

### CAPSULE COMMENTS

By Paul C. Smith

There are some schools of thought that the oil crisis - is not really the crisis that we are being told about. Some of the reasons and figures being batted about don't quite add up. Those who are unsure of what is fact and what is fiction, are wondering - Is this supposed crisis a back door method of halting school busing.

We have seen so many off color plots and unfactual schemes hatched - that makes it difficult to know the score.

We are aware that anti-busing advocates have and will go to any lengths to gain their objectives. We know that the Administration is on record against busing - many members of the Congress are caught in the middle on the issue. It would be a face saving to both sides if the busing issue was settled by supposed causes beyond their control.

It could be that all of the things that have come to light via watergate and other revelations that people are not sure of what to think. We have learned that many men high up in the Nixon Administration are guided by the thinking that the desired end justifies any means or way.

So we offer a couple of tid bits for your own study. The Arab oil boycott cut off 6 per cent of our oil import. We are scheduled to export 3 times the fuel oil we exported last year.

To conserve energy we are asked to cut our usage 25 per cent. If you can figure what math one must use that will make sense of what is really the score - we will be happy to pass it along to our other readers.

We were taught long ago that figures don't lie - only the figurer can.

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We are having trouble with fires being set to homes within the community. Most of the fires have been set in vacant houses. However, if the winds are high, any fire could spread to other occupied homes.

People who set these fires don't care about anything, let alone the fact that their acts could cause destruction and death to innocent parties.

The community should be alert enough to help put a stop to these fires.

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From the number of persons seen taking out marriage license's, they must feel that Christmas is a time to be married instead of a time to be merry.

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Schools will be out for Christmas vacation Friday. Be watchful of children playing. Slow down in residential area's. The life you might save could be one of your own.

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The monorail proposals have little or no meaning within the West Las Vegas area. Our area is not on the planning board for inclusion in the system. However, our tax dollars might be used to support a system that area residents will not be able to get any benefit from.

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The energy crisis is making some impact on local business, but the MGM Grand Hotel appears to be making the largest dent in the business of the other hotels.

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Roy Wilkins will be the featured speaker this year for the NAACP annual Freedom Fund Banquet. This event will also mark the 46th anniversary of the local branch. The Banquet Committee plans the largest banquet ever.

The names of those guests to appear will be announced from time to time. Keep Friday night March 8th open for what the local chapter hopes will be the event of the year

## TEAM WORK CAN STOP DISINTEGRATION OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY



### White House Corruption And Black Capitalism

The disclosure of widespread corruption within the Nixon Administrations black capitalism program may ultimately occupy but a brief footnote in the history of the Watergate scandals. And yet I believe that the now-acknowledged failure of this program will teach us an important lesson about the strategies for achieving racial progress.

The minority business program was once the cornerstone of Nixon's civil rights policy. In his 1968 presidential campaign, Nixon assured us that encouraging minority entrepreneurs -- through federal loans and grants--would be much more effective than the job training and anti-poverty efforts inaugurated by President Johnson. In the ensuing years Nixon regularly increased federal spending for black capitalism ventures while cutting away at the expenditures for housing, manpower, and other social programs.

By 1972, however, the Office of Minority Business Enterprise had become, like so many other government agencies, little more than a fund-raising arm of the Committee to Re-elect the President. Black and Spanish-speaking businessmen were informed that federal assistance would be dependant on their donation to the President's campaign effort. The Administration applied the same principle to the struggling Harlem businessman as it did to American Airlines and other industrial giants. There were also instances of minority business funds being granted to firms under white control and of Civil Service officials who were administering the program being required to engage in political work in outright violation of federal law.

The extent of scandal is appalling; it represents further testimony to the total moral bankruptcy of this Administration. But it is essential for black people to understand that minority capitalism did not fail simply because it was transformed into a political instrument. The revelations of corruption dramatize its shortcomings, but the roots of its failure are buried much deeper.

Black capitalism is, after all, a profoundly limited program. Under ideal economic circumstances it could benefit a narrow segment of the black community consisting primarily of businessmen who were neither jobless nor im-

poverished. Under less than perfect conditions, such as we have experienced in recent years, the results would be disastrous. At a time when 70 per cent of white-owned businesses are failing during their first three years, minority-operated ventures can hardly be expected to show significant success.

Its advocates on unusual coalition of black nationalists and white conservatives--often spoke of minority capitalism as a revolutionary alternative to traditional and, it was implied, unsuccessful liberal programs. What they were proposing, however, was in fact counter-revolutionary; unintentionally so, in the case of blacks, but certainly with a good deal of foreknowledge on the part of Richard Nixon.

Conservatives acted on two premises. On a pragmatic level they applauded anything that would divert attention and resources from broader social programs. They also saw black capitalism as compatible with the concepts of self-reliance and free enterprise; Negroes, they believed, should pull themselves up from poverty as had other ethnic groups before them. Nationalists, on the other hand, were influenced by the quirks of their ideology and an unrealistic and overly-romantic view of the ghetto.

We have had ample time to recognize that the conservative analysis was the more perceptive. Although their comparison of blacks, confronted by centuries of repression, with Irish, Jewish and Italian immigrants is absurd on its face, their efforts to impede a major social transformation has been temporarily successful.

I do not know what will happen to the black capitalism program. One hopes that the current revelations will be sufficient to reform the program so that it functions in a non-partisan and equitable manner. But the larger question is not whether one narrow effort can be salvaged, but whether we are going to have real social justice. We are only deceiving ourselves if we persist in the belief that "gilding the ghetto" through programs like black capitalism can bring about a true measure of justice.

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