

BICENTENNIAL OF A RACIST STATE

By William L. Patterson

As those social forces which control the mass of our country approach the celebration of its bicentennial, they find themselves confronted with a moral crisis for which they have neither answers nor remedy. The continued existence of the myths of the racial superiority of white people and the racist savagery which does and inevitably must accompany the propagation of those myths. This contradiction destructive of national integrity and honor confronts them on every front of their foreign and domestic relations. They cannot evade it.

As a consequence of their morally subverted idea, men and women will be forced to apologize for or seek an acceptable justification for the dehumanization racist evil dominates this society's economy and politics. Today history challenges all and every concept of racism. It demands of those seeking freedom a rigid examination of the nature of a society dominated by the myths of racial superiority and heralded as "the best of all social systems."

A new way of life, resting upon a new economic foundation dominated the center of the world's

political stage. Its great effectiveness lies in the national ownership of the necessities of life. Its very existence, free from the many crisis that plague life in the non-Social world, its vast market, technological development and application of science to social production make ignoring it impossible.

Two hundred years have passed since the "founding fathers" established here the "new nation" allegedly "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." Most of those Fathers were slave holders and Black freemen as well as slaves had no rights that a white skinned person was in law bound to respect. Slave economy made mockery of the lofty principals. A moral justification for the enslavement of Blacks had to be formulated.

Now 50 states exist but the profits derived from acceptance of the myths of white superiority determine the attitude of government and the economic overlords toward citizens of color in almost all walks of life. Racism grows with industrial development and repression increases with social crisis. The Bicentennial celebration poses vital questions. They must be answered.

What is the political essence and nature of a State in which racist force and violence and exploitation play a dominant part in human relations? It is of course not a democracy of, for or by the people.

What is the content of the morality and ethics of a state where after 200 years racism still exists? What is the nature of its democracy? Dehumanizing bourgeois morality.

What is the substance of educational system and religious preachments where color determines social status and relations. Miseducating.

The ideologues of racial superiority have warped and twisted history for these 200 years to glorify their masters and their masters' way of life. As the economy grew, racist mythology became an export commodity. Now history demands a change. All that was done in this respect in the sacred name of capitalism and monopoly can be changed through the united efforts of those who have been victimized.

Two hundred years of tolerance of racism has been ruinous to the morality of a so-called "free people." What is worthy of honor at the bicentennial of a racist state is the struggle for a profound change and those who take a positive part in it.

AFRO publisher listed in Journal's contest



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AFRO vice president-publisher, Elizabeth M. Moss is among 10 women in the field of communications nominated in the Ladies' Home Journal's Women of the Year contest which was announced in the February editions.

Mrs. Moss is the sole black nominee in the communications category and the only person from the Baltimore area. Among others listed in the communications category are television and radio producers, reporters and editors from all sections of the country.

Some seven black womens names from a list of 9 are included in nine categories which are: Government and Diplomacy; business and Economics; Political Life; Education; Creative Arts, Quality of Life, Humanitarian and Community Service and Communications.

Other black nominees are: Jewel LaFontant, Deputy Solicitor General, Department of Justice; Ernesta Procope, president, E. G. Bowman Co., Brooklyn, N. Y., inner-city community leader; Barbara Jordan, member of House of Representatives, Texas; C. DeLores Tucker, Secretary of the Commonwealth for the State of Pennsylvania; civil rights leader; Dr. Adelaine Cromwell Gulliver, dean, Institute of African Studies, Boston University; social anthropologist; Barbara Sizemore, superintendent of Public Schools, District of Columbia, former teacher and principal.

A new category, International Leadership was added this year in conjunction with International Women's Year 1975. The award will be presented by Journal editors, with the cooperation of the United Nations and U. S. authorities.

According to the Journal's rules, you must check three names in each category (list in current edition) and submit by Feb. 28.

Winners will be selected on the basis of ballots from Journal readers, plus an evaluation by a board of judges.

Minority Business Report

Black business growth in several major industry groupings increased "substantially" between 1969-1972, according to Alex Armendaris, director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE).

Armendaris said that based on comparative Census figures recently published in the 1972 Survey of Minority Owned Business Enterprises (Black), the highest gains in receipts registered

for black-owned business were recorded in the automotive dealers and gasoline filling stations category.

California however, continues to lead the United States in the number of black-owned firms (19,282) and in gross receipts (\$704 million).

The Office of Minority Business Enterprise was created to coordinate federal and private efforts in the development of minority-owned businesses.

BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES

INDUSTRY GROUP	1969 RECEIPTS (in millions)	1972 RECEIPTS (in millions)
Food stores	\$438	\$649
Eating & drinking places	360	537
Special trade contractors	284	535
Miscellaneous retail	278	487
Wholesale trade-durable goods	385	449
Personal services	288	355
Trucking & warehousing	138	294
General building contractors	140	232

NEW FOOD STAMPS

On March 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will introduce a new series of food stamps to the public. The series includes new \$1 and \$10 coupon (stamps) and a redesigned \$5 coupon. These changes reflect the food stamp program's response to participants' needs, and recent changes in the economy.

Previously, the food stamp program used 50-cent, \$2 and \$5 coupons. The new coupon book denominations are: \$2, \$7, \$40, \$50 and \$65.

The coupon book covers have also been redesigned with each denomination printed in a different ink color on ivory cover stock. \$2 printed in green ink; \$7 in purple ink; \$40 in brownish-gold ink; \$50 in blue ink and \$65 in reddish-brown ink.

Old series food stamps that have not been distributed by February 28 will be collected and destroyed. Old coupons still in circulation after Mar. 1, will retain their value and can be accepted by retailers until July 1, 1975.

Food stamp customers can receive change under \$1 in the form of credit slips, or they may buy eligible food items for the amount of change due, rather than receive a credit slip.

The recipient may also elect to pay the amount over the lowest even dollar "out-of-pocket." For example, on a purchase of \$5.25, the customer may choose to give the retailer a \$5 food coupon and pay the 25 cents in cash.

The \$1 coupon is the only one retailers can accept without a coupon book cover. The \$5 and \$10 coupons must be used with books that have serial numbers matching those on the face of the coupon.

The food stamp program had 17.1 million participants in December 1974, the Agriculture Department disclosed.