

# Editorials & Comments

## Private-Public Balance

### Corporate Social Responsibility?

The National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity, created during the presidency of Jimmy Carter, notes in its final report recently that there are 25 million Americans who are poor and another 30 million who would easily qualify as poor if they suddenly became jobless, ill or lost their residency to a fire.

These are the Americans that President Reagan promised in his election campaign to place a "safety net" under to assure the continuance of basic, essential human services. However, what has and is happening is that as many as 20 percent of these poor and near poor Americans will lose all or a major portion of their human service benefits.

Furthermore, the major federal support agencies to assist the poor such as the Community Services Administration was closed on October 1, CSA administered 900 locally operated community-action programs and was the conservative successor to the more radical Office of Economic Opportunity. OEO created Job Corps, Legal Aid Services, Head Start, Foster Grandparents and Upward Bound, to name a few programs.

The termination of CSA and other socially oriented federal agencies was a part of the Reagan Administration's plan to cut deeper into social programs even if it resulted in punching holes in the so-called "safety net."

To appease the outcries of the poor, Reagan backed away from his commitment to get the burden of the government off the backs of American business by encouraging and promoting volunteerism or corporate social responsibility.

President Reagan said recently: "The truth is, we've let government take away many things we once considered really ours to do voluntarily out of the goodness of our hearts and a sense of community pride and neighborliness."

### Buck-Passing Game

Recognizing the buck-passing game the Reagan Administration is playing on both the corporate community and the poor. Patricia Harris, HUD Secretary in the Carter presidency, warned that the President had created a "climate in which the anger and frustration of the (inadequately served) public would be directed against business leadership." She added that Mr. Reagan is among those who apparently assume that because of their good fortune, private sector corporations must be prepared to solve the nation's social ills.

In conclusion, Mrs. Harris said: "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."

Kenneth N. Dayton, an executive officer with a Minneapolis retailing firm that is one of the nation's leading corporate contributors, told a group of executives in San Francisco recently:

"If we ignore all the signs of what's expected of us - expected by both government and by the people - then we could wake up one day and find ourselves facing a more hostile government than ever before."

### Social Problems

Dayton added, "...and this is significant, business contributions toward solving the nation's social problems cannot make up for all the losses instituted by the Reagan Administration budget cuts."

The Reagan Administration's buck-passing begins as Mrs. Mrs. Harris and Mr. Dayton both have indicated, when the corporate community is expected to stretch beyond their skill and abilities - they're not social workers - to solve many nearly unsolvable social problems.

What the nation needs is a proper balance between corporate-social responsibility or volunteerism and public programs aimed at gradually reducing and eliminating social-economic problems. For example, in the 1960s the "Great Society" programs sought to attack many of the nation's social problems with an all-out War on Poverty. Nevertheless, with an inadequate contribution from the private sector traumatic riots erupted that threatened the stability of American cities. These riots did not cease until the corporate-social responsibility programs - volunteerism - were instituted to complement the government's efforts.

Central to attacking social ills is for President Reagan and other public officials as well as corporate executives, to fully understand that volunteerism has its limitations, it can only be effective in certain areas for certain services, and that there are some things it cannot do at all.

Mr. Reagan needs to recognize these limitations while further recognizing both the extent of the legal responsibility of government and the moral responsibility of the private sector to work together toward improving the quality of life of all of our citizens.

SOMETHING BLACKS CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES...REGISTER

### OVER 15 MILLION BLACKS ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION, (BUT THEY MUST REGISTER) THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS CAN DO THE JOB:

- TEACHERS UNIONS
- MINISTERS FRATERNAL-GROUPS
- BUSINESS MEN
- LAWYERS FEDERATION OF-WOMEN'S
- DOCTORS
- SOCIAL WORKERS ORGANIZATIONS (BLACK PRESS)

### Tony Brown's

### Journal

Nationally Syndicated Commercial

Television Series



Tony Brown

### Blacks Facing Major Health Crisis

Give Ralph A. Johnson credit for spreading the word.

"Black Americans are truly facing a major health crisis in this country today. Not only are we losing our doctors, hospitals, and other health care systems in the communities, but we are losing something much more important, and we don't even know it!" Johnson says on his fact sheet handout. "I distribute my fact sheet to the community to help get this information out to the people. We as black Americans are losing our health at an unbelievable rate."

He's right. The health of this racially identifiable 14 percent of our American society is bad and getting worse. Take a look at some data from Johnson's handout:

-One in every four black females over the age of 28 is estimated to have high blood pressure.

-Death rates for blacks is 47 percent higher than for whites.

-Black women have a death rate 53 percent higher than white women.

-Black males have a death rate 45 percent higher than white males.

-Blacks were found to be deficient in vitamins A and C, calcium and other nutrients.

-High blood pressure is the number one killer of black Americans.

And these statistics are joined by more ominous facts. The infant mortality rate for black children is 65 percent higher than for white infants and life expectancy-at-birth-for-a black is six years less than

for a white. And the cancer mortality rate among blacks prior to the early 1950s was lower than for whites. Today the reverse is true.

