

BLACK HISTORY

"A RACE IS LIKE A MAN-UNTIL IT USES ITS OWN TALENTS, TAKES PRIDE IN ITS OWN HISTORY, AND LOVES ITS OWN MEMORIES. IT CAN NEVER FULFILL ITSELF COMPLETELY."

JOHN W. VANDERCOOK



EDITORIALS

Blacks Can Make It Happen

The 1976 election for president is upon us and the black community shortly will be besieged by politicians asking us, once again, for our support, our money, and our endorsement.

We will be offered the usual promises but, what's probably worse, we will also be offered the usual politicians. We won't be given the opportunity by either of the national parties to vote for a black candidate.

Part of this is the fault of the national parties. It wasn't until 1960 that a Catholic was voted into office and neither party has ever run a Jew, much less a black. But part of it is the fault of blacks for not putting themselves into the race, and not working early enough and hard enough for our own people.

Sen. Brooke of Massachusetts is an outstanding campaigner and a man of excellent talents. Julian Bond is also a

worthy public figure, and there are others. But lightning is not going to strike the black community in the form of a black candidate unless we help make it happen.

Among the candidates now in the field, there is no Republican at this time who impresses us. Certainly, President Ford, has been a tawdry disappointment. His Republican rival, Ronald Reagan, should have stayed in show business where he belonged and where he achieved a modest reputation.

Among the Democrats, we believe there are some promising figures, and former Senator Fred Harris, the populist, looks to be the best man in the field, but it is too early to say. What is an incontrovertible fact is that black politicians are still at the bottom of the political pyramid and it's up to us to help boost them up. When do YOU start?

Time To Abolish The Central Intelligence Agency

The time has come to abolish the Central Intelligence Agency. It was originally set up to coordinate intelligence operations for the U. S. government but it has failed dismally to do that job. Instead, it has busied itself acting in behalf of presidents as their personal, hired killers.

Acting secretly, both Republican, and Democrat presidents have ordered the CIA to do "dirty jobs" — attempting to kill leaders in Africa and Latin America and the Mid East who happened to be out of favor with Washington. This is not foreign policy. It is murder, pure and

simple, and shows the failure of the U.S. to formulate a foreign policy that can work by inspiration and positive action.

Writing in the New York REVIEW OF BOOKS recently, author Gary Wills urged the CIA be abolished and its functions transferred to the State Department where they could be supervised properly. We back this proposal. We are sick of the United States being disgraced by the CIA's dirty tricks around the world. We are sickened by the waste of public monies for this purpose. Covert, (killing and disruption) operations must be stopped now.

Realism Rhetoric

President Ford in his State of the Union message called for what he chose to term as realism in spending with a return of funds to the states for their allocation and decisions as to how it should be spent. In addition, budget cuts were listed to halt creeping increased inflation.

The word realism may sound great to big business interests but for millions of unemployed Americans—low income, fixed income, minorities and especially Blacks and the elderly, realism has been in and on their minds since many gainful and helpful programs have been thrown out and continued unemployment faces them.

Many Americans were hopeful that some solutions to aid the sagging economy would be suggested but it seemed that no solutions appeared in the message, just continuing rhetoric, useful

for a big political year.

A possible solution for the continued lagging economy would be to raise productivity through lowering the unemployment and interest rates. This solution might again call for a realistic public service jobs approach by the government so that employment and jobs could be made available for the millions of unemployed Americans. Interest rate lowering might also give the needed boom to the sagging construction and building industries.

So, for the millions of unemployed Americans and the small businesses that are rapidly falling into bankruptcy and dissolution the State of the Union address or message appeared more like political rhetoric with less impact on the true reality of the continuing dismal picture found in our lagging economy and rising inflation.

Failure of United States Angola Policy

Washington's efforts to intervene in Angola's civil war, through a massive infusion of arms, money and training support, is doomed to failure.

