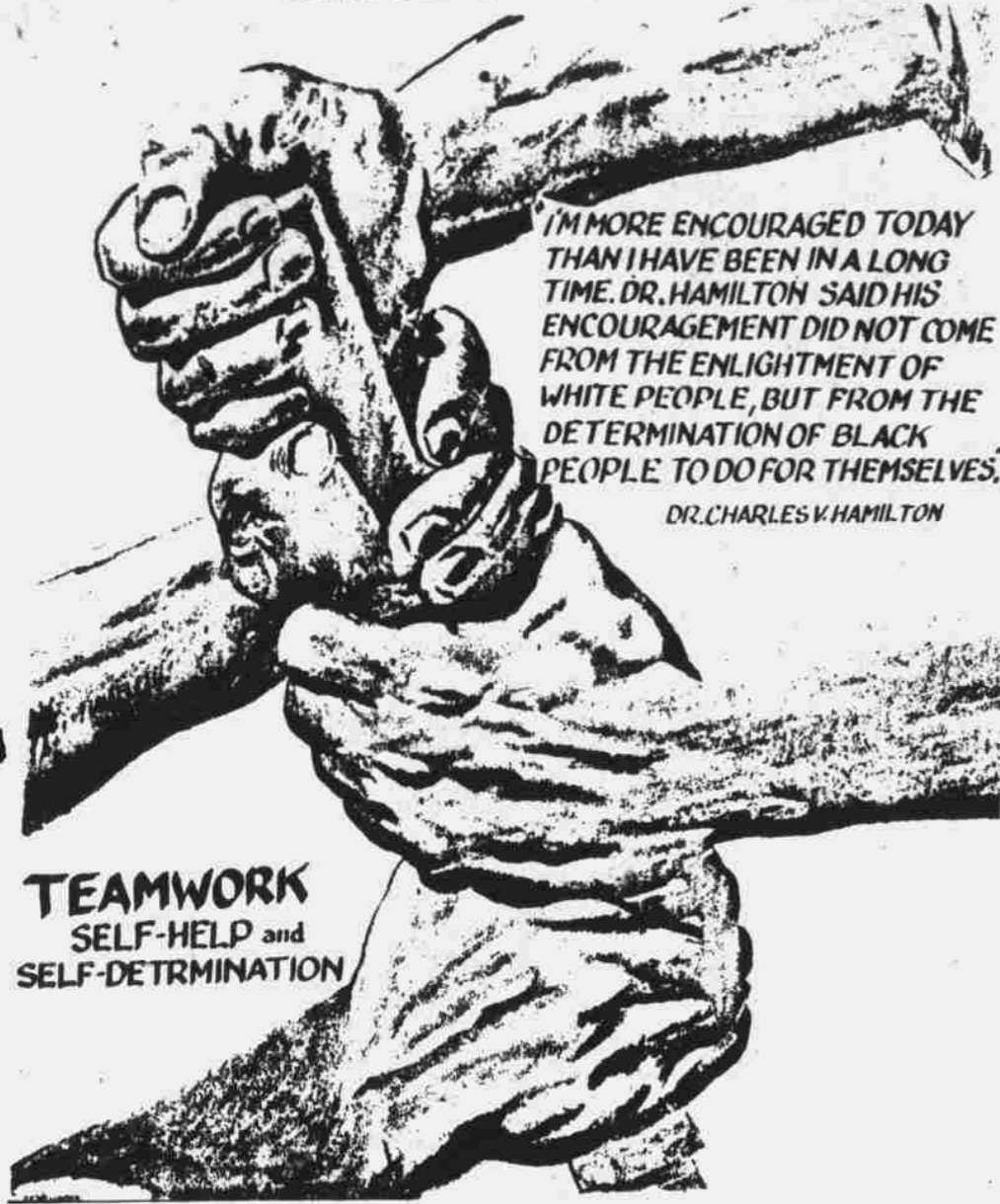


Blacks Destiny In Own Hands . . .



