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BLACK PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION

Use It Or Lose It

There is a rumor going around East Winston that the East Winston Branch of the library may be closed. It seems that the circulation figures for that branch are substantially below that of other libraries.

"If the library closes," one official noted, "It won't be closed by the library board. It will be closed by the community."

The way to save the East Winston Library is to use it.

"It's funny," noted a library staffer, "how the people who make so much noise about losing the library are not the ones who use it."

Since April 2-8 is National Library Week, there could hardly be a more appropriate time to take advantage of the library's free services. Get a membership card. Check out a book.

The East Winston Library may not be as accessible as it once was, thanks to Redevelopment.

But those neighborhoods are being rebuilt -- slowly. If the community can make an extra effort to use the East Winston library in the meantime, the problem will solve itself in the long run.

The community can save the East Winston Library simply by using it. Visit the library and read a magazine or check out a book. All it will cost you is time. East Winston lost its hospital -- have you got time to save its library?

Defeating His Purpose

Joseph Califano's decision to withhold federal funds from the UNC system may defeat the purpose he claims to be serving. The HEW Secretary maintains that he is taking this action to speed up the university's desegregation process, and to strengthen black colleges.

However, if federal funds are withdrawn from the university system, it would seem that all branches of the university would suffer. Does Califano have any control over the ways in which non-federal money is spent? Suppose his plan backfires, and money is siphoned away from deficit programs to keep programs going at State and UNC-CH?

We have already stated in a previous editorial that

the HEW ruling eliminating duplication of programs would hurt students of both races. If education or nursing, for example, were only offered at one institution, and it happened to be Elizabeth City or Fayetteville, then black students here would suffer from the inaccessibility of courses just as much as the students at UNC-G or Asheville.

Califano's sweeping reforms seem intended to bring about overnight changes in the system -- changes which not everybody wants. Many blacks vigorously oppose the loss of their school's racial identity. The reforms seem aimed at an end result without heeding the havoc that will occur in the interim: students educa-

ted in deficient programs because funds are cut off; students deprived of opportunities because programs are eliminated; standards lowered for quote requirements are raised beyond the hopes of students who could previously have been admitted. All these effects could result from the Califano decision.

We agree with the criticisms leveled at the Califano decision by Rep. Steve Neal. Neal stated: "... It will be HEW, and not the state of North Carolina, that has deprived many young people, both black and white, of their right to obtain quality higher education at the campus of their choice."

Reminder--We're Still in Debt

Rep. Delbert Latta (R.-Ohio), a member of the House Budget Committee, did some figuring and came up with these eye openers on the national debt: Eight years ago, an average of \$263 of every individual income tax return was applied to paying the interest on the national debt. Today, an average of \$707 of every return goes to service that debt—a 169 per cent rise.

Things You Should Know

Emmett J.
SCOTT...



... SERVED AS SECRETARY TO BOOKER

T. WASHINGTON AT TUSKEGEE IN 1917, DURING

WORLD WAR I, HE BECAME ASSISTANT SECY

OF WAR; DEALING WITH ARMY SEGREGATION HERE & ABROAD /

UNDER HIS GUIDANCE WAS SET UP THE FIRST TRAINING CAMP

FOR NEGRO OFFICERS AT FT. DES MOINES, IOWA / THE SOUTH

REACTED WITH RACE RIOTS & IN HOUSTON, TEX. 64 NEGROES

OF THE 24th INFANTRY WERE COURT-MARTIALED ON NOV. 1, 1917 /

From The Desk Of The President

By T. DIANNE BELLAMY-SMALL
North Carolina State Youth Conference President, NAACP

A job is an act by which a person can obtain money, experience and position for living in society. Since having a job affects how much money you can make and the experience you receive, it places you in the socio-economic order of things. It is your responsibility to know what you are capable of doing, what kind of job you want and where you are going in the job market.

It is time now for young people seeking jobs to get out and start placing applications. If you have already begun that's great, if you have not, it's high time to get moving. Jobs are going to be harder to find now because people are not hiring, people are not quitting their jobs and money is very tight. It will be important that, as you seek employment, you be aware of a few things. Your appearance, your ability to fill out an application and your ability to conduct yourself in an interview will have some bearing on whether you get a job and the kind of job you can get.

There are some things that blacks in order to get ahead must conform to. It is no good to go looking for a job in cornrows or plaits. It is no good to go looking for a job if your body odor offends people. It is no good to go for a job with the clothes you wear. A suit and tie is nice, a skirt or dress, but don't try to look like "Super Fly" or "Foxy Brown." Whatever you wear it should be clean, pressed and neatly worn. I guess you say everybody knows that but I challenge you to go down to the Employment Security Commission in your area and see how people come in looking for jobs.

Once you get to the employment office, in most instances you have to fill out an application and, if nothing else, you have to sign your name. Many applications are made lengthy to frustrate and discourage you. So you need to be alert,

have plenty of time and read with understanding before you start writing.

Look at the application before you begin writing. Sometimes at the top in a corner or in fine print, you will find the words, "Print in Ink" and many people see this after they have begun to write the answers on the application. If you do not understand what the application is asking, ask somebody. Try to be neat and complete. If you are unsure of how to fill out an application, ask to take it home and bring it back the next day. Then get someone to help you fill the application out correctly. An application filled out the wrong way will probably get little or no consideration and it leads the employer to believe that perhaps you are not capable of doing the job.

