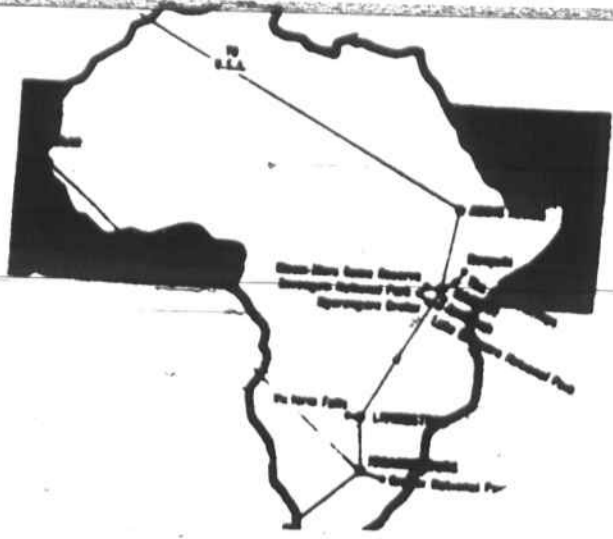


African Spotlight



Uganda And Amin's

Economic War

The main victim of President Idi Amin's "economic war" is the Uganda economy. All reports state that Uganda is on the road to political, economic, and social destruction. The way for this to happen has been indicated and with Amin at the helm, things look bleak for Uganda. Before Amin came to power, his predecessor, Obote was leading Uganda in a moderate fashion. There was a thriving, compact, well-managed and diverse economy. Obote left reserves of over 20 million in 1971 and Amin squandered all but 3 million in his first year. More and more, Amin's historical mode of spending shows a man who has become desperate and afraid. For example, it is estimated that he is now spending over 70% of foreign exchange earnings on arms and military supplies. A surplus of 40 million in 1970 was down to 4 million in 1972. There has been nothing but a downward spin in the economy which leaves the cupboard bare for most Ugandans. About 92% live in the rural areas and have reverted to subsistence farming. Of course, Uganda is a fertile country but times were better.

We have been talking about a declared economic war. If one can recall, the first campaign of the economic war was the mass expulsion of the Asians in 1972. They controlled 80% of commerce and the distributive and retail trades, and 75% of industry and manufacturing. When Amin expelled these people, all of Black Africa was silently happy. But smiles soon turned to frowns first in Uganda and now in the rest of Africa. Over 4,000 businesses were to be shared out to Ugandans. But Amin's favorite colons and his Nubian mercenaries got many businesses.

Many of the ordinary

citizens who just happened to have been awarded any business simply disappeared if one of Amin's men wanted to take it over. These new "business men" have inflated prices so as to enrich themselves overnight. Now Ugandans find they are being exploited in a way which make the Asians appear charitable. Before Amin, Uganda was virtually self-sufficient and a very rich nation but now it is probably just a matter of time before the nation will fall without investment, managerial staff, skilled and unskilled workers. Admit all of this, there is a climate of fear, stories of atrocities committed that make tales of vampires and ghouls seem like light comedy. A recent report stated that Idi Amin ate part of the liver of his dead foreign minister or so said Dr. Kibukamusoke to a meeting at the House of Commons. Dr. Kibukamusoke, Amin's personal doctor from 1971 to 1973, said that the Ugandan leader was very superstitious. Amin belongs to the Kakwa tribe who believe strongly in revenge by dead people's spirits. Professor Kibukamusoke said: "They think if you eat a piece of your victim's liver, his evil spirit will not haunt you." The body of Amin's Foreign Minister Michael Ondaga was found floating in a river in 1973, an incision had been made on the side of the body and the liver had been removed. "The liver", the professor said, "was at Amin's headquarters in Kampala and had been partly eaten by Amin." The doctor fled Uganda and now lives in Zambia.

The above is just a mild sample of the stories coming from Ugandans who are deserting a sinking ship.

Robena Egemonye

Across The Nation

The Rochester, New York *Communicate* tells an arresting story of a local landlord who does not believe in "killing living things." Mary Jane Walker of the *Communicate* staff writes:

Shortly before press time for this issue, I received a phone call at *Communicate*. The woman on the other end said she had heard a commercial on WDKX advertising a company that gets rid of rats. She took down the phone number from the commercial and dialed. Apparently she misunderstood the number because she ended up calling *Communicate* and inquiring of me what process we use to get rid of rats. I regretfully told her that she had the wrong number, but her story interested me.

She told me that the rats were so bad in her house that they were eating through the ceiling. She said the landlord refused to give her rat poison because he said he doesn't "believe in killing living things."

I took the woman's phone number and address and told her I would call Rodent Control and see if we couldn't get help for her situation.

I called the Monroe County Health Department Rodent Control division and relayed the information to them. I gave them the woman's name, address and telephone number and told them the story she had told me. The Health Department woman said she would send the information "through the proper channels."

I called back the woman with the rat problem and told her what I had done in reference to the Health Dept. I told her that she should expect to hear from Rodent Control soon. I asked her to contact me as soon as she hears from Rodent Control and let me know the status of the situation.

