

Editorials & Comments

Expanding Black Capitalism

By Hoyle Martin Sr.
Post Editorial Writer

An editorial in a June 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 (magazine) 500 list in 1977, a firm needed \$355 million in sales, or nearly seven times as much as the largest black-owned firm.

Those who may accept this comparison as a measure of black business success are undoubtedly sensing increasing frustration with the difficulties in obtaining venture capital. Thus, the question arises as to how can black businesses increase their capitalization base? Undoubtedly, the bureaucratic web that inhibits the effectiveness of the federal Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) on one hand, and the questionable commitment of private sector responsibility on the other, has led to considerable debate over the expansion of black capitalism.

One of these debates took place at a conference on minority business held in Atlanta recently between Jesse Hill, Jr. and Eugene Baker. Hill, president of Atlanta Life Insurance Co. and the first Black to be elected president of Atlanta's Chamber of Commerce, argued that economic initiatives must come from the private sector. His views were based in part on the federal government's deficit of \$50 billion and its inflationary impact.

Baker, president of the National Assn. of Black Manufacturers in Washington, D.C., insists that the federal government, not the private sector, has the central responsibility for building and expanding black capitalism.

Black Businessmen

The debate between these distinguished black businessmen appears to be largely academic in part because they both are admitting two fundamental points of economic life. First, the so-called private sector is not in fact so private as evidenced by fact that it receives subsidies or "welfare capitalism" from the federal government in excess of \$77 billion annually. Secondly, it will take the combined efforts of the federal government and private sector - about any meaningful and permanent expansion of black or minority business. This is particularly important because of the additional obstacles that minority businesses face ranging from pure economic racism to a limited or no past business experience.

Black business itself may be doomed because it has failed to fully understand the range and scope of minority economic development.

Such an understanding must begin with a rejection of Richard Nixon's narrow view of "black capitalism." That view calls for the development of a small number of black merchants to operate within - to repeat "within" - the nation's black communities in selected business ventures.

Economic Parity

Therefore, if black business is to develop, expand and contribute to the revitalization of our urban commercial centers, and thus gain a degree of economic parity, it must embrace the minimum requirements for viable economic development. These are: (1) increase of management, accounting and quality control skills; (2) ownership and operation of community-based and profit-making businesses; (3) the effective enforcement of Affirmative Action policies to assure non-discrimination in procurements and competitive business practices; (4) the acceptance of social responsibility on a par with money profit in the policy-decision-making philosophy of white private corporations; and (5) a public policy of economic freedom designed to make the first four points obtainable.

These then are the minimum requirements for guaranteeing black equal opportunity in the market place and the expansion of black business in our free enterprise system.

Motivation Is Key To Testing

We have noted in this column a few times that some knowledgeable observers believe that the quality of public school education has declined considerably. Some teachers and some parents are said to be apathetic and "social promotion" has dampened the motivation of too many youth to learn. The latest evidence of such allegations comes in a 3-hour CBS-TV news report, "Is Anyone Out There Learning?"

The first hour of this program offered some startling facts about why competency test scores of high school students are low. For example Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores have been declining since 1960 and they "plummeted" in 1970. Furthermore, 13-15 of all high school seniors are functionally illiterate. Among black its reportedly 47 percent compounded by a 30 percent absentee rate, a poor home environment and low motivation.

Some how, some way, black parents, teachers, ministers, and community leaders must begin to find methods to motivate black youth to gain a thirst for knowledge. To do less means to give up the economic, social and legal gains achieved since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Black youth must begin to understand that a good education offers no guarantees, but without it there is no hope for a better future.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Accurate Assessment Of

The Woman's Revolution

Mr. Bill Johnson-Editor
The Charlotte Post
1524 W. Blvd.
Charlotte, N.C. 28208

Dear Editor,

The August 17 As I See It column by Gerald O. Johnson was an accurate assessment of the effects of the women's revolution on the family unit.

Mr. Johnson spoke of the growing dissension between men and women and it is especially important that we concern ourselves with this problem as it is one that has gotten so out of hand that it threatens to destroy the little unity that black folks have in the U.S. and I am not being over dramatic either. We already suffer from numerous economic and psychological problems stemming from past and present discrimination. Add the tension which surfaces when an angry black man feels his manhood is in danger or when an embittered black woman sees her rights disregarded, and you've got a time bomb on your hands!

