

Editorials & Comments

Too Many Crimes Committed By Blacks Against Blacks

..There is a high degree of crime against the person and property within the black community. ..These crimes committed by blacks with the victims being also black. Since it is not a problem caused by someone or something outside the black community, the cause must be within. ..We believe that cause to be fear, along with a lack of concern for fellow community members. A criminal cannot exist within a community whose members have decided to be without crime. A criminal exists within a community only if he is allowed to do so. ..When the average community member is afraid to check, or question another community member, then criminal activity will have a high rate of occurrence. When the average community member is not concerned with the well-being of his neighbors, then his well-being is also in jeopardy. ..Criminals, therefore, exist in the black community because they are allowed to exist due to our fear of one another along with our lack of concern for one another. ..To end criminal activity within our neighborhoods, we must turn to working with one another. Each community member must be willing and committed to aiding fellow community members.

..We, a people who have suffered long, must not commit crimes against ourselves. We can end criminal activity in our neighborhoods, we must turn to working with one another. Each community member must be willing and committed to aiding fellow community members.

..We, a people who have suffered long, must not commit crimes against ourselves. We can end criminal activity in our neighborhoods by making our neighborhoods our homes. We realize that crimes against our communities are crimes against us, then we will be moving toward our goal of crime-free neighborhoods.

..However, for any given community to move progressively, its young must be progressive. If our young do not aid us in ridding our neighborhoods of crime, criminal activity will remain. The young black man and woman must feel responsible for their communities.

..Concern, responsibility and determination coupled with a sense of unity with black men and women, will end the high degree of crime occurring within our neighborhoods. ..We owe it to ourselves to do something about the problem, and we should do it immediately.

Poor Will Pay The Highest Price

..The seriousness of the current recession and the coming energy crisis is not going to strike home to most of us until we feel a bitter frostbite in our homes. Most of us appear to have accepted the fact that the United States is short of an environmentally-clean fuels with an attitude of unconcern. ..There is little argument over the cold facts that poor consumers will pay the highest price for these shortages. We need to understand that fuel crisis, whether fact or fiction, will entail more than just federal regulation of the everyday consumers' use of fuel. ..The possibilities in increased cases of pneumonia or influenza

looms far more dangerous to the poor than an oil and gas shortage, driving around town on Sundays, lowering the thermostats to 68 and cutting down on electricity.

..Along with this threat comes that fact that many budget-minded poor have recently purchased cheap, poorly constructed heaters. Unfortunately, these people are the last to be protected by government regulations.

..The energy shortage has brought a serious crisis to our midst, but we ought not to forget those who will generally have to pay the highest price for the short-sightedness of our politicians and the large oil interest.

Black's Economic Gains Have Vanished

..According to the latest official reports of the Urban Institute Blacks economic gains vanished during the Nixon Administration.

..The Census Bureau reports that by 1973 median black family income was down to 58 percent of white after reaching 61 percent in 1969. Also, the earnings of white families from 1969 to 1973 outstripped price increases by 6.1 percent, but black families failed to keep pace with inflation.

..Black families below the poverty line increased by 160,000 while 350,000 white families moved above the line.

..A 1971 study by the Urban Institute states that if black workers were paid as much as whites for the same work, their incomes would rise by 27 percent. Further, if they advanced in equal proportions to better paying jobs, black income would increase an additional 45 percent.

..Why are so many black people poor?

..Poverty means hungry children; old people alone and in need; families turned sour and broken apart by the abrasion of constant want.

..We ought to think about it!



Fear Has Become The Companion Of The Elderly In The Black Community

TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

Behind Suburbia's Barricades

..This past summer the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights released a report titled "Equal Opportunity in Suburbia" that deserves a lot more attention than it's received.

..The report is a damning indictment of the growing polarization that locks more and more blacks into city ghettos while more and more whites flock to suburbs from which blacks and other minorities are largely excluded.

..The exodus, of affluent whites from the cities has continued unabated," the report states, "along with the large-scale movement of jobs and wealth. The new suburbs have enjoyed an era of unparalleled prosperity, while the central cities have strained to answer growing demands for services for the urban poor and, ironically, suburban commuters."

..The population shift is easily seen. From 1960 to 1970 the white population of large central cities declined by 1.9 million people, while their black population increased by 2.8 million. As the central cities became blacker, the suburbs absorbed greater numbers of white families.

..A population shift of this size doesn't just happen. There are two basic reasons why blacks did not join the movement to the suburbs - past and present racial discrimination in housing, and the suburbs' intentional lack of housing opportunities for lower income families. Even this last reason has racial connotations - proportionately twice as many poor blacks as poor whites live in central cities. This situation affects blacks negatively in many ways. First, there is the denial of equal opportunity to live where a family wants to live.

..It also means lost job opportunities. Most cities are experiencing a loss in jobs, especially blue-collar jobs most likely to be held by minorities. Not only are old factories moving out of the city into the suburbs, but new industries are also locating there.

