

Time For Action In The Black Community



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

— Frederick Douglass

EDITORIALS

You Can Do Something About It

Most of us receive at least one phone call or knock on our door per week from someone wanting us to contribute money for some so-called "worthy" cause. Quite often we make a contribution just to get them off of our backs only to discover a few days later that the organization soliciting money was fraudulent. This money down the drain, but there is something you can do about it.

Ed Edgerton, special assistance for licensing in the Department of Human Resources, said, "If you are confronted by door-to-door or telephone sales and doubt the sincerity of the organization or the salesman, start asking questions. Find out where the sponsoring organization is located, what specific charitable group the money is going to, how much the charitable group will be receiving and where the salesman is from," stated Edgerton. "Do not be fooled by T-shirts with emblems or an ID card with the salesman's name printed in magic marker. Be particularly suspicious if the soliciting agent is a small child or a handicapped person. Organizations sometimes use such agents as a sympathy appeal," cautioned Edgerton.

According to Edgerton, solicitation by and for charitable organizations is the third largest industry in the United States. It is a \$25 billion operation in the nation and a \$347 million business in North Carolina.

The Council of Better Business Bureaus indicated that about 10 percent of the organizations are rip-offs. Half of the remaining organizations are deficient in their accountability and the remainder are operating within the limits prescribed by law.

North Carolina has had a law regulating the licensing of organizations seeking funds for charitable purposes since 1939. The 1975 General Assembly passed another law tightening controls on these organizations even more. This law provides for more accountability and public disclosure of facts, tightens

enforcement procedures, prevents deceptive and dishonest statements and conduct in an organization's solicitation of funds, and eliminates many of the organizations previously exempted from the law. It also defines and regulates more stringently the professional fund raising counsel and the professional solicitor.

A professional fund raising counsel primarily consults, works on a flat fee basis and does not participate in the actual solicitation. A professional solicitor works on a percentage basis and does participate in the actual solicitation. To be licensed, professionals must post a \$5,000 bond and have all contracts with charitable organizations approved in writing. A professional solicitor's percentage is limited to 15 percent of the gross amount collected through his solicitation after cost of goods and services are deducted.

Those organizations needing to apply for solicitation licenses include:

1. Nonexempt charitable organizations which seek to raise more than \$2,000 for religious, cultural, educational, scientific, eleemosynary (supported by a charity) and other charitable purposes.

2. Religious organizations which solicit outside of their own membership or seek to raise money for secular purposes such as food, clothing, shelter, education, medical and disaster relief. Exempt status is forfeited when professional fund raising counsels or professional solicitors are used.

The 1975 law passed by the General Assembly also designated that Solicitation Licensing be served by an advisory committee appointed by the governor.

Any inquiries concerning the licensing of an organization seeking funds for charitable purposes and the legitimacy of such an organization should be directed to Mr. Ed Edgerton, Division of Facility Services, Post Office Box 12200, Raleigh, 27605, 919/829-4510

President Threatens Jobs Bill

Congress has just passed a \$6.1 billion jobs bill, which will put about 800,000 workers back to work. The President says he will veto this bill, and the confrontation with the Congress, which the President denies he causes, will occur all over again.

So far the President has vetoed 44 bills; most of these vetoed bills were concerned with the social and economic needs of ordinary people. People who are ill-housed, ill-fed and ill-clothed.

But the President could care less. In fact he is more concerned about his Grand Rapids, ultra conservative image, and what running Ronnie Reagan thinks than he evidences about the disastrous construction industry, and the failing economy.

What is the President's plan for the eight million unemployed? Well if you check his budget you'll find that he projects about 6.0 million people still seeking jobs in 1976. And it doesn't get any better thereafter. In essence this is as close to non-planning as you can get.

