

Editorials & Comments

The Generation Paradox

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Noted historian Lerone Bennett Jr. says in the August issue of Ebony magazine that a major unreported story deals with the emergence of a new generation of Black Americans "with perceptions, new values and a new and different orientation to blackness and whiteness."

Bennett adds that this generation of "new Black men and...women," who are unscared by the ravages of brute segregation, have been shaped and molded by a strange new world of monolithic technologies and shifting racial boundaries. In essence, the new generation of new Black men and women is adjusting to and is a part of the technologies of the '70s and '80s and the coming Twenty-first Century. It is a generation of black people to whom the Supreme Court decision (1954) on school desegregation is but a historical note in the march of time. It is a generation that may have only a dim memory of black struggles in the '60s and little knowledge of what Dr. Martin Luther King fought for and died for.

The New Generation of new black men and women is also a generation seeking to find itself in a technological maze of computers, space science, sexual permissiveness, drug use and rapid change. These are being dealt with in part as the New generation people seek new educational goals, religious enlightenment and the ability to cope with materialism and human understanding.

It would appear from these observations that "all is well" in the foreseeable future for black Americans because equal educational opportunity and because shifting technologies are by nature an eraser of racism in its many forms.

"Lost Generation"

However, as we embrace this optimism of the future, let us not forget that a part of the New Black Generation, more appropriately called the "Lost Generation," has been widely reported, analyzed, pacified and nearly ostracized for nearly three decades. For example, the rate of unemployment among black teenagers has moved rapidly from being one and half to nearly three times the white rate since the middle 1950s, and it has skyrocketed to nearly 40 percent for the past three years.

Newsweek (Aug. 7) says "ten years later - ten years after the riots and the Great Society and a time of unprecedented black advancement - America is in danger of losing a generation of children...The slums of the nation's aging and blackening cities have bred a population of young people from whom the norms of existence are unemployment,

crumbling neighborhoods, fatherless homes, failing schools and dependency on the date - or crime - as a means of survival."

Thus, these new generation people have been left out, kicked out or ignored by mainstream America for the simple reason that they are black and poor. Ideally and hopefully they might, as the American dream would conclude, pull themselves up by their boot straps, however, they don't even have any boots. For example, while the will to succeed still remains strong and most such youth remain in school danger, they seek work against the most discouraging odds.

