



Our holiday prayer  
is for lasting peace to  
men of good will.

**Words of Wisdom**

"Where there is much desire to learn, there of necessity will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions; for opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making." John Milton

## Worse Than Average Recession Predicted For U.S. Economy



### CCB Directors Learn

"A variety of economic statistics seem to confirm that the U.S. Economy is already in a recession," a gathering of CCB Board members was told by John W. Lavery, vice president and economist of Provident National Bank, Philadelphia, speaking at the annual conference of combined CCB boards of Crossdale Country Club. More than 200 members, representing boards from seventeen North Carolina communities attended.

President William L. Burns, Jr. introduced Lavery, noting that he was widely acclaimed as an authority on economics and investments. According to Lavery, industrial production is still below its March 1979 peak, durable goods orders are down, and auto sales and production plans are extremely weak. While the unemployment rate has not begun to rise materially, it should be recalled that in the 1974-75 recession, the unemployment rate did not begin to rise in earnest until May 1974 - six months after the recession had begun.

He went on to say, "the magnitude of the downturn is still questionable. However, the combination of recent Federal Reserve policies and the pricing initiative of OPEC tighten the probabilities of a worse than average recession." "But," he added, "not as severe as the 1974-75 experience in which output fell by 5.7 per cent. Lavery expects real consumer spending to fall by 1.8 per cent from the third quarter of 1979 to the second quarter of 1980. Such a correction would be worse than the average decline during five postwar recessions and second only to the 1974-75 decline of 2.3 per cent." "Fixed business investment on the other hand was cited by Lavery as not having gone through such an ebullient recovery since 1975 and therefore has not exhibited any of the excesses that might be

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MEMBERS OF KUDZU ALLIANCE picket Duke Power Company in an anti-nuclear demonstration this week.

Photo by Tom Elliott

## Chavis: The Long Nightmare Is Over

"The long nightmare is over," Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. told his mother, only hours after learning he was to be

By Felicia M. Cassels  
paroled from the Orange County Correctional Unit in Hillsborough.

On November 13, Chavis was notified by his lawyer, James Ferguson III, that Governor James Hunt had commuted his sentence to one year, making him eligible for parole before 1980. He was then told that he would be released the following day and sent immediately, at his own expense, to Washington, D.C. where he is employed.

So, Friday afternoon found Chavis at Raleigh-Durham Airport surrounded by family.

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BEN CHAVIS

TO HEAD CONFERENCE ON AGING

ATTORNEY SADIE T. ALEXANDER, 81, of Philadelphia, addresses a White House ceremony recently at which President Carter announced the formation of the 1981 White House Conference on Aging. Mrs. Alexander will chair the conference in 1981. The pioneering civil rights leader and the first black woman to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, still practices law in Philly. She also was the first black woman in the U.S. to receive a Ph.D. degree in economics.

## SUSPENSION: A Cure Or Curse

By Trelle L. Jeffers

Some two years ago, the NAACP magazine, *Crisis*, stated that since the integration of public school in the South, approximately 25,000 pupils had been expelled, pushed out or had dropped out of school. An undocumented score set the number of drop-outs and push-outs in the Durham City Schools in the last four years as approximately 450; and although there is no suggested number, the figure for the Durham County County Schools is also high.

Does this data suggest that black people have become unable to rear children who can adhere to the rules? What has happened is that in the integrated school black teachers and administrators lost their jobs and the black community lost control of its school, according to Dr. Charles Daye, law professor, who spoke on a panel discussion recently on whether or not there has been regression or progression since the 1954 Supreme Court decision that segregation of public schools is unconstitutional.

Many distinguished writers such as Jacqueline Jackson, Reginald Jones and Janice Hale express their feeling that black teachers and administrators in the segregated schools were more sensitive to the needs of black pupils.

"There are teachers today who hate children, and it grieves me," declares a black supervisor at a recent reading conference.

John Lucas, principal of Hillside High School, who was contacted to discuss his school's suspension policy, said that he feels that schools can no longer follow the mores of the community because integration has brought different cultures together, and this causes conflict and frustration

among school pupils. There are no established factors for behavior problems; there are certain factors involved in mass relationships. The conflict may be caused by human interaction," said Lucas.

It would seem that at Hillside, the most serious disciplinary problem confronting the school is that of fighting among the students, and the fights usually occur among black pupils of low socioeconomic income level. Lucas feels that the school is not responsible for this serious conflict; however, researchers show that people who feel powerless tend to commit serious crimes against each other. Fighting no longer brings an automatic suspension, according to Lucas. "All factors are now carefully assessed before a pupil is suspended. There is a hearing with the students involved, the parents, witnesses, teachers, and an attorney, if the students wish, before a suspension is made," said Lucas.

Each offending student is studied as an individual case, and chronic behavior problems are now referred to Curtis Mabry, who works with a psychological staff, and Martha Johnson, Director of Pupil Personnel of the Durham City School, to help the school solve the disciplinary problems.

Students are also involved in changes in the school rules; however, they must go before the board of education, usually along with members of a committee to get a rule changed.

The total black community and its schools must take a careful look at suspensions. It may be that they are the cause of some of society's most serious problems.

Next week: A look at Durham suspension policies.

## BLACK AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ELECTS OFFICERS

At its final meeting of the year, on December 18, the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People elected officers for the coming year. With all offices and committee slates vacant, except the office of chairman, a nominating committee headed by William A. Marsh, Jr., had been authorized to choose all committee chairmen and co-chairmen for 1980.

