

REMEMBER



**IF I CAN DO MY DUTY AS A CHRISTIAN OUGHT. IF I CAN BRING SALVATION TO A WORLD ONCE WROUGHT. IF I CAN SPREAD THE MESSAGE AS THE MASTER TAUGHT. THEN MY LIVING WILL NOT BE IN VAIN. I'D LIKE FOR SOMEBODY TO SAY THAT DAY, THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TRIED TO LOVE SOMEBODY.**

1929-1968

P1048

## Let's Abolish Black History Month

As we come to the end of "Black History Month", the emphasis on the discussion of accomplishments of black people in America's history will seemingly come to an end. The accomplishments of those Afro-Americans who discovered, invented, led, wrote, composed, improved upon and what have you, will be neatly tucked away for another year.

We know that this is the only time that black children have an opportunity to hear and learn any quantity of their history. It is also the only time that children of the majority race hear of those accomplishments. This is precisely why we should abolish Black History Month.

Treating those many accomplishments as a special category of history is the wrong approach. Dr. Charles Drew's pioneering work in blood preservation and as founder of the blood bank is not an accomplishment that should be relegated to one month. His work affects us every day and is a major reason that many Americans and people around the world are alive today. Open heart surgery, first done by Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, is now an every day occurrence. The first clock made in America by Benjamin Banneker, the oil stove and refrigerator by J. Standard — these accomplishments and others while taken for granted need to be properly attributed in the annals of American history. There is only one reason for denying inclu-

sion — and that is to perpetuate the myths and stereotypes that support a decadent white supremacy theory.

This productive and pioneering history of black Americans should be included in the history lessons every school day, not just one month a year (if students are lucky enough to have a teacher who knows anything about it).

These and other accomplishments would let our young people know that black Americans have not only done their share to help build this country but did it with the burden of racism on their backs. Such knowledge should help to inspire our youth when they want to cry that the reason they can't succeed in a white world is "cause I'm black". That is not to say racism does not exist or that there are times that one will be treated unfairly because of skin color, but that if our forefathers were able to accomplish what they did under those circumstances we should be able to conquer any thing that now comes up.

We call on educators to insist upon the purchase texts that include the accomplishments and contributions of all minority Americans in the day to day events of history. The sooner the worth of all races of mankind is properly acknowledged, the sooner Americans will develop mutual respect and aid this country in living up to its creed of "liberty and justice for all".

## Things You Should Know

**William HARRISON**



**Born in 1874, on a farm in Clay County, Miss.—He studied at Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tennessee and at Chicago University. He was admitted to practice law in 1902! He practiced in the U. S. Supreme Court and was special judge of the superior court, (Oklahoma) and was president of more than one important Negro civic organization!**

CONTINUOUS FEATURES

## Full Employment Is Major Anti-Inflation Answer of the 1980's

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

Everyone has noticed the dramatic increase in gasoline prices, since President Reagan decontrolled domestic oil prices on January 28, 1981.

Nationwide, the average price of a gallon is \$1.32. It appears that this price will jump at least three cents more before the end of February. And then before the market settles down, the experts say that some additional increases will occur.

Riding on the crest of this bad news, comes some more news, which is good in one sense but bad in another.

The National Automobile Dealers Association's recent convention in Los Angeles, passed a resolution calling on the auto manufacturers to roll back their new car prices to October, 1980.

What has necessitated this drastic move by the NADA is the fact that half the nation's car dealers either lost money or barely survived in 1980. Worse yet, some 1600 of the losers were forced out of business last year by economic conditions which rival the Great Depression.

If the prices were rolled-back this would be good news to consumers.

Surprisingly the car dealers are saying that not only are auto prices too high, but that high interest rates charged by banks are psychological road blocks for customers considering buying new cars.

The unfortunate fact is that the auto manufacturers lost some \$4.0 billion last year. They say that rolling back 1981 prices

would cause them to lose another \$3.0 billion.

This is bad news for consumers who may now need to consider replacing their older model autos.

It may be that the banks may come to the consumer's rescue because even they are beginning to complain about high interest rates. One banker was quoted the other day as saying: "I very truly believe we're in the death throes of this present interest-rate convulsion."

He warns that if we continue in the direction we are going, it will "have a very serious impact on the entire economy."

Another big banker notes, "The rapidity of the climb in interest rates is having a shock effect that the markets cannot ignore."

The continuing rise in gasoline prices, the high cost of transportation and the exorbitant interest rates, are the things that are killing the economy, and keeping inflation at the nerve-hub of the problem.

Related to these excesses, and also feeding inflation are rampant unemployment (1.5 million persons added to the unemployment rolls since last January), and critical price increases in food, energy, medical care and housing.

There are ways out of this dilemma, but it is going to require basic changes in the policies of the Federal Reserve Board which has relied too much on tight money and high

interest rates to fight inflation, and which has caused severe unemployment in the nation.

It will also require that the Congress and the Executive Branch talk tough to the Federal Reserve Board, to get the Board to loosen its crippling restrictive money policies.

And further, the Congress must insist that the mandate of the 1978 Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act be observed, especially as the mandate outlines the measures for fighting inflation. These specific anti-inflationary measures include monitoring inflation trends, anti-shortage programs, strengthening competition, removing unnecessary regulations, and a voluntary national incomes policy covering all types of income.

The Humphrey-Hawkins Act wisely recognizes that the Congress must determine the details of the wide range of economic policies needed to help achieve the broad anti-inflationary goals of the Act. But the policies must be more than adequate, if the goals are to be reached. And the goals are reachable.

What is required is that this great nation not rest on its oars, or lower its sights, or duck its duties but take the positive steps needed to stimulate economic growth, put people to work and fight inflation even if it means across-the-board controls which, if the proper things are done in the first place, may not be necessary.