Black Teenagers

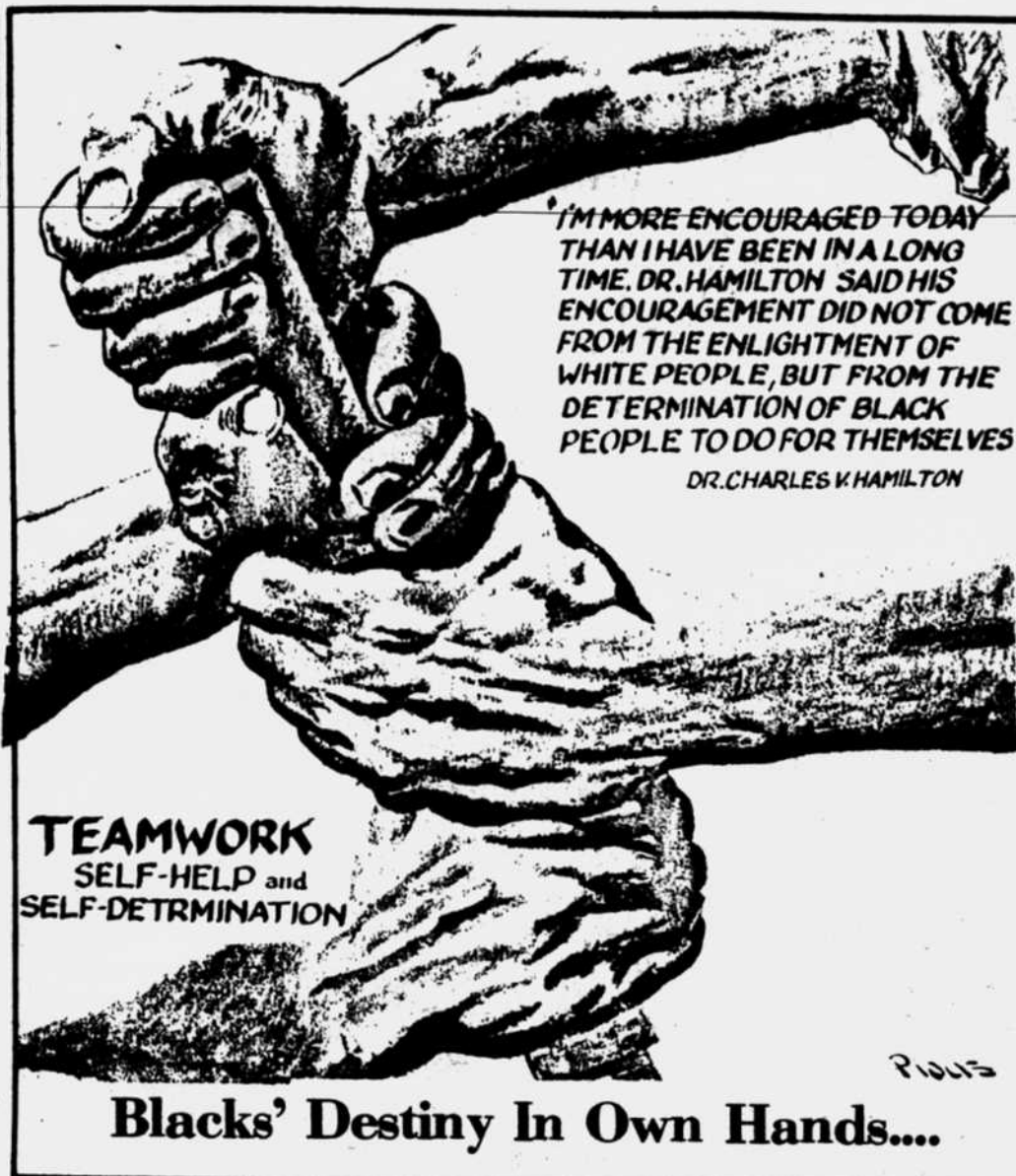
Furthermore, as the economy has been revived from recent recessions and as more federal programs have been implemented to improve the plight of black teenagers, their unemployment rate still clings to 37 percent as late as June of this year. Thus, changes in economic conditions and public policy seem to yet by-pass this segment of the new generation. What then, we might ask, will be the perceptions, new values, and orientation of these nearly 2.4 million black teenagers as we approach the decade of the 1980s?

We are as a nation breeding a large pool of human malcontent by our repeated failure to look at the impact of migrating industry from our urban centers, and with it the death of many small businesses; the inferior quality of many inner-city public school programs; and sheer racial discrimination in spite of equal opportunity and affirmative action programs.

We believe it is long past time for government, private business and the nation's major civil rights and labor organizations to lay aside their political and social philosophies, their for-profit-only orientation and their other self-interests in order to combine their energies to find solutions to our nation's major human problem. To do less would be to abandon over a million adults of tomorrow to a human scrap pile that could lead to new massive riots and destruction to our already ravaged inner cities.

In a nation that prides itself on the rights and responsibilities of the individuals, as well as the importance of the individual, we are failing to practice individualism where it is most needed and in a manner the individual has a right to expect.

Think about it, then do something about it. After all, your children or your neighbors could be a part of the lost generation that should become a part of the truly new generation.



TEAMWORK
SELF-HELP and
SELF-DETERMINATION

Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands....

