

A SENSE OF PRIDE IN BEING BLACK

BLACK HISTORY

"A RACE IS LIKE A MAN UNTIL IT USES ITS OWN TALENTS, TAKES PRIDE IN ITS OWN HISTORY, AND LOVES ITS OWN MEMORIES. IT CAN NEVER FULFILL ITSELF COMPLETELY."

JOHN W. VANDERCOOK



Editorial

A Perpetual Crutch Is Not The Answer

While we wholeheartedly agree that black business operators should be involved in the additional planning, as well as the building and operation of the \$50 million downtown revitalization project, we cannot support the concept of "guaranteed set asides," or "quasi-guaranteed goals."

Intelligent risk and healthy mainstream competition are vital components of the free enterprise marketplace and we support their preservation.

But, by the same token, we recognize and intimately empathize with the many problems — some of them endemic to small businesses and others unique to black firms — that plague the entrepreneurial efforts of black owners.

Now, if local government wants to help with infusions of capital, we see nothing inherently wrong with that as long as things are honest, above board and have positive impact in the long as well as the short term.

Thus, as an alternative to the problem-plagued "set aside" efforts and the "goal oriented" programs, we toss the following idea into the hopper for discussion.

Let the City, using non-tax revenues, establish a venture capital fund for doing business with local government. This fund will be administered by an independent business development agency under contract to the City and according to City guidelines.

Black-owned firms interested in doing business with the City and acquiring venture capital to pursue that effort would apply for admission to the program.

Following an intense, but thorough educational program that would deal with such general subjects as developing a business plan, long range planning, market positioning and penetration, etc., as well as specific subjects such as estimating, cost projections and other pertinent areas, an applicant would receive a sufficient amount of venture capital to enable the firm to bid competitively for City business.

The business development firm would be paid a commission on a successful bidder's first year contracts.

We believe that this approach offers a number of advantages over prior efforts of local governments to propel minority firms into the mainstream.

For example, our approach does not establish a perpetual but limited haven for inefficient business operators who are content with limited expectations.

Neither does this concept create a perpetual crutch for a business to lean on.

But most importantly, this approach neither violates state bidding laws nor convolutes the Constitution.

We are not naive enough to think that our recommendation is problem proof of that the idea refined and ready for implementation. But we do believe it is worth discussing, and we welcome all dialogue.

We further hope that local officials will accept this in the spirit in which it is offered: not as a criticism of intent, but as an effort to help produce what is best for all of us in the long range.



Things You Should Know

Beatrice Johnson TRAMMELL

Raised in Brunswick, Ga., and educated in Tuskegee, she became equally famous as a pioneer in social work. As well as in Nursing! As a graduate for her local Department of Health, in 1935, she helped Dr. Winchester perfect a cure for malaria. Married to Guy R. Trammell in 1937, she was one of the first two nurse-midwives to be trained and used under The Rosenwald Fund!

—Continental Features

Civil Rights Journal

Black Leadership Family Plan

By Dr. Charles E. Cobb  
Executive Director  
United Church Of Christ  
Commission For Racial Justice

The Congressional Black Caucus recently convened its southwest regional conference in Houston, Texas, the home of Caucus member, Mickey Leland. It was during this conference that the final draft of a booklet published by the Congressional Black Caucus called "Black Leadership Family Plan for the Unity, Survival and Progress of Black People" was presented for the first time.

The plan has three objectives. First, it sets forth a set of rules for black unity, survival and progress. Second, it establishes a black development fund by which black citizens are urged to contribute to existing black organizations of their choice. Third, the plan provides a set of instructions for implementation. Our focus in this commentary is on the twelve rules set out in the plan which according

to the Caucus, if followed, "There is nothing the adversary can do that can stop us."

- The twelve are:
- (1) Support for the black church wherever it is found.
  - (2) Protection for the elderly and support the youth.
  - (3) Excel and achieve in education.
  - (4) Opposition to crime.
  - (5) Contribute to the Black Development Fund.
  - (6) Buy and bank black.
  - (7) Register and vote.
  - (8) Hold your elected officials accountable.
  - (9) Support black family and community life.
  - (10) Challenge and boycott negative media and support positive media.

- (11) Secure and defend the black community, and finally
- (12) Support Mother Africa and Caribbean nations.

Many of these points, which the Caucus refers to as the rules of the plan are not new and we have heard these urgings from a variety of black leaders. This notwithstanding, I compliment the Caucus in its efforts to bring together a consensus on the national strategy for the unity and survival of the black community. The Congressional Black Caucus is to be saluted for presenting this at a time when the nation's minority community is facing one of the most serious threats to its survival. We urge you to read, study and implement this plan today in order to ensure our ultimate liberation and freedom.

To Be Equal

More Budget Blues

By John E. Jacob  
Executive Director, National Urban League

The 1983 federal budget recently sent to Congress by the Administration is a disastrous document. To economists it reads like a fairy story, with its wildly improbable economic assumptions and its predictions of huge deficits reaching far into the future.

But to poor people it reads like a horror story. The cuts in social programs in the 1982 budget were brutal enough, but if the Administration gets its way those programs will be cut to ribbons.

Let's look at some of those new budget cuts:

Welfare is the safety net program that is the last resort of the neediest. The federal welfare program is for families with dependent children, the poorest of the poor. After last year's money cuts and tightened eligibility standards, millions were either forced off the rolls or had their small benefits cut.

