



Benjamin L. Hooks

FCC

For a large part of human history and continuing to the present time, the view firmly held was that freedom was a thing to be wrested from the clutches of would-be or actual oppressors. And that it was something that must be zealously guarded, lest some war-like neighbor swoop down and snatch it away or destroy it.

The contradiction or paradox of our times, the thing that so disarms us, I guess, is that this nation which pays such eloquent lip service to the ideals of democracy, to the concepts of Christianity and of its founder, Jesus Christ, has not lived up to these moving ideals and sacred concepts.

Were it not for this, there would not be this schizophrenia in our national psyche. Had this nation at the outset declared we do not recognize the equality of man; we do not recognize the concept that every man has certain inalienable rights, we simply maintain that those of us who own land, or have finished college, or were born to wealth and privilege, or with white skin, or whatever the arbitrary classification, will forever hold the reins of power and dominance.

Then, when the subsequent revolution came to change this ridiculous imbalance, one would have surely talked about the arrogance of such a creed, but not the hypocrisy of those who held it.

But all this is philosophical. The fact remains, Jefferson and his colleagues under what I believe was the inspiration of God, did write this moving document, the Declaration of Independence. They did proclaim it. They did publish it. And for 200 years, no matter how imperfectly, we have been as a nation moving more or less toward that lofty goal.

The most bloody war in U.S. History was the Civil War and no matter how one views it, it stemmed directly from the hard intractable issue of slavery. Some may say it stemmed from freight rate imbalances, from the struggle for dominance of the industrial (north) over the agrarian (south). But the fact remains the end result of that conflict was the abolition of slavery.

The truth of the matter, however, is that after the Hayes-Tilden compromise of 1876 which entailed the withdrawal of federal troops from protecting newly-freed slaves in the south, we sank into a despicable period of disfranchisement of blacks that was virtually unrelieved until the period immediately following World War II, in the 1940's. In many southern states blacks simply could not vote in the Democratic primaries at that time.

The thing I am trying to emphasize, however, is that in this third century of our founding, we are now presented the Golden opportunity to break free from this debilitating past. I have tried to say this in many places throughout our country: "There are things in our country that transcend race, or color, or creed or previous condition of servitude."

What we must be on guard against are those people who look now with disdain upon the feeble efforts of blacks to acquire the rights of citizenship. They decry these efforts with sneers of "reverse discrimination."

A few years ago, it was possible for banks, for example, to advertise for clerks and tellers and say that no blacks need apply. This did not violate any law at that time.

The Civil Rights Act's affirmative action section now not only prohibits this kind of recruitment, but tells the employer that he must make positive efforts to seek blacks and other minorities and women for potential employment, and he must present some plan in respect to how he plans to seek these minorities.

When this didn't work, other remedies had to be sought. In Alabama, for instance, a federal judge noted that there were no black state troopers. His court had held the case for five years under advisement. He then placed the Alabama Highway Patrol Department under goals, quotas and timetables' constraints, declaring that at some future date this department would have to have a certain number of blacks employed. This was a remedial measure only.

