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## Black Unemployment Skyrockets

### Minority Business Enterprise Increases

#### 1972 Gross Receipts Were Over \$7 Billion

Although still a small fraction of the total American business, black enterprise is forging ahead, according to Secretary of Commerce Frederick B. Dent. Secretary Dent said there were thirty-two thousand more black businesses in operation in the U.S. in 1972 than in 1969, a 19 percent increase for the period, according to the first of several new reports on minority-owned businesses released by the Census Bureau, which is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Social and Economic Statistics Administration. Reports on other minority owned firms, including businesses owned by persons of Latin, Oriental, and American Indian descent, will be issued in the near future.

The new figures on black businesses were obtained as a part of the Bureau's 1972 Economic Censuses programs. In 1969 statistics were obtained as a part of a special study.

Gross receipts in 1972 from a total of 195,000 black business enterprises amounted to \$7.2 billion, a 60 percent increase over the 1969 estimated total of \$4.5 billion from the estimated 163,000 enterprises in business at that time. The data in this report have not been adjusted for price increases.

The report shows that in 1972 black-owned firms were highly concentrated in retail trade and selected services as they were in 1969. These enterprises accounted for 64 percent of all black-owned firms and 56 percent of their gross receipts and showed the greatest increases in actual numbers of firms and receipts.

There were 56,617 firms in retail trade with gross receipts of \$2.9 billion in 1972 compared to 45,220 firms with gross receipts of \$1.9 billion in 1969. There were 68,469 firms in selected services in 1972, with gross receipts of \$1.1 billion compared to 56,977 firms with gross receipts of \$663.2 million in 1969.

From 1969 to 1972, the greatest percentage increase in the total of firms occurred in manufacturing and transportation. Manufacturing firms increased to 4,116 from 2,981 (38 percent) and firms

engaged in transportation increased to 21,738 from 16,733 (30 percent).

The greatest percentage increase in receipts was shown in transportation and wholesale trade. Receipts for transportation firms increased to \$425.5 million in 1972 from \$210.8 million in 1969 (102 percent). In wholesale trade, receipts increased to \$764.2 million in 1972 from \$385.0 million in 1969 (98 percent).

Some 36 percent of black-owned firms (accounting for 36 percent of the \$7.2 billion in gross receipts) were concentrated in five States in 1972: California, Illinois, New York,

Texas, and Ohio. In 1969, these five States accounted for 34 percent of both the total number of firms and total amount of gross receipts.

California—with 19,282 black-owned business enterprises and gross receipts totaling \$704 million in 1972—was the leading State both in number of black enterprises and total of receipts. Totals for the five leading States are shown below:

The New York Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) ranked first among metro areas in total of black businesses with 11,282 enterprises in 1972. The next four SMSAs, 11,057; the Washington, D. C. SMSA, 9,726; the Chicago SMSA, 9,718; and the Philadelphia SMSA, 6,278.

The Chicago SMSA, however, led in gross receipts totals with \$533.6 million. The New York SMSA was second with \$363.7 million and the Los Angeles-Long Beach SMSA third with \$358.5 million.

#### Students To Get Two-Day Holiday

Students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg's public schools will have holidays, Thursday, Jan. 23, and Friday, Jan. 24.

The student holiday is slated to give teachers time without students to prepare end-of-semester grades and reports.

The first semester of the 1974-75 school year will end Wednesday, Jan. 22. Classes will resume on a regular schedule on Monday, Jan. 27, the first day of the second semester.

## Joint Scholarship Fund Established For Johnson C. Smith University

Every year since the death of the Rev. Doctor Martin Luther King Jr., the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine has held a memorial service in his honor.

It was soon realized that while it was a sincere and honorable effort, an annual memorial service was far too temporary to fulfill the lofty purpose of paying tribute to Dr. King. What was needed was a longer lasting tribute, one which had a far more significant bearing on the recognition of his dream.

January 13, 1974 is now viewed as a milestone in the history of the Cathedral and in the Johnson C. Smith University for it was on that day that a pact was formed between these two institutions. Through the New York

Alumni Chapter and the Cathedral the Johnson C. Smith University Choir presented its first concert there and the two institutions jointly established a scholarship fund in the name of Martin Luther King Jr.

