

Editorials & Comments

Let's Save Little Rock Church!

As a part of the City's Urban Renewal program for First Ward, the old Little Rock AME Zion Church, located at the corner of Myers and East 7th Streets, was purchased. Since the City's plans initially called for widening 7th Street which is adjacent to the church, there was some concern about what might happen to the 71-year-old structure built in 1910 at a cost of only \$20,000.

Fortunately, the City and the Historic Properties Commission decided to commission a study to determine the most appropriate adaptive re-use of the church's structure to enable it to continue as an integral part of the community while the Little Rock congregation moved a block away in a more modern new facility.

After a careful analysis of available space, access patterns, community growth patterns, and the opinions expressed by local residents and community leaders, it was determined that the most appropriate adaptive re-use of the structure would be to serve as the new home of the Afro-American Cultural Center of Charlotte.

Feasibility Study

The Center currently occupies space in Spirit Square which is inadequate for its needs. The "Feasibility Study," conducted by Inabinet Associates of Columbia, South Carolina, says in part, "The needs of the Afro-American Cultural Center include... space in an auditorium with at least 100 seats in order to accommodate the performing arts, lectures, programs, classes and children's self expression work shops... In addition, there is a need for permanent exhibit space for display of artifacts and traveling exhibits, a work space and storage space for artifacts and exhibits, office space, conference rooms and library facilities to serve as a resource center."

The study notes further that the building appears to be structurally sound with damage evident primarily on the roof and the woodwork exposed to the elements over the life of the 71-year-old building designed by James M. McMichael. Mr. McMichael (1870-1944), a noted architect, also designed the old First Baptist Church (now Spirit Square) and Myers Park Presbyterian Church.

The study concludes that a "very preliminary cost estimate" to renovate and return the structure to some of its former grandeur would be approximately \$160,000. It is further concluded that the City of Charlotte underwrite the cost of the renovation, fund the operating cost and maintenance and lease the facility to Afro-American Cul-

tural Center.

We strongly support the renovation of the old Little Rock Church and applaud the ideas of making it the home of the Afro-American Cultural Center. However, considering other needs that relate to a minimum quality of life for many citizens - namely housing, transportation and human services - we would strongly question the wisdom of expecting local government to invest huge sums of money in a historic preservation project without a strong showing of financial and community support particularly from black Charlotteans.

Black Support

With the beginning of the City's Urban Renewal program in 1959, there have been many complaints from blacks about the destroying of much of their local history and cultural heritage. Old Brooklyn, Second Ward High School, many older black churches, such as Little Rock, residentially integrated First Ward before school desegregation in 1954, and many other sites are all gone.

The black community now has an opportunity to recapture in one central place part of its historic past. It has the opportunity to preserve, observe, expand upon and seek new interpretation and expressions of what it has and is meaning to be a black Charlottean.

We would hope and encourage groups like the Second Ward High Alumni Association, Johnson C. Smith University, the black churches, local black intellectuals, former residents of old Brooklyn, the Community Relations Committee, the Afro-American Cultural Center and the Public Library would somehow pool their time, their talents and their money to assume a major responsibility in preserving the Little Rock Church as a home for the history of the local black community. Technical and other assistance might be sought from the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and other national black historic organizations.

Major black financial, technical and maintenance support of such a project would give blacks a unique hold on to their own past for present and future generations. Furthermore, major black support would give them control over the policies and future directions for how and what to preserve from the past.

Most important to this project is a fact about the present. That is, with the federal government severely cutting back on housing, human services and other basic qualities of life needs, local government will be under greater pressure to increase their support for these human services.

LEADERS MUST ORGANIZE



ARE WE GOING TO SIT AND LET BLACK COMMUNITIES CRUMBLE AROUND US? GRASS ROOTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, MUST EMERGE, TO FORGE A UNITED EFFORT AGAINST CRIME, NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING, BLIGHT AND DECAY.

Tony Brown's Journal

Nationally Syndicated Commercial Television Series



Tony Brown

Newest Twist In Coke Deal!

No matter how some individual blacks felt about Jesse Jackson, he and his PUSH organization received praise from much of the black community when the \$6 billion Coca-Cola corporation announced that it would hand over some \$30 million to black interests. Jackson had called an economic boycott against Coke's interests.

The action was interpreted as a new corporate program to substitute for the old "draft horse of minority progress" led back into the barn by the Reagan Administration budget cuts of social programs.

The accolades came also from some who see beyond substituting one poverty program for another - on an endless treadmill of welfare. To my knowledge, the oldest and most persistent champion of black self-help through economic and political power is Dr. Carlton Goodlett, past president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and publisher of The (San Francisco) Sun Reporter.

