

NEW DAY BEGUN

by

Benjamin L. Hooks



As we enter the New Year, it is well that we review carefully the findings of a poll conducted by the Lee Slurzberg company among black urban dwellers and released last summer. More than 82 percent of black high school and college graduates regarded employment and economic development as their priority issue.

Another segment of the poll found that 77 percent of all blacks felt that American society has serious problems, while only 20 percent saw this nation's way of life as superior to that of other countries. Another minority felt that the American system is too rotten for repair and should be replaced entirely.

Underlying these pessimistic views, are the disastrous economic conditions in black communities around the country. Certainly, there are those who have moved up the ladder, thanks to the NAACP and the civil rights movement. But, there is also a permanent and growing underclass among the poor, especially blacks, and this segment gets bigger with each passing year.

The other reality is that the actual income gap between blacks and whites has worsened considerably since the sixties.

Our New Year's resolution, therefore, must be to develop a significant and effective strategy to remedy this problem. For that reason, I announced at the NAACP convention last June in St. Louis that, as Executive Director, I would be calling a conference on black leaders when I assumed office. This call is now being issued formally to every major black organizations to join the NAACP in a national conference, which will focus on a number of issues, including black unemployment.

The problem of joblessness is a problem that this country has faced since its very beginning. There have been booms and busts. The capitalistic cycle has produced that king of economy. And it seems to me that this is a fundamental question which this nation must face, as a nation, if we are to continue the system of government and private capitalism that we have espoused.

I say that as one who feels that this is a good system, a sound system. I'm not trying to advocate the overthrow of it. But I simply would suggest that the problem of inflation, the problem of joblessness is not peculiar to America.

The whole of the Western world (in France, England, Italy, maybe Germany not so much at this moment), but the western capitalistic world is suffering from the problems of inflation, of jobs, of balance of trade -- all kinds of problems -- the threat of a world-wide depression. So we are not unique in that sense.

If there's any one lesson black folks should know by this time, ain't going to be no jobs for black folks until there are jobs for all folks. We have a dual responsibility at the NAACP. We recognize that.

We've prodded President Carter and Congress on some jobs legislation because we recognize that as long as there is joblessness in America, we're going to have more of it than anybody else. Less jobs and more joblessness.

Our first concern then is the push for employment, jobs legislation, not just for black folks, but for people. Then, having done that, we then have to push to make sure that blacks get their proportional share, because if not, it will happen like it always does . . . they'll create 200,000 jobs and we'll get a handful of them, and most of them are gone the other way.

That has already happened. President Carter attempted to address the youth unemployment problem last year. But to his and our utter dismay, it was found that youth, it was found that youths had received their

fair share of these jobs. White youths had benefitted more.

So the question of black unemployment is a dual one involving economics and racism. So our goal for the New Year must be creating jobs, and making certain that blacks and other minorities get their fair share.

LVIA

A new organization, Las Vegas Improvement Association (LVIA) is being organized on the Westside.

There will be a meeting on Tuesday evening January 10, 1978 and again on Tuesday, January 24, 1978 at 7:30 P.m. at the "D" Street Library.

This organization is designed to develop job training, job placement, and small business assistance for an area where it will fill a gap not now covered by other organizations now on the Westside. The organization is not out to compete with existing organizations.

The goals are to be an action group - NOT - a bunch of talkers without accomplishing anything - in other words - shakers and movers - Basically run along the lines of a Chamber of Commerce.

NAACP is the legal arm of the Civil Rights movement.

SCLC is the implementor.

PUCH is working for educational excellence.

URBAN LEAGUE is working for job promotions and placement of higher echelons.

LVIA is going to work to fill the vacuum for the youth and small businessmen/women. Let us see you at the next meeting.

EOB

The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County's Scholarship Committee wishes to announce the following awards for the Spring 1978 academic semester. Awards were based on scholastic performance and awards based on need, a total of \$611.00 was given to ten individuals to continue their education. The following persons received the EOB Scholarship Awards: Mrs. Jayne A. Bishop, Mrs. Shirley A. Yancey, Ms. Tommie W. Medlock, Mrs. Dorothy Stringfiedl, Mrs. Ernestine Ellis, Ms. Rosie L. Beatty, Ms. Patricia A. Mickel, Ms. Alfreda W. Chapman, Mr. Anthony Reyes, Ms. Eva M. Vickers. The Scholarship Committee thanks these employees for their interest and wishes them well in their upcoming studies.

YETP

The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) is sponsoring the Youth Employment and Training Program (YETP). The purpose of this program is to establish projects designed to make a significant long-term impact on the structural unemployment problems of our youth, supplementary to but not replacing programs and activities available under Title I of this Act. To enhance the job prospects and career opportunities of young persons including employment, community service opportunities, and such training and supportive services as are necessary to unable participants to secure suitable and appropriate employment in the public and private sections of the economy. To the maximum extent feasible, training and employment opportunities afforded under this project will be interrelated and mutually reinforcing so as to achieve the goal of enhancing the job prospects and career opportunities of youths served under this program.

Eligibility for this program is that the youths be out of school and between 16 & 21 years of age. The program is to provide 85% of the lower living standard income level to be used for determining the eligibility of individuals applying for the Youth Employment and Training Program. Section 345 of the Youth Employment and Demonstration Projects Act requires that the gross family income of youths applying for YETP be equal to or less than 85 percent of the lower living standard income level.

Lower Living Standard Income Level i.e. eighty-five percent of lower living Standard Income level.

Family Size		
1	2	3
\$3,160	\$5,180	\$7,110
4	5	6
\$8,780	\$10,370	\$12,120

Applicants who meet the above standards may enroll in this program which starts January 9, 1978 . . . between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at the EOB Westside School located on Washington and "D" Streets. For further information please contact Suites 9 and 10 at the Westside School.

Check Voice for Quick Service Ads.


NOTICE!
"HOUSING PAYDAYS"
January 15, 1978
 MEETING: 4:30 P.M.
 TRYOUTS: 5:00 P.M.
 PRACTICE: 5:30 P.M.
 A D GUY COMMUNITY CENTER

Continued from Page 4 Column 3 children to join Mabel Hoggard's "Youth Savings Program," monitoring the programs for senior citizens, developing job training programs, etc.


Golden West Shopping Center should be restored to its former prominence by rehabbing it and bringing in some new businesses and facilities. The stage is set. Now we must act. Let's make it a good show. "HAPPY NEW YEAR".

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