I'M MORE ENCOURAGED TODAY THAN I HAVE BEEN IN A LONG TIME. DR. HAMILTON SAID HIS ENCOURAGEMENT DID NOT COME FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF WHITE PEOPLE, BUT FROM THE DETERMINATION OF BLACK PEOPLE TO DO FOR THEMSELVES.

DR. CHARLES V. HAMILTON

TEAMWORK
SELF-HELP and
SELF-DETERMINATION

EDITORIALS

A Dangerous Pattern

This newspaper had carried stories in recent weeks describing incidents at area K-Mart stores which smack of racketeering and hooliganism in the name of store security.

We dare not claim that our stories were complete reports. There may have been more to the incidents than we were told. But it is apparent that K-Mart employees are instructed to respond like a vigilante mob to code signals broadcast over the store's public address system.

The smell of racketeering comes from the similarity of the K-Mart response to scenes from old movies, when the dockworkers swarm over the too-curious visitor at the order of gang leaders.

The behavior is also similar to the "Hey Rube" battle cry of the old-time carnival and circus gangs. In days not too long past, carnies and circus folk avoided all contact with law enforcement officers. Any disturbance brought the cry "Hey Rube" and the roustabouts swarmed to beat the intruder. All too often, that response was to a complaint by a visitor who had been cheated at a gambling booth.

There is no evidence that the code call at K-Mart has anything to do with a racket. The only crime the K-Mart employees seem to be committing is assault and battery. That is enough. None of the reports we've heard have had anything to do with the physical danger to

K-Mart employees. The customers have been charged, or suspected of, nonviolent crimes, perhaps - shoplifting, or passing bad checks.

What K-Mart is accused of doing, however, is identical to collecting debts with a baseball bat. The employees are committing a more serious crime than their customers are charged with.

We ask responsible officials of K-Mart to order the discontinuance of the code call procedure, or to limit it to a call to a trained security officer, and not to young, inexperienced male employees - stock clerks and trainees - who are very likely to use the opportunity to break the monotony of the day with what is in the long run a criminal act.

And we urge the police officers of our community to conduct full investigations of these incidents. They have apparently responded by finding a charge against the customer (a charge that often does not stick). If a store customer charges that he has been beaten by employees, with countercharges from the store, everyone involved should be detained until the incident is cleared up. Other customers witnessed the incidents we have reported, and were willing to join the injured customer's complaint. Under those circumstances, the employee-mob and the mob-leader should have been arrested.

We are not supposed to be living in a lawless society yet.

Continuing Education . . . A Better Life

On Saturday, January 13, North Carolina Central University's Office of Continuing Education will offer the first class of a course in Nutrition for the Elderly. The course is a home economics course, offering three semester hours of credit, designed to help employees of the many agencies serving the senior citizen do better jobs for their clientele.

During the spring semester, the Office of Continuing Education will offer other courses, ranging from a survey of art to calligraphy to introductory Arabic.

The thread that ties these courses together is that each course is designed to meet a specific need of the student enrolled. The art course will be offered to students who want to be able to look at and enjoy works of art, and to be able to understand them. The arabic course is for those people who are interested in the religion and culture of Islam, who will be able to read at least parts of the Koran after taking the course, as well as other Arabic literature. The course in calligraphy (the word means "beautiful handwriting") may meet vocational needs of some students, who may be involved in the graphic arts, and will provide an introduction to a rewarding hobby for others.

The development of the Continuing Education program at North Carolina Central University is based on the assumption that the people of Durham and the Durham area are interested in education, in learning, for its own sake or for self-improvement. The Continuing Education courses being developed by Dr. Waltz Maynor and Ms. Claudia DiBona of the Office of Continuing Education will not be oriented toward degrees. The courses will be those specific courses the people of Durham say they want to take on a university campus.

For that reason, it is important that you express your interest in these courses, or any other course you want to take. If you have suggestions for courses related to your job or to your hobby, write Ms. Claudia DiBona, Office of Continuing Education, North Carolina Central University, Durham, N.C. 27707.