Dr. Goodlett's Reporter Publications chain of newspapers in a "Coca-Cola Promises \$34 Million To Blacks" editorial said: "This week, black economic power flexed its muscles... Blacks have a purchasing power in excess of \$100 billion. If we organize and use our money wisely for black improvement, no multinational corporation will be able to withstand a black boycott of four months. The black dollar can do much more to help the black drive to full equality and end economic racism than any other

force at our disposal."

Blacks should be "thinking in terms of tithing in our contributions to PUSH; we should make available to Rev. Jackson and PUSH at least one-tenth of the monies received from the special opportunities which will certainly flow from this initial historic breakthrough," Dr. Goodlett's paper suggested.

The "special opportunities" fund would amount to, under Goodlett's proposal, a war chest of about \$15 billion if Jackson gets an average of \$30 million from each of the Fortune 500 as he was initially promised by Coke. Jackson personally referred to his "withdrawal of our enthusiasm for Coke products" boycott of July 11 and explained that, "What we have worked out is a framework of reciprocity rather than generosity."

But two days after Coke announced an agreement ("Black Push, Coke Bows" - New York Daily News) Patricia Roberts-Harris, Jimmy Carter cabinet member, warned of "A New Burden For Business" in the New York Times.

She warned that the Reagan Administration has created a "climate in which the anger and frustration of the public" will be "directed against business leadership." There is a growing belief that the private sector must solve the unsolved social problems and "the public will look to business for needed help," Mrs. Harris wrote.

She gave this conclusion: "If business accepts such a burden as a fair price for greater freedom from taxation and oversight, it better determine

whether it has a bureaucracy adequate enough to process applications and fend off attacks from disappointed applicants, including employees." The PUSH-Coke pact might make prophecy out of Harris' words.

On August 10, Coke announced that it had agreed to: 1) create a \$1.8 million fund or loans for black investors; 2) establish 32 black-owned dealerships; 3) double advertising in black-owned media; and 4) increase banking activity in minority banks.

It was also announced at that time that the plan does not provide as much as was broadcast initially and there were "misconceptions." In terms of money to black businesses, Coca-Cola said the figure is closer to \$11 million. Later that week, Carlton Curtis of Coke was quoted as saying: "Quite frankly, I think we were a little naive in communicating the story."

On August 14, Loke reported that its concessions were being labeled as "blackmail" by resentful callers. "There's been a strong reaction in the marketplace that this is outright blackmail, that this is a \$30 million giveaway plan," said Coke representative Carlton Curtis.

"The Coca-Cola Company is not paying anything for this," Ayoub explained about the profit making potential of the wholesale distributorships.

"Tony Brown's Journal," the television series, is shown every Sunday, on WBTB, Channel 3, at 11:30 p.m.

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ.

Affirmative Action

Conference In Solidarity

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ.

Many critics of the Reagan Administration have alleged that "it has no foreign policy. But as far as apartheid South Africa goes, it seems that Reagan's policy is all too clear. Consider the following:

ITEM

..On March 13, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeanne Kirkpatrick met with five leading South African military officials in open contravention of stated U.S. policy. Observers recall that when a similar meeting took place between Andrew Young and a PLO official, the Carter Administration official was sacked immediately.

ITEM

When the issue of comprehensive sanctions against Pretoria arose recently in the U.N., Ambassador Kirkpatrick exercised the U.S. "veto."

ITEM

..On May 14 Secretary of State Alexander Haig engaged in intensive talks in Washington with South Africa's Foreign Minister Roelof (Bik) Botha. Haig called for a "new beginning of mutual trust and confidence between the U.S. and South Africa, old friends who are getting together again... South Africa can rely on (the U.S.)..." Earlier, President Reagan had praised South Africa as an "ally" that had stood by the U.S. in past wars, despite the fact that the present leadership there had been interned during World War II because of explicit Nazi sympathies.

ITEM

The State Department has approved the visit of the South African rugby team, the Springboks, for a series of games in Chicago, Albany and New York in September. African nations, led by Nigeria, have raised the specter of a boycott of the 1984 Olympic games scheduled for Los Angeles.

ITEM

..The Organization of African Unity (OAU) at its most recent meeting in Nairobi condemned the Reagan Administration for stalling on a settlement in Namibia (Southwest Africa) and collaborating with South Africa against the authentic representative of the Namibian people-SWAPO (Southwest Africa Peoples Organization).

ITEM

..The Reagan Administration has come out strongly for repeal of the "Clark Amendment" in an effort to destabilize the government of Angola, a prime supporter of SWAPO.

ITEM

..The Washington-based black lobbying group TransAfrica released a series of internal State Department memos that document in detail this U.S.-South Africa attempt to prevent SWAPO coming to power and maintaining Pretoria's illegal occupation of Namibia.

