

Will school reforms include blacks?

NEW YORK — A new report, *Nation Prepared*, has been released by the Carnegie Corporation and it proposes sweeping reforms in the way schools are organized. The report would change teaching, turning it -- as the report says -- from an occupation to a profession.

High standards for teachers will be set by a national certification board. A new masters program, including teaching internships, would be a requirement for teaching, but the classrooms will also include non-certified teachers and others who could contribute to learning experiences.

Schools would be run by teams of teachers, and teaching would change as new technologies enter the classroom. Attract top people, certified teachers would be paid far more

TO BE EQUAL

By JOHN JACOB

than at present -- on a par with other professionals such as accountants.

What keeps this from being a blue-sky proposal is the broad support the Carnegie Corporation has received from educators, teachers, administrators and government officials who would have to implement it. And the corporation's historic role in other revolutionary developments, such as medical education, suggest it has the respect and the clout to make its report a reality.

Fortunately, this is one of the few reports that demonstrates concern for minorities. It specifically calls for mobilizing the nation's resources to prepare minorities for teaching careers,

and it draws attention to the needs faced by the historically black colleges that produce half of all black teachers.

But translating that concern into action will be difficult. Blacks have a history of noble plans that backfired. School desegregation, for example, led to purges of black teachers and principals. That can't be allowed to happen again.

So some big questions need to be answered if this reform plan is to work.

Questions such as: Will blacks and minorities be adequately represented on the powerful national board that sets standards for teachers and certifies them?

Will accreditation of teachers depend on proven ability to teach students of different races and cultures?



What consumer protections will be built into the system to assure responsiveness to community needs -- and will resources be distributed to assure that the schools that need the most get the most?

What specific aid will be given to cash-starved black colleges to help them revamp their curricula and establish graduate schools in education to train students for certification?

What will be done to help

black teachers to gain accreditation and get the additional training required for lead teacher positions and to participate in school administration?

What will be done to broaden the numbers of blacks in the pool of potential teachers -- by cutting school dropout rates, raising aspirations, improving the quality of secondary education to ensure that more blacks go on to college, and helping disadvantaged minorities afford college costs?

The report implies a massive transfer of resources to education in a time of austerity, so the reforms could take place without necessary investments that would assure black participation.

A Nation Prepared has some bold answers to education reform issues -- but is our nation prepared to implement those answers so that minorities share in the outcome?

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North Carolina's commitment to black business

The following comments are excerpted from Gov. James G. Martin's July 24 address to the North Carolina Association of Minority Businesses in Raleigh.

RALEIGH -- More than 18 months ago, when I took the oath of office as governor, I brought with me a strong and sincere commitment to build a system of government in which all citizens could participate openly and fairly.

Central to this commitment was the implementation of a program that would enhance the par-

THE GUEST COLUMN

By JAMES G. MARTIN JR.

participation of companies owned by minorities, women and disabled people in state government purchases. Working with my assistant for minority affairs, and with the enthusiastic support of my cabinet, we established a Pilot Goals Program in July 1985.

It was a trial run, so to speak, designed to test our performance, identify strengths and weaknesses and help us develop a viable purchasing system through which targeted groups would be afford-

ed the maximum opportunity to compete. Today, I am pleased to report that we have accomplished what we set out to do, and in the process, we have achieved some remarkable results -- and learned what works and what doesn't.

During the 11 months that ended in May of this year, more than 300 contractors have been certified under the pilot project by the nine departments of government within the jurisdiction of the governor's office. Of that

number, some 225 companies are minority-owned.

Undoubtedly, there are many other North Carolina companies among targeted groups that offer services and products utilized by the state. And we are working to assure that all of these firms interested in doing business with state agencies are certified.

Another remarkable accomplishment of the project has been the awarding of contracts exceeding \$8 million to companies competing under the certification process. The best way of judging performance is to Please see page A17

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