Because most women are physically weaker than men, they are the ones who get knocked around or literally beaten up when this tension manifests itself. There is an abused woman in half of the families I know, but we can't keep these skeletons in our closet much longer; even they are demanding "Freedom Now!"

Only hours after I read Mr.

Johnson's comments, I witnessed an altercation while riding West Boulevard bus number 1097. Soon after we left the Square, the driver had to call for police assistance because the safety of the other passengers was in jeopardy. Cuss words echoed in the bus while a young woman was threatened with a good kicking. After the police finally came and left, I could hear the young men in the back supporting a "good whoopin'" for the woman. Meanwhile, some of the ladies declared that they "wouldn't take no licks." My seven year old son and my four year old daughter saw and heard all this too.

If this is how we're teaching our young children to resolve differences, we don't need to fear genocide; we'll eliminate ourselves through suicide.

Once we were a race of slaves who were abused by our masters at will. When we began our struggle for freedom, they fought us and they thought we were really crazy. To say they were spoiled would be a gross understatement!

Now, black men accuse their woman of being "uppity" because they are no longer content with "staying in their place." Are they spoiled in a different way?

Though I was a naive adolescent when the civil rights movement surged in the early sixties, I honestly don't believe that people like Martin Luther prayed, marched, and died for the freedom of black men only.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Ruby Minter

State Government

Internship

Program Set

Learning by doing is the goal of the Fall '78 State Government Internship Program which will run from October to December.

Any student attending a North Carolina college, university, technical institute or community college or any North Carolina resident attending such a school outside the state is eligible to apply.

Students are required to spend at least 15 hours a week "on the job" and may carry regular course loads. They do not receive stipends but are eligible to receive academic credit through individual arrangements with their respective schools.

The program is sponsored by the N.C. Internship Program of the Department of Administration's Youth Involvement Office.

By Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

TO BE EQUAL



The New Negativism

Throughout our history, Americans have been known for their optimism, their generosity of spirit and their willingness to make sacrifices for the greater good. Those attributes were the ones that struck such foreign observers as de Tocqueville, who saw in America the wave of the future.

But today's America seems gripped by pessimism, selfishness, and a toleration of the sufferings of minorities. This mood is typified by a reactionary counter-revolution against the economic and social advances of the 1960s. I call it the "New Negativism."

The New Negativism says No to effective government, No to full employment, No to affirmative action, and No to efforts to revive our failing cities. It stands against measures to help the poor. It justifies itself through myths about big government, cheating and laziness on the part of poor people, and supposed reverse discrimination that favors minorities.

The real effort to transform our society and make it more equitable has soured into a mood of general nastiness, and the issues championed by the New Negativism reflect this.

The so-called tax revolt, for example, doesn't focus on making the tax system more equitable. Its real intent is to cut down the size of government, while the tax breaks for the affluent are expanded.

Moderate income working people will be hit with a massive rise in social security taxes after next January 1, but Congress' response to the tax revolt is to cut capital gains taxes, which already get favorable treatment. The beneficiaries would be few - and well-off.

The New Negativism wants to fight inflation by letting unemployment rise, a practice that is questionable economics and of dubious morality. Not only would higher unemployment be ineffective in curbing inflation, but poor people would be placed in a double-bind. Since prices for food and other basic essentials are rising at double the overall inflation rate, poor people would be subjected to higher inflation and to higher joblessness.

The reverse discrimination issue is the real phony of the lot. With black joblessness well over double white rates, and declining numbers of blacks getting into schools and universities, where is this reverse discrimination? Affirmative action programs are under massive attack in the wake of the Bakke Case, and the New Negativism wants to eliminate all special efforts to make up for past discrimination.

So there's a streak of racism running through the New Negativism, a streak that can also be found in the refusal to help the cities. Today's conventional wisdom has it that cities can only be saved by inducing the middle class to return from the suburbs.

In other words, save the cities by changing their populations. Since urbanites are disproportionately minorities, the racism becomes clear. Surely cities need a strong middle class, but the way to get it is by providing the jobs, education, housing, health and other opportunities that move poor people out of poverty and into the middle class.