These diplomatic maneuverings are merely the tip of the iceberg. The U.S. transnational corporation-General Motors, Ford, Firestone, etc.-while shutting down plants in the U.S. have been moving operations in droves to South Africa to take advantage of the cheap black labor there. U.S. corporate investment in the land of apartheid has been growing at an astonishing 25 percent per year, the most rapid rate of any U.S. foreign investment. Hundreds of U.S. monopolies have found a home in South Africa and right now the U.S. continues to be Pretoria's largest trading partner, exporting to the tune of \$2.5 billion and importing \$3.3 billion.

From Capitol Hill

Reagan's All-Out Assault On Affirmative Action

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post
The Reagan Administration has set in motion the first turn about in equal employment opportunity since the 1964 Civil Rights Act. It has launched a complete assault on the affirmative program. TIMES magazine stated that the Reagan Administration would like to drop all numerical goals and timetables. Some allies would go so far as to rewrite the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In commenting on the Reagan move, Raul Castillo, of the Hispanic Caucus said, "The Administration's move will totally obliterate any kind of gains that have been made to date by minorities in getting better jobs." Julian Bond stated, "The Reagan Administration is worse than Nixon - that's the incredible thing." Eleanor Smeal, President of National Organization of Women emphasized, "This Administration is showing daily how badly the ERA is needed."

The Urban League attacks both the Administration's and Congress' at-



tempts to weaken affirmative action. It speaks specifically of the Hatch, Walker, McClosky and other opposing affirmative action measures. The League firmly states that affirmative action seeks to redress over 300 years of discrimination, entrenched in over 200 years of legal bondage and perpetuated by another century of legally-sanctioned racial prejudice. "Race-conscious inequities demand race-conscious remedies." Maudine Cooper, Vice President of the Urban League said, "Advocacy by minorities and women has tangible by-products that provide new opportunities for

whites too. It has opened doors that have been closed to many by the traditional old-boy networks." Companies who have instituted affirmative action have often discovered new and talented labor pools.

Benjamin Hooks said, "The Administration's actions cause grave concern over curtailing responsibility of anti-discrimination and affirmative roles. This is a major step backwards. It proposes substantial perils to affirmative action that could easily clog the vital channels that are now opening, remedying, guiding and effectively, without costly practices of segregation and discrimination the work places." He stated that, "The Administration's guise of reducing paper work is simply shredding the regulations that let businesses know that the federal government will not tolerate discrimination. For the Administration to argue that it is doing good is sheer double talk for deemphasizing the role of the federal government in making sure that employers reach out for minorities and women. Employers

who act in good faith need not fear government monitoring. It is shocking that a President who spoke at the NAACP convention about forging cooperation towards black progress, would approve the reversal of affirmative action process."

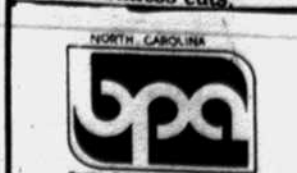
The Congressional Black Caucus heartily condemns the Reagan Administration's assault on affirmative action. It says, his call for elimination of key components of the programs, run by the U.S. Labor Department Office of Federal Contract Compliance will cause millions of minority and women workers to still experience discrimination in employment. The Caucus says, "With a jack hammer repetition of the quota buzzword, the Administration is pounding out the familiar arguments against government efforts to advance minorities and women into careers that have been traditionally reserved for white men. A major roll back of effective enforcement of the affirmative action regulations is unfair to the victims of continuing employment discrimina-

tion." Shirley Chisholm in speaking for the Caucus, said, "No where from this Administration have I heard any new suggestions for bringing equal access to America's work places. Racism and sexism will not fade away unassisted. Until someone can bring forward a better alternative, we should stay with the affirmative action plan that is in place and is working."

The original policy regulations called for employers with 50 or more employees and government contracts of \$50,000 or more to set goals and time tables for employing minorities and women. The Reagan Administration will exempt all employers with less than 250 employees and contracts totaling less than \$1 million from these regulations.

We were able to contact James Sisco, Director of Program Policy of the Federal Contract Appropriation Program, who stated that the companies do not have to have any written contract clause concerning employment discrimination. All compliance is left to the good faith effort of

the corporations. The irony of this method is ignoring the fact that affirmative action was instituted because the good faith efforts didn't work in the first place. Mr. Sisco said that, however, contractors will be subject to periodical reviews by EEOC, if that agency has sufficient force to do the job. Yet, with the OMB cutback, he stated that a large enough work force to do the job is doubtful. Sisco stated that it is hoped that all big contractors' hiring practices will be reviewed within a five-year period. He said that anyone who has a discriminatory complaint against these businesses that have government contracts can file a complaint with EEOC, and that he hopes their complaints can be handled within six months. Sisco's entire conversation was contingent upon having enough people to do the job after Stockman's ruthless cuts.



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