

Editorials & Comments

Joblessness And The Black Youth

As the nation's current unemployment rate rushes toward an expected 10 percent, with black youth joblessness already at 50 percent, conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick simply suggests that too many teenagers won't work.

In a recent syndicated column Kilpatrick said that while many find it "appalling" that we have jobless rates to 19.3 percent for white youth and 50 percent for black youth he has little sympathy for them because help wanted ads in newspapers across the country have plenty of jobs that youth even with little skill can qualify for.

Mr. Kilpatrick notes, for example, that in Washington, D.C. recently the postal service had opened examinations for clerks and carriers at \$9.50 per hour. Also carpenter's helpers, garage helpers and laundry helpers jobs ranging in pay from \$4.50 to \$5 per hour were available. Furthermore, of 500 applications issued in Atlanta for summer jobs in 1980 only 80 were returned.

It is undoubtedly and unfortunately true that many black youth are more prideful and assertive than in earlier years and thus are inclined to accept only jobs with a career future, not menial jobs. Thus, to this extent, black youth are no different than the 700,000 people in 1974 as reported in TIME magazine, who became so discouraged in seeking jobs that they just gave up any hope of ever finding employment.

Human Problems

Why then are so many people unemployed if there are all these jobs in the help-wanted ads as Mr. Kilpatrick suggests? First, for these jobs there are usually far more applications than there are actual people employed. Secondly, black teen-age joblessness has been largely unresponsive to changing economic conditions. In fact black youth unemployment has risen even during periods of economic prosperity.

What Mr. Kilpatrick, and others like him such as black economist Thomas Sowell, fail to understand is that no one fully understands the problem behind black teen-age unemployment, or how to resolve it, because it is so complex.

The causes of black youth joblessness ranges from sheer racism to lack of skill, to transportation problems, to negative attitudes from knowing that white high school dropouts often find work at better pay than blacks with a college degree, to the absence of a family rooted commitment to the work ethic, to a prior prison record, to lack of

experience, to biased placement tests, to the movement of jobs from the cities where most blacks live to the suburbs where whites live, to the absence of the "buddy system" in which people often hire the children of their friends, and so on.

These factors become real when data from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics shows that since 1954 black youth joblessness more than doubled from 16.5 percent to 35.9 percent in 1975 and nearly 50 percent in 1981.

Positive Moves

We believe, therefore, it is past time for Americans to look seriously for solutions to end our nation's most serious human problem. To do less would be to abandon over a million adults of tomorrow to a human scrap pile

that could lead to new and more massive riots and destruction to our already ravaged inner cities. What are the positive moves - the positive steps that might be taken to break the cycle of black youth joblessness. First, there needs to be generated a whole new attitude by blacks toward

work, the work ethic, and in the firm belief that in the words of Jesse Jackson, "I am somebody." As "somebody" let's project role models of the 50 percent of black youth who are employed and ask how are they doing it and why can't I or other black youth do it. Secondly, let's abandon our allegiance to the philosophy of entitlement so wide-spread in the nation in the belief that govern-

ment or someone else owes black youth a hand-out.

Thirdly, let's renew our commitment to support black owned businesses, a potential resource for hiring black youth. Fourthly, let's stop using racism as an excuse for securing gainful employment. If one black with a positive attitude and self-determination can overcome racism in the job market, others can too.

Finally, the attitude that black youth have so much pride that they won't accept menial, low paying jobs is in itself self-defeating. All successful people start at the bottom of the income ladder with a determination that I'll move up in time, and those who maintain that sense of determination do move up.

In summary, persistently looking at the negative side of the black joblessness problem simply reinforce negative beliefs that we can't get work; therefore, we don't get work. A shift to the positive "can do" philosophy will bring new rewards and jobs we thought were never there. "Try it, you'll make it."

BLACK BUSINESS MEN AND POLITICIANS SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING FOR IT IS ONLY THROUGH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLOUT THAT ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE UP THROUGH SOCIETY.

MICHIGAN CHRONICLE



UNITED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP...NEEDED NOW



Tony Brown's Comments

Black Women Speak Out

One of my most exciting television programs this year is "The Struggle Within The Struggle," which deals with the approach Black women are taking toward opportunities - and problems.

Black women today constitute a major political and economic force in the country. However, their ascent up the economic and social ladder has not been easy.

Black women have historically evolved in an oppressive environment. Caught up in the shackles of slavery, they were forced to toil in the fields or care for someone else's family. But the evils of enslavement - the physical abuse, separation from family and inhumane conditions - did not break her spirit. Throughout the years, she has remained the cornerstone of her community.

And as Black women move into the 80's, they continue to struggle against racism and sexism. On the average, black women still earn less than white men, black men and white women.