Our New Day Begun

Defending Carter And Artis

By Benjamin L. Hooks

In explaining why they felt impelled to request the NAACP's participation in the Carter-Artis murder case, the lawyers for the two men noted that few institutions in this nation were so equipped with resources and capabilities for leading such an extended struggle against gross miscarriages of justice as was this nation's oldest civil rights organization.

The lawyers, Myron Beldock and Lewis Steele, reviewed the history of the case. They concluded that racism was such a strong factor in the two trials and convictions of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and John Artis and now the refusal of the New Jersey Appellate Court to grant a motion for a new hearing that it was impossible to continue the defense by themselves.

What was clear to Attorneys Beldock and Steele was that only with the help of experienced constitutional lawyers could there be any hope to win freedom for the two men who have been sentenced for life for three murders they adamantly maintain they did not commit. Furthermore, not only does the case call for extensive legal resources, but immense public pressure must be brought on New Jer-

sey's legal system.

One of the most poignant reminders of this travesty of justice was the Scottsboro Boys case, which began in 1931 when nine black young men were arrested in Alabama for raping two white girls. This case finally ended in 1976, when the NAACP won a state pardon for Clarence (Willie) Norris, last of the Scottsboro Boys.

Unfortunately, despite the great ideals of this nation's founding fathers, the American judicial system is too often perverted for political ends, by racial prejudice or vindictiveness. Consequently, there are many more examples of such miscarriages of justice.

For the victims who escape without being lynched, as was commonplace in past years, everyone must be thankful. America's conscience is free of this other stain. But, there can be no escaping the personal suffering and the broken lives that result from locking up someone for crimes based on manufactured or withheld evidence. The NAACP lawyers are convinced that both Carter and Artis have been denied their freedom for precisely these reasons.



Benjamin L. Hooks
...NAACP Director

overturn of the conviction will therefore be based on the points that:
- The initial convictions were based on the testimony of two white habitual criminals, Alfred Bello and Arthur Dexter Bradley, both of whom later recanted their stories.
- The two surviving victims of the shootings in a Paterson, N.J. tavern in June, 1966, gave conflicting descriptions of their assailants.
- An upstairs tenant who had been aroused from her sleep by gunshots gave conflicting testimony.
- A parade of black witnesses corroborated the Carter-Artis testimony.
- The process by which the all-white jury that initially

convicted the men was faulty. Certainly, Americans can be no less concerned about

violations of human rights here at home, as is clear in the Carter-Artis case, than they

are about intensifying the struggle in behalf of political prisoners abroad.

Good Discipline

Working Together Can Establish

Special to the Post
Raleigh - "Parents and educators working together can establish and maintain good discipline in our public schools," said Lloyd S. Isaacs, executive secretary at the North Carolina Association of Educators.

"Our whole society is based on the concept of universal rules of conduct which everyone must obey," Isaacs continued. "Children must learn that they have to behave wherever they are - at home or at school."

"Children can learn to behave when parents and teachers work together. But when parents do not support the school's efforts, then discipline problems begin. And when discipline problems arise, instructional programs suffer," Isaacs said.

Isaacs, the top staff member of the state's largest professional organization, made his statement as North Carolina's 65,000 educators prepare for another school

year. The executive secretary also urged parents to visit their children's schools early in the year and meet with their children's teachers.

"Every parent who wants a child to do well in schools needs to establish a working relationship with the child's teacher," he explained. "Educators welcome the help and cooperation of parents. When both work together, success is certain and the children benefit so much more. Teachers can't do everything alone."

"For example, when the teacher assigns homework it doesn't do any good unless the parent makes sure that the child does the homework," Isaacs continued. "If a child doesn't do his homework then others are encouraged not to do theirs. And soon we have discipline problems. Not to mention the fact that less learning is taking place."

Isaacs pledged that NCAE will do anything it can to make

the 1978-79 school year successful for all children. NCAE's membership includes teachers, principals, supervisors, superintendents and others in each of the 145 school systems in the state.

Dried Foods

All dried foods deteriorate to some extent during storage which can range from 6 months to a year depending on the kind of food. To keep nutritional losses to minimum, vegetables and fruits, especially carrots, onions and cabbage, should be used in reasonable lengths of time.



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 1408 2400 S. Michigan Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10036 Chicago, Ill. 60616
(212) 489-1220 Calumet 5-0200