

# Blacks May Lose \$Billion If Chrysler Closes

By Aretha Watkins  
Ass't. Mgr. Ed.,  
The Michigan Chronicle  
DETROIT — "You know, every time this country gets a cold, blacks get pneumonia."

That was a truism from Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, while speaking about the ailing U.S. economy during a recent press conference in New York.

And that is the precise consequence facing blacks if the financially troubled Chrysler Corporation is forced to close its doors.

A recent analysis of the corporation's financial position revealed that the loss in salaries and health care for its 35,000 black workers would be a staggering \$1 billion. But, according to Albert J. Dunmore, Chrysler's director of Community Relations and Urban Affairs, the full financial impact a Chrysler closing would have on the national black economy well exceeds that figure.

"The \$1 billion loss in-

cludes \$609 million in salaries, \$150 million in health care and \$250 million paid to minority workers employed by our dealers, vendors and supportive services," Dunmore explained. "But that figure does not include the loss of salaries due to layoffs of city workers in municipalities where Chrysler is located that would be necessitated by the loss of taxes the corporation pays."

"Last year Chrysler paid more than \$22 million in city, school and withheld employee income taxes to Detroit, \$4.5 million to Highland Park, and more than \$1 million to Wayne County. In each, a large number of blacks are employed. So you see, this goes far beyond just Chrysler workers."

"The total impact on the state would include the loss of more than 75,000 employees, 34 per cent of which are minority; more than 86,000 employees of suppliers, more than 6,000 dealership employees, \$2.4 billion in salary and

fringes, \$94.6 million in corporate state and local taxes, \$89 million in employee state and local income tax withheld and \$3.3 billion in purchases from suppliers in Michigan."

Nationwide, he said, a Chrysler shutdown would cost the jobs of 544,000 employees, 28 per cent of which are minority.

Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit warns of the domino impact in urging support to Chrysler.

In addition to the loss of jobs, Dunmore reminded, the national black community it would be impacted by the loss of Chrysler's leadership and support in the area of social activism.

"Chrysler has taken a strong leadership position in the area of social awareness and responsibility," he pointed out. "It has gone above and beyond its responsibility in its participation in almost every major social effort."

"Included in our annual \$3 million in charitable contributions are the NAACP, SCLC, Urban

League, United Negro College Fund and many others. We have been cited by the NAACP for being the first major automotive corporation to advertise widely in the black Press, the first to use black models and the first to establish a black dealership."

In addition to financial involvement, there is also personal involvement by our top executives," he added. "Our board chairman, John J. Riccardo, is the corporate chairman of the Legal Defense Fund contributions campaign, and in that position, has generated more than \$3 million for the organization. He's also a board member and the chairman of the Public Safety and Justice Committee of New Detroit, Inc."

Dunmore's participation in campaigns has generated thousands of dollars for a number of organizations.

Dunmore said that Chrysler's lead in supporting black organizations has prompted involvement from other major corporations.

"Chrysler is the tenth largest industrial corporation in the country," he pointed out. "Naturally when we con-

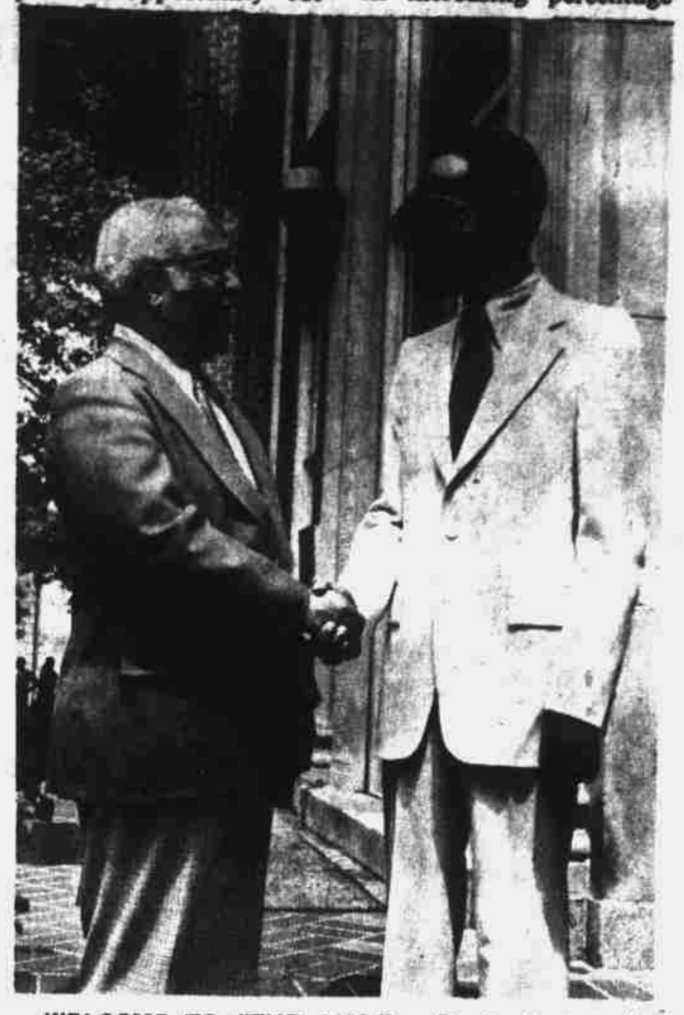
tribute a certain amount to an organization, the larger corporations top that amount. So even though our contributions are often exceeded by those from corporations with more money, it has been our initiative that has generated much more for black causes."

