

MEANWHILE... on influence

Remember when I was worried about how much you might influence me when we first got married?

It's all very new to me. I'm still a little nervous about the whole thing...

I happen to like all your bad habits I've picked up!

I think we're doing great! Are you still worried about that?

You're kidding, why?

You haven't seen nothing yet sugar!

NEW DAY BEGUN

Benjamin L. Hooks  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAACP



In our short visit with the President, NAACP officers and board members stressed the dire need of employment and economic development in the devastated inner cities of our nation.

The NAACP has long been an advocate of the philosophy that the right to a job, the right to earn a living for one's family, and the right to escape the dehumanizing welfare rolls should be a fundamental human and civil right that out to be protected by law.

You cannot talk about welfare without talking about jobs. Indeed, there is little you can discuss in meaningful terms in the ravaged communities of black folk without talking about employment. For on this turns how or if one marries, stays together to raise children, educate them, furnishes decent, warm, sanitary housing for them and indeed, feeds, clothes and furnished adequate medical care for them.

A national commitment to full employment and the training of blacks and other minorities will help break the vicious cycle of welfare dependency and raise the standard of living of the poor and minorities in rural and urban communities.

We told the President we

felt his administration's proposed income maintenance program was encouraging. However, we felt it must assure that work incentives are not punitive but serve as a vehicle for providing meaningful jobs for able-bodied citizens.

The proposed plan to include subsidies for housing in income maintenance must be vigorously opposed if the national objectives for housing are to be preserved and expanded.

Federal housing aid under the proposed administration program could not be targeted to eliminate slum housing, halt the deterioration of older neighborhoods, or expand opportunities for freedom of choice of location in which one desire to reside.

Any national welfare policy adopted must provide a program that allows the poor adequate income for an acceptable quality of life and a housing program geared toward providing a decent, safe and sanitary place to live in a suitable environment.

We urged the President to throw his support behind the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill now pending in the Congress.

But even greatly increased employment in the black community, as welcome as that

will be, will not be the complete answer. For there is another nagging part of this puzzle that refuses to fit snugly in. And that is widespread underemployment in the black community and thus the disparity of income between black and white families of comparable composition and skills.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, issued a gloomy report in this context on October 4, 1977. While lauding the fact that "1976 real median family income (i) is up three per cent - the first real annual gain for American families since 1976; and that the poverty population drops an estimated 900,000," the report almost as an afterthought, went on:

"White families had income of \$15,540 in 1976 which represented a three per cent constant dollar increase over 1975 following a three per cent constant dollar decrease from 1975 to 1976. In contrast, the 1976 median income of black families (\$9,240) showed no statistical change in real terms either from the previous year or from 1974."

Why is it that white median family income should be more than \$6,000 yearly than that of the black median family? Why is the gap between white and black income widening instead of closing?

And what can we of the NAACP working with the administration and others do about it? Therein lies our greatest challenge. For in that income gap one can discern all the horrors of deprivation, horrific unemployment; widespread underemployment, huge numbers of blacks clustered in the non-

PCJ MEMBERS

[Continued From Page 1]

guilty.

After the guilty verdicts were handed down, Bermanzohn declared that he would appeal the decision to the Nash County Superior Court. James paid off his fine. Both James and Bermanzohn said after the trial, "the way the courts treated us and the way that they treated Joe Judge shows that a rich man can

get away with murder while a poor man can't even protest that murder." Upon leaving the courthouse, Bermanzohn and James and members of the People's Coalition for Justice rejoined the pickets outside chanting.

The PCJ stated that it would "continue to fight for justice and that the attempts by the courts to crush our organization will not succeed. Our struggle continues stronger day by day."

skilled, heavy, dirty low paying jobs; seasonal employment and consequently, frequent periods of unemployment.

APPEAL

[Continued From Page 1] immediately determined, the case is particularly significant since it is the first time that a minority enterprise program has been linked to the reverse discrimination case filed against the California State Board of Regents. This linkage particularly disturbed Burrell, who commented: "The ten per cent provision in the public works program cannot be equated with the circumstances prevalent in the controversial Bakke case. Yet, the most unfortunate aspect of the court's ruling is its heavy reliance on an unresolved case (Bakke) currently pending before the U. S. Supreme Court. Thus, the granting of a permanent, sweeping injunction in this case is patently premature"

In addition to urging action from the U.S. Attorney General's office, the NBL President strongly hinted at the need for the minority business and economic communities to mobilize their forces to challenge what he called "this unfortunate and premature ruling."

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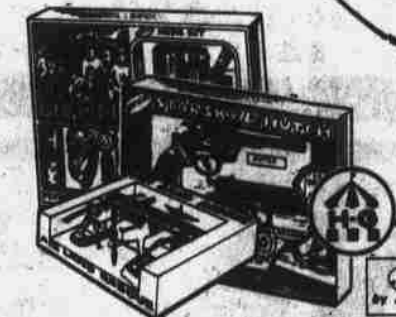
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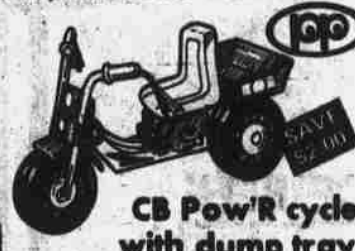
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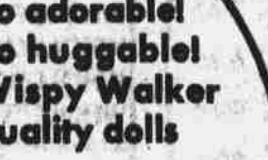
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