This year the choir performed on January 11 in a concert-drama with a cast of noted Broadway actors. "Tell Pharaoh" a play which concerns the nature of the Black experience, written by Lofton Mitchell and featuring Hilda Simms, Frederick O'Neal and Gladys Brooks was only one of the outstanding programs in which the choir participated.

A second performance held on Sunday, January 12, featured the choir under the direction of Christopher W. Kemp. Dr. Wilbert Greenfield, President of Johnson C. Smith



DWARFED by a 9-foot-plus corn stalk plant in her den, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Williamson stand beside the 10-year-old plant which Mrs. Williamson purchased when it was less than a foot high. She plans to cut the plant this spring for a hot bed, a feet and try to root the clipped portion. Over two feet of the plant's top must grow horizontally along the 8-foot ceiling of the Williamson's home. Photo by Peeler.

### Over Giant Plant Mrs. Williamson Tickled Pink

By James Peeler Post Feature Writer

Ten years ago Mrs. Robert C. Williams of 2534 Ablewood Road in the University Park Residential section purchased a plant that looked like a miniature stalk of corn, about a foot in height.

The plant lover still doesn't know the botanical name of the plant but her tender loving care, proper feeding, watering, ample amounts of sunlight, and removal to a much larger container with the proper soil composition has resulted in the plant growing to its present, healthy-looking height of over 9 feet.

It is so tall that approximately 2 feet of it top must grow horizontally along the 8-foot ceiling in Mrs. Williamson's den. On occasions she moves the plant and extends it

top through a door way into a hall.

The plant bears no fruit and does not bloom but she has noticed that it now has a new growth. She has planned to cut the plant this spring, about three feet from its base, and try to root it. Now with the new growth, the tickled-pink Mrs. Williams says, "When I cut it I will still have a plant. When I noticed the new growth I was so proud I kissed it."

Mrs. Williams on has a variety of plants in her home and says her plans for a nursery for the plants are underway.

Among the varieties of plants in her home are seven African Violets, all of which came from a root or sprig given to her by another avid gardener, Mrs. Eunice Dye, of 2697 Condon Street, 3 years

See Williamson Page 2

### Black, White Jobless Ratio Is At Historic 2-1 Level

Washington — The unemployment rates for both blacks and whites rose substantially in the fourth quarter and were well above their year earlier levels, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported.

From the fourth quarter of 1972 to the fourth quarter of 1973, the jobless rate for blacks rose from 8.6 to 11.8 percent, while the increase for whites was from 4.2 to 5.9 percent. As a consequence, the ratio of those two rates remained at its historic 2-1 level, this differed from previous slowdowns in which there were temporary narrowings of the ratio.

This 2-to-1 relationship does not prevail for each of the major age-sex groups, however. While the ratio was 2 to 1 among adult men, the unemployment rate for black teenagers in the fourth quarter (36.6 percent) was almost 2 1/2 times the rate for white teenagers (15.2 percent). For women, on the other hand, the ratio was 1.8 to 1. There was also a disproportionate number of blacks in the discouraged worker status over 200,000 or about 25 percent.

About half the metropolitan poverty area residents are black, and their rate increased to 17.3 percent from 16.5 percent a year earlier, about the same percentage increase registered by whites in metropolitan areas.

Employment declined by 300,000 from the third quarter to 878 million in the fourth quarter. Unemployment climbed by almost 1 million to 6.9 million. As a result, the Nation's unemployment rate increased from 5.5 to 5.6 percent, the highest quarterly rate since the third quarter of 1961. As reported earlier, the unemployment rate reached 7.1 percent in December.

#### Salute To Women Nominations Are Being Taken

Nominations for Charlotte's outstanding career women are being taken by the Central Charlotte Association, sponsors of the annual "Salute to Women Who Work" event.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, February 23. They may be made by business firms, government agencies, civic and service clubs. Any woman employed in Charlotte or Mecklenburg County is eligible to be selected including past nominees, but not past winners.

Forms are available from the Central Charlotte Association. Nominations will be honored at an evening banquet on Friday, April 1 at the Charlotte Civic Center, making the tenth anniversary for honoring Charlotte career women with the Gold Rose Award.

