

Editorials & Comments

Black Theology And Capitalism

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Editorial Writer

An editorial in a recent issue of the Wall Street Journal reminds us that while Black Enterprise magazine (June 1978) lists the top 100 black owned and/or controlled businesses in the United States, the largest of these, Motown Industries, had only \$61 million in sales last year. The Journal added that to appear on the Fortune 500 list in 1977 a firm needed \$355 million in sales, or nearly seven times as much as the largest black owned firm.

If we can accept this comparison for the moment as a measure of black business success, we can understand why many black entrepreneurs are increasingly frustrated with the difficulties in obtaining venture capital. Added to this is the bureaucratic web that inhibits the effectiveness of the federal office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE).

It was apparently for this reason that economics professor Dr. Edwards Irons of Atlanta University told a University of Pennsylvania conference recently, "If Black Americans are expecting the government or anyone else to give them the business assets which they want, they will languish in powerlessness and servitude from now until eternity."

This raises the question of how can blacks speed up the process of moving toward economic parity? The answer appears to lie in the one institution that blacks completely control (assuming a paid-up mortgage). That institution is the black church. Dr. Irons put this in perspective too when he said if black churches were to pool their financial resources and identify enough capi-

tal they could create business and jobs.

The Post agrees with Dr. Irons' assessment of the economic potential of the black church in part because blacks do totally control it and in part because there is ample evidence to support Iron's conclusions. The evidence we are referring to, for example, is "Enterprise Now," the Atlanta-based Methodist Church organized agency that acts as a broker to match black businesses with the capital resources they need. It is for this reason that many blacks view Atlanta as a "Mecca" from black business enterprise.

Another example of what we prefer to call the new black theology is seen in the efforts of Dr. Leon Sullivan, founder and president of the national Opportunities Industrialization Centers, Inc. in Philadelphia. In addition, as pastor of the 5,000 member Zion Baptist Church, Dr. Sullivan asked for and received a \$10 investment from each member with which he built the multi-million shopping complex called Progress Plaza. The Plaza provides business and job opportunities for blacks.

Here in our own community some evidence exists that local churches are embracing the new black theology. Friendship Baptist Church has established a credit union for its members and a few other churches have or are building low income housing units.

Thus, the black church is moving but needs to move more aggressively to pool its resource and become a dynamic force in the quest for economic opportunity and economic parity because we believe this is a sure way to help blacks "make it" in capitalist America.

Proposition 13's Hidden Agenda

Last week's vote by Californians to cut property tax by 57 percent was an irresponsible act. The only thing more irresponsible was in the failure of the state and local governments to have heeded the warning of the taxpayers during the three previous attempts to get "13" on the ballot. Because of this apparent hostility between government and the taxpayers numerous hidden agenda items are evident.

Among these items in the "13" vote was the ugly specter of racism. Reportedly, some Southern Californians charge that their state is becoming "Mexicanized," and that Hispanics constitute the largest single group of public school students. Furthermore, these voters contend that within three years the state will have a 50 percent minority population of Blacks, Hispanics and Orientals and they, white-taxpayers, don't want to pay taxes to support such people.

A second part of the agenda reveal that of the assumed \$7 billion saving

in taxes, \$2 billion will go to the Federal as taxes and two-thirds of the total sum will go to corporations, not homeowners.

Thirdly, the 450,000 job lay-offs will have a significant impact upon affirmative action and equality opportunity programs and on the frequency and quality of some public services.

Fourthly, the loss of or redirection of the use of tax revenue may have a multiply effect, that is, the 450,000 public employees without jobs will reduce their demand for consumer goods which may affect employment in other areas.

These hidden agenda items are simply a few examples of the consequence of poor planning by both government and the voters. Columnist R. C. Smith summed the issue up well in these words, "The trouble with Proposition 13 is that it doesn't meet either the issue of government waste or taxation in the contest of the reality of contemporary American economic life."

