

# Chrysler Troubles Endanger Black Workers

By Aretha Watkins  
The Michigan Chronicle

DETROIT--A recent financial analysis of the Chrysler Corporation's financial position revealed that the loss in salaries and health care for its 35,000 Black workers would be a staggering \$1 billion.

But, according to Albert J. Dunmore, Chrysler's

director of community relations and urban affairs, the full financial impact a Chrysler closing would have on the national black economy well exceeds that figure.

"The \$1 billion loss includes \$609 million in salaries, \$150 million in health care and \$250 million paid to minority workers employed by our own dealers, vendors and sup-

portive services," Dunmore explained.

"But that figure does not include the loss of salaries due to layoffs of city workers in municipalities where Chrysler is located that would be necessitated by loss of taxes the corporation pays.

Nationwide, he said, a Chrysler shutdown would cost the jobs of 544,000

employees, 28% of which are minority.

In addition to the loss of jobs, Dunmore reminded, the national black community would be impacted by the loss of Chrysler's leadership and support in the area of social activism.

"Chrysler has taken a strong leadership position in the area of social awareness and responsibility," he pointed out.

"It has gone above and beyond its responsibility in its participation in almost every major social effort," he said.

"We have been cited by the NAACP for being the first major automotive corporation to advertise widely in the Black Press, the first to use Black models and the first to establish a Black dealership.

Dunmore said that Chrysler's lead in supporting Black organizations has prompted involvement from other major corporations.

"Naturally when we contribute to an organization, the larger corporations top that amount. So even though our contributions are often exceeded by those from

corporations with more money, it has been our initiative that has generated much more for Black causes."

"Last year at Chrysler, the weighted average salary for Black hourly employees was \$17,500. The average for Black salaried employees was \$22,000 and, interestingly enough, some 4,000 of these earned in excess of \$22,000.

"In addition, for those that might be hired for foreign manufacturers, the job might be non-existent, whereas our company has

shown a steady increase in the number of Blacks in upper classifications.

"Chrysler has made continuing efforts to provide opportunity for upward mobility to minorities as 'is evident in its increasing percentage in the employment in managerial, professional, and skilled positions.

"Doug Fraser (UAW president) has said that his concern is not for Chrysler; it's for the people who will be affected," Dunmore added. "Well I think it is obvious that it will be Blacks who will suffer the most."

## Neighborhood Leaders Pick Up Skills

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO--The City of Charlotte was preparing to raze most of the homes in the Cherry community on the city's west side in 1970 when residents came up with a novel idea.

"We told them let us manage the houses and we'll collect the rent for 10 per cent," said Oscar Hare, president of the Cherry Community Organization.

The houses had been leased before by absentee landlords who generally allowed them to run down. The organization uses the talents of local residents to keep the houses in good repair.

"Now we're managing 300 houses," said Hare, "and we're in the process of buying some of the property."

Hare made his remarks during a workshop for neighborhood organizations last Saturday sponsored by local area office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

More than 150 neighborhood leaders from the western half of the state heard from organizing veterans such as Mrs. Kitty Smith, assistant to Nashville's mayor, and Lemuel Jackson, field director of the Civic Action Institute in Washington, D.C.

Among the tips participants got were: the necessity of door knocking and face

contact for setting up an effective organization, the desirability of changing leaders every three months to prevent the "burning out" syndrome and guidelines for choosing effective leaders.

The participants also came up with some tips from their own experiences, such as Hare's comments.

Neighborhood leaders from the Northeast Ward, Bowen Park, East Winston, Happy Hill, Watkins Street, West End South and West Salem attended from Winston-Salem and they were enthusiastic about the day-long session.

Mrs. Sarah Webster said, "It showed me how to hold good meetings, how to make them entertaining and interesting."

Mrs. Marie Cureton added, "I loved it because they showed that you've got to get down to the level of the people."

The workshop, the third held in the state, is part of continuing effort on the part of HUD area office to aid neighborhood groups. Wanda A. Boykin, administrative assistant with the Winston-Salem Community Development Department, is serving on a planning group which will structure other programs through HUD.

## Social Workers to Hold Workshops

The North Carolina chapter of The National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc. (N.A.B.S.W.) will hold its fifth annual conference: "Delivery of Human Service to Blacks: Actualization in the 80's" on Sept. 28-29, at the Downtowner Motor Inn.

The conference will be hosted by the Winston-Salem chapter of N.A.B.S.W. The primary purpose of the conference is to provide conferees an opportunity to examine the current effects that the human services delivery system is having on the Black consumer, said Charles M. Thornton, local president.

The Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the only remaining incarcerated member of the Wilmington 10 will receive North Carolina's State Association of Black Social Workers first annual Human Service Award in recognition of his continuing courageous fight against racism and repression.