North Carolina Central University is offering, through its Continuing Education program, an opportunity to make your life just a little more rewarding. The rewards may come through increased pay, greater job satisfaction, or the fulfillment of an interest. They won't come unless you express an interest.

BORN IN SLAVERY, HE WAS SAID, BY SOME, TO BE THE GREATEST UNTAUGHT MUSICAL GENIUS OF ALL TIME! ILLITERATE AND BLIND, HE HAD PERFECT PITCH AND PLAYED SOME 5,000 CLASSICAL

SECTIONS FROM MEMORY! HE COULD PERFORM ANY PIECE PERFECTLY AFTER HEARING IT PLAYED ONCE! TOURING THE WORLD, HE EARNED \$100,000 FOR MASTER IN A SINGLE YEAR!

TO BE EQUAL

1979--Year of Crisis?

1979 may well be a year of crisis for blacks and minorities. The Administration is practicing economic brinkmanship. One small miscalculation and we could be plunged into a major recession.

For blacks, recession is almost assured. The black economy is already in a depressed state. Anything less than steady economic growth means fewer job opportunities available for blacks, in other words, recession.

And planning for slower growth is tricky. No one has ever been able to put breaks on the economy without having it spin out of control into a full-scale recession. If that happens, black people and poor people will be in a true crisis.

So it is hard to look ahead to the coming year with much optimism. It's even harder when I remember last year's issues. Last January I identified, among others, three major issues that would bear watching.

They included the effect of passage of the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill on creating jobs, the nature of the planned urban policy, and the outlook for welfare reform. Here we are a year later and Humphrey-Hawkins won't effect the Administration's planned slowdown, the urban policy has been all but shelved, and welfare reform is dead. In a matter of months, last year's burning issues have dis-

appeared. In their place are a far grimmer set of issues. Where we were once discussing the impact of new steps to combat unemployment, urban decay and joblessness, we now must wonder just how bad things will get in 1979. Forget about new measures and initiatives. Just holding on to the present very bad situation is the dominant theme.

The first clue as to what 1979 will bring will be found in the Administration's budget proposals. For weeks Washington has been occupied with speculation about how deeply domestic programs will be cut.

Instead of dealing with increased employment opportunities, officials are trying to decide how many public service jobs should be scrapped. Those jobs are needed desperately by the poor and long-term unemployed. They should be increased, not cut back. But cuts are in store.

The lid being clamped on the federal budget probably won't be impartial in its effects. Urban and social programs will take a beating, while defense and other sectors hold their own or even gain.

That could be a signal to states and cities too. Cutbacks in programs that benefit poor people offer politicians rewards. They can pose as inflation-fighters, holding down taxes while slashing away at job and training programs.

By Vernon Jordan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL URBAN
LEAGUE



low income housing, and health programs, and other activities essential to the poor.

One major issue in 1979 will be whether the private sector renews its commitment to affirmative action. The New Negativism gripping the nation has made affirmative action one of its major targets, and the Bakke decision encouraged some to think the pressure is off on broadening minority opportunities.

The most enlightened elements in the private sector are working hard to include blacks and other minorities, but others may try to take advantage of the national ambiguity and evade their responsibilities. And affirmative action becomes harder to achieve in recession conditions when opportunities shrink for all races.

1979 has some hidden issues too, the kind of concerns that don't make headlines but often have the greatest long-term impact. One such issue is black voter education and registration; A broad national effort to involve minorities in the democratic process is essential.

A second hidden issue is the 1980 census, which will be framed and set in place in the coming year. Without a foolproof means of avoiding the traditional undercount of blacks, minority communities will once again be shortchanged in important federal and local programs.

Who Ordered the Torch?

On Sunday, January 7, two of the remaining three businesses located in the Hayti Urban Renewal Project were destroyed by fire and a third damaged by smoke and water.

Fire is a hazard all property owners are aware of and take precautions to prevent it. Arson, however, is a different story.

