

FIFTEEN MILLION BLACKS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE...

**BLACKS HAVE THE TOOLS
TO DO THE JOB
THE ORGANIZATIONS ARE:**

**TEACHERS
MINISTERS
BUSINESS MEN
LAWYERS
DOCTORS
SOCIAL WORKERS
UNIONS
FRATERNAL GROUPS
FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS
BLACK PRESS**

**SEE THAT THEY
REGISTER AND VOTE!**

PIQUE

To Be Equal

Black Pulse Survey Explodes Myth

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

A major barrier to social progress lies in the yawning gap between white perceptions and black experience.

That's why the National Urban League's Black Pulse survey is so important. It represents a massive, systematic process of face-to-face interviews with about 3,000 black heads-of-households.

That makes Black Pulse far more representative than polls using relatively small numbers of people. And unlike opinion polls, Black Pulse is a needs assessment survey, focusing on people's needs and experiences.

The first findings are important guides to policy directions the nation should follow.

Although the interviews were made before the full impact of this recession it, unemployment was clearly identified as the number one problem in the black community. Discrimination ranked second, and inflation a poor third.

The concern with the problem of unemployment cut across class lines. In fact, a slightly larger proportion of middle-income blacks identified unemployment as the number one problem. That finding is contrary to opinion polls in the white community, where middle income people show greater concern with inflation. Secure in their own jobs, the white middle class just doesn't rank joblessness high on the list of problem areas.

Most blacks are concerned with inflation. The vast majority report their incomes have not kept pace with inflation and nearly half say they are worse off financially than a year ago.

So the inroads of inflation have resulted in a decline in black living standards, but uniting all classes in the black community is a shared realization that astronomical unemployment rates are having an even greater devastating effect on the community.

All income classes in the black community are also united in identifying discrimination as second only to

unemployment among the problems black people face.

Many Americans believe in the myth that blacks have made it into the middle class and that discrimination is no longer a major problem. But Black Pulse found that over two-thirds of all blacks say blacks today face a great deal of discrimination. Seventy per cent of the over-\$20,000 income group agreed — an even higher percentage than among those in the under-\$6,000 income group.

That finding reflects continuing discrimination in jobs, housing, loans, and contacts with public and private officials.

Again in sharp contrast to current mythology, three-fourths of blacks say the push for equal rights is "too slow." Ten years ago a public opinion survey found less than half of all blacks saying the push for racial equality was "too slow."

That indicates that while many Americans think the nation is traveling on the road to greater equality, black people know it is not. And again it is among middle income blacks that there is the most dissatisfaction with the pace of progress.

Another myth Black Pulse explodes is the extent and nature of black unemployment. Most Americans are dimly aware of a black youth unemployment problem. But Black Pulse, which asked heads-of-households directly whether they were working and whether they wanted work, found black unemployment double the official figures.

That throws a spotlight on the official miscounting of the unemployed, and demonstrates a real Depression is under way in the black community.

In the midst of a hotly contested presidential campaign, these findings suggest the candidates ought to be more specific about what they intend to do about the core issues of concern to black people — jobs and discrimination.

Things You Should Know

William STILL...

...Negro author and an agent of the Underground Railroad. Known as the "Brakeman," he was Secretary of the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee! The New York Office had a fund-raising appeal in June, 1844 — In the ten years before the Civil War, The "U.R.'s" 3,000 members helped 75,000 slaves escape to freedom!



JOBS NOT WELFARE IS STILL THE ANSWER

By Congressman Augustus Hawkins

This country which mounted a campaign against poverty in the early sixties (and gave up by the late sixties) has virtually lost that campaign and the so-called "war" that accompanied the campaign.

We have not, to any great extent, since then made any real dent in decreasing the number of poor, nor do we seem to be that concerned as a nation, with the problems of the poor. In fact during the two recessions in the period 1968-75, not only did the number of unemployed double, but the Bureau of Census says that there were 500,000 more poor people in 1975 than there were in 1968.

As difficult as it may be by some segments of this society to accept the idea, poverty breeds unemployment, and causes it to mount higher and higher when unemployment increases.

Worse still, when unemployment hits the working minority poor, they almost never receive the cushion of benefits designed to ease their economic stress. Yet, throughout this country there is a fallacious assumption by many policy-makers and other decision-makers, that the brutal tentacles of economic hardship are almost non-existent for the working minority poor because of the programmatic benefits of unemployment insurance, public assistance, food stamps and other income supplements.