Along with these problems have developed new dimensions: a redefinition of sexual roles, a breakdown of traditional family structures, new systems of child rearing and new strains on their relationships with black men.

Women today are confronted with a broader spectrum of options and opportunities, particularly in career choices. And a new psychographic profile of the black woman is emerging. To bring these dynamics into clearer focus I

talked to a representative group of black women.

One member of the panel, Jewell Jackson McCabe, the Director of Government and Community Affairs at WNET-TV in New York and also president of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, gave this overview: "There are one to one relationships that one has and then professional relationships that one has, whether it be with individuals, groups or whatever. To break it down, to be clear, we're talking about organized politics sometimes in the private and public sectors."

"And sometimes we're talking about in our home. Dealing with the dilemma of society that is a patriarch, a society that economically looks to the male as the breadwinner and the male as the image of success, and then dealing with our own society, which has limited the success of black men. Certainly if the issue becomes black women, it puts black women in a peculiar position."

As black women move into more visible leadership roles, the question emerges, "Will black women replace the traditionally male-dominated leadership?" Panelist Wanda Bolton, an editor at "Glamour" magazine, answered that question. "I think there's opportunity for black men and black women to work together in terms of leadership kinds of things."

"I don't think that that has happened as much as we'd like to, but I think black women are now becoming a more visible

focus, a more visible group of people saying some things about what needs to happen for black women...I don't think it's a matter of whether or not we're taking leadership roles away from black men. I don't think that that's the tactic many of us would want to take. I think it's a matter of sharing."

Pam Moore, a new anchor at KXAS-TV in Dallas, Texas had this to say about marriage: "I think most women would like to have a nice one-on-one relationship with somebody without all the competition of who gets the job, who makes what money. You're still looking for the old traditional companion, but you're also wanting someone to build and work towards something with. Some of these things still exist. I mean the family and those kind of feelings. And a lot of women I think today feel like it's very difficult to find a black man who they can establish that kind of relationship with."

Nationwide, women are changing the familiar outlines of society's social and economic makeup.

Black men should not feel threatened by this new emerging role. On the contrary, black women have always been the pillar of strength that held our community together. They are our mothers, teachers, providers and inspirations.

"Tony Brown's Journal," the television series, can be seen on public television Saturday on Channel 42 at 8 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

By Rev. John Perkins

Walk Your Talk



Rev. Perkins

Needed: Pastors

Committed To Community

As the black community faces crises on every side, our need for creative leadership becomes ever greater. I believe that God calls and ordains leaders. Through Biblical history we can see that God raises up spiritual leaders to lead the people out of crises and help them to lead better lives.

Just as God ordained the family under the leadership of father and mother to reach, nurture and discipline the children, so he ordained the pastor - the spiritual leader - to be responsible for developing the growth and moral fabric of the community.

What is the picture of a pastor who fulfills this role? First he must have love and compassion for all the people in the geographical community that surrounds his church, as well as for all the members of his church. This love and compassion is essential if the minister is to win people to Jesus Christ, create a strong, nurturing church body, and reach out to meet the physical and social needs of the people in the community.

In order for a pastor to provide effective leadership in a community - in order for him to build up the community's moral fabric and reach out to meet the people's needs, the pastor needs to live in that geographical community.

I believe an important factor in the deterioration of our communities is the absence of many pastors from the communities in which their churches are located. The two-Sunday-a-month pastor who lives miles away cannot provide active and continuing spiritual leadership amid the daily needs of the community.

It frightens me that especially in our rural areas many of our black communities do not have a full-time pastor. I look at my own home town in rural Mississippi. It's surrounded like the spokes of a wagon wheel by seven churches in a five-mile radius, each serving a particular geographical area.

Each church has 300 members or more. But not one of them has a pastor that lives in the community. The pastor of one church drives up from Louisiana, 150 miles away. Others drive from different parts of Mississippi - 50, 75 or 80 miles.

Even worse, perhaps, is that pastors who do live in my home area drive out of the community to pastor churches in other areas of Mississippi. One of these pastors is a good friend of mine, and I've talked with him about his inability to take leadership within his own community. If he did, it would seem as though he were trying to take over the position of the out-of-town pastors who are officially in charge of the people.

As a result, this pastor has no daily responsibility for people anywhere. He has no daily responsibility for the lives and needs of the people he officially pastors 50 miles away. And he can exercise no pastoral responsibility for the people right around him at home. Neither community, then, has the kind of spiritual leadership that it desperately needs. And the children of both communities grow up in whatever moral climate develops.

So it's vitally important that a pastor live within the community that he is shepherding. I believe that any congregation that exceeds 25 adults ought to have a resident pastor.

THE CHARLOTTE POST
 Second Class Postage No. 965500
 "THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER"
 Established 1918
 Published Every Thursday
 by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.