The program now is down to \$7.6 billion for the current year, hardly enough to enable the truly needy to survive. And with mounting unemployment in the current recession that was induced by federal policies, more people than ever in need of assistance.

So what does the Administration propose? A massive cut of over \$2 billion, bringing the nationwide federal welfare bill down to \$5.5 billion.

Unemployment is pushing close to record post-war levels and some predict it will get a lot worse before it gets better. If

the government would count the growing army of jobless who have given up efforts to look for jobs that aren't there, the rates would almost double.

So what does the Administration propose? Another deep slash of \$2.7 billion in job training programs. The successful Job Corps would be cut by a third. Two straight massive budget cuts and the effects of inflation have reduced federal job efforts to a token program at a time of recession and high unemployment.

Instead of helping job seekers find work, the federal-state employment service is slashed to ribbons. And if you want a new definition of meanness, the Administration wants to round off unemployment compensation checks to the next lower whole dollar, in effect stealing pennies from the jobless.

Poor children are a special target of their government — social service programs aimed at helping them will be cut another \$1.3 billion and special reading and math programs that have helped raise black test scores in poverty area schools will be cut by over \$500 million. Cuts in college aid programs will keep more poor young people from getting a college education.

Medicaid, the health program for the poor, is in for a ten per cent cut at a time when health costs are rising at about fifteen per cent a year.

Housing subsidies for three and a half million poor families will be cut by three

billions. And the list goes on and on. Coming on top of last year's cuts, the 1983 budget has to rank as the most callous document ever framed by the federal government.

Even with those cuts, the budget will be in deficit by over \$91 billion, the Administration says, although most economists believe it will zoom well past \$100 billion. Why?

Because of last year's tax cuts for the affluent and for corporations. And because the reckless pumping of more and more billions into a defense establishment that has proven wasteful and mismanaged. The 1983 budget request for defense is up eighteen per cent over last year's budget, to \$216 billion — many times more than is spent on human investments.

This budget is a document reflecting desperation among our policy-makers. It represents their last-ditch attempt to make supply side economics work. But it is not working. All it has done is degrade the poor, slash the cities, and risk another Great Depression.

Now the ball is in Congress' court. Last year it rolled over and played dead — it gave the Administration everything it asked for, and more. So it must share responsibility for the hard times afflicting so many millions.

What will it do this year? Will it pass this X-rated budget, or will it find it has no redeeming social value, tear it up, and pass a budget that is based on sound economics and social fairness?

A View From Capitol Hill:

Fascism and the Reagan Administration

By Gus Savage  
Member of Congress

Not a single week passes without new evidence being revealed, or old evidence being reaffirmed, which documents the Reagan Administration's slide toward fascism.

Currently, two of the government's most powerful agencies are locked in a battle over charges that spies have infiltrated the General Accounting Office, the congressional watchdog agency, thereby raising the question of whether certain secret information should be withheld from this agency.

Defenders of the GAO insist that these charges are being made by Defense Department spokespersons in order to refuse GAO investigators classified data needed to uncover Pentagon cost overruns and mismanagement.

U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher, who serves as chief of the GAO, insists there is no truth to the spy reports. According to Bowsher, the report "could adversely affect GAO's ability to do its work on behalf of the Congress on matters requiring the handling of classified material and on its reputation for dealing with matters requiring cooperation with the FBI."

Staunch Reagan supporter, Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), has launched an investigation to determine whether spies have in fact penetrated the GAO. I am of the opinion that if Sen. Hatch has his way, the GAO will not escape without serious blemishes.

This one requires close watching. The ability of Congress to perform its watchdog functions must not be subverted by

revealed in a more direct manner in a speech by [Mrs.] Jeanne J. Kirkpatrick on February 15. Charging that "by our standards", most of the world's governments are "bad governments", the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations added:

"If we look at what happens in New York out in the Security Council and in the General Assembly, then I guess I believe it is a very dismal show. And what is worse, its effect, I think, is almost precisely the opposite of the intentions of the founders of the United Nations... to assist in conflict resolution."

"What we find instead", she continued, "is that conflicts, rather than being resolved there, are in fact polarized, extended and exacerbated."

What the U.N. ambassador was complaining about, of course, is that most of the world does not march in step with the Reagan Administration's foreign policy. In fact, on the same day that [Mrs.] Kirkpatrick made her speech, a United Nations human rights official blasted the American position in El Salvador. Jose Antonio Pastor-Ridruero, the U.N. Human Rights Commission's special representative of El Salvador, stated that political murders in El Salvador last year were about double the number the Reagan Administration cited in telling Congress the Salvadoran right wing junta, which runs the country, had improved its human rights record.

[Mrs.] Kirkpatrick's response to this, of course is that the government of El Salvador is "doing the best it can", and that the United States must prevent Com-

America further into reaction, one bright spot did appear on the horizon recently.

Meeting in Bal Harbour, Florida with other labor chiefs on Monday, February 15, Lane Kirkland, AFL-CIO president, declared that "Americans must choose between guns and butter", and that the Reagan Administration's policy of placing "the whole defense burden on the backs of the poor" is no longer acceptable.

Kirkland stressed that organized labor's history of support for a strong defense "does not obligate us to support a defense budget that is unfairly financed", and announced that he is establishing a committee to evaluate defense spending proposals before Congress.

I am hopeful that this trend continues within organized labor. This is just what the people need to give a big push to the battle against the dangerous military adventurism of the Reagan Administration.

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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 ocean's majestic waves without the awful roar of its waters.

—Frederick Douglass