partnership" with the private sector. But that could be a code word. In the past, private sector has meant the white folks. There is no explicit language concerning the minority private sector...Yet, since the target group of unemployed is basically Black and other minority citizens, special attention must be given to minority firms and other minority institutions who can increase their employment potential through active participa-

tion. On the job training activities are specifically covered under the new program.

If the partnership concept is to work, maximum participation by the minority private sector is essential. Otherwise, white people will get the jobs and the money to provide them. This is unacceptable. We are tired of having people take the legitimate interests of black America and transform them into a funding rationale for white organizations. And that could very easily happen with the private sector job program.

The National Alliance of Business (NAB), not just a white business group, but one tied primarily to big business, is trying to position itself as the primary organization to put blacks and other minorities back to work. In effect, NAB becomes the proxy for black

organizations and black institutions. That's the last thing we need!

The minority private sector can produce jobs. It produces jobs today; and it can produce more with additional resources. The question is not whether additional resources are available. The question is will the existing resources be shared with us? If they are not, the rhetoric of partnership will continue to be hollow, phony and contradictory. Most minority firms are located in areas where the program is most likely to be established. Thus minority business participation provides credibility to the program. Not too incidentally, such participation would strengthen minority firms and provide the impetus for expansion. This is not to suggest that NAB has no role to play in the jobs program. It is to suggest, however, that NAB should not have a unilateral role to the exclusion of other existing structures.

Minority institutions must become full partners in any new partnership arrangement with government. In the private sector jobs programs, the minority private sector must play a visible and constructive role in creating jobs. And it must get its equitable share of the resources. Otherwise, we will be frozen out of yet another opportunity to expand institutional capacity in the minority community. Capacity building is the key. If partnership is the answer, we had better get down to the business of making sure that the minority private sector is a full and equal partner.

The Future of Zimbabwe

Can The Elections Stop The War?

Nyika Tichatonga

Now that the elections in Rhodesia are over and Robert Muzorewa has been elected prime Minister the question whose answer most people are waiting for is: will the elections stop the war?

While some may suggest that we wait and assess the views of the Bishop, the following examination leaves the future of Zimbabwe more gloomy. Who are the freedom fighters (guerrillas)? They are sons and daughters of the Rhodesian African parents. They are born from virtually all quarters of all tribes within Zimbabwe. Some are even children of parents who now live in the new government.

What are the freedom fighters fighting for? Some are fighting that the guerrillas are fighting for particular leaders. Some say that they are fighting to remove the whites and install a black majority rule. Among those who have such views are the internal leaders. Because of their views, they have found reasons to call the freedom fighters to come home and join them. The guerrillas are against a system which has been in existence for the past 88 years and which has reduced the Africans to a status of second class citizens in their own land. The blacks have suffered socio-economic oppression and discrimination. They have been reduced to subsistent workers in white owned farms and industries while the whites have accumulated for themselves and their children huge profits. Whites live a life of luxury, economic superiority and social comfort while the average African family continuously lives below the poverty datum line (bread line).

Educationally, the system has persistently denied African children opportunities in school. Racial discrimination has technically denied Africans facilities which are enjoyed by whites. For example, until now, Africans could not enter white schools, white hotels, white hospitals and could not own land in the so called white areas. The question of land was perhaps the biggest bone of contention which drove thousands of young men to arms. Under successive governments in Zimbabwe since 1890 there have been introduced discriminatory acts after acts on land: the land apportionment act which resulted in the creation of the tribal trust lands; the land husbandry act which reduced the number of stock an African family can own; the crop act which specified the type of crops the Africans could grow; the grain marketing board; and most hated Land Apportionment act which divided the country into two equal halves, one for whites and one for blacks. Notwithstanding the fact that there are seven million blacks and a quarter of a million whites.

In order to put into effect these laws, the whites had to involve some blacks into the system. This was done in a way of black policemen, black soldiers, district messengers, chiefs and headmen and some black members of parliament who are often given huge sums of money. As early as the 1960's, a few blacks have been allowed to sit in the same parliament with whites and these often have been labelled as stooges by the majority blacks. Even Muzorewa and Sithole have condemned these black members of parliament. So far, these members of parliament have failed to make changes in government structure and political system in Zimbabwe. In the internal settlement, the black members of parliament have increased to 72 out of a 100—a group large enough to bring about real changes in the constitution.

However, a technical examination of the provisions of the internal settlement constitution reveals that for the time to come, these blacks will not be able to make any tangible changes in the structures and systems of the government. Whites will continue to control such posts of the government as defense, law and order, justice, judiciary, public service. These are the very instruments the whites have been using for the past 88 years to keep them in power. The only difference now is that the whites are no longer answerable for the suffering of the black people since they can now claim to be no more a government.

The question now arises, if the young people fled to arms against the oppressive instruments, how are they expected to lay down arms if the very same instruments are not destroyed.

