

CONGRATULATIONS CAPTAIN O. H. LEAK



THE TRIBUNAL AID

SERVICE TO ALL

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GRADUATES RECEIVE DELTA SCOLARSHIPS



Deborah Moser



Cynthia Alexander



Sharon Simrel



Melanie Little



Cynthia Kindle



Phyllis Lovette

Six outstanding high school seniors have been awarded scholarships by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for the 1973-74 Academic

Year. The scholarships are in the amount of \$500.00 for each graduate and may be used by each girl at the school of her choice.

Recipients of the scholarships are Deborah Moser, Cynthia Alexander, Sharon Simrel, graduates of High Point, and Melanie

Little, Cynthia Kindle and Phyllis Lovette who are graduates of T. Wingate Andrews High School. The students have attained good

academic records and have participated in school and community activities.

In addition to the scholarships in the amount of

\$3000.00 being awarded, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority participates in other local and national service projects. Mrs. Fannie Atkinson is president

of the High Point Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Mrs. Earlene Dennis is chairman of the scholarship committee.

Small Investment In Ex-Prisoner Pays Off

Trained Worker Earning

\$3.38 An Hour

CORNING, N.Y. — Back in 1966, a black man we call Mark was arrested in New York for what would now be considered a relatively minor offense by the state — possession of marijuana. In 1966, however, the offense drew a stiff sentence, and Mark was to spend the

next five years in Attica State Prison. As his release time approached, he wrote every agency he had read about, heard about or could think of seeking a job, needed as a condition of parole.

IN THE MEANTIME, his wife, trying to support five children on welfare, got in debt and finally left the state.

Fortunately, a parole officer took an interest in Mark and acquainted Bruce L. Hyland, director of

Project Mainstream for the Steuben County Economic Opportunity Program, Inc., of his case. Hyland guaranteed Mark a job on release.

ON DECEMBER 10, 1971, Mark came to the Mainstream office and was immediately placed in the program. He had \$7 in his pocket and no place to stay.

Some temporary financial assistance was provided until his first paycheck came through. A room was arranged at the National Hotel in Bath. He was then

taken to a workingman's store, and credit arranged so he could be properly clothed for work.

That afternoon, he reported to his Mainstream job at manual labor, Hyland explained that if he worked well, this would help the project officers "sell" him to an employer.

HE DID AN excellent job, Hyland reported. His supervisor gave him top ratings. Some weeks later, the Corning Glass Works called the Mainstream office

looking for four men. Mark was recommended because of his work record and his exceptional efforts to better himself.

Hyland took Mark to the Corning Glass Works, 20 miles away, and spent the day helping him get physicals and paperwork done. Hyland also helped Mark find a room and move to a rate of \$2.83 per hour.

FOLLOWUP REPORTS indicated Mark was doing well. Then the bad luck hit. On April 2, 1972, Mark called

Hyland to say he had been laid off. The next day, Hyland placed him back on the program so he would not have to go back to jail.

On April 7—just four days later—Mark was called back to the glass works, and he is still there. He is currently earning \$3.38 an hour.

Hyland has worked out some figures showing how much it cost to help Mark make the transition from prison: Total Wages Paid, \$860; Taxes Paid, \$130.05; Net, \$535.95.

IT COST THE U.S. Department of Labor \$535.95 to help this man move from prison to being a productive citizen," Hyland observes. "How long will it take the United States Government to get the \$535.95 back through taxes? How much would it have cost to keep him in prison and support his wife on welfare? The work he did was for the improvement of the community and would not have been done if it was not for the extra labor of the program."

In the year Mark has been working, he has made a start toward paying off some of his wife's debts and has put the down payment on a house. He only knows his wife and children went "south," and he is looking for them through friends and relatives.

Since there are relatively few blacks in northern New York, Hyland explains, Mark is reluctant to bring attention to himself by permitting his name to be used.

On The Progress Of Blacks And Liberal Rhetoric

(Editor's Note - This article is in response to one entitled "Black Progress and Liberal Rhetoric", authored by Ben Wattenberg and Richard Scammon, and published in the April issue of Commentary magazine. Dr. Herrington J. Bryce, a respected economist who has done research and published papers relating to migration, population shifts and the economic problems of minorities. He is a visiting lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is director of research for the Joint Center For Political Studies in Washington. The Joint Center has made Dr. Bryce's response article on this important subject available to the public.)

FAMILY INCOMES AND EARNINGS - 1971

Race
White
Spanish
Black

Median Income
Under \$5,000
7,548

Percent of families
with incomes
Under \$5,000
\$5,000 or more
16.2...26.4
30.4...10.3
38.6...10.3
\$15,000 or more

What emerges without stretching of the facts is that in a society which preaches egalitarianism as an ideology, incomes are grossly unequally distributed along lines which are fundamentally racial. And this is what the struggle is all about: Although significant progress has been made there is a lot left to justify discontent.

by Herrington J. Bryce
The question of whether or not most blacks are in the middle class is purely definitional. Wattenberg and Scammon have used such a wide-open definition that the only people who would not be included, are professionals (who constitute only about one of every night of the black working population) and the unemployed.

But the strongest argument against Wattenberg and Scammon lies in the untampered facts on the distribution of families by income-size class as published by the U.S. Bureau of Census. The facts are these:

Both Wattenberg and Scammon, as did Moynihan before them, place considerable weight on the evidence that black families with made heads who are under 35 years of age and who reside outside the South have achieved income parity with comparable white families. Both they and Moynihan argued that this

parity is evidence of progress and augurs well for the future.