"I'M MORE ENCOURAGED TODAY THAN I HAVE BEEN IN A LONG TIME. DR. HAMILTON SAID HIS ENCOURAGEMENT DID NOT COME FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF WHITE PEOPLE, BUT FROM THE DETERMINATION OF BLACK PEOPLE TO DO FOR THEMSELVES"

DR. CHARLES K. HAMILTON

Non-Conservatives And Tax Policy

By Bayard Rustin
Special to the Post

Every time I pick up the New York Times and find one of those slick cleverly written advertisements from Mobil, I gain new insight into the varieties of conservative thought in America. Unlike the rather crude and half-baked positions of the New Right and its allies, the neo-conservatism of the Mobil ads is supremely intelligent and proper. For the average reader, the philosophy espoused by Mobil and its intellectual disciples appears moderate and sensible. But as harmless as it appears, it poses a serious threat to the movement for equality and justice in America.

In the area of tax policy, for example, the neo-conservatives in both political parties have already emerged as a powerful force for increased inequality. According to their model, society is divided into two broad "classes," the productive and unproductive. To insure continued economic growth and prosperity, the neo-conservatives propose a further redistribution of income and resources away from the so-called "unproductive" elements of society to the productive sector.

Stripped of its elegant ideological garments, the neo-conservative position is little more than a rehearsed version of classical economic conservatism, the same conservatism made so unpopular by the disastrous economic policies of Coolidge, Hoover, and, as more recently, Eisenhower, Nixon and Ford.

While the New Right engages in various forms of morality plays, the neo-conservatives have been busy transforming their philosophy into concrete legislative proposals. For example, on tax policy they have already produced two highly seductive bills which will almost surely receive even more attention

during the upcoming Congressional elections. Both bills, I think, would be disastrous if adopted.

In writing the "Tax Reduction Act," Congressman Jack Kemp (R-New York) has relied on the old strategy of coating vile medicine with sweet sugar. Two sweeten the effects of a \$122 billion loss of revenue, Kemp's bill provides some tax relief to everyone. But the thought of reducing the federal budget by such an enormous amount is simply staggering. Everyone from the poorest pauper to the richest corporate president is going to feel it.

Kemp, of course, has a quick retort. By reducing taxes by 30 percent over the next three years, we will stimulate investment in the private sector which, according to the optimistic Congressman, will create millions of jobs and produce billions in revenue. As proof for this highly dubious theory, Kemp points to the Kennedy tax cuts and the beneficial results they produced. Unfortunately, as Walter Heller has pointed out, the economic environment in the early 1960's was substantially different from the dismal economic environment of today. Heller warns that the Kemp-Roth analysis is as misleading as the old "Free Lunch" signs in bars.

Kemp's bill is misleading in another way as well. Although he claims to be a friend of minorities, workers, and middle-class people (all of them hard pressed by high taxes), Kemp's bill is a lucrative tax bonanza for the rich, that is the truly "productive elements" of society. According to Kemp, our present tax system "is strangling the incentive for investment and saving that are so necessary to the production of goods and services."

I find it difficult to believe

Kemp's assertion when I look at a Congressional report indicating that huge corporations like Texaco, ARCO, United States Steel, Xerox, ITT, and Union Carbide all enjoy effective tax rates below 20 percent. Interestingly enough, Mobil Oil, which provides us with reams of brow-beating essays, had an effective tax rate of under 2 percent in 1975!

To boost production, Kemp proposes massive tax reductions for those who already enjoy a high standard of living. Under the Kemp bill, 44.5 percent of the \$122 billion in lower taxes will go to the richest tenth of the American population. A family with an income of \$100,000 will receive \$8700 in tax reduction, more than many working people earn in a full year. By contrast, a family earning \$15,000 will receive a mere \$500 or \$600 in tax savings.

This same type of "welfare for the rich" is provided in a companion bill known as the Hansen-Steiger amendment. Like the Kemp-Roth bill, this legislation - which drastically reduces the capital gains tax - is aimed at "stimulating" investment by providing even more wealth to the rich, and shifting the tax burden even more heavily on those least able to bear it.