Dunmore said the economic situation of blacks if further periled because of the poor track record of foreign manufacturers — who would take over much of Chrysler's market should the company fail — in employing blacks.

"Those who might get hired would be relegated to the lowest rung on the totem pole," he predicted. "Last year in Chrysler, the weighted average salary for black hourly employees was \$17,500. The average for black salaried employees was \$22,000 and, interestingly enough, some 4,000 of these earned in excess of \$22,000."

"In addition, for those that might be hired by foreign manufacturers, upward mobility on the job might be non-existent, whereas our company has shown a steady increase in the number of blacks in upper classifications."

"Chrysler has made upward job mobility to minorities as is evident in its increasing percentage



WELCOME TO "THE AUG." — Purdie Anders, vice president for development at Saint Augustine's College, welcomes Earle Raveneau, director of Deferred Giving at the College. This is the first time that Saint Augustine's College has employed a full-time person in this position.

in the employment in managerial, professional, and skilled positions.

"Doug Fraser (UAW president) has said that his concern is not for Chrysler; it's for the people who will be affected," Dunmore added. "Well I think it is obvious that it will be blacks who will suffer the most."

Again quoting Mayor Young, Dunmore reminded, "it is not a Chrysler or Detroit problem, it is truly a national crisis."

## Raveneau Named To St. Aug. Post

RALEIGH—Dr. Prezell R. Robinson, president, Saint Augustine's College has announced the appointment of Earle Raveneau, who will be the first full-time Director of Deferred Giving at St. Augustine's in the Development Office.

Raveneau was with the United Negro College Fund from 1965 through 1974, first as controller and then as assistant executive director.

Raveneau is a graduate of Pace College, Brooklyn, New York.



NMPC MERIT AWARD TO AVON CHAIRMAN — A special National Minority Purchasing Council Merit Award was presented to David W. Mitchell, Chairman of the Board of Avon Products, Inc., by Margaret Z. Richardson, NMPC Executive Director. The award recognized Mr. Mitchell's strong commitment to the National and New York City Councils and Avon's generous donation of office space for the National group at Avon's world headquarters in New York City.

The Company's continuing support of the Council stems from a firm conviction of the value of the Council programs.

Among many other efforts, Avon assists minority vendors by giving them the opportunity to meet their corporate purchasing personnel on a one-to-one basis, to discuss the type of items purchased by the company and how to best meet contract requirements. Avon is the world's largest manufacturer and distributor of cosmetic, fragrances and costume jewelry.

## Mrs. H. B. Craige Joins NSLS As Social Worker

HILLSBOROUGH — Craige has joined the program's staff as Social Worker, according to that Ms. Hather Barkley, NSLS Executive Director

### Affirmative Action

(Continued from Page 6)

cause is our cause. We cannot be free until they are free.

Effective affirmative action means that less of our ranks will be incarcerated and more of theirs: i.e. "Watergaters," price-fixers, KKK members and the like.

We must not make the mistake of some of those who have gone before us who failed to realize that it is impossible to deal with an issue such as affirmative action in isolation from the other burning issues of our time. Reversing discrimination means linking arms with those who are imprisoned because they dared to speak out about inequality.

The National Conference of Black Lawyers should be congratulated for their pioneering work and bringing those fundamental troublesome issues to our attention that some would like to push from public view.

Dick Taylor. "We feel the addition of a professionally-trained social worker to our staff will help us better serve our client community," said Taylor. "To effectively help low income people we cannot treat only their legal problems. We need to go beyond that and help them solve social and economic problems as well."

Taylor said that one of the first projects Ms. Craige will undertake will be to develop a client referral network in the five counties served by NSLS. She will be meeting with directors and staffs of social agencies to explain the kinds of legal services provided by NSLS and to learn about human services available in the community for NSLS clients.

He said she will also provide staff training on various social problems, and develop materials for community education in the area of welfare rights and benefits.

A New York native, Ms. Craige received her Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from Barnard College, Columbia University in New York City in 1976. She earned her Master of Social Work degree at the University of North Carolina in 1979.

During her graduate training, she served as a social work intern with the Durham Community Guidance Clinic for Children and Youth, and with UNC's Division for Disorders of Development and Learning.

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