

EDITORIAL

GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER

By Paul Dawkins

GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER! Straight ahead for the bread? Well, if that's the case, preparation and qualification are the only "actions" that will get black people liberation. Time is running out, so it's best to GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER.

There's no time for unnecessary quarrels in the church. The black church is one of the main links for black togetherness. The other being the HOME. GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER.

There's no time to let little children run naked and hungry in the damp coldness of the ghetto streets to be misguided and misused. Save the children. GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER.

There's no time for black politicians to use fellow brothers and sisters for stepping stones to achieve personal gains. GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER.

There's no time for petty shoplifting especially when you have children with you. It's a traumatic experience for a child to see his parents taken away by the police. And for what? Something trivial. GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER.

The destiny of black businesses rests in the hands of the black community. Will the general public offer their business to black businesses like they offer it so generously to white businesses, or will black people offer their business to the black man like they so readily do to white businesses? GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER.

On numerous occasions the Doolittle-Center has sent out messages to the community via the communications media for neighborhood meetings to discuss the problems of the black community. The attendance for the first meeting was ZERO!! GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER.

The job market is tighter and more limited than ever. No longer can the black get "those token-jobs". The game is QUALIFICATION and QUICKNESS. How fast are available jobs being filled? Time is running out. All one has to do is to look on the wall and see what time it is. GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER!

BAYARD RUSTIN

Exec. Director, A Philip Randolph Institute



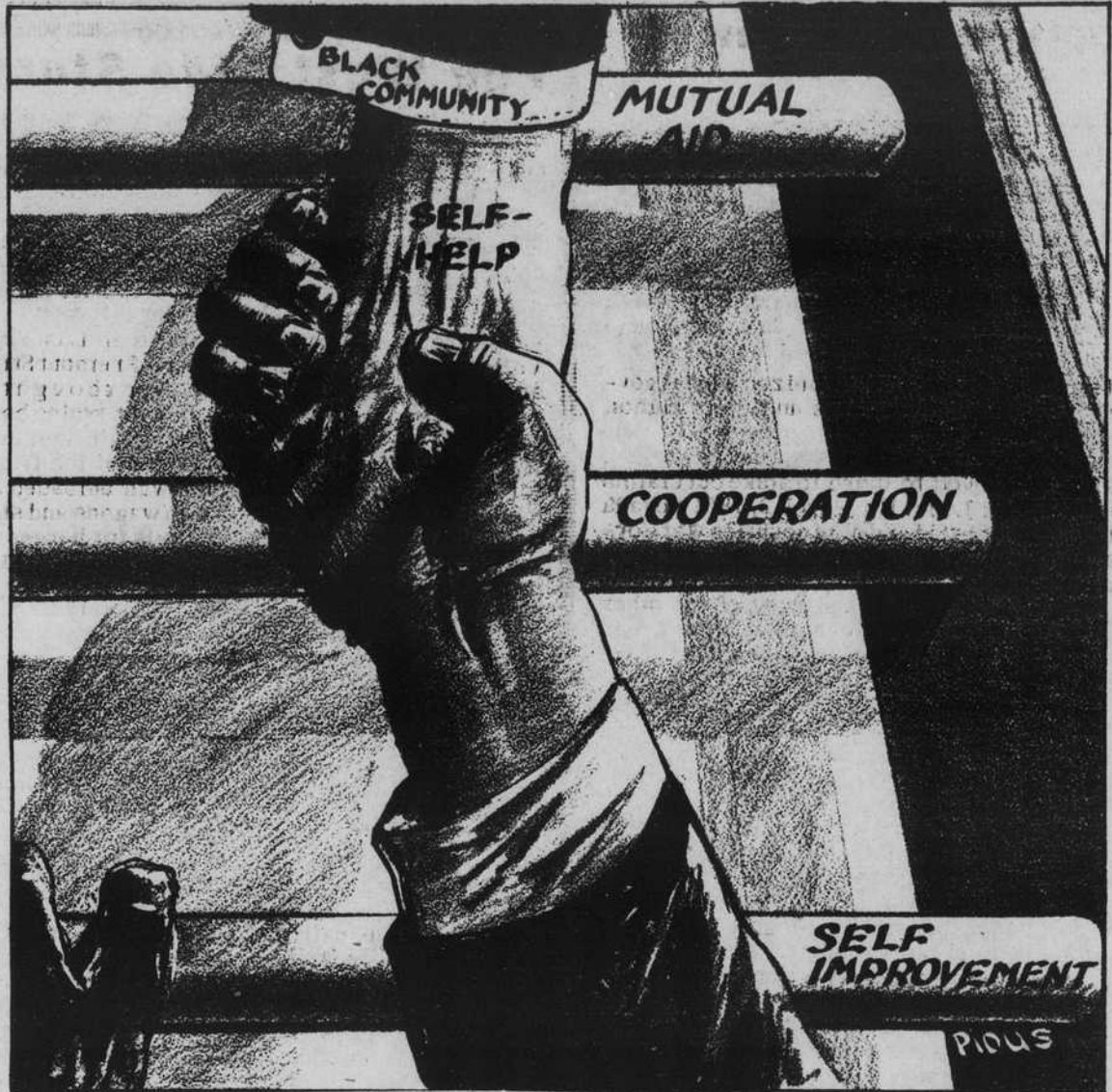
The accomplishments of President Ford's first few months in office have hardly been spectacular. He has proved that he is not the unbending conservative many feared he might be. Yet he has thus far failed to exert the strong leadership necessary to pull the country from its economic crisis. And on civil rights issues, the President--by criticizing court-ordered busing in Boston--has demonstrated appallingly bad judgement, made worse because it occurred at election time.