BLACKS' RETICENCE TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE THEIR COMMUNITIES" SAID DOUGLAS G. GLASGOW, DEAN OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, IS A MAJOR FACTOR AND AN IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITIES' UNDEVELOPED STATUS"

- POLITICAN
- BUSINESS MAN
- DOCTORS
- LAWYERS
- ARTISTS
- TEACHERS
- MINISTERS
- WORKERS
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
- SOCIAL WORKERS
- FRATERNAL GROUPS
- FINANCE
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- INSTITUTION ADMINISTRATION
- ENGINEERING
- PLANNING
- ARCHITECTURE
- BLACK PRESS



The Black Community Has The Tools To Do Job

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Justice Department

Practices Discrimination?

Dear Sir:
On September 20, 1977, Mr. Julius Conway Smith was shot and killed across the street from the First Ward Grill, (Pasco's) in the 600 Block of East 7th Street, Charlotte.

Mr. Terry Lyons was arrested in March 1978 and held without bail, but was later released, about June 1978. Mr. Terry Lyons made a plea bargain with the investigating officers to name Mr. David Miller as the contract murderer of Mr. Julius Conway Smith.

Mr. Terry Lyons and Mr. David Miller worked together at Kraftco (Sealtest). Mr. David Miller was the foreman and had worked with this company for about 9 years. Mr. Terry Lyons had worked with Kraftco (Sealtest) for about 9 months.

Mr. Terry Lyons, who is originally from the state of Bristol, Tenn. was living with Mr. Julius Conway Smith and wife Bonnie Smith. Mr. Terry Lyons and Mrs. Bonnie Marie were lovers.

It was brought out at the hearing that Mrs. Bonnie Marie Smith took out around \$40,000 life insurance on her husband, pry in his death. Mr. Terry Lyons testified at the hearing that he solicited Mr. David Miller as the contract murderer to kill Mr. Julius Conway Smith.

Mr. David was arrested on April 20, 1978 and charged with first degree murder, and

released on \$10,000 bail. Mrs. Bonnie Marie Smith was arrested in April and charged with soliciting for murder, murder, conspiracy to commit murder. She was released on \$1000 bail.

On September 20, 1977 Mr. David Miller, Terry Lyons, Jessie Clyburn and other co-workers were at work. Mr. Terry Lyons and Mr. Jesse Clyburn got off at 7:30 p.m. Mr. David Miller got off about 9 p.m. Mrs. Gale picked him up at 9 p.m., and carried him home. Mr. David Miller and also Mrs. Gale Miller, his wife stated that Mr. David Miller did not leave home at all on September 20, 1977.

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Terry Lyons carried Mr. Jessie Clyburn home, and came back and picked him up and carried him to the First Ward Grill (Pasco's). Mr. Terry Lyons and Jessie Clyburn stated that Mr. Terry Lyons parked his car across the street from the First Ward Grill. While Mr. Jessie Clyburn was left sitting in the grill. Mr. Terry Lyons went across the street to check his car and came back and asked Mr. Jessie Clyburn if he knew anyone that he could get a booster to start his car. Mr. Jessie Clyburn said no.

Mr. Terry Lyons, then call Mr. Julius Conway Smith to come to the grill, all the way from Indian Trail, near Mint Hill, N.C. to help start his car. Mr. Julius Conway Smith

came into the First Ward Grill and got Mr. Terry Lyons and the two went across the street to start the car. While the two were under the hood of the car, some one came running out of the dark shooting and shot Mr. Julius Conway Smith.

Mr. Terry Lyons claims he saw someone that looked like Mr. David Miller running.

The shooting happen about 9 p.m. He then called Mrs. Bonnie Marie Smith who arrived before the police. The police arrived about 11 p.m.

I fear the Charlotte Justice Dept. has shown discrimination in its practices of bringing people to justice. Mainly, Blacks have been discriminated against by the investigating officials making deals with criminals who's sentences are reduce by testifying against others. A practice that any criminal will lie to receive a reduced sentence.

