



Benjamin L. Hooks

FCC
Commissioner

Carter's FCC Plans ?

Will Jimmy Carter appoint a black man to the Federal Communications Commission to take my place? I know he will. I believe that President-elect Carter is highly cognizant of the fact that blacks furnished his margin of political victory and will, some disbelievers notwithstanding, respond by not only naming a black to the FCC when I depart sometime in 1977, but will also appoint qualified black men and women throughout the hierarchy of government during his administration. Isay this on faith because I have not talked personally with Jimmy Carter about this. I believe, however, he is a man of integrity, a man who is as good as his word.

In several columns I have written of the number of commissions and agencies in Washington that touch every aspect of our lives, yet black people not only have not served on many of them but are unaware of their existence or the power and influence they wield.

In light of the heavy support blacks gave Carter I think it is worth mentioning again. But black support is not the crucial thing, I might add. I expect President-elect Carter as an eminently decent and humane man to be a President of all the people, black, white, red, brown, yellow.

A few blacks such as Leon Higgenbotham, of the Federal Trade Commission, now a federal judge, Constance Newman of the Consumer Products Safety Commission, now of HEW, Howard Jenkins of the National Labor Relations Board, and a number of blacks, including four successive chairmen of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have served on some of these bodies.

But for the most parts blacks have not served on the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Maritime Commission, the Nuclear Energy Commission, the Civil Aeronautics Board, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Power Commission, and until I came along on the Federal Communications Commission.

And there are a host of other commissions and agencies on par with or just slightly below the above-named in terms of power and status. These include the Energy Research and Development Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Labor Relations Board.

The list goes on and on, plus jobs in the State Department and with the Foreign Service, where blacks are still employed in far too few numbers, and in positions that lead nowhere.

Not long ago I remarked that some forty or fifty items may come before the Commission every week for resolution and most of those items in some way touch on black and minority concerns.

Now I am not egotistical enough to believe that some of these concerns would not be addressed were I or any other black presence not here. But reflecting on the past sorry history of the broadcast industry in respect to blacks and other minorities, how can one be sure?

I do believe my presence has had a decided impact, not just in terms of increasing the sensitivity of blacks, other minorities and women to the workings of the FCC and to the fact that this agency is mandated by Congress to serve in the interest necessity and convenience of all the people. But I believe it has served to sensitize persons with the Commission.

For example, recently Chairman Richard Wiley ordered that the FCC hold a Minority Broadcast Owner's Conference to look into charges that, among other things, black licensees are discriminated against by national advertising firms.

Wiley did this on his own, without a suggestion from me. But, I know that had there not been my black presence on this Commission for so many years, such a conference may never have been called.

This is not because Wiley is a bad man or doesn't like minorities. Quite the contrary, he is a decent man and under his chairmanship many things beneficial to blacks and minorities have happened. It is that he is human and if there are no minority concerns of pressures about, well, those in charge will certainly not go looking for them. It is the simple.



Education Is Power

By Thomas E. Wilson,
Ph.D.

Christmas time has rolled around again, and we all go scurrying off to different places to purchase or make gifts for our loved ones. This custom is as old as Christmas itself, and has been commercialized to a larger extent than it was originally intended. However, we think that it is a great to remember our loved ones and friends at least once a year either with cards or gifts.

Our children will be underfoot for approximately two weeks. They will become bored and turn to the television, the streets or something equally or more exciting for entertainment.

The purpose of this column this week is to present some alternatives to boredom, frustration etc., for both students and parents during this holiday season.

