

Would you believe that, at last count, there were 82 black national business and professional trade associations, eight black-owned television stations, 39 savings and loans, 46 commercial banks and 400 newspapers? Or that black expenditures for housing in 1980 were \$14 billion!

These are but a few facts gleaned from a brand new Washington publication, *The Black Resource Guide*, making its way around the country. Over the years there have been many different black directories usually covering certain areas such as elected officials, small businesses and contractors, colleges, etc., but it was refreshing, convenient and revealing to review this different kind of a directory of black resources in America. It includes, under one cover, sixteen categories of black organizations and public officials and useful statistics about blacks that I had never known before.

If you want to look up financial institutions, newspapers, African embassies, television stations or national associations, it's all there. And, if you want to find how blacks are spending their money, it will tell you that next to liquor (\$390 million a year in purchases), \$271 million a year is spent on potato chips; that blacks consumed 23 per cent of all chewing gum sold in the U.S.; and that blacks are losing 6,000 acres of land each week. Also, 42 per cent of all black children in the U.S. live in poverty!

The purpose of this week's column is not to sell books but to try and get the point across that

Meeting Black Housing Needs:

"Networking" Black America

By William R. Morris, ASPC
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blacks, through working together more, can make a difference — a big difference — in the type and quality of communities they live in while also providing better economic opportunities for themselves through a process (long used by whites) called "networking". It's all about the need to more creatively tap existing resources and channel them toward a common good.

Black economic progress can be measured in as many different ways as there are avenues of economic activity. However, in times like these, blacks must know what resources they have, where they are, and how to get to them when needed to facilitate coordination between the growing number of black institutions scattered about the nation. The basis for racial progress now is in knowing how to make better and more extensive use of limited resources through a variety of networking strategies.

In the historical course of black America's development, much of what has come to be the plight of blacks is a direct result of little or no attention to the power of combining resources within black communities. Hence, there is a broad array of underutilized black skills and experiences that can impact on government policies of the Reagan Administration.

With 65,000 black churches in the U.S. and \$140 billion in black spending power in the consumer market, its about time a national clearinghouse was created where blacks in one city can learn from blacks in other communities and more easily locate other groups with similar problems to: pool financial resources... identify professional skills which

can be brought to bear on common concerns... and bring pressures to bear on issues which adversely affect blacks.

Large numbers of individuals can be a powerhouse — when they are committed to the same goal. Problems too complex to be solved by one group can often be solved by many groups working together. Public institutions too large to heed one voice can be moved by a chorus of voices.

One purpose the *Black Resource Guide* serves is to provide a communications network for circulating information about black resources to black groups; it encourages an exchange of resources and facilitates a more effective response from blacks to an increasing conservative anti-black mood in the nation today.

Whether it is for decent housing, more jobs, or purely for survival, networking is a concept whose time has come. The *Guide* is a first step in the right direction. With 196 black mayors, 14,000 black lawyers, 1,546 economists and 231,000 black-owned businesses in America, there is an impressive source of leadership to be tapped a collectively applied to meeting the needs of black America.

Organizations and individuals may obtain this publication by sending \$10 to Black Resources Guide, 501 Oneida Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

Crisis In Zimbabwe

By Laura Parks

UN Correspondent NNPA

A tragic and profound crisis exists in Zimbabwe. At the core of the crisis lies the supremely important question of long term economic development, and the ways and means of sustaining national growth.

The issues are further complicated by estimates about which world power block, at this time, is best equipped to provide long term aid and technical know-how without the cumbersome strings that usually accompany foreign aid. Clearly the ideological, political and strategic strings will always be present, though frequently camouflaged to satisfy national pride and the whims of secret diplomacy.

Scarcely a year into independence, the heroic alliance of Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, forged during thirteen years of war against the white minority government of Ian Smith, has been broken. And contrary to popular belief, the break is not based on tribal rivalries but rather on profound considerations of where the future economic power of the world will be and the willingness of the powers of tomorrow to give unstinting aid.

The crisis has been further deepened by the general decline and economic recession that has hit Great Britain and now the United States, the two powers that were to give close to \$3 billion in aid to Zimbabwe for aid and for compensating expropriated white settler families for their land. The deep recession in the West has greatly aggravated the crisis in Zimbabwe.

Recent announcements from the Reagan administration foreshadow deep cuts in foreign aid for all except the Monroe Doctrine nations of South America and the Egyptian-Israeli Middle East Axis and some of their feudal Arab friends. The Al Haig-Caspar Weinberger macho foreign policy, rejected in Europe and Japan, is finding cheap consolation in South America and the Middle East and even there with little success. Africa is almost lost and forgotten in the midst of the world economic crisis as are the poor within the nations of Europe and America.

A year ago, Robert Mugabe was confident that his conciliatory attitude and policies toward the remaining white minority settlers would elicit their support and more importantly convince the whites of America and Britain to come in with economic aid and massive dollar and English pound support.

In all fairness to Mugabe, it must be said that in his proposed one party state, he would have hoped to contain the influence of Big Capital nations if the rich powers of the West were in a position to grant their largesse as promised. But the world economic crisis has forced the once mighty powers to break their

promise and now experts are predicting even gloomier times for aid to nations such as Zimbabwe as long as the supply side economists and their President remain dominant in Washington.

Economic history has upstaged Robert Mugabe. His most profound calculations have been dashed. Even as a professed student of Karl Marx, he failed to recognize the significance of the world economic crisis and its impact on Africa.

In his agony and bewilderment, Prime Minister Mugabe accused Joshua Nkomo of consorting with South African authorities to overthrow him.

In the pursuit of lost dreams Mugabe, a brilliant man, has risked the future of Zimbabwe for the sake of a fast fix from the neo-colonial powers who were themselves searching for the elixir of eternal life though they had one foot in the economic graveyard.

For whatever it is worth Mugabe, with his agile mind and quick charm, always thought he could play the dozens. But now his game is failing and he charges the Nkomo minority with treasonable acts.

During the darkest days of their struggle against Ian Smith, the East Germans gave substantial aid to the Nkomo-Mugabe forces.

Evaluating the two men in the context of long term anti-colonial and neo-colonial struggles, the East Germans concluded that Joshua Nkomo, though representing a smaller population group than Mugabe, was the more honest and reliable man who was willing to take the hard and difficult road toward national salvation rather than the quick fix road. And this dilemma of economic development faces not only the nations of the developing world but several nations within the Communist as well as the Capitalist orbits. It most seriously affects and tragically afflicts Africa.

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