



editorials

From the editor's desk



Is Free Enterprise Really Free?

Attitude On The Job

By Dave Byrd

You have just been hired for a new job. How you start can make the difference between success and failure. Your attitude, more than anything else, will determine just how successful you will be.

Sure, you have to study and learn as much as you can about the job in order to get started in the right direction. Otherwise, you will become nervous and concerned.

If you don't ask, you may not learn a great deal. So be sure to ask. You are going to have good days as well as bad days. But the fastest way to get the job jitters -- really get yourself in trouble -- is to go about your work with a chip on your shoulders.

Your attitude with your boss is of most importance. Don't be a prima donna. If you look at it objectively, most bosses are not out to get you. Be friendly, but not too familiar, during early contact with the new boss. Don't get on a first name bases unless invited to.

The best way to get the boss uptight is to suggest making sweeping changes, even before you really know your job. If your suggestion is a good one, wait until you've been there a while and learn the procedures.

Your means of communication will definitely affect your getting along at your new company. Don't look for reasons to be nice to people, just do it out of common courtesy.

If you are any judge of character you will soon be able to spot those who will give you a hard time. Avoid anybody who tries to give you a hard

time. If you allow them to get to you, they will.

Included among those to watch are people who like to gossip and the usual malcontents, who do their job but put the company down at every opportunity.

Stop the gossipmongers, malcontents, anybody who gives you trouble by changing the subject as soon as possible. Declare that you are trying to get off on the right foot.

State that you have formed no opinions. Let everyone know you couldn't keep a secret if you had to. The principle reason you will want to avoid many of the factors mentioned is to demonstrate that you have a desire of proving your loyalty.

Company loyalty should not be taken for granted. It is one of the strongest supports in favor of you advancing.

With all of these what-to-do's and what-to-look-out-for's, don't get sidetracked into believing you will get ahead with anything less than good or superior job performance. That still comes first among the qualities for which you will be evaluated.

The total of all the characteristics listed here will determine your attitude on the job. In simple terms it all boils down to -- Common Sense.

If you want to gripe, condemn, growl, maybe you should look somewhere else to work. But until you decide that, and if you want to be a success, let it show in your performance.

By Sammie W. Brown

Our Economic System is referred to as "the free enterprise system." This simply means that each individual is reasonably free to engage in the business of his choice, to produce whatever goods or services he wishes, and to profit from his business in competition with other producers.

Like our other freedoms: Freedom of speech and Freedom of the press, it will not infringe on the rights of other individuals. Producers may not engage in practices which threaten public health and safety.

Consumers, as well as producers, have certain freedoms. They have the freedom to choose from a variety of articles for sale, those articles which are priced within their reach and which best serve their needs.

To protect these freedoms, our various government policies guide and aide businesses whenever necessary.

Over the years big business has become more and more efficient and production has increased tremendously. Many articles, which were once considered luxuries, can now be manufactured at a low enough price.

This now places them within the reach of almost everyone. Most American families have an automobile, radios, a television set, and various household conveniences.

The standard of living in our country is higher than any other nation in the world. To a great extent this is the result of the organization of business on a large scale and of the American design for production.

Production depends on four factors: (1) Natural resources, such as land, minerals, water, wildlife and forests; (2) Labor, or the work of human beings including physical, mental or wealth, represented by factories, machines and tools; (3) Management; (4) Profit.

If there were not the materials with which to work, the laborers could not make anything. On the other hand, the workers and the materials are not all that are needed for production.

There must be tools and machines. There must be power to run those machines. This wealth which is used to make more wealth is called capital; hence, this system of production is sometimes called capitalism. However, there is another factor needed for effective production. It is organization, or management. There must be skillful planning to make the most effective use of the four factors mentioned.

How are prices determined? Naturally, no person or company is going to operate a business unless there is the opportunity to make some money out of it. To make a profit, a business concern sets a price on its product that will cover the cost of making it plus a

reasonable profit.

Through the profit motive, the law of supply and demand works best when there is competition. Each business, then, bids against its competitors for the factors or production as well as for buyers of its product.

With intense competition, a producer may frequently be forced to sell below his normal price. A lack of competition on the other hand, may enable him to raise his market price because the supply of the product is limited.

Charles Abbott states, "Business without profit is not business any more than a pickle is candy."

Theodore Roosevelt states, "The biggest corporation, like the humblest private citizen, must be held to strict compliance with the will of the people."

David Lilienthal states, "The genius of America is in its ability to make adjustments. We do not start with all economic or political answers; we make up answers and we can only make them up as we go along."

In summary, Lilienthal speaks of America's best use of its resources. "We can compare the vast quantity of iron, ore coal, agricultural products, minerals, oil, etc. are papers!" However, the most valuable resource would be the number of papers produced. The word "PAPERS," when analyzed, represents:

- P -- Freedom to Petition.
- A -- Freedom of Assembly.
- P -- Freedom of Press.
- E -- Enables us to secure and defend.
- R -- The Rights of each of us to use these freedoms.
- S -- Freedom of Speech!

We are now living at a time in history when a strong emphasis is placed on energy conservation. In the sense used here today, "Paper" is one resource we can afford to utilize and expand as much as possible, for its letters symbolize our various freedoms.

Papers stand for all the citizen's rights. Without these we would have difficulty utilizing and gaining access to iron, minerals, water or any other natural resources.

I choose to leave you with questions rather than answers!

What changes in business organization were brought about by our expanding economy?

How does our government prevent big business from gaining too much economic power?

How does our government aid big business?

The real meaning of the word Papers?

Now, maybe you are ready to answer these questions, and to offer fresh ideas for change. The changes in our economy are "spurred on through common people like you and me, makers of eternity."

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The Role Of Black Colleges

By Michael Ray Cox

The Black colleges in America appear to be generally accepted by the American society. There is reason to believe an insidious plot has been constructed to make the existence of the Black colleges and universities obsolete.

An example of such a plot is the annual distribution of federal funds to predominately white institutions whose financial status far exceeds that of any Black institution.

Each year institutions of higher learning such as the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, and Duke University receive over half of the government funds.

A typical example of such an incident is the summer past (1980). During the summer of 1980, \$2.87 million out of \$500,000,000 went to colleges and universities mentioned above, while institutions such as North Carolina Central University, Elizabeth State University and A&T University received only a nominal portion of the finances.

Moreover, what's even worse than that is the median which is used to support unjustifiable actions of that nature.

Consequently, the most invalid of all alibis presented happens to be the most unfair attack ever launched on Black institutions of higher learning.

That attack is centered around the negative aspects and roles which our institutions have and also encountered during the many years of existence without considering the positive aspects and roles (which in most cases outweigh those negative aspects and roles focused on by the media and other exploitive sources).

Historical Black institutions served pretty much the same purpose. The Egyptian pyramids serve the people of that nation a reminder of hard work and determination which were necessary ingredients of such a prosperous achievement.

Presently these same institutions cultivate the minds of millions of Black Americans in order that the minds of millions of Black American

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