But what about these programs? Just how effective are they in providing relief to the jobless, to the poor, to the young, to the handicapped, and to the infirmed?

There is now increasing evidence that most Federal, state and locally administered income support programs are not reaching

millions of those that are in the most need of assistance. This is especially true in the black community, and in related minority communities.

Dealing with the question of "income cushions," the National Urban League recently released a devastating report on this issue which said that the nation's black and minority populations "are not being reached by most of the government income transfer programs for the poor and jobless."

One would almost automatically assume that an unemployed black breadwinner would be just as likely to receive unemployment compensation, for example, as a white unemployed breadwinner.

This is an incorrect assumption because the national Urban League found that "Seventy per cent of all unemployed blacks never received any jobless benefits." If we use the latest figures of black unemployment (1.6 million), this means that some 1.1 million unemployed blacks must find other resources to support their families because they are not participating in any unemployment compensation program at this time.

These other resources, if they are government administered income support programs, may be as unavailable as in the case of unemployment compensation. Such unavailability occurs all too often because blacks and other minorities may be totally unaware that such programs exist; they may refuse help because of their pride; they may be denied benefits for racial reasons; they may not be "eligible" due to unique state regulations; or they may become inadvertent victims of the budget cutting and budget

balancing mania that has swept the country. Here are some additionally startling facts for the period 1979:

•only one-fifth of all involuntarily unemployed blacks are currently receiving unemployment benefits.

•almost half (46 per cent) of all low income black households (with incomes under \$6,000) receive no public assistance.

•65 per cent of all black households receive benefits from only one or none of the seven income support programs for the poor (welfare, supplemental security income, medicare, food stamps, free school lunches, public housing, rent subsidy).

•one-third of half of the non-welfare public assistance recipients received benefits from only one or none of the other six income support programs.

These statistics are shocking! What they clearly reflect is the disproportionate impact that the 1969-71, 1974-75, 1979-80 recessions have had on blacks and other minorities.

What they further graphically indicate is the absolute necessity for the fullest enforcement of the Full Employment Act by the current Administration. Reforming some of the problem areas of income support programs would also be helpful, but essentially what the majority of unemployed persons want, are jobs. They want the opportunity to become self sustaining, to pay their fair share of taxes to run this government, to feed, house and clothe their families.

Only in a full employment economy through an enforced Full Employment Act can these things be achieved.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

By Gerald C. Horne, Esquire

The recent hiring of ex-Dodger great Maury Wills as pilot of the last place Seattle Mariners in an ironic way only highlights the continuing racism that stains professional sports.

Blacks have been "allowed" to play professional baseball for over thirty years now and have produced some of the game's most enduring stars. Hank Aaron, the slugger; Lou Brock, the base stealer; Bob Gibson, the fireballing pitcher. The list is veritably endless. Yet, somehow today there is only one black manager and a hand full of black coaches. The number of blacks in front office posts is less.

Nonetheless, one sees a Gene Mauch, skipper of the perennially second-division Minnesota Twins. Mauch has managed for over twenty years and is continually hailed as one of baseball's "finest minds." Yet, this "fine mind" has a career losing record of 1,500 wins, 1,676 losses but could still pick and choose just about any dugout or front-office position he desires. Can anyone imagine any black manager lasting twenty years in the big leagues with a losing record. Those who say blacks have to be better are not inaccurate and expose the "Big Lie" that affirmative action hiring violates the so-called "merit principle." As real life demonstrates time and time again, the exact opposite is the case.

Baseball's record of rewarding ineptitude is matched by professional football. Dick Nolan, coach of the New Orleans Saints, has a losing record in ten years of coaching and was virtually run out of San Francisco on a rail after running the 49'ers into the ground. Nonetheless, he remains in the saddle and few doubt that if he were fired tomorrow, he would have little trouble in hooking up with another squad. The same holds true for Bart Starr, coach of the Green Bay Packers, whose winning percentage after five years is similar to Nolan's. Nevertheless, this former used-car salesman (who was also one of ex-President Nixon's biggest boosters) continues to produce one lousy year of football after another.

But the racism in professional sports — unfortunately — runs much deeper than the issue of who gets hired. James Rodney Richard, towering hurler of the Houston Astros, had to go to the brink of death before the press and certain white teammates would acknowledge that he was ill. Indeed J.R.'s plight stands starkly as a

metaphor for all blacks whose employers have lambasted them for "loafing" when they actually were in dire need of expert medical help. Teammate Enos Cabell's comments that if J.R. had been "white" he would have received better medical attention and less criticism from the press, hit the nail dead on the head.