Continued on Page 7

VOICE EDITORIALS

The Hughes Report

CANDIDATES

On Sunday, February 27th between 1:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. the members of the NAACP, Las Vegas Branch will choose a President, Vice President, Secretaries, Treasurer, etc. The choosing of officers is doubly important in this election so as to stop the slow death of the NAACP here. In the 1974 election a report states there were over 800 members in this Local Branch and in the regular election time in 1976 there were only 394 members - less than half the 1974 membership. The records will show that my wife and I brought in over 100 of those members. At this writing, we have been in the Local Branch some 19 months, and there has been no membership campaign for the average citizen - only a drive for Life Memberships which call for \$500.00. That is good, but most people cannot afford Life Memberships. Each month, when the Treasurer is asked for his report, we are simply told how much money is in the bank - no breakdown of receipts or where disbursements were made or what for. Although the Nevada Equal Rights Commission (N.E.R.C.) has worked out an agreement with the MGM Grand Hotel to recruit and upgrade blacks and other minorities, I have learned of nothing the NAACP has accomplished in this area. In fact, I can not tell you of any accomplishment in the time I have been here unless you want to call the Bachelor's Ball and the Walk-A-Thon accomplishments. They were good and raised a tidy sum for the NAACP, but I am afraid that the purpose of the Association is misunderstood if raising money is our only goal. It is always easy to stand outside and knock those who are on the inside and it then becomes an albatross around the neck of whoever gets inside, but it is hard for me to believe that the Branch could not have made more inroads into our problems. But somehow, the Branch has lost its zip and needs a new spark of life. This must be supplied by the new administration in order to put new life in the Local Branch. Some new thinking, new ideas, new approaches are sorely needed. The members must decide which of the candidates can best do that. It is axiomatic that people who seldom or never come to meetings have no interest in the organization, and it is foolhardy to assume they know what is going on. For Vice President we have Sarah Ann Knight (a staunch, always present supporter of the Branch) and Bernard Rivers (head of the local A. Phillip Randolph Institute) as candidates. In the Presidential race there is a Mr. Collins whom I never saw at a meeting until he placed himself in nomination. Then there is Dr. James McMillan, who I only remember seeing at two meetings - one when the nominating committee was elected and one after the election was stopped for irregularities. Dr. McMillan is a former President of the Las Vegas Branch, but reports say he only served 6 months and then resigned, so a question arises? Will he run only for publicity, or whatever, and then resign again? If so, why is he running? I have never seen him at any other Westside Civic meetings I have attended. Nor have I seen him at any Religious meetings, or concerts. I am the third candidate and I have never missed a meeting in 19 months and win or lose, I will still be at future meetings in an effort to help strengthen our Branch and push for our much needed improvements. I solicit your vote and ask that you make this Black boy from Georgia your President, just as America made a White boy from Georgia its President. We need good local representation.

Phil's Salvage, Inc.
Builders Emporium

NEW & USED BUILDING SUPPLIES

PHIL DAVE
362-7522
1121 SO. MAIN



Education is Power

BY: Thomas E. Wilson, Ph. D.

This is an open letter to Black parents. It is hoped that parents who read it will remember that not too many years ago, they too were children.

Dear Parents:

Kids aren't always "nice". Some children may have physical defects that bother them socially; others may be retarded or emotionally disturbed; most have none of these problems but still do some strange and puzzling things. There isn't a so called "normal" kid who goes by the book all of the time. Somewhere along the line of growing up every child behaves in a peculiar fashion.

We as parents want to love our children, but there are times when we may not be able to express that love. There is nothing badly wrong with that. We have feelings too. Even if we can't show love, we can show understanding. That's what love is all about, and every child knows it.

Every time we hear or read about some expert or other recommending that when kids become too hard to handle parents should "seek professional help," we have to wonder: Where do we find such help? Can we wait long enough to get it? Can we afford it?

We are all for professional help. But such help is hard to find and is usually very expensive. Treatment also takes time. Then, too, some children may need residential care. That means going away and good facilities are even harder to find and more expensive.

Then, what does a parent do who can't find such help, or can't afford it? What is to be done if there is a long waiting list and help is desperately needed now? We must be realistic. We may have no alternative but to manage by ourselves. We feel that parents can manage the "impossible" child at home if they know what they are doing and how much they are capable of doing. Some parents can do more than others, or in less time. We should assess our parental goals and capabilities.

the aid of the Black churches or reliable relatives such as uncles, aunts, grandparents, etc., to help us manage our children.

"Put the parent back in the driver's seat" is a saying that we often see on television. One question: When did we as parents get out of the driver's seat? We believe that every child wants the parent in the driver's seat, but will push the parent as far as he/she can.

Parents are capable of doing something to make the child easier to live with, but first it is important to relieve the parent's tensions and feelings of inadequacy. Children are not helped when parents are indicted for their (the children's) behavior. If parents are blamed for the way children turn out, they will take out their resentment on the children. This means that the whole family will have more problems than ever. If parents understand that they, too, are human, they will be able to manage their children.

Attitudes affect a child much more than words. Words are important, but knowing how to use them is even more important.

We as parents must feel like somebodies in order to make our children feel like somebodies. Every child needs self-discipline if he is to grow up as an emotionally healthy and self-sufficient individual. It is impossible to instill these qualities in a child if we as parents go around feeling sorry for ourselves if our children hasn't turned out the way we wanted them to or blame ourselves, and feel ashamed because sometimes we can't stand our children.

Remember some kids are harder to raise than others. Nobody knows exactly why. We must not blame ourselves. We must give ourselves the

Continued on Page 7