

But why not Africa ... Mr. President?

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Long Hot Summer



by LAWRENCE ALBERT

A long hot summer has been forecast for our community.

It already has a 15 percent unemployment rate, and in two or three weeks our youth will get out of school and further flood the overflowing dam of unemployment.

More than 3,000 of our brothers and sisters are presently jobless, Leo Johnson, operations chief of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA), said recently.

Johnson said CETA will have 1,000 slots in its program for youths starting in July, "but three or four students will be competing for each of these slots. Students will be chosen for these on the basis of their families financial situation and on preregistration.

They should get their social security cards and preregister for the program as soon as possible."

Johnson saw no immediate relief for the local unemployment situation. Lack of education will be the cause of 40 percent of the youth unemployment in our community.

"Black kids can't get any kind of job experience. Most of them don't know how to fill out job applications. White kids can get experience through their families, but blacks don't have such an outlet."

He added that everyone is scared to open up with money. Most agencies in this area would like to reduce their present staffs, "and they sure are not going to hire anymore people."

"The business sector has got to generate more profit so that they can open up. Lending institutions are hoarding their money also. We need other kinds of businesses to generate jobs."

It is the same old story--our youths don't have enough education; they don't have any experience; their parents don't have the means to get them the experience.

What's going to happen to us? We will survive, but that is not enough. We have to stretch our talents, abilities and desires to the limit. We can do that only through determination, discipline and hard work.

We have always been a hard working people, but we don't dream big enough; we don't strive for the future enough; and most of all we don't set goals and work toward them unwaveringly.

To do this, we have to realize as a group the white man is not going to make any effort to feed, clothe and house our families. We have to do it ourselves.



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population was below the poverty level in 1973, 16 percent of the elderly were below the poverty level in 1973. Almost 40 percent of the total black elderly population was below the poverty level in 1972.

The National Center on Black Aged, based in Washington, quotes these 1973 Bureau of Census figures: 37.1 percent of elderly blacks live in poverty; among black females over 65 who live alone, the figure is even higher: 61.8 percent live in poverty.

The National Urban League points out that the typical black man never reaches age 65 or above, while the typical black woman can expect senior citizen status for fewer years than her white counterpart. "Poverty," the League noted, "is a continuing barrier to the basic right of peaceful and comfortable old age."

The FEA report indicates that climatic conditions exert a strong influence on energy consumption. Sixty-one percent of the elderly black live in the South, where natural gas is the major heating fuel available. The rest are fairly evenly divided between the Northeast and the North Central region, with only five percent of the elderly blacks living in the West.

Drs. Dorothy K. Newman and Dawn Day in their forthcoming book "The American Consumer" note that in 1972-73 blacks used 11 percent of natural gas but a much smaller proportion of electricity (6 percent) and of gasoline (5 percent). Black households are more likely than others to use natural gas for cooking and more likely to live in non-winterized homes than other households. In recognition of this problem the President has proposed legislation to subsidize winterization of low-income homes.

Other findings in their book include: Energy used by the poor is almost entirely for essentials such as space and water heating, cooking, refrigeration and lighting. About 60 percent of black households are tenants compared with 30 percent of all others, and even among black families in one family houses, almost 40 percent are tenants, over twice as many as others.

As for blacks and automobiles, blacks use much less gasoline than others. Even among non-poor blacks, gasoline consumption is only two thirds of the amount non-poor families use. Forty-five percent -- almost half -- of all black households have no cars.

built on quicksand," with no historical friendship between Arabs and Blacks and "little in common."

There is also lingering bitterness over Arab prominence in the African slave trade. An editorial in the *Zambian Daily News* put it bluntly:

"Refusal of Arab countries to sell oil to African states at a reduced price is a tacit example that Arabs, our former slave masters, are not prepared to abandon the rider-and-horse partnership. We have not forgotten that they use to drive us like herds of cattle and sell us as slaves."

In the Black History Week edition of *The National Scene* this February, a scholarly article by Joseph E.

Harris reported that the Indian Ocean slave trade, "dominated by the Arabs," goes back some 2000 years. It flourished from the 7th Century on, with literally millions of Blacks from Africa's East Coast, "packed in tiers like sardines," shipped by Arab merchants to Arab ports and--those who survived marched to Jidda and Mecca.

The Indian Ocean slave trade from Africa to Asia is "still said to exist on a small scale," the article declared, and in 1973, frontpage stories in the *Weekly Spectator of Accra, Ghana*, charged that Ghanaian children, age 13 and 14, had been exported to the Middle East by Arab traders "to become virtual slaves of wealthy Arab families."

Just the FACTS

Many of the Nation's 1.7 million elderly blacks -- already fighting for economic survival -- now face another crisis centering on their ability to sustain a minimal level of existence in the face of soaring energy costs.

The central finding of a new study conducted for the Federal Energy Administration is that the elderly poor consume less energy than any other age-income group, including the younger poor, but spend a much higher proportion of their total budget on energy expenditures.

FEA's Office of Consumer Affairs and Special Impact commissioned the study because of its concern for problems of older Americans. The results confirm such facts as these:

The older you are, the more likely it is that you will be poor. While 11 percent of the total

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