The reason lies not in the rights and wrongs of the contending factions but in a history of neglect of black Africa and indifference to its paramount concerns.

Our government has little influence in Africa today because it supported the European colonial powers up to the bitter end, and even today follows a conciliatory policy toward the racist South African government that maintains an apartheid system and oppresses its black majority.

In Angola, despite putting some nationalist leaders on the CIA payroll, Washington poured military aid into the old Portuguese dictatorship, aid that was quickly funneled into Portugal's African colonies, including Angola, to fight rebels battling for independence.

What makes the Angolan mess even worse is the presence of the South African army fighting in support of the faction we are backing.

Yes, the Popular Movement forces are supplied with advanced Russian weapons, Russian advisors, Cuban combat troops, and, it is alleged, with white mercenaries from Katanga. None of these groups has any business being there.

But from the African point of view, bad as these outsiders may be, they can't compare with troops from a South African regime that condemns its black majority to sub-human living conditions and strips them of basic human rights.

So in Angola, the U. S. is allied with South Africa against a black movement that has been recognized by many nations while the side we support has very limited support.

The point Americans ought to consider is whether we want to be in a position in which we are allied with an internationally-abhorred country and intervening in an African civil war that could become another Vietnam. The lesson that must be drawn from American



Benjamin L. Hooks
FCC COMMISSIONER

Just the fact of getting a job is all important to many, too many, people whose skins happen to be black or they possess a Spanish-surname, or are Oriental or the original Americans.

Sometimes when we look at the grim struggle for a livelihood that many a poor soul wages daily just to make it through another day, I am reminded of some of the poorer foreign countries I have visited where the natives grind meal, pound millet, forage for roots and nuts, not to store away for future meals, but to fill immediately that gnawing void in their stomachs and for a brief moment thwart a menacing death ever crouching in the offing in the form of ugly starvation.

But this is a country of unprecedented wealth, of an advanced technology that when contemplated boggles the mind of even the most sophisticated or world weary observer. It is indeed the fabled land of milk and honey, where the grain bins bulge and the vast farmlands of the midwest and prairie states swarm with contented cows and sheep, and pigs and goats. And the barnyards are aflutter with chickens and ducks and turkeys and geese.

Why, then, the pervasive hunger in so many corners of the nation? Why is it that the income gap between blacks and whites

is widening rather than closing in this halcyon land? Why are blacks the last hired and the first fired and women clustered in bottom-of-the-heap jobs?

These are nagging and compelling questions that must be answered soon if we are to continue as a strong and viable nation. In the meantime, it might be instructive to blacks and other minorities to begin to assess job market a bit more closely to determine how best to make entry to a particular field of employment or a specific job. F

For example: The Federal Communications Commission as I stated recently has an overall complement of more than 1,900 employees. These consist of lawyers, engineers, electronics technicians, computer analysts, secretarial and clerical workers, etc. All of these people are not clustered in Washington, D. C.

We have some 50 field offices under the Field Operations Bureau, scattered across the U. S. These offices for the most part are small, ranging from a staff of three or four (a monitoring station) to one of 15 or more, a full district office that handles licensing procedures, etc.

But the advantages they offer the prospective employee is that they make it

unnecessary to leave his or her home and journey to faraway Washington, D. C., to secure employment with the agency. It is true, as Ms. Curtestine Boardley, who heads the internal EEO unit of the FCC, says, that these offices soon will be regionalized.

Even so, this should result in greater career possibilities for people working in them, making a larger concentration of FCC employees in one area and yet offering possible employment closer to home for the job seeker.

One of the factors that has affected the employment of minorities in these offices is that they are small and when people acquire jobs in them they tend to stay.

But mostly it is lack of awareness of job availability that affects blacks and minorities adversely. Part of the responsibility for this, of course, rests with the federal government. Not enough information has been disseminated to the populace concerning where the jobs are, the type of jobs, the kind of pay, etc.

