

Black Business Development

On The Road To recovery

In our annual assessment of Black business and economic development, the National Business League noted the grim prospect of rising inflation and a deepening recession into 1981. Although we issued a generally gloomy forecast for uncertain economic conditions as a backdrop for Black business development, we remain convinced that the decade of the '80s holds enormous potential for the expansion of Black business enterprise.

Our conviction is based, in part, in the national agenda that the League has set forth, and the enterprising spirit of a host of individual entrepreneurs, corporations and firms across the nation. Having set our sights on success in the economic arena, NBL is determined to assist the growth and expansion of the Black and minority business community so that, at the "bottom line," we remain in the "black."

As noted in our annual assessment, the grim prospects of inflation, unemployment and recession are not insurmountable challenges to this nation, nor to this organization. In fact, our outlook for the economic progress of Blacks and other minorities in 1981, and throughout this decade, is brightened by the positive and aggressive determination that has historically characterized the National Business League. We need not take a "wait and see" mentality; rather we need to assert our "can do" attitude, and show that we "can do" business now.

In 1981, we expect to witness a resurgence in the efforts of Black entrepreneurs to penetrate productive markets and gain access to growth industries. In line with that objective, the League is presently engaged in a project to identify areas of growth potential and target the industries with maximum viability for Black and minority firms.

Our efforts include establishment of a data network to assist Black and minority firms, and the implementation of a demonstration project in

Local Student

Graduates From

Bennett College

GREENSBORO - Mary Frances Harris recently completed requirements for the baccalaureate degree from Bennett College in Greensboro.

Completing undergraduate studies in the area of Special Education, she is the daughter of Mrs. Daisy Harris who resides at 2801 Phillips Ave., Charlotte.

Mary was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Public Service Sorority.

McKoy Charges

Doctor, Attorney

Continued from Page 1
The State Bar cleared Downer of charges of wrongdoing. She then started taking her case to every agency, association, elected official she thought might help make others aware of injustices in a system where lawyers protect each other sometimes at the client's expense.

In an article we will report on what happened to Downer when she attempted to make local officials aware of police surveillance activities, center letters to missionaries and

celebration

Eight

"celebration" of outstanding Black women will be held February 7 in the presence of Belk, up-

coming people will include Ester Page, Tommie E. Elsie E. Ranne, Jones, Eudine Gene' and L. "Bill"

five cities to test the effectiveness of such a program. The initial response to our efforts has indicated that, not only is there a wide range of opportunities within new growth industries, but there is also a wide range of established or developing Black and minority firms ready, willing and eager to get in on the ground floor of such enterprises.

Our outlook for 1981 also calls for continuation of the cooperative efforts and joint ventures that have begun to make partnership, both in the private sector and with the federal government, a meaningful development. We anticipate a greater level of unity in the Black and minority business communities because it is not only essential to thriving commercial centers, it is crucial to our very survival as well.

Toward that end, the National Business League will intensify its efforts to establish an independent financial mechanism for the benefit of its members and others in the Black and minority business community. While many of our approaches will be new, such a concept is not. As early as 1924, League members and supporters pooled their resources to provide an initial capital base for an investment fund. Throughout our history, the idea that Black people should have, from their own resources, some kind of funding mechanism that could be used for Black business and economic development has remained a strong and vibrant concept. This year, the League will redouble its efforts to translate this concept of a funding mechanism into a meaningful reality. Moreover,

given the League's recent acquisition of a minority enterprise small business investment company (MESBIC), we are well on the way toward achieving that goal.

In addition, the League has resolved to embark upon a building campaign in 1981. Having located an accessible site in the nation's capital, we plan to construct a complex which will serve as the headquarters for our national office, and other major Black and minority business professional and trade associations. Such an edifice will provide a remarkable testament to the idea that wealth, business and race unity are fundamental to our full and equitable participation in this nation's economic mainstream.