..This means, for most black workers, an impossibly long and costly commute or the necessity to buy cars or join undependable car pools. Many business pull out of the city without any attempt to insure that the suburbs they move to will allow housing for their workers.

..Federal and state fair housing laws have proven ineffective. They are not enforced and beyond making a few cosmetic changes, most real estate brokers continue to foster a dual market for housing, shunting blacks into all-black or "changing" neighborhoods. Many banks and mortgage lenders "red-line" such areas too, refusing mortgage money for houses there.

..Suburban governments erect barricades behind which few blacks are allowed. Their zoning laws make it impossible to build on smaller lots or to build apartment housing. Often, the Commission found, existing black neighborhoods were demolished by roads and other government-sponsored projects. And most have refused to allow their communities to participate in public housing or rent supplement housing.

..The report documents too, the extent to which the federal government has encouraged this trend, starting with official backing for racially restricted neighborhoods and continuing to the present passive role in enforcing anti-discrimination laws and desegregating the suburbs.

Down To Business

Unity For Economic Survival

By Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell

..Black Muslim Minister Louis Farrakhan urged Black businessmen at the Annual NBL Convention to seriously consider ways to work cooperatively for the economic survival of Black America.

..Speaking at the Minority Enterprise Luncheon held during the Atlanta convention, October 23-26, Minister Farrakhan electrified the audience with his message on the convention theme, "The Power Of Unity."

.. "If just this room alone could unite this afternoon," Farrakhan told the group representing the bulk of the Black economic power in this country, "this room alone possesses the power to lift 30 million Black people in America up from the mud, up from poverty and want and nakedness and squalor. But these that are here must learn the power of unity, and then adopt those principles that will cause us to achieve it."

..In what many consider to be the highlight of the four-day conference of seminars and workshops on business, government and communications, Minister Farrakhan, the national representative of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, excited the audience by both praising them and exhorting them to action.

.. "Yes, you have individual knowledge and individual expertise. You have individual accomplishment, and you have a degree in this and in that. But until we learn the value of pooling those resources intellectually as well as financially, until we

learn that unless all of us make it, no one of us makes it.... "And unless we learn that, this will only be another one of 74 conventions where you meet together and drink and socialize and party and hang out and talk trash, and talk about how much money you got last year, how you did that one in, and wangled this money out of the government, begged for that, crawled for this, and stole that," Farrakhan preached as the audience roared its acknowledgment.

.. "Pardon my frankness," he chuckled, "but you should never have invited a Muslim, if you didn't want to hear the truth."

..Graciously commending NBL President Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell for selecting such a powerful theme as "The Power of Unity," Minister Farrakhan constantly sought to emphasize its meaning.

.. "Unless we give up the pettiness of the white American decadent philosophy of 'rugged individualism' that has brought America now to the brink of ruin, unless we can see the value of our cooperative working together for a common end, then we might as well say this is nothing more than another party on the social calendar of Who's Who in Black business in America," he declared.

.. Frequently reminding the audience that he was speaking on behalf of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Minister Farrakhan admonished them to think about the future survival of the Black masses.

.. "White America is in trouble herself," he explained.

as i see it

Administration Poor On Public Relations

By GERALD JOHNSON

..As the country faces one of its biggest challenges ever, and probably the worse crisis since the early 30's the Ford administration is still trying to paint a picture of roses. Several months ago the administration claimed that the recession we would face would be mild. Now that the recession has been nothing less than traumatic, the administration is maintaining that a depression is out of the question. Nothing could be more false, for it is felt by many experts in

the area that we are in the beginning stages of a depression. With no one actually defining the necessary conditions for a depression to exist makes the argument academic.



.. However, what is not academic is that the administration is playing hush-hush with the seriousness of

this problem. I have no other recourse than to believe that the

situation is so clandestine because of the coming presidential elections. The administration is playing politics with the public's welfare.

.. A gasoline rationing, or a high gasoline tax is a mandatory action needed now. The Ford administration should take this action and publicly back it up by explaining the critical situation this country is in. The gasoline companies should be forced to stop playing price games and the administration should make it publicly known when these price games are started.

.. All oil based products should be allowed to rise in price, causing more efficient use. The administration, again, should be responsible for

making the public aware of the situation and use force to see to it

that stringent guidelines are adhered.

.. There is an obvious communication gap and the public is obviously not aware of the acuteness of this problem. Many people feel that the energy crisis is a political game and that no shortages exist. Still others can't understand the social and political ramifications involved in such a complex situation.

.. Well, the energy crisis is for real, the problem is more complex than most can imagine and an immediate result of all this is an extreme alteration in American lifestyles. To make the lumps easier to bear, I feel the public should be let in on the problem, its complexities, and proposals for solving those problems. Also, hard core guidelines have to be set up to assure equal suffering for all.

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