

Editorials

Thanksgiving 1985 Reminds Us:

Thanksgiving 1985 reminds us: "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is so good! For His loving kindness is forever." (Psalm 118:29). We should love the Lord God and be thankful to Him for what He has done, is and will continue.

- Praise the God who -
- led His people through the wilderness, offering His loving kindness forever. (136:16).
- saved His people from the power of mighty kings (136:17).
- protects us from our own weaknesses (136:23); and from our enemies (136:24); and gives food to every living thing (136:25).
- extends goodness to everyone everywhere (105:7).
- lifts the fallen and those bent beneath

Resolving The Intellectual Crisis

Last week we discussed the black intellectual crisis - that is, the conscious or unconscious effort of many black youth, aided by the thoughtlessness of many black and white adults to avoid the challenges and competitiveness of intellectual pursuits. By intellectual pursuits we mean knowledge, skills, the ability to think, analyze and reason, self-discipline in goal pursuits, and a desired competitive spirit, all of which are characteristics of intelligent, progressing people with the greatest potential for success.

We noted too that as written in Jeff Howard and Ray Hammond's article, "Rumors of Inferiority," black youth avoidance of intellectual pursuits and competition arises from fears and self-doubt reinforced by rumors of black inferiority. Thus, to avoid the possibility of appearing to be stupid, many black people withdraw from intellectual engagements and competition.

Howard and Hammond argue that the black middle class, the presumed black intellectuals, must accept the challenge and are indeed the best hope for intellectual development among black youth. However, we noted Harold Cruse's statement of 18 years in his book, "The Crisis Of The Negro Intellectual" where he says the black intellectual has never been accountable to the black community and likewise the black community has not been a base of support for the black intellectual.

This leads to the important question of what can and must be done if black youth are to become a meaningful and functioning part of the 20th century? This is truly a question of great urgency because to allow mediocrity to become the acceptable standard is to hasten and invite self-destruction, a force far greater than the historic impact of slavery and racism on black people.

Jesse Jackson traveled around the nation last year to tell black school youth to say, think, and feel that "I am somebody." The very fact that there was and continues to be a need to tell youth that they are somebody confirms rumors of inferiority that many black youth feel.

their loads (145:14).
-fulfills the desires of those who revere and trust Him (145:19).

These references from the Psalms should be a meaningful reminder of our need to give thanks to the Living God for all His goodness and mercy, for without them there would be no Thanksgiving for us.

We should be thankful for health - without it you have nothing - strength, peace of mind, food, clothing, shelter, educational opportunity, economic and political and religious freedom, and free speech. We should appreciate these and give thanks for there are many parts of the world where such basic freedoms, which we Americans too often take for granted, are not experienced. Yes, let us give thanks to God on this Thanksgiving Day in 1985.

