



Education Is Power

By Thomas E. Wilson,
Ph.D.

Now that the election is over we must sit back for a while and, in retrospect, think just how all of the campaign promises of the politicians are going to be fulfilled, and just what effect all of these promises will have on the educative processes of our children, and especially on the Black child.

Each candidate for the Clark County School District Board of Trustees has told us either what he/she has done, is doing, or will do if elected. Now that all of the hullabaloo is over, it is up to us as Black parents and Black patrons of the school district to attempt to get those elected officials to carry out their campaign promises and determine, through innovation ways, what should be done in our school district to remedy some of the problems that have been brought to the public's attention in recent weeks.

Maybe, at this time, more of the community members should be brought together on a volunteer, informal basis to help work out the educational problems so prevalent in our school district. A fresh approach to the educational problems may be secured by the cooperation of all concerned (parents, students, teachers, school trustees, school administrators, community minded citizens, university personnel, etc.). The problems seems too large for one entity to be saddled with the responsibility for solving them. Why can't we all work together?

Black people are accustomed to living with broken campaign promises. However, if we become aware of some of these promises and/or problems connected with the promises, maybe we can remind our elected officials of how well they are progressing toward fulfilling their promises and/or solving the problems.

It appears that the slate of candidates for school trustees contained the names of sensitive, receptive, well meaning and hard working persons. If this is so, and this writer hopes that the elected trustees behave as if it is, then we can well become a model for the entire United States for innovative ways in solving our educational problems. Las Vegas and Clark County have all of the potential for becoming one of the best educational areas in the nation. Where else do we have such a variety of hard working people who seem willing to give of their time, effort and money to see a job through? However, much needed is a method or vehicle in which all of these people can work to help solve our educational problems. This writer firmly believes that the elected trustees will, in some way, provide this vehicle for total public involvement.

Have we considered the fact that if our school administrators heard more about the positive things that they are doing and not always about the negative things, perhaps a high quality of rapport would be established which could lead to a more valuable line of communication through which our children's needs would be delineated?

A great morale booster for our educational employees seems to be in order. Are we actually hearing what they are trying to tell us? We hope that the newly elected board members will be able to listen with extremely attentive ears to what these employees are trying to tell them, and not become so politically and monetarily involved that the needs and desires of the employees are overlooked. This writer believes, that if properly approached, problems can be solved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Some final questions: When can we as parents (this writer has three in our school system and one at the Community College), expect an amenable solution to the employee problems now facing our school district? Why can we not solve these problems without so much mud-slinging from both sides? Where, oh where, is the solution? With all of the problems involved, what is happening to our children, especially to our Black children?

Let's come together and see to it that our most valuable possessions, the children, are not hurt educationally in the shuffle.



Benjamin L. Hooks

FCC
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The Federal Communications Commission will soon hold its first minority ownership conference. This conference, which is to include licensees, financial experts and brokers, will attempt to explore problems confronting minorities in seeking to enter the ranks of broadcast ownership.

As I have moved about the country, black broadcast licensees have generally confronted me with a constant complaint; massive discrimination by the advertising industry against them.

I was heartened when Pluria Marshall, able president of the National Black Media Coalition raised this issue, among others, in an appearance recently before an FCC en banc meeting.

He said: "Recognizing all of the easy excuses, the simple problem remains that black broadcast licensees are hurting when it comes to traditional revenue sources and I would strongly urge the Commission to become innovative with its resources (as it did in the All-Channel Receivers Act) and determine if there are external forces that threaten to undermine the spirit and the letter of the Act."

Commissioners appeared stunned to learn that this kind of bias is practiced in the industry. Some were unbelieving, aghast that such pernicious bias could be rampant in the industry.

So a few days later, the chairman, Richard E. Wiley announced the FCC will sponsor the Minority Ownership Conference "to explore possible methods of improving the extent of minority participation in the ownership of broadcast stations and cable television systems."

