

The Hughes Report

By Thomas F. Hughes



The N.A.A.C.P. and Tom Hughes

Since I started to run for President of the Las Vegas N.A.A.C.P., I have been subjected to quite a bit of criticism. So much faith has been lost in today's leaders that some people can not believe that there are still some honest and decent people who only want to "do something for the community." I have had great experience in many fields that affect our community and I want to give the ability I have acquired to the community. I am for real and I have no personal gain in mind or plan. Credibility is the one thing I possess and will not give up for job, money, etc. I have a good job and expect an even better one soon and it is on my own that I have made progress. Being President of the N.A.A.C.P. does not pay one cent - there is no salary. But I did not come to Las Vegas' Westside to take from the community but to give to the community. I have no political intention or desire to enhance my personal fortune by way of the N.A.A.C.P. It is my belief that when God has endowed me with education, experience and ability that I should use that ability in helping black citizens in whatever area I can.

I find it hard to have faith in leaders who don't read the rules and regulations, don't understand them or desire to ignore them and change the rules. Negotiations of any kind are based on rules and regulations, laws and agreements. I have been an insurance agency owner, real estate licensee, and an income tax consultant I had to become proficient or fail, I succeeded and only because I knew, understood and abided by those laws, rules, etc. Accounting is a great part of the income tax work and so records, planning, budgeting, etc. are a natural part of my services. I had an excellent tax practice in California and I am building one here. Word has been voiced that I was here to take over the N.A.A.C.P. Our forefathers started the N.A.A.C.P. 67 years ago and the rules, laws and regulations have been constantly revised by the most brilliant minds of our people and they have provided safeguards against such a possibility.

But some people have tried to make it their social club or prestige vehicle, instead of properly utilizing it to preserve or enhance our positions in the mainstream of life. The Credit Union is 25 years old and certainly the board members will not allow any such takeover. That is how they got to be 25 years old.

I have my office on "D" Street and I am a Staunch member of Greater New Jerusalem Baptist church on "D" Street. 95% of our friends live on the Westside and my wife and I like it like that. We are not looking for prestige people but like the people in this community, they are our kind of folks.

Whether I make the President of N.A.A.C.P. or not, the important thing is that the members elect their President - not a picked committee. You see the laws are there to protect the rights of its members in a Democratic manner.

May they always remain so.

**BREAK THE HATE HABIT
UNDERSTAND
THY
NEIGHBOR
BLACK, WHITE or BROWN!**

VOICE EDITORIALS

Benjamin L. Hooks

FCC

Commissioner



Since the announcement of my appointment as NAACP Executive Director-Designate, I have received large amounts of mail, telegrams, mailgrams, notes, phone calls, etc. Much of it has been of a congratulatory nature, offering help in any way they can, or praying for my continued health so I might be up to the exacting task ahead.

Good stuff, much of it heartening, all of it -- the good and not so good - giving me pause, reminding, if I needed another reminder of the awesomeness of the task ahead.

One letter from a white supporter particularly gave me pause. I will not mention his name but the substance of his remarks I believe you will agree, while a bit worn, it is nevertheless of urgent concern to all of us who would hope to move our nation forward.

He says: "Congratulations on becoming (President) of the NAACP. You have a great challenge before you. Your greatest accomplishment would be to see that the criminal rate among blacks was no greater than any other group. Today it is tremendous. Responsible blacks must speak out on this subject otherwise there is no chance for real good race relations.

Your progress so far has been because of your political clout. But that is not a solid base. Your young people do not have enough respect for law and order. Their appearance is wild in a tone of protest. Too many black areas are allowed to be run down and deteriorated.

It costs nothing to keep yards and streets clean and neat. And costs very little to paint." And then he adds: "Until the general public is not afraid of two or more blacks walking down the street, your people will find it difficult to make progress."

Forget that this concerned person got my designated title all wrong. Some white folks just never seem to get our titles straight, no how. But seriously, is the writer trying to say that somehow good social behavior is a prerequisite to a race of people's gaining their rights?

He can't be serious or he would question whether white people, who have such high incidence of white crime (white collar, embezzlement, shady business deals, corrupt political payoffs, as well as the more so-called common crimes) should be a free and equal people.

If that were true many white nations would not be abounding. But, of course, he is not saying that at all. And since is not, his words do not have the full force of moral authority they otherwise might have.