Innocent Blacks have always received injustice in the courts of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

It will cost Mr. David Miller \$5,000 to obtain the professional counseling of attorney Authur Goodman, Jr. I plead to the citizens of the city of Charlotte, that we speak out against these injustices against blacks.

By Rev. Cornell E. Dewberry
2670 Dr. Carver Rd.
Charlotte, NC

TO BE EQUAL



Urban Programs Need Targeting

"Targeting" is a new entrant in the jargon-laden vocabulary of public policy. It means focusing resources and programs on specific sectors of the nation such as depressed economic areas or people below the poverty line.

Targeting is an idea whose time has come, but there is an awful lot of resistance to it. In a country where everyone is shouting "me too" there are few people willing to sit still for someone else benefiting from a federal program, even if their need for that program is demonstrably greater.

That's one of the reasons why President Carter's proposed new urban policy is said to be running into trouble in the Congress. News reports indicate that many Congressmen are unhappy about the formula the Administration is proposing for some urban aid programs.

The White House quite rightly wants to put the money where it will do the most good. Any urban program worth the paper it's written on should focus on the cities most in need - those with the most poor people, the highest unemployment, and the most suffering.

That's why the Administration's eligibility formulas for the proposed urban investment tax credit and the proposed national development bank are written to cover about a third of the nation's communities. Most of the eligibles would be larger cities in the North. An escape clause in the formula would provide aid for depressed sections of healthier cities, but the bulk of that money would go where it's needed most.

In other words, the Administration is proposing to ensure that the scarce funds available for urban revitalization are targeted where they'll do the most good. Years ago devotees of more efficient military spending used to call for "a bigger bang for a buck." The Administration's plan is the modern urban equivalent of that phrase, implying more efficient use of scarce resources.

But many Congressmen don't see it that way. They assess every federal spending program solely on how much money it brings into their district. Which means that it's hard to get Congressmen from districts that would not be eligible for urban programs now being proposed, to vote for them.

It's that kind of thinking that has helped swell the federal budget with programs that spend a lot but don't make a dent in the problems they're supposed to solve. Revenue sharing is the model of wasteful use of federal funds. Every political entity, from the biggest city to the smallest village, gets a piece of the revenue sharing pie. The result is that no city gets enough and affluent suburbs wind up with money that could be used to improve ghetto schools.

That approach is not only wasteful, it also leads to the myth that federal programs don't do any good. The evidence offered is that programs like revenue sharing have funneled money to the cities, which are still in trouble. But the real point is that so much money is siphoned off by cities and towns that are economically healthy that distressed cities don't get nearly enough aid to deal with their problems.

Congressmen, especially those representing districts that can expect little or no new federal aid in the Administration's proposed urban policy, should rise above provincial attitudes.

THE CHARLOTTE POST
"THE PEOPLES NEWSPAPER"
Established 1918
Published Every Thursday
By The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.
1524 West Blvd.-Charlotte, N.C. 28208
Telephones (704) 376-0496, 376-0497
Circulation, 9,915

60 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

Bill Johnson..... Editor-Publisher
Bernard Reeves..... General Manager
Hoyle H. Martin Sr..... Executive Editor
Julius Watson..... Circulation Director
Albert Campbell..... Advertising Director

Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid At
Charlotte, N.C. under the Act of March 3, 1878

Member National Newspaper Publishers
Association

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

Deadline for all news copy and photos is 5 p.m.
Monday. All photos and copy submitted becomes
the property of the POST, and will not be returned.

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

45 W. 5th Suite 1403 2400 S. Michigan Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10036 Chicago, Ill. 60616
(212) 489-1220 Calumet 5-0200

as i see it

Common Sense With Problems Of Death

By Gerald O. Johnson
The only time we can go through life without facing the tragedy of losing a loved one is if we are the tragedy. In other words if we are the mourner instead of the mourner. Consequently, there are steps each of us should take to ease the hurt.

What this article will try to point out are those things we can do while we are healthy to insure peace of mind when we start dropping off. Even though the proper planning will not bring anybody back from the dead it will ease many of the burdens brought on by losing a loved one.

