

BLACK CAPITALISM

By Congressman Gus Hawkins

A major (some cities say minor) cornerstone of President Nixon's 1968 campaign was the issue of "Black Capitalism," and the President's promise to provide a greater government effort to assist minority business enterprises.

There is some evidence that there has been a rather conservative delivery on this promise. But in face of the vastness of American business enterprise, and the staggering profits that accrue to even so called "small" American businesses, Blacks are still not part of the action, nor are they getting a piece of it!

In 1971, the United States Department of Commerce released a report "Minority-Owned Businesses: 1969;" this study revealed that there were 163,000 Black owned firms, with gross receipts of \$4.5 billion and employing 152,000 persons (or 3.5 percent of the total Black labor force of about 9 million persons).

Of these 163,000 firms only 347 had gross receipts in excess of \$1 million; the aggregate of these receipts totaled only \$876,946,000 or an

average of less than \$3 million per firm. Using the Federal Small Business Administration's criteria of annual business receipts as a guide for determining "smallness," only two tenths of one percent of Black businesses fall outside of the Small Business Administration's classification of "small" business.

Black economist, Robert S. Browne, noted in a recent edition of the Black business magazine called "Black Enterprise," that "a business with receipts of only \$1 million or even of \$10 million, is definitely in the minor, minor leagues of American business."

In fact the extent of Black business' minor position in the economy is further revealed in analyzing Fortune magazine's list of the 500 largest industrial corporations in 1971. If one combined the receipts of all 347 of these Black businesses earning in excess of \$1 million, this total would place these "large" Black businesses 143rd on the list. The smallest company on Fortune's list had sales of \$176,081,000; the firm listed in the 1,000th place, had

sales of \$59,278,000.

These factors clearly indicate that even the largest Black corporations, with receipts of some \$3 million, are not in the same league with the average "large" American enterprise.

What needs to be done?

Government's role certainly needs to expand. Some critics of present SBA, OMBE type federal operations insist that the concept of assistance to minority business must change from talk of millions to talk of billions, if significant change is to occur.

A number of respected thinking in terms of how to provide the Black community capital and credit, as keys to a move towards economic resolution.

The formation of a national minority development bank which would make loans and thus provide equity and capital to ghetto businesses

The formation of private banking institutions located within the ghetto, controlled by the community, and competitively operated

W. W. W.

Things You Should Know

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THE GREATEST FEMALE RULER OF ALL TIME, SHE RULED FOR THIRTY THREE YEARS! 150 YEARS BEFORE KING TUT SHE GAINED POWER THRU' SLY INTRIGUE, OUSTING HER HALF-BROTHER THOTMES III. COUNTLESS PLOTS FORMENTED AGAINST HER BUT SHE VANQUISHED ALL ENEMIES! TO FIGHT MALE PREJUDICE SHE MASQUERADED AS A MAN, CHANGING HER NAME AND DECLARING THAT SHE WAS THE SON OF GOD! SHE REIGNED UNCHALLENGED UNTIL HER DEATH!



CONTINENTAL FEATURES

Questions and Answers



Q. I'll soon be 62 and plan to quit work then and retire. I have raised my two grandchildren since they were babies. Now they're both in grade school. Will they be able to get social security checks on my record when I start getting monthly benefits?

A. Possibly. Under recent changes in the social security law, grandchildren can get monthly checks based on a grandparent's earnings record if certain conditions are met. You should file a claim for benefits for them at any social security office and receive a formal determination on the matter. This can be done when you apply for your retirement benefits.

Q. Since I'll be 65 in a few months, I was planning to come in to the social security office and apply for monthly retirement payments. But last week I broke my leg and can't get around very well. How can I apply now?

A. Call your social security office. Most applications can be completed by telephone. If necessary, the people there can arrange to have a representative visit you at home.

Have a question about social security and its retirement, survivors, disability or Medicare benefits? See your tele-

social security QUIZ



A 20-year-old boy is a full-time college student. His father, who had worked under social security since it began, dies. Is the son eligible for any social security payments?

- A. No, only children under 18 are eligible for monthly payments when an insured parent dies.
- B. Yes, unmarried, full-time students 18 to 22 are eligible for monthly payments when an insured parent dies.
- C. No, the boy can't get monthly payments because he has never worked under social security.

B. Yes, unmarried, full-time students 18 to 22 are eligible for monthly payments when an insured parent dies.

social security QUIZ

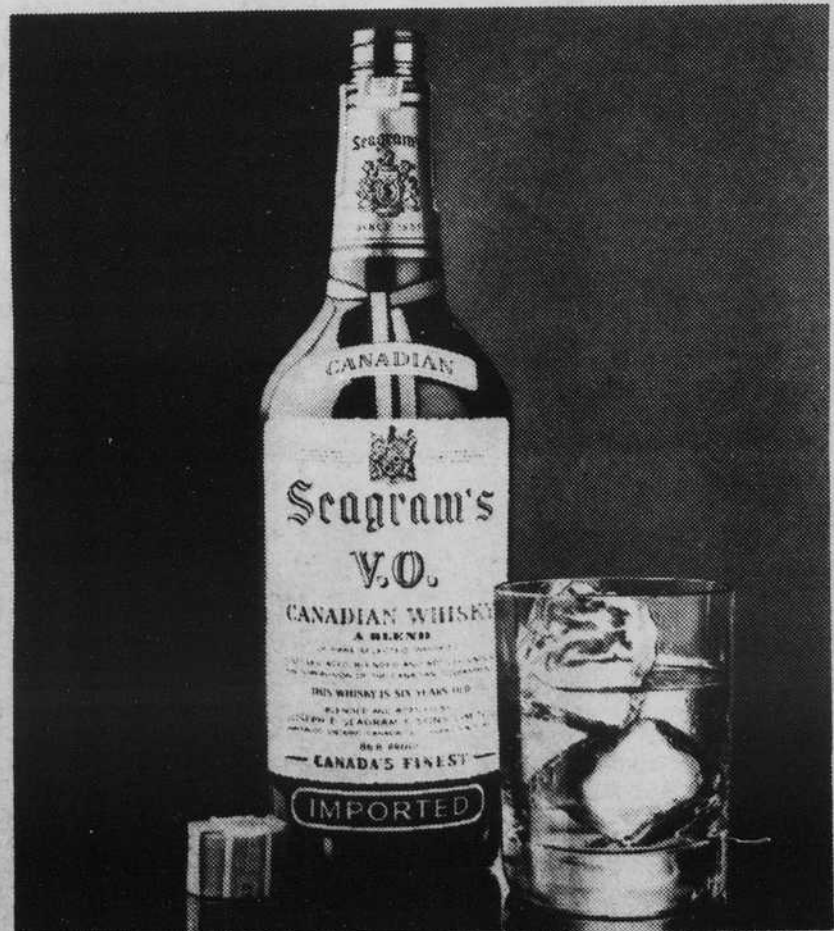


How many workers today are building protection for themselves and their families under the social security program?

- A. One out of every 10.
- B. Five out of every 10.
- C. Six out of every 10.
- D. Nine out of every 10.

D. Nine out of every 10.

In a drink, Only V.O. is V.O.



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