The income gain is deceptive. As the authors recognize, the two groups lack full comparability on a very crucial point young black wives outside the South are more likely to be working year-round than young white wives. Hence, a considerable amount of the "equality" in family income is based upon the inequality in work effort.

The income gain is restricted. Black husband-wife families outside the South in which the male is under 35 years of age account for only per cent of black husband-wife families in the country. It is only 10 per cent of all black families.

The other 90 per cent of black families continues to be unequal! As a matter of fact, black families as a rule found that the absolute gap between their incomes and white family incomes increased from roughly \$2,500 in 1947 to just over \$4,000 in 1971.

Wattenberg and Scammon state that when only men less than 35 years of age who reside with their wives outside the South are compared, the parity ratio is maintained. These men account for less than 10 per cent (roughly 7 per cent) of all black men. Again parity affects relatively few blacks!

There are reasons for being doubtful that the parity to

which Moynihan and Wattenberg and Scammon refer will be maintained. Studies by economists have suggested that a main reason for black advancement in income was the migration of young blacks out of the rural South to the North where wages are higher. There is little hope for further major gains due to this kind of migration. The black population in the rural South is now only 3.9 million.

While blacks were leaving the South as a rate of 10.6 per cent, the economic growth and income of that area was increasing faster than any other part of the country. It has been the young whites who have been returning to the South at a rate of nearly 10 per cent to capture these new opportunities.

One possible effect of this migration might be to increase the income gap between blacks and whites in the future if the industries to which whites are moving in the South continue to grow faster than the ones blacks are entering in the North. This situation could be exacerbated unless blacks are able to take advantage of the economic growth in the South.

In addition to migration, another major factor in improving black earnings in the sixties was the high level

of demand for labor during that period. Economists have argued that economic growth and its induced demand for labor was the most important factor in increasing the relative wages of black men in the sixties.

Economists have found that when the demand for labor falls such that the aggregate unemployment rate rises above, say, 3.5 per cent, black family earnings are seriously threatened. The unemployment rate now hovers around 5 per cent.

And to make matter worse, there is currently a tacit assumption that we must be prepared to accept as normal something in that vicinity because of changes in the composition of the labor force.

Accordingly, the following points are implied: First, much of the black gains are due to cyclical factors which are, by definition fluctuating and might easily be reversed. Second, we might well be on the course of reversal with an unemployment rate well above 3 per cent.

A foundation for an increasing income gap lies in educational attainment. While blacks have made great strides in education, some basic truths remain: Among people who are under 35 years of age, the college completion rate is 4 times higher among white males as it is among black; it is twice as high

among white females as it is among black females.

The rate of high school completion is 50 per cent higher among young white men as it is among blacks. These figures say that while blacks are busy in the labor market, whites are investing in themselves. Since the return to investment is always expressed in higher lifetime earnings, the parity which is observed is unstable and could disappear over the life time of this cohort; for it has been shown that the rate of return to education and experience is significantly higher for whites than for blacks.

The children of this young cohort will not necessarily grow up equal. Otis Duncan, in a very careful and well-done study of the ability of parents to transmit income status to their children, shows that blacks are less likely to be able to do so than whites.

Historically, the black unemployment rate has been twice as high as the white unemployment rate. Scammon and Wattenberg take comfort in the fact that the historical 2 to 1 black/white unemployment ratio was apparently broken.

There is dubious reasons for joy. Economists noted, and the statistics support, 1970 was an unusual recession. It was one which struck hardest at those industries from which blacks

were traditionally excluded. Moreover, 1970 represents a period when black men were leaving the labor force at a faster rate than white; hence, they were less likely to be counted as unemployed.

The fact is that in 1972, the black/white unemployment rates returned to their 2 to 1 ratio! Today (1973) the unemployment rate for blacks is 10.2 per cent, and this does not include those who left the labor force, those who are working parttime although they would prefer fulltime work and those who are working at substandard wages. The unemployment rate for whites is 5.2 per cent - again the rates are 2 to 1.

It is not satisfactory for Wattenberg and Scammon to show an improvement in the relative unemployment rate of black and white men with wives present.

Surely, the struggle has not been for the sole benefit of this group. The high unemployment rate (over 35 per cent) among black teenagers cannot be dismissed lightly. In many black families this spells the differences between being in poverty and not. It also engenders criminal behavior and disproportionately high enlistment rates among black youths.

Wattenberg and Scammon note that blacks made

remarkable strides into white collar occupations.

It is true that the black rate of upward mobility outstripped the white male. It should be noted, however, that the greatest differences was in the rate of entry into clerical occupations - hardly the objective of most upwardly mobile whites.

The fact that blacks made these gains should not obfuscate the issue. Blacks remain significantly under-represented in high-wage occupations. In 1972 there were 35 per cent fewer blacks in professional occupations than would have been the case had blacks an equal opportunity as whites to enter.

The underrepresentation in managerial occupations and in sales is nearly 70 per cent. In crafts its about 30 per cent, and in clerical work about 21 per cent. All these figures are based on calculations using data in the

In fact, the Duncan findings hold that while blacks may transmit occupational status as easily as whites, their children are less likely to be able to convert this occupational status into income as well as white children do.

Manpower Report of the President.

Scammon and Wattenberg

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