Never mind, however, that the tone of his letter was that of treacher to pupil. Forget even that he threw in the gratuitously questionable bit about our progress thus far "because of your political clout (How does one acquire political clout? By hard work, hard thinking, and patient organizing? That is what I try to do.)

Let's get to the substance of his missive: Black crime and the responsibility of black leaders to speak out against it. I agree with that wholeheartedly. And I think Roy Wilkins, Vernon Jordan, Jesse Jackson, Ralph Abernath, Dorothy Height and other black leaders have spoken and continue to speak out on this very thorny question.

And so have I, and I will continue to do so. For I know that we cannot as a race allow ourselves to wallow in the swill of filthy sloth, criminality and self-pity, pleading poverty and racial oppression as twin evils that trigger our personal and spiritual disintegration.

Of course black crime must stop. This insane ripping off of one another, this vicious preying on the elderly and defenseless young; this reprehensible public behavior by too many of our

youth whose mouths should surely be scribed out with soap. All of it must go, all of it, if we are to lay true claim to equality and humanity.

I intend to heed the advice of my letter writing friend not only because that the overwhelming number blacks are decent, law-abiding citizens, but because it is the right thing to do.

Will he and other whites heed my advice to join with us in trying to make this a country of which we can all feel proud and safe?

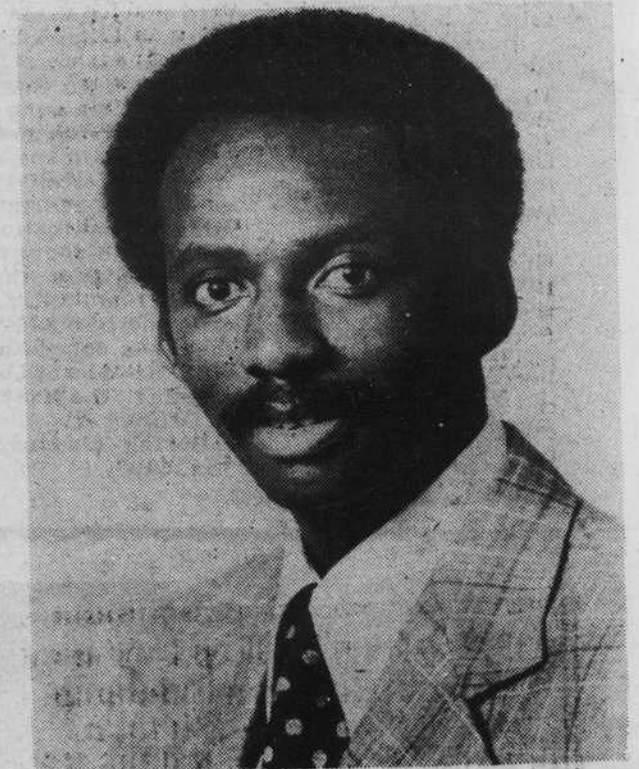
Business In The Black (Continued from page 2.)
full-time jobs.

This index consistently shows unemployment rates at least twice as high as the government's figures. The league figures point out a more accurate figure for black unemployment, which counts those too discouraged to look for work as well as active job seekers.

It indicates that the unemployment rate for blacks for the second quarter of this year was 25.4 percent. Other findings of the League reveal that unemployment among blacks in poverty areas has continued to rise from a year ago.

It's clear a special program will be needed to bring down unemployment in both the black and white communities of America. The US Conference of Mayors has already called on President-elect Carter to develop an employment program for the Urban areas.

We trust that as the President prepares his economic employment program he will put an immediate and special emphasis on bringing blacks and whites together on equal footing on the job front of all parts of this country.



ROLAND DEE WEST has recently been named plant manager for Johnson Products Co., manufacturers of hair care products, cosmetics and Black Tie cologne. He will be responsible for all filling, packaging, receiving and warehousing functions. Prior to his new position, West was a section manager for Avon Products in Springdale, Ohio. He also served as salesman for Xerox Corp. and as group sales manager for Schillito's Department Store in Cincinnati. A graduate of University of Cincinnati where he attended on a full athletic scholarship, West also played professional basketball with the Baltimore Bullets in 1967-68.

**LIFE IS A JOURNEY
NOT A DESTINATION**