

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

guest editorial BLACK SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

William T. Coleman, a black Philadelphia attorney, has been nominated by President Ford as Secretary of Transportation, one of the largest agencies in government. It employs more than 65,000 workers and has a budget of approximately \$8 billion.

If Coleman is confirmed by the Senate, he will become the second black in the history of America to occupy a seat in the Cabinet. The other was Dr. Robert C. Weaver who served as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development from 1966 to 1968.

Coleman's appointment represents a long climb for blacks from the back of the bus, to the directorship of the total transportation system of our country. This includes: Trains, Planes, ships, buses, and city metros.

Maybe this is a good time to take a look at how far we have come. Measuring the distance does not mean that we have reached the millennium, because we still have a long, long way to go. We are still the last hired and the first fired; we are still trapped in too large numbers in the lowest paying, least desirable jobs; we still live in the poorest housing; and we still stand outside the door of big business, waiting to get more than a toe inside.

But measuring how far we have come could have a salutary affect on all of us, and especially our youths, who have no knowledge of the long road of the past, little appreciation of the advance, and are turned off by a feeling that black people will never get anywhere.

This is not true and our youth ought to know it, because they need reinforcement as a stimulus to urge them forward in school, and at work with diligence and patience and persistence toward excellence.

Our youth ought to know that in the federal government, for example, their fathers and mothers and neighbors have equipped themselves for better opportunities, and then have marched and demanded and protested and voted for a new day.

And so we have earned our way up from janitors to junior and senior executives. Today, there are 141 black officials in the top grades, earning from \$34,607 to more than \$46,000, and another 2,000 earning in excess of \$25,000 a year. Altogether, blacks now hold nearly 400,000 jobs in government in a thin spread of positions across the whole spectrum of federal employment.

No, we have not reached the millennium with Coleman's appointment, but we are on our way. As an honor graduate of the University of Pennsylvania who holds a law degree from Harvard, Coleman, also experienced in transportation systems, is well equipped for the Cabinet post. We are sure he will be a great credit to the administration.

President Ford has made a wise choice, and can count on the support of the Black Press as long as he continues to move forward in the recognition that blacks can make a very large contribution to America.

BAYARD RUSTIN

Exec. Director, A Philip Randolph Institute



THOSE "LIBERAL" ENEMIES OF GROWTH

It has become commonplace for certain liberals to dismiss the concept of economic growth as a regressive, even destructive force in society. The affluence generated by an expanding economy, we are told, has led to the despoilment of the environment, brought deprivation to hund-



...DOWN TO BUSINESS

DR. BERKELEY G. BURRELL
President, National Business League

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Taxes! Taxes! Taxes! What can you say about them other than they hurt and they have to be paid.

It's not enough that your pocket book is looking just about like the Sahara Desert and all signs show that a dust storm may be moving in to stay.

Thank God Christmas comes but once a year. Unfortunately that's before taxes are due and you've already bought or committed your next two pay checks to a 100-man battallion of Big Jim's and a 50-car fleet of customized Evil Knivel stunt cars.

Too bad the timing isn't better. At least if taxes came earlier or Christmas came later, you might know the odds on your ending in the poor house by January 1.

But this is the traditional smiling face empty pocket book time of year, and most of us anticipate the holiday season and the new year with some reservations at best!

What it all boils down to is planning. Not just

planning for Christmas but financial planning -- which includes tax planning.

To the average person, financial planning represents a complex system of investments in stocks and bonds or the ownership of large amounts of personal property in land or money reserves.

That is precisely what I'm NOT talking about. What I do mean is planning so that at the end of every pay day you are not looking at a high stack of bills and obligations and a much lower stack of money to attack them with.

I'm talking about that family man or woman who either together or individually makes what can be a living wage but must hold their breath in hopes that the unexpected does not occur. That would be like the family car conking out or the TV or something else going on the blink just when there's no money for emergencies, much less necessities.

That also applies to the young professional who doesn't understand why other people can fly around the country for fun, while making the

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BLACK GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM

9-OF-THE-12-WATERGATE JURORS WERE BLACK.

WATERGATE - GUARD: FRANK WILLIS

reds of millions in underdeveloped nations, and in general made America and the rest of the world an unpleasant place to live.

One must be charitable when discussing growth's critics. For they are, by and large, individuals who support in the abstract the objectives of social progress and racial equality.

But somehow they have missed the fundamental -- and obvious -- contradictions in the notion that the condition of those at the bottom can be raised when society itself is standing still. No doubt they have failed to consider the implications of their creed: that while a no-growth economy may protect the fields and streams (which in itself is a dubious claim) it will most certainly result in untold misery for thousands of ordinary people, many of whom are the black poor of America and the poverty-stricken mas-

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