An interview can help you or hurt you. Never lie in an interview. Answer questions as you understand them, but don't ramble. Leave the street language outside. If you don't know how to use, "went," "came," "is," "I," "myself," find out. "I myself" is wrong and should be avoided. Don't be afraid to look at the person, who is interviewing you. If the person is not a person you know, it is only a tactic to see how sensitive you are. Remember you want to give yourself the best opportunity to get a job.

When you have the minimum experience for the job, you will never know what you can do until you try.

Attend the Minority Youth Unemployment Conference: "Brother Can You Spare a Job?" at Bennett College in Greensboro, Friday, March 31, and Saturday, April 1. It is sponsored by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Committee and the North Carolina State Youth Conference, NAACP. If you don't have a job or need to know more about getting a job, do yourself a favor: come to the conference this weekend.



T. Dianne Bellamy-Small

Congress New Bill

For those of us who had been dreading the millennium, foreseeing dwindling social security benefits and inflation soaring past fixed incomes, there is good news. Congress has just passed a bill prohibiting private businesses from forcing employees to retire before age seventy. The federal government cannot forcibly retire its employees at any age.

Considering that the Chairman of the House Aging Committee is nearing eighty, and that the word Senate is Latin for "old" (with a substantial number of its members qualifying for the title), it is hardly surprising that such a bill would pass.

Historically, some of the world's greatest achievements have been accomplished by the elderly. Picasso was still painting at 90; George Bernard Shaw wrote a play at 93; Churchill wrote his "History of the English-speaking People" at 82; and Schweitzer head a hospital in Africa at age 89.

It was unfair to arbitrarily declare a person unfit to work because of his age. Sixty-five is just a little over half way in the lives of many. It is nice to see that it is no longer considered "the end."

Economically speaking, this measure could be a blessing for all ages. It will give senior citizens the opportunity to stay financially independent, relieving the burden from the state or the children of the elderly.

This law restores the dignity to old age, and restores to the country one of its greatest natural resources: the wisdom of its elderly.



To Be Equal

by Vernon Jordan



A New Civil Rights Debate

Under the leadership of Secretary Patricia Harris, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has moved swiftly to ensure the best use of scarce federal urban funds.

The Community Development Block Grant program is the centerpiece of federal efforts to aid the cities. It replaced categorical grants—federal grants for specific projects and programs. Under the block grant system, the government transfers money to the cities with few strings attached.

Naturally, local officials preferred this way of doing business. They could use the money in almost any way they felt their cities needed it, without the complex federal restrictions that had tied their hands in the past.

The only problem was, the money wasn't reaching poor and moderate income neighborhoods. The law creating the block grant system stipulated that's where the bulk of the money was supposed to go, but there was little enforcement.

In 1975, the National Urban League conducted a survey of how the block grant system was working in 24 cities. The results were depressing. Not more than half of the Community Development funds were going to the neighborhoods that needed them most, and of those, about a third were used for land clearance projects to prepare for uses that would generally benefit higher income people. Then HUD itself analyzed the results of the program and

confirmed the Urban League's studies. In fact, HUD found declining resources going to the neighborhoods occupied by low and moderate income families.

That's where Secretary Harris came in. Shortly after taking office she implemented policies to increase the amount of block grant funds going to poorer areas. HUD staff all across the country were ordered to follow new targeting policies.

Then, the Secretary proposed new regulations on the use of Community Development funds, requiring that three-fourths of the grants would have to be used for the benefit of low and moderate income families.

Many local officials took a negative view, claiming the regulations would remove the flexibility they once had. Chiefly that flexibility consisted of putting improvements into middle class neighborhoods to win votes at election time, improvements paid for with federal funds intended for lower income neighborhoods.

By contrast, community groups overwhelmingly supported the Department's new thrust. By targeting funds into poorer neighborhoods, the lives of their residents would be improved and the neighborhoods saved from continued decline.

Many pointed out that the proposed 75 percent rule would end past abuses while preserving plenty of local flexibility in the use of the funds. Almost as important, the proposed regulations included stronger administrative

controls over the quality of the block grant projects. This ensures that, for the first time, resources targeted to low and moderate income areas would truly benefit the people who live there.

The final regulations were published on March 1, and now have the force of law. They meet local officials' desire for flexibility while preserving the primacy of aid to lower income areas. Now grant applications will have to certify that at least three-fourths of the grant will directly benefit low and moderate income persons and approval of the applications will be followed up with performance reviews.

Flexibility is preserved by allowing applicants to certify that not less than fifty percent of the grant monies would be used to benefit low-income people, but applicants will have to show that the lower percentages for these purposes derives from the special needs of their communities and that it was arrived at in a planning process that included low and moderate income people.

Applications proposing to spend less than 50 percent of the grants for the benefit of lower income people will be turned down.

These new rules are a major step forward in making federal funds relevant to urban needs and the Secretary is to be commended for her role in making HUD's policies responsive to those most in need of federal aid.