## To Be Equal

## Food Stamps A Target

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

The Food Stamp program is slated to expire this year, and if we are to avoid creating a hungrier America, it will have to make its way through an increasingly hostile Congress.

While there have been calls to drop the program, few of its opponents plan anything so drastic this early in the game. Rather, they are targeting the program for drastic cuts in funding and a harsh restriction in eligibility requirements that would remove many needy people from the rolls.

From its inception, the Food Stamp program has faced a rough road. It started as an attempt, not to feed the hungry, but to help reduce farm surpluses. That's why the program has always been lodged in the Department of Agriculture.

Even after it got off the ground, the program came under heavy attack for escalating costs, waste, and welfareism. Those attacks increased after the recessions sent the numbers of eligible people higher and the Carter Administration, to its credit, loosened punitive eligibility requirements.

The real reason for attacks on the program have little to do with costs, which are inevitable, or waste, which is virtually nonexistent. They have everything to do with the fact that it is a program that helps poor people in a way that effectively demonstrates how well a federal social program can work. Not that costs haven't been rising fast —

they have. It is expected that the Food Stamp program will take over ten billion dollars in the budget next year.

But that reflects the greater need for food stamps, as more people are unemployed and as food prices rise sharply.

If congressmen are concerned with cutting costs, let them take positive steps to create jobs and restore the general economy to health. That way, people won't need food stamps to survive — they'll have paychecks instead.

Not that food stamps provide any lavish aid. The average recipient gets stamps worth about \$40 a month, which works out to pennies per meal per family member. In fact, benefit scales are based on a food plan that the government admits does not provide an adequate diet.

Charges of waste have been made since the program started. As a consequence, it has been one of the most closely examined programs on the books. And those examinations have failed to reveal the waste and fraud so commonly — and irresponsibly — made.

In fact, there is no doubt at all that the strict eligibility requirements serve to discourage many people from claiming benefits, although the stamps are needed. And the Urban League's Black Pulse survey last year revealed that large numbers of eligible families, including welfare families, do

not receive food stamps.

Of those receiving the stamps, almost all have incomes well below the poverty level. An exhaustive investigation made by government investigators in 1979 found few instances of abuse and nine out of ten recipients below the poverty level, which itself is set far too low to reflect current prices.

Of course, Congress should be concerned that about one out of ten Americans needs food stamps to survive. The fact that over twenty million people get the stamps and millions more are eligible for them says something about inequality and unjust hardships that afflict our economy. But, the very breadth of the program is a major reason why it must be continued and strengthened. Too many families depend on food stamps for the program to be weakened. Ideas now being floated, such as reducing the stamps given the elderly, or cutting eligibility requirements, are unconscionable at a time of high unemployment and rampant inflation.

The stamp-slashers need to be reminded that a 1967 Field Foundation report found widespread hunger and malnutrition in America, affecting perhaps ten to fifteen million people. A followup study ten years later — after use of food stamps became widespread — found far less hunger, thanks to food stamps and other federal nutrition programs.

## Getting Smart

## Government Spending Affects All

By Walter L. Smart

Executive Director  
United Neighborhood Centers of America

One of President Reagan's campaign promises was to cut government spending and to provide us with a cut in taxes. Many citizens are looking forward to a cut in government spending in the belief that it can be done without affecting them.

Cutting Government spending touches not just "the poor," but all of us. Consider for a minute what the federal government purchases with the \$616 billion or so it will spend this year. Roughly 23 per cent goes for common defense. An additional 36 per cent goes for social security, federal and other pensions, veterans' benefits and related medical coverage — one or another of which almost all of us will receive. Another eleven per cent goes to interest payments to all holders of government bonds and notes. (Statistics from an article in the *Washington Post*).

Only 1.3 per cent of the federal budget goes to what most people mean by "welfare" — cash payments to about three million needy families, and another 1.6 per cent to food stamps for twenty million of the poor.

In fact, welfare costs are now such a small part of the federal budget that it becomes an insignificant factor when preparing the

budget.

If money is to be saved, it comes down to cutting out benefits for all of us — not just highways, dams, airport subsidies, agricultural and maritime supports, downtown renovations, etc., — but a lot of things that fall in the category of "social service." These include programs to curb child abuse — a problem far from being limited to the poor — and to track down fathers who skip out on their child support and alimony payments — many of these aren't poor at all — and subsidized loans for the children of middle-class parents who now find it impossible to put aside the \$10,000 a year it now can take for a college education in a private institution.

Even the Medicaid program for the needy spends the big chunk of its dollars not on caring for slum kids with runny noses, but on nursing homes and other institutional care for people who find themselves outliving their resources and without relatives to assume the cost and responsibility for their care.

OMB director David Stockman has noted that waste-cutting "will hardly make a dent" in the budget problem. He further stated that reducing waste will take not only time,

but willingness to invest up-front money in better management controls.

Add to this argument the amount of money by which we plan to increase the defense budget and you can begin to perceive the kind of world we are building for ourselves and for our children.

Believe you me, this is an issue which affects all of us: and all of us have a right to be heard. Have you voted lately?

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## Keeping The Dream Alive

## A Painful Topic

By Don McEvoy

This is going to be a very difficult column for me to write and, I trust, equally painful for you to read.

Ten years ago when one southern school district was experiencing a controversial school desegregation struggle, and Oath for White Teachers and Principals was widely distributed by a local hate-group. It was a scurrilous document which proposed that

"all white high schools will write up as many suspensions on Negroes as they occur, small or large." The stated purpose was to stimulate the drop-out rate and make high school graduation as difficult as possible for any black student.

That was 1971. Now, in 1981 this same contemptible sheet is appearing again, this (Continued on Page 11)