

# The Publisher Speaks



## Paul Robeson, Cherished

GUEST EDITORIAL

Paul Robeson, who died on January 23, 1976, was loved and cherished not only by the Black people -- whose cause he championed and whose dignity he embodied -- but by all people who suffered the sting of discrimination because of their race or religion.

In his book, "Here I Stand", Robeson declared:

"I do care -- and care deeply -- about the America of the common people whom I have met across the land . . . the working men and women whose picket lines I've joined, auto workers, seamen, cooks and stewards, furriers, miners, steel workers; and the foreign-born, the various nationality groups, the Jewish people with whom I have been especially close; and the middle-class progressives, the people of the arts and sciences, the students -- all of that America of which I sang in 'Balled for Americans,' the 'Etceteras and the And-so forths, that do the work.'"

The editor of Jewish Currents magazine, in an article marking the publication of a new edition of "Here I Stand" in 1977, observed:

It was not only that Robeson was popular among Jews, as he was among others, as a great singer and actor . . . As an artist he expressed his solidarity with Jews by singing our folk songs and our hymns of struggle, not only here but all over the world, including the Soviet Union . . . He was a leader in social action, especially in the struggle for unity of Black and white, Black and Jew."

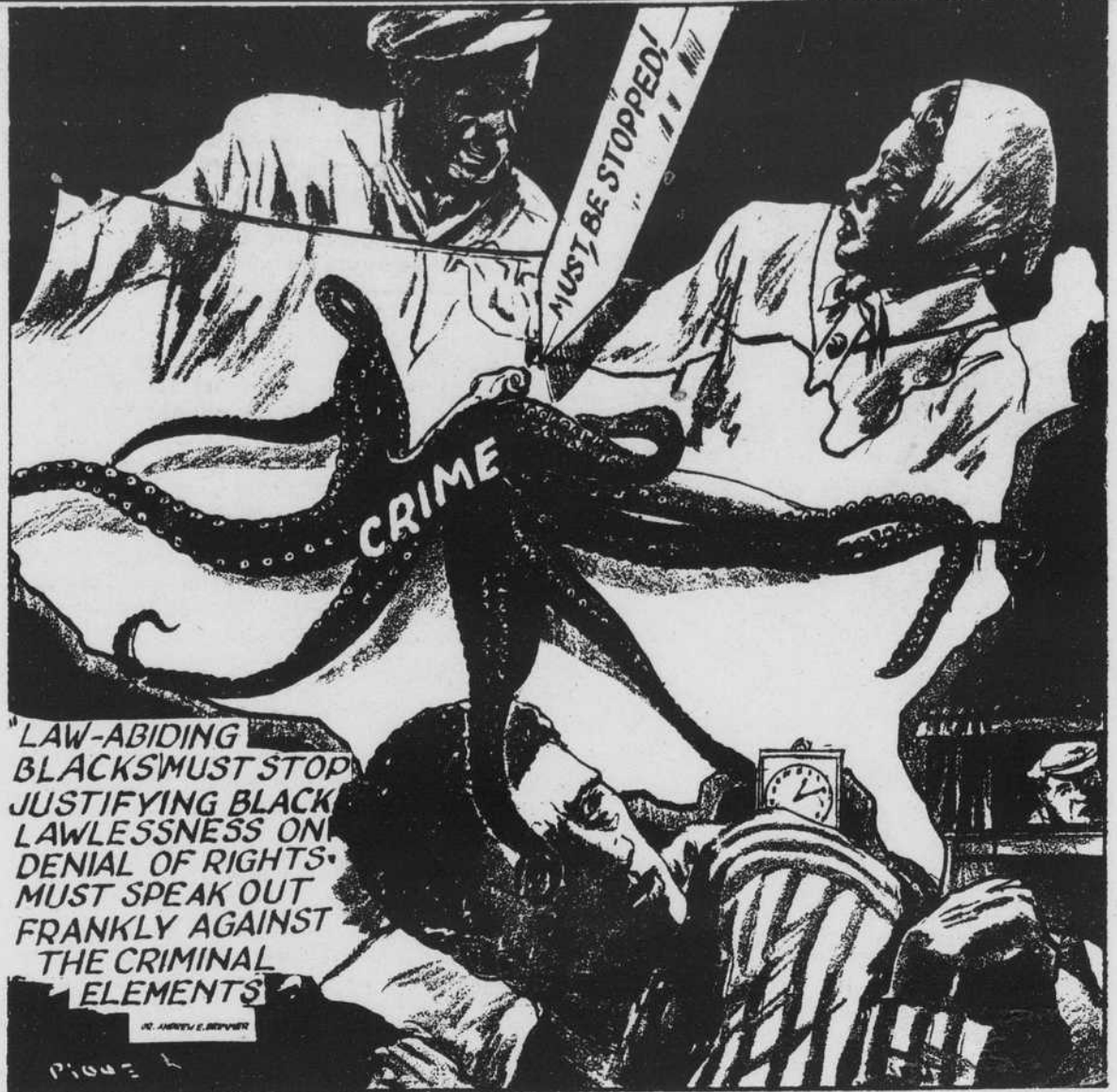
Robeson wrote an article for Jewish Currents in 1954, on the 300th anniversary of the arrival of the first Jews on American soil, in which he observed:

If it has been true that the Jewish people, like so many other national groups for whom I have sung, have warmly understood and loved the songs of my people, it has also been true that Negro audiences have been moved by songs of the Jewish people.

"The Hassidic chant, for example, has a profound impact on the Negro listener not only for its content -- a powerful protest against an age-old persecution -- but also because of its form: the phrasing and rhythm have counterparts in traditional Negro sermon songs. And here, too, is a bond that can be traced back through the centuries to a common heritage."

On of the most moving of Robeson's expressions of solidarity for the Jewish people occurred at a special concert he gave in Moscow in 1958. As Dr. Samuel Dresner tells it in his book, "Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev:

"The hall was filled to overflowing with mili-  
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## Just the FACTS

### Minority Women

Over two million minority families are headed by women. According to the Department of Labor, there was a 16% increase between 1974 and 1977.

"Divorce, separation and a general relaxation of social pressure to get married are some of the reasons that account for this increase" says Dr. George Jackson, professor of human behavior at Howard University, Washington, D.C.

But women who suddenly find themselves heading a family have to shoulder all sorts of responsibility including money management. "And women today are faced with new options" says Dr. Jackson.

He points out that until a few years ago, a female by herself found it difficult to get credit, or hold certain property. Men were approached differently from women on money matters. "But now" he cautions "the danger is that women are being addressed as a group that can be sold anything. Therefore women must learn to be careful."

He explains "Good money management entails not having conspicuous consumption as a value. It implies that you don't spend to show others you have arrived. You use your hard-earned dollars as a cushion for your future, to guard against those days when you're ill, old or just having a bad time."

So once you acquire some money you have to decide how you're going to use it. If you choose to put it to work for you, investing could be the way to go. An investment should suit a woman's goals and pocketbook. There are lots of alternatives. From a savings account to a house. From stocks to bonds. Or any of hundreds of different mutual funds which, because they invest in many securities to spread the risk and are run by professional managers, can be particularly good for someone new to investing.

There is all sorts of information available on investing. For a house, consult a real estate agent. For stocks write the New York Stock Exchange in New York. For mutual funds write

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### BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By: Charles E. Belle

### Inflation

Big business, led by Bank America Corporation, \$81 billion in assets, concurs with President Carter in calling inflation the country's number one problem. Talking to third the motion is labor. The AFL-CIO Executive Council at its October 1978 meeting, stated it "agrees with President Carter's conclusion that inflation is the nation's number one problem, supports his determination that prompt, remedial action must be taken; and concurs in his contention that austerity must be shared equally by all Americans."

It is this last comment which people of color are deeply concerned about in the fight against inflation. Presently the President's program places more emphasis on risking a recession, which rhymes with black depression, than creating an equally austere program for everyone in the country.

Salomon Brothers, a leading Wall Street investment banking firm, projects a high rate of inflation, high interest rates and credit rationing to combine to produce a recession later this year. Wall Street and the stock market went weak with the news.

Black Americans have been traditionally last hired and first fired in this racist society. While national unemployment rate held steady in November of last year, black and other minorities continue to creep up. The jobless rates for whites for November was 5% but for Black Americans and other minority groups it climbs to 11.8%.

Black American teen-agers official unemployment topped the list at 36.2%. During a recession these figures can only run higher, especially for young Black Americans. A Carter appointee, Federal Reserve Board Chairman G. William Miller, says "a recession isn't likely, although economic growth will slow and that may mean higher unemployment. In short, even the best of plans provide for higher Black American unemployment this year.

Former U. S. Commissioner of Education Terrel H. Bell, stated "Work in America is

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## LAS VEGAS VOICE

NEVADA'S BLACK COMMUNITY WEEKLY  
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