If we accept the political line so beautifully summarized in the Mobil ads, we should greet the Kemp-Roth and Hansen-Steiger bills with humble gratitude. For according to the neo-conservative, we - meaning blacks, workers, and middle-income people - are the lucky, but unworthy, beneficiaries of the great wisdom and generosity of the "productive elite," those who own and operate the great corporations.

TO BE EQUAL



By Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

The Case Against Congress

The President of the United States operates out of a goldfish bowl - his every move is subject to public scrutiny and criticism. Because the Executive Branch has responsibility for carrying out the laws and for initiating new programs, the White House becomes a lightning rod for critics of federal policies.

Congress manages to escape that kind of pressure. It's easier to focus on the lone figure of the President than on 535 Representatives and Senators. But much of what is wrong with the country today can be traced to Congress' inaction and to its often callous attitude towards the needs of the poor.

In the wake of Vietnam and Watergate there has been a massive shift of power from the President to the Congress. The loosening of party ties has increased the numbers of maverick Congressmen answerable only to themselves. And some nominally liberal Congressmen elected from more conservative districts after the backlash against the Watergate scandals have abdicated the responsibility to educate their constituents and instead have turned further to the right.

This Congress is relatively inexperienced as well. Obsessed by local concerns, many Representatives lack the breadth of vision to transcend political experience and act for the benefit of the whole nation. And many are overly sensitive to single-issue lobbyists, fearing to act right on issues like abortion, gun control and others that arouse emotional voter responses.

The result has been that this Congress is a big bust. Unable to produce a substantive record, some of its leaders just go after easy headlines. So Senator Byrd, the Majority Leader of the Senate, makes pompous statements about giving Andrew Young "one more chance," when he should be pleading himself for just one more chance to get needed legislation through the Senate.

On both domestic and foreign policy the Congress has dragged its heels. It has failed to deal constructively with such important issues as welfare reform, energy, and tax reform, preferring instead to take a piecemeal approach by passing isolated amendments that often sabotage the intent of progressive legislation.

For example, the law authorizing community development bloc grants clearly labels the program as intended for the benefit of low and moderate income people. But when HUD tried to enforce the letter and the spirit of the law by issuing regulations forcing local governments receiving those bloc grants to spend at least 75 percent of the money for the benefit of poor and moderate income people, Congress reacted.

It came up with an amendment that would cancel the regulation, and mounted an effort to override Cabinet Department regulations. The intent is clearly to remove from the Executive Branch the ability to enforce the laws of the land.

The same process is behind amendments that would end federal affirmative action compliance efforts. Congress stripped from poor women the freedom of choice affluent women have regarding abortions. It is trying to weaken the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill, which should have been passed intact weeks ago, with amendments that would render it ineffective.

Our New Day Begun

Blacks Challenge Republicans

By Benjamin L. Hooks

Having watched President Carter narrowly beat Gerald Ford in 1976, Republicans have suddenly awakened to the need to broaden the party base. They realize that the party cannot win a national election without the support of a significant portion of black voters.

The lesson that even though blacks were not particularly fond of Jimmy Carter, they gave 93 percent of their votes, must have been excruciatingly painful for the Republicans. Mr. Carter had no civil rights credentials of note, but blacks nevertheless edged him into office because they felt they had no meaningful alternative.

The Republicans are therefore now anxious to turn the tables on the Democrats. But can they do it? Under the leadership of party chairman Bill Brock, they have launched a deliberate campaign to win active black support. Jesse Jackson has been invited to speak at their conference, and so was I at the recent semi-annual gathering in Detroit.

At that time also, party representatives visited inner city areas to learn about urban problems. The Republicans, however, will need to do

more than that to win a sizable number of black votes. President Carter fortunately had the indispensable embrace of Martin Luther King, Sr., Coretta King, widow of Martin Jr., and others such as the current UN Ambassador Andrew Young.