Subscription Rate \$15.60 per year
 Send All 3579's To:
 1524 West Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28208
 Telephone (704) 376-0496
 Circulation 7,151
 104 Years of continuous Service

Bill Johnson Editor, Publisher
Bernard Reeves General Manager
Fran Farrer Advertising Director
Dannette Gaither Office Manager

Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid At
 Charlotte, North Carolina
 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 become the property of The Post
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National Advertising
 Representative
 Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

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 Chicago, Ill. 60616 New York, New York, 10036
 Colmet 5-0200 7-2121 489-4220

From Capitol Hill

Reaganomics Have Caused Reaga-Mortis To Set In!

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post At present there are ten million people out of work in the United States and fifty thousand small businesses folded in the past year. Over fifty percent of employment in the United States comes from small businesses. Two million people have lost jobs since July 1981 and it is predicted that unemployment will go higher.

The Reagan Administration has adopted a policy of fighting inflation by inflating the cost of money. People can't buy houses because interest rates are too high, as a result, all housing concomitants, such as; building, selling and manufacturing of furniture and all household products have greatly reduced, so there is a loss of jobs.

The big Reagan tax give away to the rich has reduced revenue by \$750 billion. This was done under the guise that tax breaks for big corporations would create new investments and provide more jobs. Out of \$95 billion invested, over \$55 billion

was invested in foreign countries. The major countries being Japan and apartheid South Africa where these businesses can exploit cheap labor. They have also invested these huge tax credits in buying stock in other businesses. All of this has added to the homefront unemployment rolls. The American people have been suffering from a Reaganomic progressive cancer and with the Administration's 1983 budget proposal it seem that Reaga-mortis has set in.

Because of these conditions, the Congressional Black Caucus is again coming forth from its research center with a prevention for those with this economic cancer signals and a remission for those who already have the disease. At a recent press conference, Representative Walter Fautroy, Congressional Black Caucus Chairman gave an overview of the Caucus' 1983 Constructive Alternative budget that will be presented in detail around the 23rd of April. Unlike the 1982 Caucus Constructive Alternative budget which



Alfreda L. Madison produced a government surplus, this 1983 budget recognizes the need for lowering the deficit. Its first objective is to reduce the deficit substantially. The Reagan budget, which the Congressional Budget Office says could go as high as \$121 billion in 1982, \$129 billion in 1984 and \$140 billion in 1985. The Caucus budget deficit will fall between \$80 and \$90 billion for 1983, \$40 and \$70 billion for 1984 and between \$40 and 160 billion in 1985.

The second objective is to adopt a fair, humane and economically balanced budget. The Administration budget will produce excessive waste and unnecessary growth in defense,

excessive tax reduction for big corporations and rich individuals, reduction in basic public services, while placing devastating cuts in basic aid to the working poor and unemployed. The Caucus budget plans to correct these inequities and compounded burden on the poor. It will restore funds to the social programs.

The third, to reform the tax system. The Caucus budget will close the egregious give away tax loopholes that give excessive benefits to the rich and places an almost impossible tax burden on the middle and lower income people.

The fourth, it will establish a safer and safer national defense. It recommends that defense spending will be held at FY 1982 level. These budget makers feel that the defense should not be considered so sacrosanct that it cannot receive the economic hatchet. The Constructive Alternative budget calls for a re-examination of some of the proposed nuclear weapons.

The fifth, it will ensure

adequate social security and support for the poor and elderly. It maintains cost of living adjustments for the elderly on fixed income and calls for 39 weeks' compensation for the unemployed.

The sixth, the budget will redesign our foreign aid and military assistance budget. The Congressional Black Caucus has continuously insisted that the Administration must realize that military aid cannot solve the political and economic problems that many of the foreign countries face. In its budget the Caucus will continue to press for more equitable foreign assistance to nations of the world.

Representatives Gray, Fautroy and Mitchell, who were present at the press briefing feel that the congressional climate is more susceptible to its 1983 budget than it was to the 1982 budget. Failure of the Reagan Administration to create jobs, reduce the deficit, and lower interest rates have brought a strong hue and cry from the American public. So the Reagan 1982 congressional

coalition is falling apart. No longer is there a strong Republican Administration economic support.

Last year, the Black Caucus budget received only minimal attention. Yet, the Democratic Study Group said that of all four budget plans that were presented, the caucus Constructive Alternative budget was the only one that really came up with ideas for improving the economy. Mr. Fautroy said, recently, House Speaker O'Neill and several others said to him that they, really came forth with the only plan that would have set this country on the road to economic recovery. Fautroy said his response was, "I wish I had you last year."

Main Dish

A meal's main dish, should be protein, since it helps with a body's growth, maintenance and repair.