But the treatment of high-salaried black athletes by the media and retrograde fans reveals racism even more clearly. The Ku Klux Klan has been able to grow and gain adherents by convincing whites — who are in fact crushed by the monopolies, Exxon and the like — that the real reason for their perilous economic condition is that "blacks are getting everything." And when certain whites see a Dave Parker earning \$1 million a year or a Moses Malone pulling down \$900,000 per year or a Reggie Jackson getting \$600,000 plus from the Yankees, it makes their blood boil. Their racist notion is that here you have blacks — of all people — in these inflationary times making more money in a year than they'll make in a lifetime! The result? Ask Dave Parker of the Pittsburgh Pirates who has to wear a helmet because of fans throwing bottles and batteries at him as he patrols the outfield. Why isn't similar ire expressed at soft-rock musician Paul Simon who has a contract with CBS record that calls for \$13 million a year for several years. Or Clint Eastwood, who for his last movie received a cool \$10.5 million.

Why don't fans express their ire at, say, Yankee owner George Steinbrenner whose income dwarfs Reggie's and besides charges them a whopping \$1.25 for a small cup of warm beer at the old ball park?

Obviously, it is in the interest of certain circles in this society to direct the anger of millions away from real culprits and toward those who, in fact, wield no power and who are working stiff — albeit well-paid ones — just like the rest of us.

When future historians look back and begin to chronicle the Saga of professional sports, they will no doubt be astounded by these racist double standards. Black Pittsburgh infielder Bill Madlock waves his glove in the face of an umpire during a heated argument and the umpires threaten a strike unless he is suspended. White Phillies' pitcher Dickie Noles throws a bat at an umpire and no similar charge emerges.

Sad to say, historians may be even more

astounded at professional football's record. Ed Garvey, head of the NFL Players Association, rightfully blasted the league as a "monument to racism." Doug Williams, the only black starting quarterback who plays for Tampa Bay, echoed this allegation. He pointed out that Phil Simms, another first round draft choice and quarterback for the New York Giants made \$75,000 more in his rookie year than the gifted Williams.

What is to be done about this lamentable state of affairs? For one, more accurate information has to be reported on what is actually happening in professional sports and the establishment news media must be pressed to print it. Not only the racism but also how privately owned teams are ripping off tax-payers' money. For their own gain. Take Yankee Stadium, for example, which was refurbished with \$100 million in public funds, while the rest of the South Bronx is allowed to wither on the vine. That \$100 million could have gone for day-care centers for working mothers or improved mass-transit. Further, full support should be given to the effort by Rev. Joseph Lowery's SCLC and the Affirmative action Coordinating Center to press both football and baseball to improve their sorry records. The importance of professional sports should not be underestimated. Jackie Robinson's integration of baseball in the late 1940's was a precursor of and signal for integration of other areas. By the same token, the throwing of batteries at a Dave Parker — if it is not halted in its tracks — could be a precursor of and signal for the throwing of grenades at black communities across this country.

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The March For Black Colleges

Staff Commentary

The march in Washington Monday, September 29, for the predominantly black colleges, is indeed a healthy sign. It gives hope that a flame of pride for black institutions is rekindling in the hearts of black Americans.

This march may not only symbolize that a new surge of black identity is surfacing in the 1980's, but it should also serve to remind us that the predominantly black institutions lay at the foundation of the educational process that transcended us from slavery to the present. For example, in 1870, 81% of all blacks were illiterate and segregated institutions using funds from northern white philanthropists were established for blacks. By

1900, 34 colleges for blacks were functioning throughout the United States.

Moreover, court cases such as Thomas [Raymond] Hocutt vs. the University of North Carolina, 1933; Lloyd Gaines vs. the University of Missouri, 1936; and, Ada Sipuel vs. the University of Oklahoma, 1946, resulted in the further development of predominantly black institutions of higher learning.

Thus, black protest for integration, which began in the mid 1950's, would have been futile had not graduates from the predominantly black institutions come forward and proved that they were equally as qualified for jobs as those who had graduated from white col-

leges.

The march for black colleges should further remind blacks that their thrust for integration has set them upon a confusing course. Too many blacks who attended predominantly black colleges now believe that minority institutions are too inferior for their offsprings to attend. Unlike two decades ago, when black institutions struggled along without adequate funds, with poor equipment, and weather-worn buildings, blacks believed that these schools were what they made them. We generously gave these institutions our support, our money, our talents and our prayers. We believed that if they failed, we were

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