

**Tony Brown's
COMMENTS**

The Black Call To Action!

President Ronald Reagan has presented his vision for America's future. "The time for action is now," the president declared as he issued his 1986 budget.

He proposes a virtual end to "government by handout," and all-out assault on social services for the poor and federal welfare programs for the middle class. With blind and continued dependence on the government, the White middle class will suffer a recession and the poor and all Blacks will sink a step below into an economic depression.

The president leaves no doubt that he believes that MX missiles and a Star Wars defense are more important than Amtrak, jobs programs, medicare of school lunches for the middle class. His budget also admits that he is afraid of the elderly vote with his misplaced political loyalty to Social Security pensions.

Two Black professional leaders met Mr. Reagan's budget with cries of "unfair" and "insensitive" respectively. But after listening to their own previous rhetoric, did they expect fairness and sensitivity?

My message here is not to join the chorus of weak sisters who are wringing their hands and limiting their behavior to non-productive anti-Reagan hate-mongering. Instead, it is a grim reminder that African-Americans are slowly, but surely being left behind as this country marches to a different drummer.

Furthermore, and most importantly, it is a "Call" to action. Blacks had better plan for a continued decline in the federal dole.

And to that end, it is our turn to turn to our plan of action and away from political promises, leaders who fail to produce and would-be messiahs who massage their egos at the expense of the welfare of the masses.

This is too much to ask of some Blacks, perhaps most Blacks. Most people have always failed when history called.

It is also time that we find a place in our struggle for new ideas and new faces that can

implement those ideas while finding a new role for those who have passed their prime. All of us are needed, but needed in the right place.

Mr. Reagan is not playing. This is a revolution in the conduct of the government and its essential responsibilities. Peace, prosperity and growth, he says, must be bought with reduced federal domestic spending. Furthermore, Blacks have come to depend on these programs almost exclusively.

We must issue our own "Call" to action. In effect, it must say to hell with Mr. Reagan, the phoney Democratic Party, the backwards Republican Party, Black politicians who exploit us for "party" unity and a plethora is simple: Wealth (consumer power) equals political-economic power which, in turn, creates civil rights.

Our economic problems, which undergird all of our other problems, remain persistent and severe and will become exacerbated by the new cuts.

The economic progress for Black Americans is the key to our social progress in health, housing, education and family will automatically improve the lot of Blacks. His amazing recovery of 1984 has already proved him wrong.

This progress will also fuel the country's economic growth and reduce the role of government, President Reagan's primary objective.

Unfortunately, Mr. Reagan believes that sustained growth of the general economy will automatically improve the lot of Blacks. His amazing recovery of 1984 has already proved him wrong.

But we cannot depend on the president or any other outsider to understand our problems - and thus solving them. We must accept the initiative.

September will be Black Consumer Month. We must educate our community to love and attract and use wealth the way we now worship and attract poverty.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL TV series can be seen on public television Sunday, on channel 42 at 5 p.m.

**Jazz Singer Betty Carter
To Perform Here Saturday**

The legendary jazz singer Betty Carter performs at Spirit Square's NCNB Performance Place Saturday, February 16 at 8:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Spirit Square Box Office, 318 N. Tryon Street., Charlotte, N.C. 28202. Hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Tickets can be ordered by phone, in person and by mail. Cash, checks and all major credit cards are accepted. Tickets will be held for five days without payment. To order tickets call the Box Office at (704) 376-8883.

Betty Carter is a singer in the tradition of the jazz masters, people like Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker and Miles Davis. She is known for her extended scat singing, be-bop and interpretative ballad singing.

Born in Flint, Michigan, Carter began singing in clubs when she was 16. In the '60s when no major record label would record her unless she sang to their commercial whims, Carter started her own record company, Bet-Car Records.

Spirit Square is funded in part by grants from the Arts and Science Council, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, the State of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Arts Council and the Na-



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