At present current figures reveal that less than one half of one percent of the nation's 8,500 broadcast stations are owned by Black Americans. Black broadcasts have more than doubled

Abortion Legislation - Enemy of the Poor

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS by Kenyon C. Burke

The positions on abortion of both major-party candidates for the Presidency show "cruel disregard for the rights of American women," and represent a "vain" attempt to "curry the favors of a strident minority and the officialdom of the Roman Catholic Church," according to a leading group of family planning specialists.

In a statement approved at a meeting in Austin, Texas last week, the National Executive Committee of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America called upon the major Presidential candidates, community organizations and citizens everywhere "to recognize and address the threat which the brazen intrusion of the Catholic hierarchy into the political process poses for the principle of separation of Church and State."

In backing the move to deny Medicaid funds for abortion services, currently under review by Congress, the group said, both Governor Carter and President Ford are "apparently willing to single out poor women...as the only women in our society to have relief from unwanted enforced pregnancy and...to make American taxpayers assume the tax burdens created as a result."

And although Governor Carter has "repeatedly expressed his opposition to a Constitutional amendment to ban all abortions," he has failed to endorse forthrightly the 1973 Court decisions as the law of the land. President Ford, meanwhile, has "repudiated these decisions," and endorsed a platform plank "authored by the extreme right wing of his party which endorses an unspecified Constitutional amendment to 'protect the life of the unborn.'"

These positions, the family planning leaders said, signify that the candidates have "abandoned their responsibility as public officials to

in number since I became a Commissioner in July, 1972.

There were less than 20 at that time. Today there are approximately 56 black radio stations and two television stations (one in the Virgin Isles, the other in Detroit) with Howard University slated to begin TV broadcasting sometime in 1977.

But the problems of blacks versus the telecommunications industry were many and complex. The problem of finding the funds with this to finance such properties is always a giant-sized headache whether the black potential broadcast property owner is seeking money in the commercial market or low-interest government loans.

Rating services are another principle headache to the black broadcaster. Some bitterly charge that rating services don't accurately measure black audiences and that their final reports are pertinent to the ultimate decisions the advertisers make in respect to black broadcasters.

The decisions generally tend to be against the best interests of the black broadcaster, which means that desperately necessary national commercial advertising he needs to sustain his operation is summarily cut off.

The ugly problem of securing a broadcast property remains. Some blacks complain that when the broadcaster learns that the property he has put up for sale is about to be purchased by a black, the property suddenly is taken off the market.

They complain there is an "old boy" word-of-mouth system operating in terms of the availability of such properties for purchase. Hence, they say, a property is often signed, sealed and delivered before they even know about it.

Black ad agencies and station reps are being forced out of the business by biased rating service practices, some say.

The FCC Minority Ownership Conference, which will include participants from the general public as well as the government, will certainly have its work cut out for it and hopefully some light will be shed on some long neglected areas in the industry and from this some solutions will be forthcoming.

promote policies which are consistent with the needs, well being and wishes of the majority of our people," and have instead "become supine before the unproved electoral threat branished by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church."

The "Spurious" treatment of abortion in the campaign as "obscured the simple fact" that a Constitutional amendment to ban abortion "would not stop abortions, but make hundreds of thousands of them illegal," the group said.

And the move to ban Federal funds for abortion services "would only deprive poor women of their Constitutional rights," and bring back the "chaotic situation" which prevailed before 1973, in which such women were forced either to travel to other states to obtain an abortion -- "at great expense and risk to their health" -- or to undergo "compulsory child-bearing," or "back-alley abortions."

Noting that "the only practical way to reduce the number of abortions is to improve the practice of family planning," the Planned Parenthood group criticized the current abortion debate as "highly hypocritical." While Governor Carter has expressed support of family planning as a means to reducing the need for abortion, the President has evaded the fact that his own and the previous administration have been unwilling to appropriate sufficient funds for the family planning program, or for biomedical research to discover safer, more effective and more acceptable contraceptive methods...and neither candidate has committed himself to a concrete program reversing these counter-productive policies," the group said.

We sadly note that both candidates by these actions are joining the ranks of enemies of the poor.