The main thrust of all our efforts, and indeed, the primary focus of our national agenda, is to increase the economic opportunities available to our people. This undertaking - this task of economic development - is as vital to the prosperity of our communities as it is to the stability of our nation.

As we move into this new year, it is clear that there are many grim obstacles and conditions blocking our path. However, NBL is determined to share in the framing of the economic policy decisions that will guide the nation's future, and contribute to the development of viable economic alternatives that can turn our communities around. Given our determination, and our "can do" spirit, all we need is a greater access to the productive elements of this nation, and we can get down to the business of economic recovery for us all.



Attorney Charles Becton officially becomes the second black Court of Appeals judge in a ceremony held in the state Capitol. Governor Jim Hunt looks on.

Becton Sworn In To State Court Of Appeals

North Carolina's second black Court of Appeals judge was sworn in Monday, January 19, in a ceremony held in the state Capitol.

Gov. Jim Hunt appointed Chapel Hill lawyer Charles Becton to fill the seat vacated by Judge Richard Erwin, the state's first black Court of Appeals judge, also appointed by Gov. Hunt. Erwin accepted an appointment as U.S.

District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

"I must say to you that seldom have I ever heard such strong statements of support and appreciation and admiration as came forth for Charles Becton for this position," Gov. Hunt said during the ceremony. "It's most impressive. This man is highly

qualified to serve on the Court of Appeals of North Carolina, and I am very proud to have appointed him."

Becton, 36, is a former member of the staff of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and has been associated with the Charlotte and Chapel Hill law firm of Chambers, Stein, Ferguson and Becton since 1970. He is a native of Morehead City.

He received a bachelor's degree in government from Howard University in 1966 and a law degree from Duke University in 1969. He has taught in the law schools at Duke, North Carolina Central University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Harvard University. He is president of the N.C. Association of Black Lawyers.

Governor Hunt Proclaims

"Clean Up Litter Week"

RALEIGH - Gov. Jim Hunt has proclaimed April 13-18 and September 14-18 as "Clean Up Litter Weeks in North Carolina."

During these two weeks, the North Carolina Department of Transportation will again implement a concentrated effort to clean up litter along highways across the state.

In his proclamation the governor said, "Whereas, littered roadsides continue to spoil North Carolina's scenic beauty; and Whereas, the State of North Carolina spends approximately \$1.5 million annually for roadside litter control and the problem continues to persist; and...Whereas, it is felt that the traveling public will be more conscientious in helping to keep highways litter free once an area is cleaned up; Therefore, I proclaim the weeks of April 13-18 and September 14-18, 1981 as "Clean Up Litter Weeks in North Carolina."

NCDOT maintenance crews, with the help of 156 outside organizations, picked up 24,000 cubic yards or 6,200 truckloads of litter from highways across the state during two clean up litter efforts last year.

At least three transportation maintenance crews will be assigned to each of North Carolina's 100 counties to pick up litter during both weeks this year.

In addition, Transportation Secretary Tom Bradshaw has invited city and county officials and other interested organizations to participate with the department in its effort to reduce roadside litter.

The Governor's Office of Youth Involvement will coordinate participation in the campaign by youth groups. As part of this effort, the governor has extended the spring campaign and proclaimed April 18 as "Youth Involvement Day in North Carolina" to

accommodate participation by various youth groups across the state.

Bradshaw said, "We feel it will take the combined effort of volunteer organizations and all levels of government to effectively reduce litter on our streets and highways. We urge local groups that want to participate in the litter clean up effort to contact the division or district engineer in their areas."

He added, "We are pleased with the overwhelming results of our past pick up litter campaigns. From our past experience we know that by working together, we can accomplish just about anything we focus our combined energies upon," he said.