Officers selected are: Benjamin S. Ruffin, first vice-chairman; Mrs. Carolyn I. Thornton, second vice-chairman; William P. Edwards, third vice-chairman; Dr. C.E. Boulware, executive secretary; Ms. Carol A. Williams, secretary; Ms. Paulette Robinson, assistant secretary; and F.V. Allison, Jr., treasurer.

Chosen to head the committees were: Charles

Dave, chairman, and Ms. Ollie Cooke, co-chairman, Civic Committee; I. Jarvis Martin, chairman, and Nashid Lateef, co-chairman, Economic Committee; Ms. Trelle Jeffers, chairman, and Rev. W.W. Easley, Jr., co-chairman, Education Committee; Floyd Wicker, chairman, and Fister Gilmore, Jr., co-chairman, Health Committee; Mrs. Joan Burton, chairman, and Clarence Brown, Jr., co-chairman, Housing Committee; William A. Marsh, Jr., chairman, and Daryl Smith, co-chairman, Legal Redress Committee; Dr. F. Lavonia Allison, chairman, and Willie Lovett, co-chairman, Political Committee; Mrs. Claronell Brown, chairman, and Mrs. Harnetha Hudgins, co-chairman, Youth Committee.

## Minority Firms Receive \$155.8 Million In Contracts

Minority firms which had received \$155.8 million in contracts from the Army in the fiscal year, 1977, won contracts totalling \$351.4 million in FY 1979, almost \$200 million above the 1977 figure, the Army revealed this week.

Army Secretary Clifford L. Alexander, Jr., announced that the FY 1979 dollars were awarded under three separate programs; The 8(a) Program (a government set aside plan) represented \$203 million, and construction arsenal and advertising subcontracts totalled over \$21 million.

Alexander said other subcontracts awarded by the Army's major prime contractors are reported in overall Department of Defense statistics and are not included in the Army totals. It is estimated, however, that Army major prime contractors sub-contract an additional \$70

million to minority firms. Including these latter subcontracts, three per cent of Army dollars went to minority firms in FY 1979. The percentage of Army small business dollars that went to minority firms this year, however, was over eight per cent, Alexander noted.

The 8(a) and competitive contracts executed by minority firms in FY 1979 ran the gamut of Army requirements. They ranged from the performance of simple service operation such as custodial to the manufacturing of highly sophisticated and complex goods. These include manufacturing of weapons sophisticated camouflage systems of cable assemblies, plus computer systems, research and develop-

ment, technical data support, maintenance and repair of equipment, architect-engineer services; construction of roads, airstrips and buildings services, Alexander revealed.

Individual contract awards ranged from a few thousands to many millions of dollars. Alexander established the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization soon after his early 1977 appointment by President Carter.

Contracts also were awarded for guard, food and transportation services, as well as special studies.

Total number of federal government units in the 8(a) Program for FY 1979 is 53 with contracts of \$1 billion. The Army leads all of them by awarding about twenty per cent of the total. The Department of Defense total 8(a) Program is \$550.4 million, of which the Army's \$203

## Energy Crisis: Curtain-Raiser For New Decade

The energy crisis enters a new decade, bringing both economic instability and international unrest. Political and economic decisions being made now will determine American destiny for the 80s and beyond, according to *Black Enterprise* Magazine in its January issue.

In "Energy: The Crisis That Won't Go Away," *Black Enterprise* examines the implications of a crisis-ridden decade for the American public. The

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## HUD Forum Set For Dr. King Celebration

WASHINGTON, D.C. Officials of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will participate in the opening ceremony of the week-long 51st Birthday Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. beginning January 10 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Secretary Moon Landrieu will deliver the keynote address on Thursday at 9:40 a.m. at the World Congress Center, 285 Magnolia Street, N.W.

He will be introduced by Mrs. Coretta Scott King, President of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change.

In announcing HUD's participation in the celebration, Secretary Landrieu said this event is a reminder of the on going efforts begun more than a decade ago by Dr. King to solve the nation's urban problems.

"HUD," he added,

"has been successful in solving many of those problems through its commitment to the principles of the Carter Administration's Urban Policy."

"Our continued commitment to the policy through the use of Community Development, Urban Development Action Grant, Neighborhood Self-Help Development and Federal Fair Housing programs will bring even greater results in the next decade."

HUD participants will focus on the theme of this year's events, "The Direction for the cities: Creating the Beloved Community," through the Secretary's keynote address, a plenary panel discussion and a series of workshops.

Lawrence B. Simons, Assistant Secretary for Housing will moderate the panel discussion entitled, "Housing in the Community of the 80's."

## "WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED"

Remember that famous desegregation case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which resulted in the United States Supreme Court, in 1954, mandating desegregated and unified school districts "with all deliberate speed."

Linda Brown of Topeka, Kansas, who was ten years old in 1951, was barred from attending an all-white school five blocks from her home - because of her race. Her father's legal action led to the Court's mandate.

Linda Brown is now Mrs. Linda Brown Smith and she has children attending the same school she did and when they entered it was 98 per cent black.

Last week, Mrs. Smith, and seven other parents, heard United States District Court Judge Richard Rogers grant their petition that *Brown v. Board of Education* be reopened - because they say that the school system is still in clear violation of the 1954 decision. Their petition cited school district data showing that while only 22 per cent of the district's 17,480 students are members of minority groups, some elementary and junior high schools have a minority enrollment of 40 to 73 per cent and others of three to six per cent.

School officials deny that the figures are the product of deliberate efforts to maintain segregated schools. They point to a 1961 plan, which a lower court panel called a "good faith effort" toward desegregation.