

Editorials & Comments

Run In Fear Or Learn For Progress

Like many other situations which come about in the national community such as quick insurance plans, dubious housing plans, fast money plans, sure-fire job plans, the Black community has to be especially watchful. Somehow, the hustler and the schemers rush to the Black community first to unload their shady products and mysterious messages. Even to God's own Gospel! The present nuclear matter is no exception.

Already literature is being distributed, sometimes finding its way into the Black press, about the horrors and the doomsday predictions of the use of nuclear energy. This is unfortunate, because the future of nuclear energy in America, and in the lives of all Americans, is positive.

To begin with, present day natural gas which heats the boilers which cause the generation of electricity, has twenty more years before the supply gives out...if we use it at the rate we are using it today. Oil, which powers generators to supply electricity, will not last much longer at the rate we are using it. It is clear that the remaining supply of gas and oil must be reserved to meet the many uses for which there is no substitute. Add to this the present tragedy in Iran and the supply might end sooner. Let us remember we are getting nearly half of our nation's oil supply from foreign countries; nations which can again cut us off without notice as they did just four years ago before quadrupling prices. Or their internal problems can put us in national jeopardy.

Take a look at the comparative figures: Electricity generated from nuclear power costs substantially less to produce than electricity from coal or oil. The exact amount is one and a half cents per kilowatt hour. Coal costs two cents and oil costs four cents. Imagine, it would cost eight billion dollars to buy enough foreign oil to generate the amount of electricity that will be produced by nuclear plants this year.

Blacks Organize

A recent syndicated article speaking against nuclear energy suggested that the Black community organize against nuclear power and that the Black community rise up against waste disposal as a part of the overall liberation struggle. However in December of 1977 the NAACP went on record to say that "The fact is that nuclear power will be required to meet our future needs

for electricity. If we do not move ahead now with the nuclear power development, the next generation is likely to be sitting around in the dark, blaming the utilities for not doing something this generation's officials would not let them do."

As for high level waste, one storage site of less than 1000 acres

can provide all the storage capacity this country needs for its civilian nuclear power plants through the year 2000. On radioactivity released from nuclear power plants is only a small fraction of the amount coming from x-rays, granite buildings and airplane travel. One out of every ten hospital patients in this country depends on nuclear medicine for the diagnosis of human ailments.

The risk safety factor regarding American nuclear plants is less than minimal. In fact, the nuclear power industry is the most closely regulated industrial enterprise in this country. No person in public has been injured by a nuclear-related incident at any commercial nuclear power reactor. This is an impeccable record.

There are serious charges that the American nuclear industry would be involved with using nuclear weapons on emerging African nations. Yet none of the present nuclear-weapons states has produced any weapons from materials used in commercial nuclear plants. Nor has any nation used nuclear power plants for weapons development.


Stand On Energy

To support the NAACP's stand on nuclear energy, opinions have come from many responsible sources: The department of nuclear engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology states, "The public would be adversely affected by the outright rejection of the nuclear alternative...or by any further delay in its development." On January 16 of 1975, thirty-one outstanding scientists met and determined, "We see no reasonable alternatives to an increased use of nuclear scientists in Chicago went on record in 1975 to support nuclear energy and use as a way to a better life for Black and disadvantaged Americans.

But back to emerging African nations and America's nuclear weapons directed toward them. Such an attack for military purpose has only been used when another powerful nation has held America's military power in critical abeyance. Japan, for instance. No African nation can do this. Without seeming crass, the largest Black nation in Africa might have a serious problem battling the combined national guards of New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and California...and certainly without nuclear weapons.