In at least one respect, however, is the Ford presidency a marked improvement over Mr. Nixon's sterile tenure. President Ford appears committed to an open administration, where all social groups are listened to, and where dissenting views are respected.

Under Mr. Nixon this was not at all the case. His administration was a barren time for black people, as their needs were ignored, opinions rejected and their leaders repudiated.

Given the record of his predecessor, the recent White House meeting between President Ford and eight representatives of the black community is an encouraging sign. I attended this meeting, and while I cannot in honesty report the development of any significant breakthroughs, I did get the impression that the President is at least sincere in his stated desire to treat black people with fairness.

It was my personal impression that President Ford is a straightforward and honest individual. He will not promise what he cannot deliver; on the other hand, he does not take personal offense at criticism.



The meeting lasted for an hour-and-a-half, and touched on almost every issue of vital concern to black Americans. One issue, of course, was school desegregation; those present were unanimous in their condemnation of Ford's response to the Boston crisis.

Here at least we did get a pledge that the administration would act more responsibly in the future. Mr. Ford gave the impression that he regretted his statement on the Boston situation, and announced that he had assigned five attorneys to observe the desegregation process in Boston on behalf of the White House. He also promised that in the future the administration would take action to ensure that the rights of black children involved in the desegregation process would be vigorously protected.

On the more fundamental question of economic and social policy, however, the President made no commitment whatsoever. He solicited our views, and promised to study the list of proposals drawn up at the recent Black Economic Summit Meeting. But he made no specific promises.

The Summit Meeting recommendations are broad and wide-ranging; thorough-going reform of the tax structure, an excess profits tax, a public service job program employing at least one million persons, increased availability of child care services for the working poor, a comprehensive program to encourage housing construction in the cities, the replacement of food stamps with cash grants.

And they are programs which Gerald Ford has consistently opposed during his years in Congress. Yet one hopes that the responsibilities of presidential leadership will expand Ford's social vision and enable him to shed the conservatism which was the trademark of his congressional career.

Ford promised that this first meeting would be the beginning of a dialogue between the administration and the black community. I do not want to minimize the importance of this essentially symbolic gesture; symbols can be important. And the depth of alienation black people experienced during the Nixon years is unhealthy--for blacks, for whites, and for the presidency itself.

Richard Nixon liked to tell black leaders to "Watch what I do, not what I say." Under Nixon, both the public utterances and the policy decisions were equally anti-black. Gerald Ford at least seems to be saying something positive. We must now watch what he does.

LIKE IT IS

By ERNIE MARSHALL

Las Vegas has almost come of age in regards to the social and economic status of its more than 40,000 tan residents...Certainly, no one will deny that there has been a distinct change in race relations during the past ten years...However, before we hand out bouquets, or rent the Convention Center, so we can hold graduation ceremonies for our liberal caucasian comrades, let's explore one element of our society, which continues to plague some Westside residents. This columnist still receives reports from many indignant residents of West Las Vegas, concerning the attitude of certain individuals, representing collection agencies, in this the FUN CAPITAL of the world...It seems that many collectors are using threatening, harsh and abusive language over the phone, when contacting Black citizens, about delinquent payments. This course of action has reportedly been directed at senior citizens, and people on fixed incomes. Most past due bills are due to the continuing increase in the cost of just staying alive...There was a time when people committed suicide because of dependency over bills...but in these times, MAN it's too costly to die...In spite of inflation, it is difficult to believe that agencies will continue to employ bigoted and supposedly intelligent persons, who refuse to address Negroes as Mister or Ms. over the phone, because of racial origin...Yes, we still have a helluva lot of sick minds...those who prefer to cling to the theory that, an Indian will get drunk by just smelling booze...give a Mexican a chance and he'll steal you blind...A Jew is out to take advantage in a business deal, and that most Negroes are shiftless and lazy...In spite of the stereotyped image, created many years ago by the movies, most Whites have discarded that jazz as pure bunk. The world being what it is, will always have Blacks who derive a "kick" from "ripping off" a White dude...And even if the population of another planet could out-number Caucasians, we would still have those who prefer to say "niggah."

...Just recently, the Metro Police Dept., again became a subject for controversy over the killing of a Black youth by a White policeman...Freshman Sen. JOE NEAL has asked that the matter

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