But in the final analysis, the responsibility rests on the job seeker. He must somehow ferret out the information he needs to steer him firmly in the direction of job possibilities. To paraphrase the late Billie Holiday song, "God Bless a child who makes his own way." (NNPA).

Government Jobs Close to Home

Lester B. Granger

Periodically in the course of history, an individual of unusual capacity for dealing with human needs comes upon the scene. He quietly but resolutely makes enormous contributions to mankind and then departs.

Such an individual was Lester B. Granger who died last week at the age of 97 years.

Granger was born in Newport News, Virginia in 1896. His father was a physician and Lester Granger was the only one of his six sons not to pursue a career in either medicine or the law. He trained as a social worker.

He was extremely active increasing opportunities for minorities during World War II and served as special assistant to the Secretary of the Navy in advising on the fullest utilization of blacks. He travelled 60,000 miles, talked

to thousands of servicemen and in 1945 was awarded the Navy's highest civilian decoration, the Distinguished Civilian Service Award.

He steadfastly pushed "the right to work, the right to vote, the right to physical safety and the right to dignity and self-respect" for black Americans.

During his tenure as the third executive director of the National Urban League, the number of affiliates grew from 41 to 63, employment increased from 216 to 456 full time employees, and the budget from \$600,000 to more than \$4,500,000. "He worked effectively to increase employment opportunities for blacks at a time when fair employment practices were regarded as a radical idea and he opened countless closed doors," said Vernon Jordan.

Lester Granger was truly a man of the highest integrity and character. His contributions to his people are indelible.

"If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who propose to favor freedom and yet deplore agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean's majestic waves without the awful roar of its waters."

— Frederick Douglass

TO BE EQUAL

By VERNON E. JORDAN

Executive Director National Urban League



impotence in Angola is that our historic neglect of African liberation movements and support for colonial powers has left us bereft of the natural reservoir of goodwill that should have been ours on the Continent. Many African leaders were educated here, and many more admire the principles of democracy. But that potential goodwill has been thrown away by one Administration after another that refused to recognize African rights to independence and necessary economic aid.

The Russian and Cuban intervention should be condemned too. It holds the threat of turning the African continent into a field of cold war rivalry, and African difference must be settled by Africans themselves, not by the new imperialist Moscow or their hired guns.

The near-hysteria surrounding the prospects of Russian domination of Angola's resources if the Popular Movement wins is impractical from many points of view. The nationalist fervor that led freedom fighters to resist the portuguese for so many years will also operate to frustrate the Russians in any power grab they may attempt.

An American policy of non-involvement, assistance to African groups seeking a political solution, disavowal of South African intervention, and open diplomacy to establish ties of mutual respect with the government that emerges from the fighting is bound to do us a lot more good in the long run than being drawn into an affair that is none of our business.

Such a policy would win respect for our country throughout the continent and is bound to result in a backlash effect that resents Russian intrusions. The Russians are ahead now simply because they've never been bogged down by supporting colonial powers, but that lead is of necessity short-lived.

The African policy of our government has been one of having no policy. The conflict in Angola points up the dangers of that stance. But it also provides us with an opportunity to construct a sound policy toward Africa, a Continent that is of growing importance and one that has no use for either the CIA or the KGB, but looks for understanding and friendship.

Things You Should Know

Manuel Carlos PIAR

1782-1817



BORN IN CURAÇAO, DUTCH WEST INDIES, OF MIXED PARENTAGE, HE BECAME A WORLD-FAMOUS GENERAL, NOTED AS SIMON BOLIVAR'S GREATEST RIVAL. MOVING TO VENEZUELA IN 1810, HE BECAME A GENERAL AND DEPIED AUTHORITY BY FIGHTING FOR NEGRO RIGHTS. HE STURRED NEGRO OFFICERS AND MEN TO REBELLION — FOR THIS BOLIVAR HAD HIM KILLED, BUT NOTHING COULD KILL THE MOVEMENT!

— CAROLINE F. THOMAS