The ladies are chosen for their outstanding contributions on the job and to the community, with one attaining the coveted position of "Outstanding Career Woman for 1973."

I hope the entire Charlotte community will join together during this event in recognition of woman's important role in the affairs of the world," said Mrs. Louise Gery, General Chairwoman of the 1973 Salute Committee.

#### Cosmetologists To Sponsor "Trade Show"

The Charlotte Cosmetologists' Chapter Four Club will sponsor a "Super Trade Show" at the Downtowner East Sunday through Tuesday.

Mrs. Eloise Ferguson a spokesman for the group said that the event will feature demonstrations and hair styling shows. "It will be educational to a lot of beauticians," she said. "To learn new styles and trends."

Manufacturers and artists are bringing the results of their new techniques and research, she added, urging beauticians to educate themselves attending the event.

The event will begin Sunday at 8 p.m. with a Get-Acquainted Tea Hour for Beauticians only. On Monday a banquet and dance will be held with the public invited to hear "The Mod Squad. During the day Monday and Tuesday exhibitions will be conducted.

#### Second Ward's 1935 Class To Meet Saturday

The class of 1935 of Second Ward High School is holding its regular monthly meeting on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Clawson of 3406 Little Hope Road.

The President, Henry Swift is urging all interested members of this class to be present in order to participate in the plans for a reunion this summer.



Dr. Wilbert Greenfield J.C. Smith president

is more deserving or in more critical need."



MRS. ANGELA MOTLEY ...Washington, D. C. native

## MEDCO Secretary Is Our Beauty

By Polly Manning Post Staff Writer

The Charlotte Post is very proud to present as its "Beauty Of The Week", Mrs. Angela Motley, a newcomer to the Charlotte area.

Mrs. Motley is a native of Washington, D. C. who has been in Charlotte for approximately five months. Our Beauty is 25 years old. She is married, but as of yet she and her husband have no children.

Angela is the daughter of Mrs. Grace Gray of Suitland, Maryland. Our 5'11 1/2, 105 pound Beauty has a great interest in astrology but says she doesn't live a life based on astrology. She is born under the sign of Leo, one of the most dominating signs of the chart, if not the most.

She has attended Business school for accounting in Washington. She wants to go back to school for marketing and fashion merchandising. Her ultimate business goal is to become a Fashion Coordinator.

Mrs. Motley even hopes to eventually be able to open her own women's boutique here in Charlotte. Stated Angela, "I feel that Fashion Coordination has become an "in thing" for today's woman and I hope to be the person who introduces it on a large scale in the Charlotte area."

For past-time fun our Beauty enjoys writing poetry and playing chess. She admits her chess game is pretty good. Angela is now working as secretary to William Ferguson, President of the Minor-

ity Economic Development Corporation. This corporation is better known as "MEDCO."

When asked how she likes her work, Mrs. Motley stated, "I really enjoy my work with MEDCO. I feel that their services are greatly needed in the community. We here at MEDCO, make every effort to help minorities in the Charlotte area. We try to help them realize the importance of their participation in the business aspect of their community."

Angela concluded by saying that "once we as a minority understand and take advantage of the opportunities available to us, we can make them play an important role in the development of our community, there by making it a community in which we can be proud."

#### Alcoholism Awareness Week Set

Citing the need for North Carolinians to be aware of the problems and prevalence of alcoholism in the state, Governor Jim Holshouser has proclaimed the week of January 19 - 26, 1975, as Alcoholism Awareness Week in North Carolina.

At present, there are an estimated nine million alcoholics in the United States, with between 180,000 and 200,000 of them in North Carolina. Nationally, it is estimated that the cost of the alcohol problem (in lost wages, expenses to families, cost of liquor, etc.) tops \$25 billion annually.

In announcing the proclamation, Governor Holshouser called on the Department of Human Resources to "make extra effort in that week to cause the public to become aware of the ever present threat of alcoholism and I ask the Alcoholism Research Authority, recently created by the N. C. General Assembly, to sponsor research into the causes and prevention of alcoholism and to encourage participation in this research by the institutions of higher learning in North Carolina."

#### TURTLE-TALK



There was a man who called SPADE A SPADE UNTIL HE STUMBLED over one.