The important item for Black Americans to know as far as nuclear energy is concerned is how the future ties them in with progress. Nuclear power is cheaper, it is cleaner, it is easier to produce, it can give far more electricity to homes than any other energy source. It will be with us forever. Its capability will match and even accelerate the growth of industry in this country...which means jobs.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
TEACHERS-MINISTERS-
BUSINESSMEN-LAWYERS-
DOCTORS-SOCIAL WORKERS-
UNIONS-FRATERNAL GROUPS-
FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S-
ORGANIZATIONS-BLACK-
PRESS



We Have The Tools To Do The Job For
A Better Black Community...Let's Use Them

Week Of Student Abuse

by Rev. Dr. Maggie Lamb
Nicholson

Charlotte has just closed a week's observance of child abuse, so I thought it was a good time to remind our readers that students are children and were also considered as being abused. This is the resolution that is being sent out to several organizations as well as the superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools:

"Whereas the education of our young has deteriorated with forced bussing of children to schools distant from their homes; and further such bussing has kept the parents of the bussed children from being able to have contact with the teachers and administrators of these distant schools; and further has denied by practical access to the distant schools, participation in social and parent teacher activities, thereby denying to the bussed student the advantages and benefits of such parental activities, and,

Whereas such obvious disadvantages resulting from the bussing of these students to distant schools far removed from their homes and social environment, they the bussed students, are being denied equal educational opportunities; further, the emotional impact of this program of bussing students to far distant schools is doing great harm to young students of grades one thru grades three, be it therefore resolved, that we go on record as opposed to the bussing of children in grades one thru three to far distant schools and that they instead attend the schools nearest to their homes, thus restoring a feeling of security to these pupils and a feeling of belonging to the parent of these



Dr. Nicholson

pupils in relation to their schools and the administrators thereof. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board and that it be made available to the media.

Charlotte is celebrating Charlotte. Many activities are going on all over town this month. This is also senior citizens month. Have we stopped to think how we will celebrate the senior citizens of tomorrow? I have just read in a local paper that the administration has sold the records of our children in ninth and eleventh grades to a local newspaper. Yes, their names, address and their entire records. Just think what that will do to the morale of the student when he or she goes to get a job and their grades have improved or gone from good to bad. Here these children's future is being blighted by the administration of all people; the ones that are supposed to help make them responsible citizens. Does this come within the guidelines of H.E.W.? If so Mr. Califano needs to stop and take a good look at himself before he executes any more rules.

This is child abuse in its

highest form. How can these students grow up gracefully knowing that they are being commercialized on by the media. Yes, this is child abuse. How can they survive such hostile treatment as being commercialized on. Already, all the children have not been given an equal opportunity of getting a good education in our public schools. Just say so many students are going to private schools; just say so many women won't let their offspring be born.

Do we want another test score like the one that we just experienced? Why can't we do as these resolutions above call for. I hope we will look at our children from a child's point of view. Give them the necessary respect; they will meet competition. Throw social promotion out of the window; give them an opportunity to compete, something to fight for and a recognition of the hard work that they will do with a full opportunity. I would like to hear from those of you who love your children and want them to have the best education possible.

City Transit

Charlotte Transit System revenue passenger ridership increased .64 percent in April, the second month an increase has been recorded following the 56-days drivers' strike.

The number of riders on express buses rose 110.3 percent over the number carried last year. The highest daily express passenger number during April was 389 passengers; the pre-strike daily high was 334 express passengers.

Sales of the Charlotte Transit System's monthly unlimited ride pass increased 21.5 percent in April.

Publisher Sees Crises For Minority-Owned Businesses

by Ernest E. Schell

Minority-owned businesses face greater challenges today than when they first began to thrive nearly a decade ago.

So reports Earl G. Graves, publisher of Black Enterprise, speaking to an audience of 100 students, faculty, and business executives at the LaSalle College International Business Lecture series last week.

Graves, who heads five corporations, noted that the burdens facing black businessmen today are "simply awesome." The biggest problem of all, he said, is "the severe lack of access to capital on the part of minority businessmen."

"The history of minority-owned businesses is filled with stories of entrepreneurs who had to resort to last-ditch substitutes because they could not obtain legal, legitimate business loans," Graves observed. "Worse yet, many banks and financial institutions, large and small, are simply disbanding their minority lending departments and programs."

Pointing to the trend toward cutting back on federal programs designed to aid minority business, Graves declared

that such aid is obviously a "last resort," but added that such programs are "our primary hope of strengthening our businesses, and they need to stay alive for the time being."