The Springfield, Illinois *Voice* tells of a promising experiment with "heat loss detection" which should be of interest to every hard-pressed black community. The *Voice* reports:

Springfield—Recently, NASA made a flight over the City of Springfield. Using a specially equipped DC3 plane with infrared scanning equipment, heat loss from homes and State Buildings was detected. The plane was flying at approximately 1000 feet over the City's rehabilitation areas.

The project was a feasibility study to analyze the use of infrared scanning as an evaluation tool in determining the effectiveness of winterization programs. The fly-over was done by NASA at the request of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington; the City of Springfield, Department of Community Development; and the Division of Energy, Department of Business and Economic Development.

The project was the only one of its kind in Illinois used for residential structures.

Harvey Henderson, Director of Springfield's Community Development Department, stated, "This pilot project could set an example for other Illinois communities in the field of housing winterization."

The Community Development Department, under contract with the Division of Energy, will prepare a summary of the findings and evaluate the entire program. The summary will be available to the public when

completed and will be sent to the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington.

The Division of Energy has been working with NASA on this project as part of the State of Illinois' Energy Conservation Program. According to Michael Adsit, Assistant Director of the Division of Energy, once the data is processed, a program of transferring the information to the public will be implemented.

Some "Down to earth" advice comes from the *Lubbock*; Texas *West Texas Times'* Harold M. Chatrau about our often overlooked or neglected responsibilities toward our children. Mr. Chatrau notes pointedly:

People are complaining more but doing little or nothing about it. We hear everyday people talking about children are not minding anymore or you can't say anything to children anymore.

Just who is to blame for this situation? Parent or children? We are quick to say that it is the child, for our reasoning is that you just can't say anything anymore because it's a new day and time. What one so easily forgets is that trends usually go around in a cycle. All children will try parents, teachers, authorities in any shape form or fashion for its thier very nature to challenge and feel their strength and to determine their limitations in the society which they are surrounded by.

If you as an adult stop and remember that you were a child once and you didn't like to be disciplined but it didn't hurt you, except may be around the sitting down area. Today you still have respect for your parents or elders and you don't use profane

language in front of them or if you do its a slip and you quickly offer an apology. Children now days think nothing of using profanity in front of others or parents and see nothing wrong with doing so. If we don't correct our children when they use profanity at home, then don't get uptight when someone else's child uses it on us away from home. Also don't be shocked when a child (other than your own) calls you by your first name, when your own child does so at home and before other children. Don't be angry when some other child does something to you but when you try to correct them you are told you can't tell them a thing and time it reverts back to the time when you have taken the word of your child over that of an adult, and they know it. I know adults do say things that aren't true sometimes, but ninety percent of the time what they are saying is true. We believe everything about everyone else's child except our own.

The Tulsa, Oklahoma *Eagle* tells of a church deserving our good wishes from all across the nation: Congratulations are due on the Grand Opening of the new St. Paul A.M.E. Church building, located on the S.W. corner of the 46th St. North and Hartford Ave.

Guest speaker for the opening service was the Rev. Frederick C. James, presiding Bishop of the 12th Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church comprising the State of Okla. and Arkansas. Elected Bishop in the A.M.E. church in 1972 at the General Conference, Bishop James was assigned to our overseas work where he serves the fifteenth and eighteenth Episcopal Districts.

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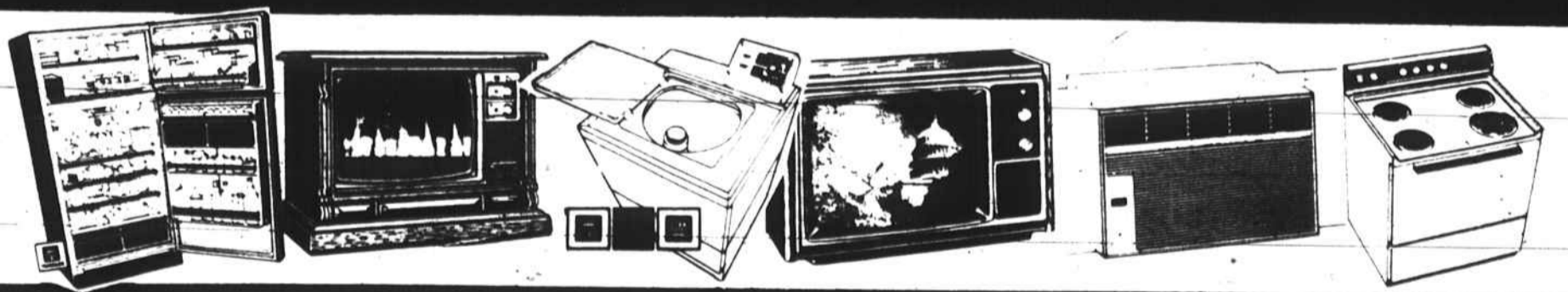
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Chronicle Profile

Continued From Page 7

"I think he knew he was going to die," she says of her husband. "And often he would call me in and say: 'You'd better learn how to do this, in case you ever have to.'" He prepared her to look after herself, and she's grateful for that.

Mrs. Beatty's next-door neighbor, county commissioner Mazie Woodruff says of Mrs. Beatty: "She's someone who is going quietly about the community doing good work."

If you're a senior citizen with a problem, call Mrs. Beatty at the Council for the Aged and see if she can help. Ask her where the Fountain of Youth is located. I think she knows.



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