The President contends that the private sector will eventually (I said 'eventually') recover, real jobs will abound. In other words, all we have to do

Congressman Hawkins' Column

is sit tight, make no plans beyond heaping additional tax benefits on big business, and providing more tax loopholes for the rich. These actions will thus stimulate the economy, says the President and we'll live happily ever after as a result. (Marie Antoinette said let the poor "eat cake"; President Ford says let them "buy stocks".)

In the meantime while the President vetoes every significant jobs bill passed by the Congress, he also projects cutting benefits for people in the areas of medicare, education, nutrition and welfare.

He wants to raise social security taxes, so that those least able to sustain the increases will be hit the hardest.

The jobs bill is certainly no panacea, and will not solve the problem of most of those now unemployed. But it will help to reasonably stimulate the economy, especially the building trades, and the spin-offs from this stimulation will probably double the projected employment figure of 800,000.

What is obvious is that when people go back to work, they earn money. Their earnings are spent on goods and services. Someone must supply those goods and services; if the demand is respectable enough, then others can be employed to meet that demand. Sounds simple enough, but it is precisely this configuration that the President is against.

Another intelligent feature of the jobs bill is that its supplying of aid to states and local communities, is tied to the increase and decrease of unemployment. This means when a need exists (as in this current depression,) communities will be helped by the Federal government. When no need exists, communities will then continue to rely on their own resources.

It makes sense. The President's stance doesn't.

Lester Granger, Unsung Hero

TO BE EQUAL

By VERNON E. JORDAN
Executive Director National Urban League

When Lester Granger died early in January, little attention was paid to the event and while some older people vaguely recalled the name, others knew nothing about the man and what he stood for.

That in itself tells us something about the shameful way contributors to our achievements and our heritage are shunted aside and forgotten, even in their lifetimes, in the constant pursuit for new and ever more exotic people and issues.

It is especially important, then, that we take advantage of the Black History Week celebrations to recall not only Lester Granger's contributions, but those of other unsung black heroes, men and women who not only survived the days of blatant racist oppression, but led the fight to end it, a fight whose beneficiaries we all are.

And the fact that this is the Bicentennial year makes it all the more important for the Lester Grangers of our history to be brought out of the unfair obscurity of the past and restored to their rightful place in our nation's history.

Granger was executive director of the National Urban League for twenty of the stormiest years in our history, from 1941 to 1961. He presided over that agency through a World War, the desegregation of the armed forces, the Korean War, and the beginnings of the southern civil rights movement, and he did it with distinction.

In the 1930's, when all unions were suspect and blacks were prevented from joining them both by racists who refused to integrate their unions and by local forces that tried to stop blacks from organizing anything themselves, Granger led the fight for unionization of black labor.

Through the Urban League's Workers Council movement he directed, he recruited black workers to join unions and if white unionists refused them membership, to set up union locals of their own. Often, such work meant risking his life.

When war loomed, he was one of the key men who backed Phil Randolph's plans for a March on Washington, leading to an executive order opening defense plants to black workers. And when war came, he helped set up placement programs that got blacks into those defense jobs.

One of his big targets was military segregation. How many young people today know that blacks were segregated into separate units up to the Korean War in the early 50s? It was largely through Granger's efforts that the armed forces became integrated; in 1945 he conducted a personal study for the Secretary of the Navy that resulted in breaking down racial barriers in that service.

When the Supreme Court ruled school segregation unconstitutional, Granger loudly backed the decision, bringing down upon his organization the full wrath of the frustrated

southern segregationists whose locally powerful pressures resulted in a drying up of funds for some local Leagues. But Granger held firm and the organization weathered the storm.

He took over a debt-ridden Urban League and shepherded it through one of the most unstable periods in American history. At the end of his reign the League was stronger and more solidly entrenched than ever before, and black people had made significant advances, at least in some small part through his efforts.

Men like Lester Granger must not be permitted to fade into obscurity. Older leaders like Walter White of the NAACP, the still-active A. Philip Randolph, Mary McLeod Bethune, Paul Robeson, and a host of others of their generation must have their stories told in the schools, in churches and synagogues, and in civic meetings at all times and not only on Black History Week celebrations.