It is only when the system has been removed that these people can lay down their arms. To remove this system, one needs to have control of the powers of government—the armed forces, police, the judiciary,

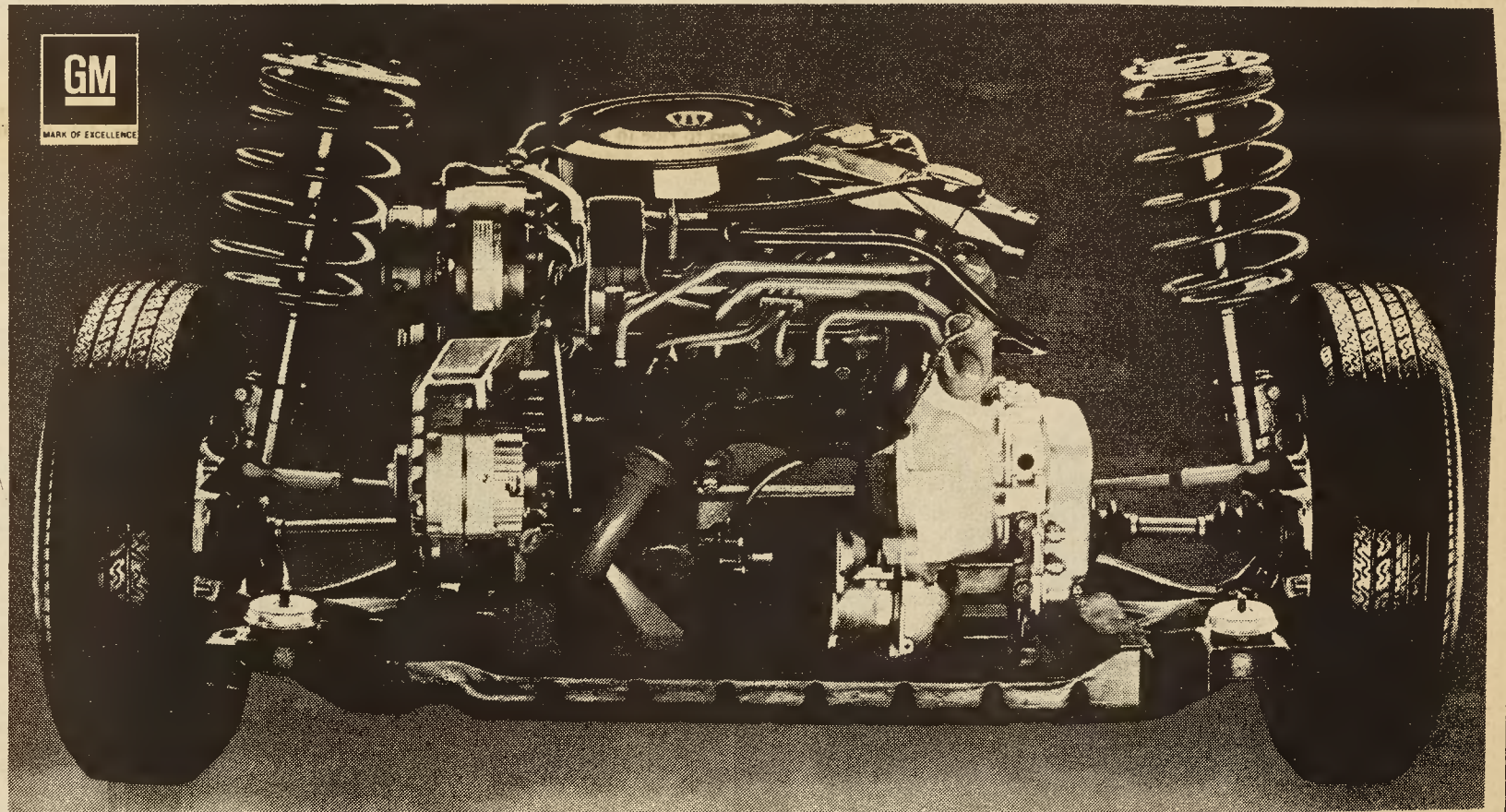
the public service, financial administration and economic planning. Under the Internal settlement, these instruments shall remain in white hands. It is therefore inconceivable that the new government will have reason

enough to convince the freedom fighters to stop the war.

Another important factor to note in this argument is

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GM's New Front-Wheel-Drive Cars



With a host of standard features including transverse-mounted engine, MacPherson Strut suspension, rack-and-pinion steering, front disc brakes, radial tires and more.

The above photograph contains a remarkable story. It is the heart of the new front-wheel-drive Chevrolet Citation, Pontiac Phoenix, Oldsmobile Omega and Buick Skylark. And it has a number of features that are standard equipment.

Transverse-mounted engine. Because the engine sits sideways, we can reduce overall length, yet design a car with plenty of room for passengers and luggage. The one you see here is the available V-6, a 4-cylinder engine is standard. (These GM-built engines are produced by various divisions. See your dealer for details.)

MacPherson Strut front suspension. Helps us design a roomier passenger compartment.

Rack-and-pinion steering. Offers quick, easy response.

Front disc brakes. A new low-drag design with audible wear indicators.

Radial tires. A new design with a special rubber compound to lower rolling resistance even more than "conventional" radials.

Delco Freedom® battery. Maintenance-free, never needs water.

Maintenance-free wheel bearings. Completely sealed bearing assemblies are preset for precise clearance and lubed for life.

And more. The aforementioned features are just some of the standard items you get on these exciting new front-wheel-drive cars. You also get others like self-adjusting brakes, carpeted passenger compartment, Body by Fisher construction and many more.

Take a test drive. If you've never driven a car with front-wheel drive before, we're convinced our front-runners for the '80s offer you a great, new and rewarding experience.

If you have driven front-wheel-drive cars before, well—these are about to bring something brand-new to the ball game.

Look into buying or leasing at your GM dealers today.

GM's Front-Runners for the '80s.

Chevrolet Citation, Pontiac Phoenix, Oldsmobile Omega, Buick Skylark.