Ralph Johnson, who frequently co-authors articles with Patricia Reed in BLACK COLLEGIAN magazine, says there is a solution. "By learning about our bodies, our health and diets, we can reverse these statistics. These facts are not acceptable. Our goal is to educate and help black Americans regain their health."

He proposes to begin this process by getting his message out. He wants interested parties to write him at 146 Wallace Street, Freeport, New York 11520 or call at 516-623-0919.

"I can't stress the importance in getting this information out to the public. Not only is the question of health and diet the problem, but the control of food has a great social, political and economic effect on our people. Not only is food our greatest resource, but whoever controls the growing, producing, and marketing, and sources, also controls the people. And our people are continually being brainwashed about food and eating."

"As President Myerere said in a speech to his nation, which can be used in this country concerning our people.

"If Tanzania is to give its children the heritage of health as well as freedom, the people must change their attitude towards food. They must learn from

each other and from the world about the kinds of foodstuffs which make man healthy. We have said on many occasions that the three enemies are poverty, ignorance and disease. By learning about better diet and using his knowledge, we shall be reducing our ignorance, overcoming many of our diseases, and getting ourselves in a much better position to overcome our poverty. We shall be building up the nation's most important asset, that is, ourselves as human beings."

Johnson joins other researchers in drawing a relation between diet and IQ. "The body and brain, when nourished with proper foods, vitamins, minerals, enzymes, proteins, etc., to meet their individual specific needs, will function at their optimum."

Soul food, which includes "unwanted parts of hogs such as tails, ears, stomachs and 'chitterlin's' (intestines)" contain large amounts of fat, salt and non-nutritious starches along with junk food and should be replaced, Johnson says, with the foods the African ancestors ate: fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans (pintos, lentils, split-pea, black-eyed peas, navy beans) nuts and seeds.

Don't become another poor-health statistic. Write this man who wants to take the danger off of your plate.

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

### From Capitol Hill

## Black Caucus Asks All Groups To Join In Leadership

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Social To The Post

For the eleventh consecutive year, blacks from all across the United States came to Washington to attend the annual Congressional Black Caucus weekend. While there was some entertainment and social affairs, the emphasis was on the plan that the Caucus has set forth, not only for minority and poor Americans, but one that will make America the compassionate, humanitarian world leader it is capable of being.

William Raspberry, who is certainly one of the top most columnists in the country, just a week before the Caucus weekend, stated that during these annual affairs, too much money is spent in socializing, instead of taking that money, combining it and setting up black businesses. Now there's nothing wrong with interposing some social activities between periods of work. There are no annual gatherings of any group where some time and money are not spent for meeting, greeting and recreating with old and new



Alfreda L. Madison

friends. I'm sure Raspberry has covered some political conventions, where some expensive entertainment is going on just about 24 hours a day, irrespective of the country's bad economic conditions. This Eleventh Caucus weekend, seemed to have imbedded in the hearts and minds of the large crowd, that they received a plan of action for returning to their respective locales to implement, that will turn the Reagan and Congressional obstacles into stepping stones of progress.

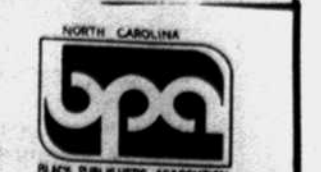
asm now that we have a plan of action that will make life better for everyone." Mayor Henry Marsh of Richmond, Virginia, said, "The inspiration I've received here has injected new blood into my veins that will give me increased stamina to overcome the obstacles I'm facing as a black mayor of the Capital of the Old Confederacy." Charles Pierce, Representative of R. J. Reynolds Company of Winston-Salem, said that he'll return with a message to Reynolds that they must do more business with blacks. A lady from Representative Stan Parris' District in Virginia, said, "Some of us Virginia have already targeted every Capitol Hill Virginian for defeat the next time around. Representative Parren Mitchell, in addressing the audience said the Reagan ideas are immoral and wrong - that we are faced with juvenile crime, not because of government policy, but from the lack of government action to provide jobs, decent housing and protection from exploitation of landlords. Representative Harold

Ford said the Reagan plan is designed for a few and that the Congressional Black Caucus has a mission to bring all aspects of black America together. He stated, "We must bring together the somebodies and the nobodies, the undertakers and the underwriters, the long hairs, short hairs and the no hairs - all must talk black, act black and stay black."

Congressman Walter Fauntroy, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus electrified the audience with his keynote address. He stated that the Caucus is not only talking that talk but that they are ready to walk that walk with its constructive alternative budget that would give the American people a balanced budget now, two billion dollars more in tax relief now, a strong national defense now, jobs and private business development now. He gave a message to four different groups:

1) Fauntroy served notice on both Democrats and Republicans concerning their conduct in the 97th Congress. He said the Democratic candidates can no longer expect a blind loyalty from blacks, who have on the record voted against those interests and abandoned some of the basic principles for which the Party stands. The Republicans, he said, cannot expect to attract black voters away from the Democrats with idle rhetoric. Fauntroy stated that some congressional Democrats and Republicans who have fairly large constituencies of blacks are being targeted for the 1982 election.

2) To white America, blacks are not the enemy and busing is not the issue, said Fauntroy. He implored white American to join in a coalition of mutual respect for implementation of the Caucus Alternative budget.



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