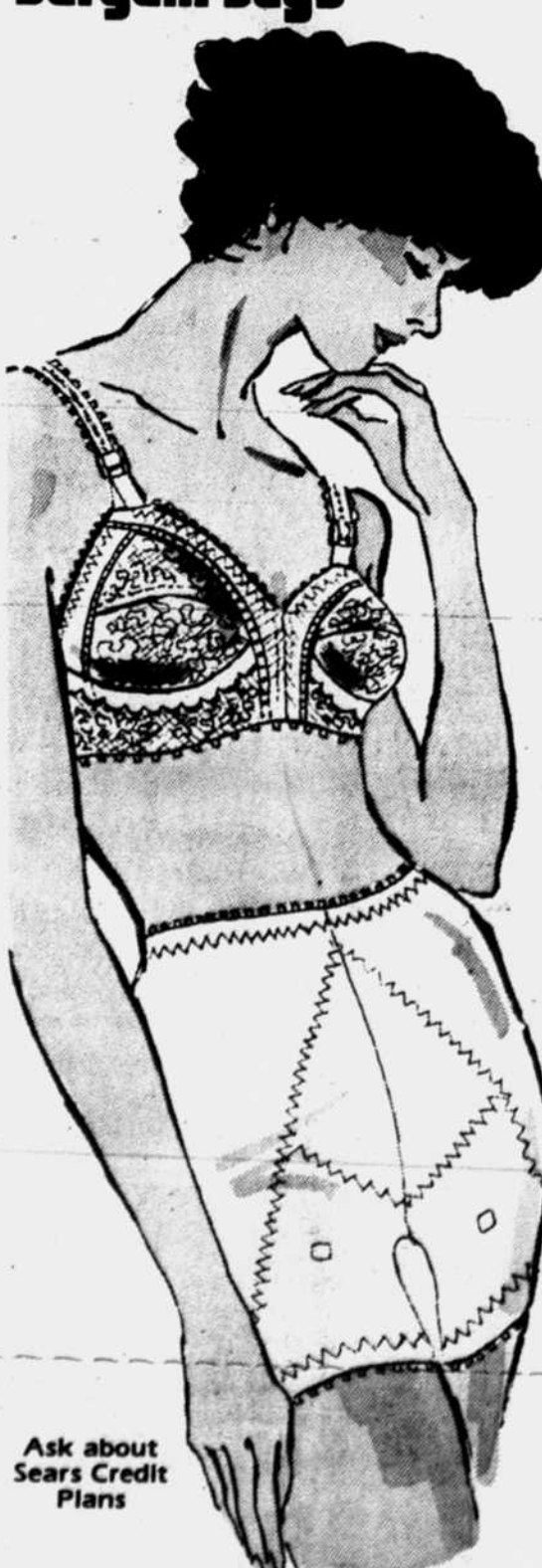
As a result of this campaign last year, North Carolina was one of three states recognized by both the Federal Highway Administration and Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

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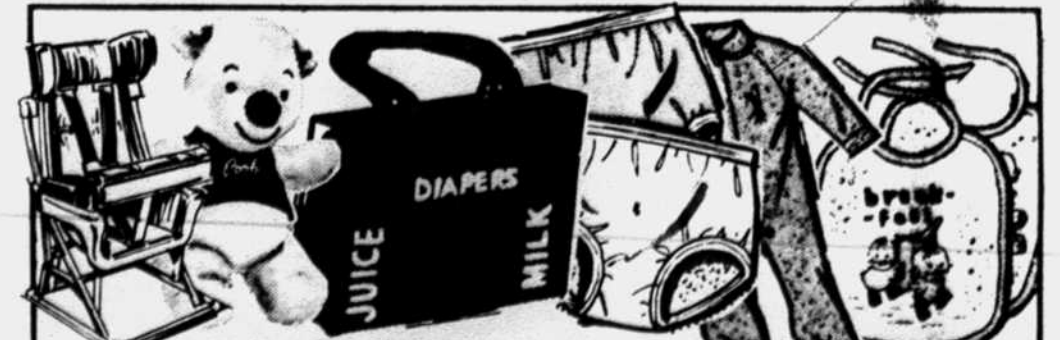
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