Moreover, the proper planning will guarantee that the mourning is for the deceased. How many times have you gone to a funeral and saw people screaming and hollering and crying? Have you ever wondered why they were doing this? The answer is simple. Here are some quotes I discovered by probing the inner minds with my x-ray vision of those individuals in mourning. "How am I going to pay for all this," "How could you die and leave me broke?" "I knew I should've brought the cheaper casket," are just a few reasons why

people cry at funerals. Seriously though, you should plan now for those things that will create a burden if postponed until a loved one dies. Here are some points that should be looked after well in advance:

Acquiring a burial plot must be done. Buying this piece of land need not, indeed should not be ignored until death has occurred. Purchasing the plot while death is the farthest thing from your mind makes good sense. Plots, like most things, come in all shapes, sizes, prices, etc. Consequently, shopping around for a plot can pay off in price and need. If you purchase a plot to accommodate someone after they've died then you are forced to buy while under stress and strain. This can lead to a poor selection.

Planning a price for the funerals should be done while all parties are healthy. One of the primary reasons funeral homes make a "killing" is the fact that families feel guilty about burying a loved one cheaply. Thus guilt manifests itself into dollars. Get rid of the guilt and the burial expenses can be drastically reduced. To get rid of the guilt complex only requires plan-



Gerald Johnson

ning together what will be an agreeable amount to spend on the burial. This way you and your spouse or whoever will be aware of your desires upon passing. By taking the time to shop around on what's available before death occurs can be a money saver. Costs of caskets, services, etc. can be approximated for any future year by determining the inflation rate of services over the years and using that figure as a basis for computing future costs. While pricing arrangements do not exclude such services as cremation and donations of remains to science. Having an adequate insu-

rance plan is a necessity. I have done several articles on insurance policies and I personally feel that insurance is the best investment bargain available today. But it is only effective if you get a plan that is insurance only. Once you get an endowment plan then the bargain is lost. But term insurance is an excellent way to provide for loved ones once you are deceased. To guarantee that you are adequately insured a safe rule of thumb is to purchase six to seven times your annual salary in coverage. In other words a person who makes \$10,000 a year should have a policy of \$60,000 to \$70,000. This policy is very expensive if it is anything other than term insurance.

This is why most people are underinsured. The premium on a \$70,000 term policy will only purchase \$10,000 of insurance on an endowment policy. Who should be insured creates still another problem. To insure children is a waste of resources. Spouses that aren't major bread winners should not be insured. Only insure those people whose financial capability will be missed after death. Making out a will should be done regardless of how little

you may possess. Most people have not experienced the legal hassles that are necessary when transferring property from one person to another. But any property that is in the name of an individual that dies must be transferred. A will alleviates the unnecessary hassles of transferring property. A will also alleviates hassles as to who has rights to what. Death brings relatives out of the closets. They come out with hands open. A will closes hands quicker than anything else. It will specify what you want to go and to whom. Of course a will must be handled professionally by a lawyer will cost, but the cost is lawyer will cost, but the cost is negligible to the savings it will bring in the long run. Plus, a lawyer should be able to aid you with the inheritance taxes you will be hit with.

To avoid inheritance taxes the final planning step should include joint ownership of most property with rights of survivorships. This simply means that your house, cars, bank accounts, etc. should have both spouses names on them and upon death of one spouse the other spouse automatically owns the property. This procedure eliminates a

lot of complications that could arise. For instance, assume you had a bank account containing \$2,000. If you die this \$2,000 will be added to your total worth and about 15 percent of your net worth will go to Uncle Sam. This is true with or without a will. But with joint ownership with the survivorship clause at most you will have to pay 1/2 of the amount of the property with the possibility of having to pay nothing. In our example then only \$1,000 will be added to the net and depending on the circumstances possibly nothing will be added.

I bet you never thought death could be so complicated. Well, it is. To plan for it now will avoid a lot of headaches when it happens.