Some things that we might consider are: (1) Do we have all of our assignments up to date, or could we have time during the holiday season to catch up on them? Another question closely connected with the one mentioned above is do we understand how to do our assignments even if we had the time to do them, and if not where could we go for help during the holiday season? Have we considered the libraries? (2) Could we spend some time in the libraries around town reading or just browsing in order to increase our knowledge of things around us? (3) Have we considered helping around the house with such things as home repair activities, cleaning etc.? (4) What about reading some good books during the holiday season? Not only does this keep us from becoming bored, but it also adds to our storehouse of information. (5) Travel seems to add to our educational experiences, and has a relaxing effect on our nerves. Could we take a short or long trip, observing things as we move along in order that we may be able to share our experiences, and our friends when we return to school? There is much to see within a one-hundred mile radius of our fair city, and we would certainly recommend that we explore this state for beauty, excitement, and information. (6) Older students may find it very rewarding if they would seek out smaller children who are having trouble with their schoolwork especially with their reading, and begin tutoring sessions either in their homes or in a public meeting place such as a library, a church,

etc. (7) Have we considered going to a retirement home and finding out if there are errands that we can do? (Before doing this, please clear with the retirement home manager). There are several of these around town who seem to want younger people to read to their live-ins, to take them for walks around the area. There are usually no monetary rewards for this, but the pride one gets from having helped someone of this nature far outweighs any monetary value that may be attached to this effort. one of the day-care centers around town? The feeling one receives from having helped a small child is so gratifying that it can serve to change our

The list of possibilities for the prevention of boredom and for the fulfillment of one's self during the holidays is almost endless. The activities listed above are suggestive, and represent some that this writer has found extremely rewarding in his only by our imagination and our willingness to participate in wholesome activity.

Above all, remember that during this season, our spouses, parents, friends, etc. are extending themselves for us. All we have to do is to reach out and accept with gratefulness the things that are being done for us. Sometimes it is through giving what we receive the most. This may seem difficult to understand, but our intellectual and emotional make-ups are of such that we feel better when we are giving happiness to others

The Christmas season is a time of giving. It is also a time for receiving. God gave his son for us, to make us happy and to preserve our very being. Let us be sure that we keep Christ in Christmas and do not X Him out as in the abbreviation for Christmas that is usually spelled Xmas. May your holiday season be one of great joy and peace!

The Hughes Report

By Thomas F. Hughes



A report that Andrew Young has been nominated for Ambassador to the United Nations is very gratifying and represents a forward and progressive look by President-elect Jimmy Carter. His position as ambassador will mean a new direction for the African and Mid-East countries. Who else could represent them as ably as a black man who has been a part of the Anti-Black Pro-White Southern philosophy. It is true that the South is now becoming a bulwark in decency and fair attitudes that is superior to those of the North and West. The South has no Boston, Pasadena or Los Angeles where the schools are having serious problems about racism, separate schools, etc. The South is leading the way and Andrew Young has been an integral part of it. Blacks are leaving California and Nevada to return to the South where better attitudes and opportunities are now surpassing those in the rest of these United States.

On Sunday, December 12, my beautiful wife and I went to the Moulin Rouge to attend the Chaney Chaney Committee Program. It was our first visit to the main showroom of the Moulin Rouge and I was favorably impressed. Certainly that room is superior to some of the Strip Hotel Rooms and one wonders why we have not been using it instead of carrying our money to the Strip Hotels.

Of course some hotels have offered their rooms without cost but the Chaney Committee chose the Rouge Room. The big significance here is a belated re-appraisal of what we have on the Westside. It also represents a change in attitude about the Westside as a suitable location for our affairs. We should all be thankful for this new sensible approach. This is at least a start of "taking pride in West Las Vegas." Remember the slogan "Sell West Las Vegas Up." Three cheers for the progressive thinking that brought this about. But the Big Evening surprise was Ben Brown who has turned out to be Jimmy Carter's right hand man. He recounted how he and Rev. Albert Dunn walked the streets of Atlanta in the civil rights drive, knocked doors and stirred up interest and action and improved the civil liberties of both black and white. He recounted how the "Jimmy Carter For President" idea was born, its ability to gain the support of Martin Luther King, Sr. and numerous other black leaders nationwide, and the victories of the primaries which finally resulted in Carter becoming President. It was a feather in our cap to be able to get Ben Brown in Las Vegas. Ben Brown and the re-opening of Moulin Rouge are two high spots in 1976. Input from such people is part of what we need and it is to be hoped we will make more such efforts to reach, bring in and consult with this kind of black leadership. I think we are beginning to move in West Las Vegas. Hooray!!!!

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