Lester Granger once defined black goals as "the right to work, the right to vote, the right to physical safety and the right to dignity and self-respect." The struggle for those goals is still with us, and by keeping the memory of Lester Granger and the multitude of other unsung black heroes before us, we have a better chance of fulfilling those goals.

At a time when so many figures in American history are dredged up and presented to the public in Bicentennial programs that make noble heroes out of slaveowners and moral statesmen out of politicians of two hundred years ago, let's insist on having the true story of neglected black fighters for justice told.

\$43.2 Million Can Do A Lot

By Benjamin T. Forbes, News Editor THE A & T REGISTER

Voters Will go the polls on March 23 to vote on the \$43.2 million bond statewide referendum for higher education. \$43.2 million can do a lot of constructive things for the state's higher educational system, especially improvements for Black schools.

Black schools have been receiving the smallest allotments of state funds for years. The Black institutions constantly round off last place in fund appropriations. According to a pamphlet entitled, 'Appropriations of State Tax Funds for Operating Expenses of Higher Education, 1975-76,' A&T ranks eighth in the state for appropriations for

operating expenses. The report states that A&T's operating expenditures were \$8,381. Schools like the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill received \$85,696 and N. C. State's operating expenditures were \$56,417. Other Black schools in the state receive even less than A&T.

The report goes on to show that there are only four white schools that have a smaller operating budget than A&T. These schools are UNC-Asheville, UNC-Wilmington, Pembroke State University, and the NC School of the Arts. Appropriations for operating expenses for the School of the Arts was

only \$1,864.

In the desegregation plan submitted to HEW, the UNC system promised to upgrade Black school programs. That \$43.2 million can do a lot of upgrading for the state's five predominantly Black institutions. If this bond referendum is passed by the voters of the state, this writer wonders how much of these funds will be allocated to Black schools.

If the UNC system doesn't want to give the people of this state a lower opinion of itself than it already has, then it must live up to its promise. But then again (with the UNC system) promises are made to be broken.

THE POINT:

BY RAY JENKINS

Black History Week: Why Do We Celebrate It



Imagine a society where there was no government or written laws, no jails, no money; where a man was judged by the content of his character instead of his bankroll; where war was little more than a sport and people lived for the common good of everyone. That society would have a true democracy where the chief was directly responsive to the people from whom he receives all of his power from; where crime was almost non-existent. The first thing that would come to mind is: "What far off little hole in the globe could you be talking about? You must be either crazy or dreaming." Well, such a society did exist! In fact, there were many - practically the entire continent of Africa before the Europeans came in the fifteenth century. When the Europeans came, they were

astonished to find thriving cities and highly complex societies. But they were probably not half so surprised as many of us in this modern world about these facts because we not only didn't know; we thought we actually knew that all of Africa was a place with a whole lot of jungles and black folks swinging from trees, talking a lot of mumbo-jumbo and eating people. We were raised on a steady diet of Tarzan and Jungle Jim, not realizing all the time that most of those movies were filmed in California and that all of those barbarian natives were American black actors and actresses.

In 1926, a black man named Cargel G. Woodson saw the need for the rebirth in the interest of the true story of black people throughout the

See The Point page 12

Things You Should Know

Ebenezer D. BASSETT



THE RECONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1867 AND THE 14th AMENDMENT, 1868, GUARANTEED CIVIL RIGHTS TO FREEDMEN. BASSETT, A RECONSTRUCTION LEADER, WHO STUDIED CLASSICS, MATH & GEN. LIT. AT YALE & GRADUATED FROM BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY & CONN. STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, WAS APPOINTED U.S. MINISTER TO HAITI / BETTER HOUSING CAME YEARS LATER, EXAMPLE: HARLEM RIVER HOUSES, JUNE 16, 1957!

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The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every man, regardless of race, color or creed, his human and legal rights. Having no man, fearing no man, the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

Lighting The Road To Freedom