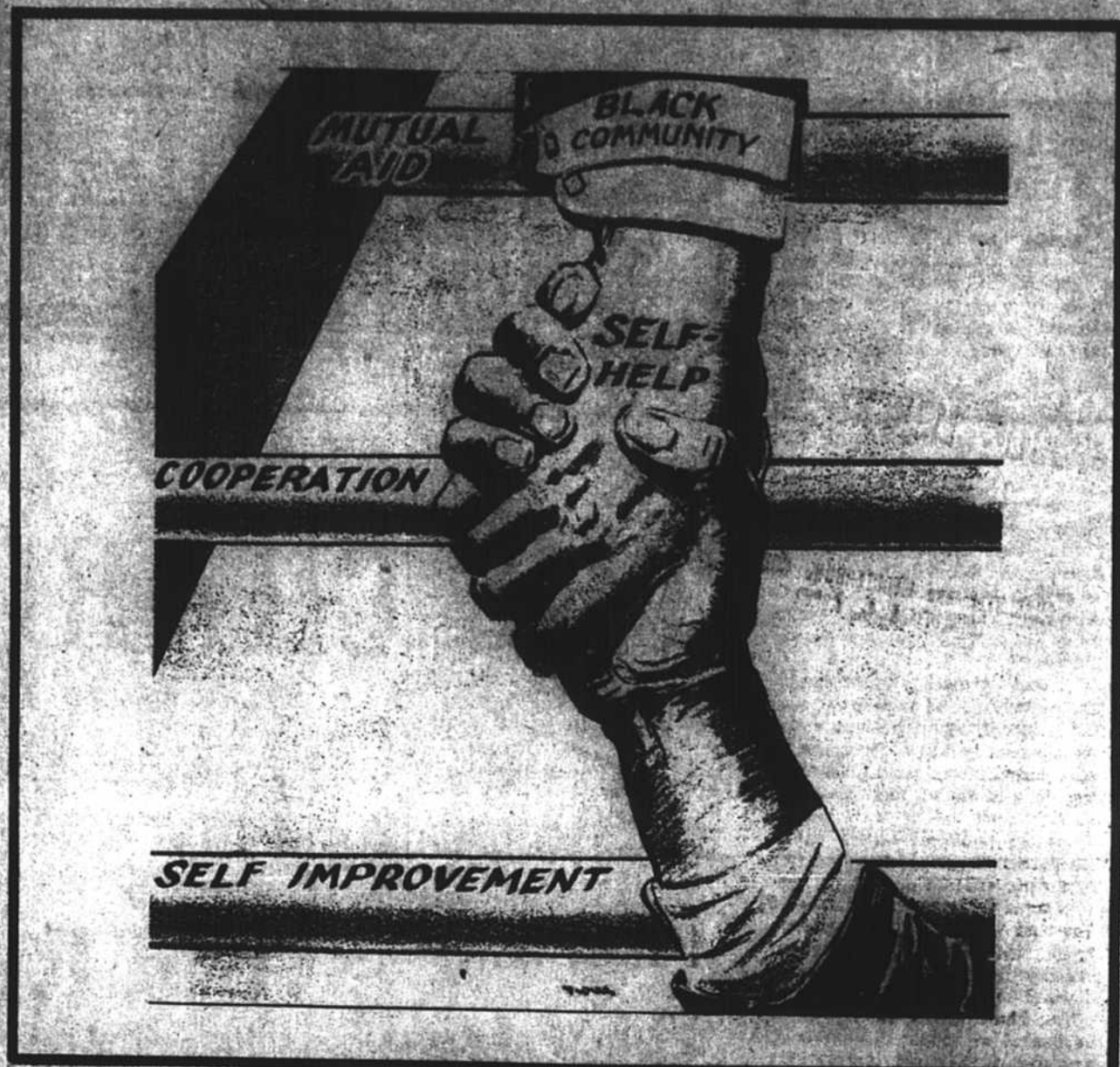
In order to attack the sense of inferiority, and in order to get black youth to welcome the challenges that intellectual engagements and competition offer and demand for meaningful survival, the internal black community must harness a four-fold attack upon the basic problem. The attack must be of the physical, emotional, and psychological magnitude of the civil rights movement of the 1960s and the nation's space science program reaction to the Russian Sputnik launched in the early 1960s.

Initially, church ministers and teachers, backed by their administrators, must impress upon parents that they must re-assume a greater responsibility for the education of their children in order to reverse the trend of the school assuming too large a share of the education responsibility. Also school personnel must place greater demands on students, after all if little is expected from students, little will they perform and learn. Higher expectations will result in higher results in all aspects of learning, character building, and value system development. Included here should be a higher value placed on education by the youth themselves in willingly accepting higher levels of achievement for themselves.

Secondly, the church, highly supported by the home and other institutions and organizations must place greater emphasis in youth Sunday School classes on personal values and moral judgement in order to help change habits and behavior patterns particularly as they relate to sex, drugs, the quest for knowledge and the material trappings of life.

Thirdly, black families desperately need to strengthen themselves and reverse the highly destructive impact of the growing number of one-parent - usually the mother - homes. Nearly everything else in reversing the inferiority complex dilemma will fail if the black family structure is not strengthened and stabilized.

Finally, the black intellectuals, middle class and otherwise, must realize a renewed responsibility as role models and as a strong support group in all their endeavors or there will be no 20th century for black Americans.



Helms Seeks To Eliminate Abortion Clinics

The availability of family planning services represents one of the most cost-effective and compassionate uses of the taxpayers' money in American history. Birth control in the USA was practiced long before controversy arose or the headache excuse became popular legend. For decades, this government has worked to give family planning services to those who could not afford them. It did this in the belief that a family that wants and plans for its children is less likely than others to experience poverty, child abuse and addiction.