One bright spot, according to Graves, is the appointment of J. Bruce Lewellyn as head of the federal government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), which up until now has been criticized for helping primarily multinational corporations. Under Lewellyn, a successful entrepreneur whose chain of supermarkets ranks third in the Black Enterprise list of 100 top minority-owned businesses, Graves hopes that OPIC will extend loans, loan guarantees, and risk insurance to a greater number of black businesses wishing to do business abroad.

The purchasing power of the black community is the key to economic clout in dealing with mainstream corporations, Graves emphasizes. A former aide to the late Senator Robert Kennedy, Graves formed his own consultant firm after Kennedy was assassinated in 1968. The company was set up to advise corporations on how best to reach minority markets. Today, in addition to publishing the remarkably

successful magazine, Black Enterprise, with a readership of 1.25 million, Graves owns 2 radio stations in Dallas and several economic development and marketing firms.

"If I tried to do today what I did when I started 11 years ago," he says, "I would most likely not be as successful. Times are changing, and not all for the better."

"Ten years ago," Graves reminded his audience, "the nation was more receptive to ideas, programs, and laws for equal economic opportunity and social justice."

More than attitudes have changed. The percentage of black families earning over \$24,000 a year has declined from a high of 12 percent in 1973 to only 9 percent today. The gap between the median income of blacks and whites has also widened.

What the majority of America's business corporations must realize, Graves concluded, is that black economic opportunity is at the heart of the effort to save our nation's cities. If black businesses can survive and thrive, they can go a long way toward easing the minority unemployment that is leading to frustration and despair in many of America's older urban centers.

Corporations, financial institutions, and elected officials must be made aware that

PTA Challenges Nation's Leaders

What Can We Do For Our Schools?

Chicago — Culminating a series of public hearings which explored problems facing cities and their schools — and opportunities for positive change — the National PTA will hold a national conference on this subject as part of its Urban Education Project.

The day-long meeting will be in Washington, D.C., on May 15, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., HEW Building, in the Snow Room, Number 5051, 330 Independence Avenue, S.W.

Offering a forum for leaders of national organizations concerned with urban problems and their impact on our cities' schools, this conference represents the PTA's commitment to initiating a cooperative discussion of these concerns among key figures in government, education, and national citizens' organizations. It also signifies the beginning of a mobilization of both local and national resources for addressing these crucial issues.

investing in black-owned businesses or buying their products and services is, as Graves declared, "an investment in the American dream of equal opportunity in economic reality as well as human rights for all."

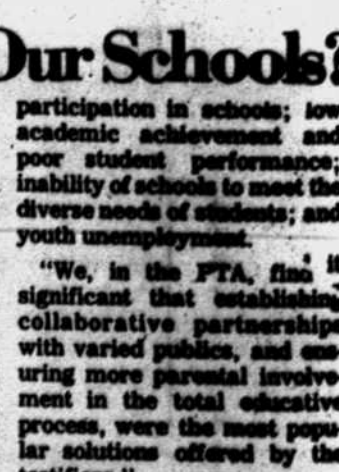
Launching the project in November 1978, the PTA's objectives are to focus national attention on the problems plaguing urban areas and their schools; to generate new and dynamic approaches to their resolution; and to make parents the leading force in this endeavor.

According to GRACE BAISINGER, National PTA president, "The six cities we visited earlier this year have indeed met our challenge. An impressive cross-section of educators, public officials, parents, students, clergy, and community leaders spoke out clearly on the problems and resources of our urban schools."

"Based on a preliminary analysis of the hearing testimony, the five most frequently cited recurring problems affecting urban centers and schools were: inadequate financing for public education; lack of parental involvement, or broad-based community participation in schools; low academic achievement and poor student performance; inability of schools to meet the diverse needs of students; and youth unemployment."

"We, in the PTA, find it significant that establishing collaborative partnerships with varied publics, and ensuring more parental involvement in the total educational process, were the most popular solutions offered by the testifiers."

Subscribe to the Charlotte Post! Your support helps!



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

Telephone (704) 376-0496-376-0497

Circulation, 9,915

60 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

BILL JOHNSON...Editor Publisher

BERNARD REEVES...General Manager

SHIRLEY HARVEY...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