Speakers and workshop presenters will include Dr. Jay Chunn, dean, Howard University School of Social Work, Washington, D.C.; Clarence Lightner, chairman

of the North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus, Benjamin Finley, executive director, Afro-American Family Center, Chicago, Ill. and Ms. Mazie Woodruff, vice chairperson, Forsyth County Commissioners.

The National Association of Black Social Workers is an organization that provides a structure and forum through which black social workers and workers in related fields of human services can exchange ideas, offer services and develop programs in the interest of the black community at large.

It was formed May 1, 1968 in San Francisco, since then, over 130 chapters have been established successfully throughout the nation and world.

The five chapters in the North Carolina area are as follows: Triad (Greensboro, Winston-Salem), Eastern Regional (Greenville), Triangle (Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Durham), and Charlotte.

Persons interested in attending the conference can get more information from Leonard Dunston (919) 733-3011 or (919) 471-6559 or Charles M. Thornton (919) 727-2175.

## Wentz From Page 1

Tatum said that the church at one time had declared Hairston at default but Hairston has not accepted it. He said the problem was brought on because Hairston under bid the project.

"The job was under bid, way too low," Tatum said. "His bid was \$30-40,000 lower than the next bid and that was Hairston's fault and no one else's."

In addition to under bidding, Hairston was faced with other problems. Hairston fell and injured his back which delayed the construction for several months. There was also a delay on the windows for several months and when they were received, the prices were higher than anticipated. Also delays were also caused by bad weather.

A source close to the situation told the Chronicle that Hairston could have defaulted and not turned the contract over to the bonding company.

"He's just a guy trying to do a good job and got caught in the middle," the person said. "There were just a lot of extenuating circumstances that minority contractors are faced with."

"He could have just walked away from the job, but he didn't."

Dr. Harvey Allen, chairman of the church's building committee told the Chronicle that it wouldn't be "advantageous to anyone to comment on the situation."

### Looking Ahead

\*The N.C. Association of Black Social Workers meets Sept. 28-29 at the Downtowner Motor Inn.

## Officials Barred from Plantations

PATOUTVILLE, La. -- Two top federal government officials who head ACTION's volunteer programs, Sam Brown and John Lewis, were barred from visiting sugar cane plantations here on Friday, Aug. 30, at the conclusion of their three-day, four state visit to rural coops in the Deep South.

Brown, who is director of ACTION, and Lewis, who directs domestic programs of the federal agency were taking a first-hand look at the implications of poverty and the role of VISTA volunteers working with poor people in parts of Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

Accompanied by Charles

Prejean and Ralph Paige, officials of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, the ACTION leaders had planned a half-day visit to sugar cane plantations in southern Louisiana. The group was blocked by the manager of the M.A. Patout Sugar Mill who declared that they were on private property without permission and had to leave. The group complied with the request.

"The plantation workers are treated like property or livestock, like chattel. The housing and living conditions were not the worst we saw on the four-state tour, but the incident at Patoutville certainly dramatized some of the worst human

conditions," said Brown.

"The overseers on the plantations completely control the lives of the workers -- what they do, where they live, what they eat, who they talk to," said Brown.

"We had a roadside caucus with the local people after being ordered out and decided to cancel any further efforts to talk to workers on other plantations. This decision was made so as not to jeopardize the workers and subject them to possible retribution."

"The plantation workers are in servitude -- slavery -- and there's no sense in mincing words in describing the dehumanizing conditions

which these people are forced to endure," said ACTION's Associate Director John Lewis.

"The condition of plantation workers is a shame and a disgrace. It's a blight on our society when people are not allowed to communicate with other human beings," concluded Lewis.

"But, in the final analysis, we did not come from Washington as liberators. These workers have endured harsh conditions and they will ultimately be the architects of their own liberation. We will do everything in our power to assist in that effort to help them make a difference in their own lives."

## Wage Suit Dismissed Over Loophole

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer

A pool hall racker lost a Superior Court suit for \$8,034.75 in back pay because his employer had too few employees to be covered by the minimum wage laws.

Alvin Nash of 808 Oak St. had sued George Samuels, former proprietor of the Trade Street Billiards, because he was paid only \$1 an hour from November 1974 to November 1978.

After a two-hour trial last Thursday, Superior Court Judge Julius A. Rousseau ruled that Samuels only had three employees at the time Nash worked, instead of the

four required. The case hinged on the plaintiff's effort to show that two other men, in addition to the three employees, were also part-time employees. The defense contended

that the two were just hanger-ons who occasionally received gifts for helping out.

No employer with fewer than four employees can be required to meet the

provision of the state minimum wage law.

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