The debaters are people like Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), Rep. Jack Kemp (R-NY), and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UTAH), who are still working to eliminate federal funds for every clinic that informs clients that abortion is an alternative to an unwanted pregnancy. This shutdown would also include health department clinics that offer medical care to the less fortunate and inoculations to children and adults at a low cost. These men feel that clinics that counsel all options should be



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forced to go out of business. In other words, to say in business family planning doctors, nurses, and counselors would have to remain closed-mouth about the option of abortion. Every year via 5,000 hospitals, health departments and community clinics, the Federal Family Planning program serves five million women and teen-agers. In one year the aid averted 800,000 unintended pregnancies - half among teens. If these pregnancies had occurred, an estimated 282,000 additional births among women and teens, and 433,000

abortions would have been the end product.

About half of the United States' poor women and two-thirds of sexually active teens are in need of family planning services. The United States leads other developed nations in rates of pregnancy, abortion and childbirth among teens, costing the taxpayers billions in health and welfare programs. The expansion of access to family planning services and education is viably important if the United States wants to curtail or solve this increasing national problem.

Senators Helms and Hatch, and Representative Kemp, accuse family planning advocates of being promiscuous with promiscuous agendas - abortion advocates and promoters - who are integral parts of U.S. taxpayer-supported birth control programs. To them, it is not the question of birth control but questioning should the programs that support birth control and alternatives be federally funded; but the opposition goes deeper than that. These Senators and one Representative are not the only ones ready and wanting to dismantle the family planning aid - there are hundreds of thousands of people supporting the dismantlement on the ground that they oppose abortion. However, it seems that these people not only oppose abortion but also oppose birth control.

Why do they also oppose birth control? Because the pill and the intrauterine device act within the uterus of a woman to prevent the implantation of a fertilized egg. They also claim that patients are not fully informed about the risks involved in artificial birth control devices.

Family planning and the availability of family planning services is something that Americans should have at their disposal.

Abortion foes must recognize that closing family planning clinics would not save the unborn but increase the demand for abortions which would be a tragedy.

Forcing women and teens to bear children against their will is a direct assault on human rights and a threat that must be vigorously opposed. Perhaps if the leaders of these anti-abortion and anti-contraceptive groups, exchange places with a woman or teen who is experiencing an unwanted pregnancy - then they would realize that all the hoopla is ridiculous.

Miller Says:

Blacks Needs: Civil Rights Or Equal Opportunity

By Sherman N. Miller
Special To The Post
Recently I asked several Wilmington, DE blacks should organizations like the NAACP, SCLC, and PUSH be in the business of civil rights or equal opportunity. These Delawareans saw civil rights as a key impediment along the path to equal opportunity. They also seemed to feel that black Americans had already obtained their civil rights. This positive black American feeling towards having achieved civil rights begs the question, "What civil liberty needs of the black community will the traditional civil rights organizations meet in the late 1980s?"

Although the era of overt American racism has passed I believe that some of its vestiges, such as at large elections in some cities (e.g. Dover DE councilmatic elections) still remain to be rooted out. At large voting is an excellent black upward mobility barrier that prevents a significant portion of America's population from having representation that is fully responsive to its needs. The existence of such ill-fated



Sherman
racist vestiges suggests that the traditional civic rights organizations must complete these mop-up campaigns before they shift their full attention to socio-economic parity.

However, if the traditional civil rights organizations wish to survive they must meet the late 1980s black community's needs. As I speak with blacks, I hear people talking about jobs and business ownership. Yet I recall having heard Lawrence J. Toliver, V.P. of Charlotte, NC's Chamber of Commerce (Small Business Division) reveal that there were not enough black owned businesses in Charlotte large enough to reap the bounty of the potential business that existed.

I feel that Toliver's

comments highlight the existence of a significant chasm between Black America's pursuit of civil rights and their growing need to achieve economic opportunity. This point becomes very clear to me when I consider that Charlotte's black mayor may be hamstrung in any attempts to make city contracts fully available to all segments of the city's population.

In July when Mr. Toliver gave his assessment of the ill-fated state of Charlotte's black business community, I felt some disquietude. I pictured the fruits of the civil rights struggle evolving into the enigma of equal opportunity. However, I have recently been offered hope that problems, such as the insignificant Charlotte black business community, will be properly addressed. In a late October letter, Mr. Benjamin L. Hooks (Executive Director of the NAACP) revealed to me that the NAACP was undergoing a paradigm shift in program direction where they will expand their focus to fully address the evolutionary needs of the black business community.

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