This backing of top Atlanta black leadership gave him an appearance of empathy with black concerns. This is the kind of empathy and embrace that the Republicans lack, despite their having the only black, Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, in the Senate.

What the Republicans need to understand is that America has exacted a heavy price from its black minority. Or struggle is not just against racial attitudes, but against racist behavior. Democrats, and Republicans alike must confront this great crisis. It is a problem which arises to the level of national emergency.

That emergency is getting American institutions to include and protect all American citizens. As Frederick Douglas put it, "It is whether this nation shall conquer its prejudices, rise to the dignity of its professions, and proceed in the sublime course of truth and liberty marked out for itself...or shall swing back to its ancient moorings of slavery and barbarism. It is not what (the black) shall be or do, but what the nation shall be or do, which is to solve this great national problem."

Benjamin Hooks

...NAACP Director

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If the Republican Party is going to be a serious contender for the black vote, it must identify, support, and advance responsible leadership within its own ranks. The party must support persons who are both sensitive and committed to those programs needed to finally realize racial justice. Republicans cannot win black votes unless they are prepared to take black people and their interests seriously.

Black Americans are incre-

asingly voting their interests. They support candidates - whatever the party affiliation - who articulate their needs for jobs, equal job opportunities, quality housing and for a

thorough and efficient education. It is not sufficient to remove "roadblocks to equal opportunity." A map must be drawn. Timetables must be set. Goals must be established

for advancing minorities to positions in every profession, every career, and every school. Black voters challenge Republicans to meet these goals.

CA Issues Charges Of Fund Wasting

Members of the Thomasboro-Hoskins Action Group and the Plaza Hills-Villa Heights Community Improvement Committee, two neighborhood groups affiliated with Carolina Action, this week charged both the County Engineering Department and the County Employment and Training Department with wasting federal CETA funds designated for a special project to clean up creeks and drainage ditches in the Sugar Creek Basin. Carolina Action has disclosed that although the "Clean and Clear" program is two-thirds over, only \$24,339.73 of the original \$146,761.00 has been spent, and only nine of the twenty-nine crew positions have been filled. If the money is not used within a six-month time frame, ending September 30, it must be returned to the federal government, leaving Charlotte with most of the drainage problems it had when the program began.

For months the Thomasboro-Hoskins Group has tried to get a creek cleared. Said resident Clifton Jones, "I've heard them make all kinds of

promises and they haven't done anything about it. I'd like to know just when, if ever, they're actually going to do something."

The county explains that they cannot find people eligible and willing to do the work. But Mrs. Hyslop of Thomasboro says, "It just does not make any sense. I can't buy that they cannot find the people to fill the jobs with all the unemployment there is." Mrs. Thomas, of Plaza Hills also disclaimed the excuse. "I know there are plenty of jobless people in the county," she said, "This program could have served two problems, drainage and unemployment, and it has been just plain wasted."

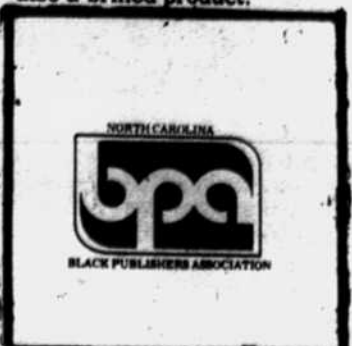
Wayne Lambert of County Engineering admits that the department is "snowed under" with drainage complaints and the requests "number in the thousands." Carolina Action members want to know why this program is not being fully utilized when drainage is one of Charlotte's major problems, and talk is heard of a

drainage bond being proposed this fall.

Carolina Action is a multi-issued statewide citizen's action organization which has been fighting over the last year for better drainage in Charlotte.

Brined Pickles

Brined pickles are fermented in salt water for three weeks, freshened in water and canned in jars in a combination of vinegar, salt water and spices. Vegetables such as cucumbers and green tomatoes may be brined. Kraut is also a brined product.



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