Arson not only involves the fire itself, but a motive behind the setting of it. When arson occurs, one party is seeking to destroy the livelihood of another, and the reasons for this destruction must be considered.

In the case of E.N. Toole & Sons Electrical Company, Service Printing Company and The Carolina Times, the first glaring speculative reason becomes apparent.

These three businesses are the last of a once thriving Hayti district where some 106 black owned and operated businesses held forth. Since 1968, we have waited to be relocated from this redevelopment area. Until Sunday, we were still waiting and hoping that negotiations were coming to a satisfactory settlement. Because we have sought to retain our square footage, we have had to negotiate, bargain, and meet endlessly on the issue, without gaining satisfaction. To give up and yield to an unjust settlement would be extremely detrimental to our businesses. As all have seen, "redevelopment" in the Hayti project has meant black removal. If you don't believe it, count the number of businesses still operating now that operated in 1965.

There are known instances of some businesses in the redevelopment area surviving the relocation process and actually thriving after that. It happens, you might note, that those businesses were mostly white-owned. Now, let us impress upon you that we have no quarrel with anyone who receives fair and just settlement or better than fair and just settlement, but if one receives it, then all should have an equal opportunity to receive it. And this opportunity has not been afforded to us.

After almost eleven years, the redevelopment program, given extended life to finish the task of relocating us, has had its task almost accomplished. While we do not implicate the Redevelopment, the fire does solve their problem.

Next, there is the reputation of THE CAROLINA TIMES, now in its 57th year. The paper has long worked to provide information for and about black people and to expose those injustices oppressed people have suffered for years. Is it because we have tried to expose these things and fight for the underdog since Louis E. Austin launched the paper that an attempt was made to burn us out of business and silence our voice? Is it because we've tried to expose the truth that this attempt was made?

Further, some distressing information and statements have come to light. During the fire, a fireman was heard to say, "Well, I guess the cops downtown are happy now since The Carolina Times is out of business." We must wonder if there are not certain factions within the police department that would be happy to see us destroyed.

As our readers know, we have published reports of police brutality, beatings and mistreatment recently. In all cases, we did not MAKE the news, we only reported it - and we are going to continue to do just that so long as God gives strength to do so and our readers demand to know. We know that all policemen are not beating prisoners and mistreating people.

In fact, we know many who are doing a commendable job under very trying circumstances. But a number of others make the good look bad.

Many of our readers do not know of the numerous break-ins in the Pettigrew Street area and that in at least four years, none of the culprits have been prosecuted or property recovered - even in one instance when juveniles were caught in the building and taken to the

police station only to be released minutes later with no charges brought.

If typewriters cannot be recovered, why should we expect that the arsonist will be found? In a corresponding story this week, we know that the latest equipment has not been used in the investigation of the fire (up to our press time). Durham's arson squad is only one year old and we do not expect it to be top-notch with so little experience, but experts with the SBI could have been called in for help. This, we're told, they have decided not to do.

Why is there such reluctance on the part of the arson squad to use every means available to them if they really intend to do their job well? Is it because we published stories of police injustices that they have not worked as hard on this case as opposed to someone more friendly to them?

Next, there are the statements by Mr. Nathaniel B. White and Mr. E. N. Toole relating that for a period of time, only one hose was used on the fire, described by the head fireman in charge as having flames "fifty to a hundred feet high". When asked by Mr. White why not douse the flames on buildings occupied by E. N. Toole and Sons and The Carolina Times instead of those unoccupied ones, the reply was that "they've got to go anyway". If this brings questions to your mind, it probably brought some of the same to ours.

If this is the treatment we get for exposing injustices, then so be it. In the words and spirit of our founder, the late Louis Earnest Austin, "We here at THE CAROLINA TIMES have one solemn

[Continued On Page 12]



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L. E. AUSTIN
Editor-Publisher, 1927 - 1971

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Things You Should Know

THOMAS BETHUNE

"Blind Tom"

1848-1908



CONTINENTAL FEATURES