



The Publisher Speaks

Black History: A Tradition Of Caring

February is Black History Month--a time to look at the past and plan for the future--an appropriate time for black people to consider committing a year or two of their lives in helping others either through VISTA or the Peace Corps.

February is also Peace Corps/VISTA Month, a time to salute over 132,000 men and women who have shared their skills, experience, and dedication as Peace Corps of VISTA volunteers over the years.

Black people have a tradition of struggle, a sense of caring for others, and history of involvement in the movement for human dignity. I see many parallels between serving as a Peace Corps or VISTA volunteer and participation in the civil rights movement which was so effective in the past two decades.

It takes a special kind of person, an unusual person, to be a Peace Corps or VISTA volunteer. just as it took the initiative of a special few to spark the civil rights movement of the 1960's. Black history records that our revolutionary movements were sparked, not by the majority of students on any college campus or the general population of any neighborhood or town, but by the audacity of a courageous, committed, caring few.

Being a Peace Corps or VISTA volunteer requires the same kind of courage and commitment as the sit-ins or the Freedom Rides of the early 1960's. It takes an individual who believes change is possible -- one who is willing to invest time, energy and love in work which uplifts others.

VISTA and the Peace Corps comprise an army of volunteers in much the same sense as did the civil rights movement. This is a non-violent army, a movement to help people help themselves, a movement to enhance the quality of life for people on a sugar cane plantation in the South, in the ghettos of our nation's urban areas, on Indian reservations, in the barriers of the Southwest, and in 63 nations around the world. It is a movement to help those who are forgotten in a sea of poverty, those left out and left behind, the underclasses of the world.

No one can help a community organization deal with problems created by poverty like someone who has been there. VISTA volunteers work in rural and urban areas, in projects such as organizing nutrition and health programs, assisting farmer and consumer cooperatives, bringing together tenant and neighborhood groups to rehabilitate housing, or setting up centers for battered spouses, to name only a few.

More than half of the 4,000 VISTA's today serve in their own communities. About 15 percent are low-income men and women who are build-

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BLACK HISTORY



1817-1895
FREDERICK DOUGLASS
EX-SLAVE WHO BECAME A GREAT ABOLITIONIST ORATOR, ADVISER TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN.



1858-1915
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
WHAT IS THE ANSWER, WHITE ACCOMMODATION ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY.



1868
W.E.B. DUBOIS
PHILOSOPHER EDUCATOR PUBLISHER AUTHOR ORGANIZER.



ADAM CLAYTON POWELL



MARCUS GARVEY
BLACK NATIONALIST
"A RACE WITHOUT AUTHORITY AND POWER IS A RACE WITHOUT RESPECT."
"WE MUST GIVE OUR CHILDREN A SENSE OF PRIDE IN BEING BLACK. THE GLORY OF OUR PAST AND THE DIGNITY OF OUR PRESENT MUST LEAD THE WAY TO THE POWER OF OUR FUTURE."



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING
"HE DID NOT EMBRACE NON-VIOLENCE OUT OF FEAR OR COWARDICE, HE CHALLENGED INJUSTICE WITHOUT A GUN."
DR. BENJAMIN MAYS

Just the FACTS

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By: Charles E. Belle

OIC To Seek Jobless Youth For Training

A nationwide "street corner recruiting effort" to match and train unemployed youths for existing job opportunities was announced this week by OIC of America as the result of an emergency executive assembly of the organization held here recently.

Features of the plan were outlined by Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, founder and chairman of OIC, who said, "We will not let our youth be sacrificed on the altar of anti-inflation policies and balanced budgets."

The plan calls for "Help Our Youth" rallies to be organized in each of the more than 200 communities in which OIC operates Opportunities Industrialization Centers where over 500,000 disadvantaged individuals of all races have been trained for employment opportunities.

The National OIC Clergy Committee will sponsor the rallies during the last week of March in community churches with the involvement of local athletes and entertainers, elected officials and representatives of business and industry.

At the rallies, unemployed youths will be matched with specific job opportunities and then enlisted to undertake OIC training to qualify them for the committed employment.

Appeals also will be signed, with the objective of obtaining more than one million signatures, to be

to pass an OIC Youth Bill that will target government funds to support youth job creation and training.

"This will be an all-out effort," Rev. Sullivan said. "We'll go to the youth. We'll reach the unreachable. America, with its three million unemployment crisis becomes a disaster."

The black Baptist minister, who founded OIC in 1964 as a small self-help-oriented training facility established in an old Philadelphia jailhouse leased for \$1.00 a year, noted that he already has obtained congressional and other government support for the concept.

The Black Connection

If business development and full employment are interrelated, we then must ask why unemployment continues to rise among Black Americans in an up economy? Latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data declares 65,000 more Black Americans unemployed, while whites obtained 49,000 more jobs in November, 1978.

Thus, the black unemployment gap grows deeper as Black Americans unemployment rate rose from 11.4% in October to 11.8% in November, in face of a falling rate for whites from 5.1% to 5%, effecting the steady major media published rate of 5.8%. It is painfully clear that the Law helps those who helps themselves.

To create a strong economic base for Black America, finances must be found for the community. In addition to internal sources of funds, external aid may be available from the mother country. Concerned voices of two leading Black American organizations have called for financial investments by African nations, meaning Nigeria.

Nigeria is the second major supplier of imported petroleum to the United States. U.S. Department of Commerce figures reflect that 17% of U.S. crude oil imports approaching 2.4 billion barrels in 1977 were supplied by Nigeria. This netted Nigeria over \$5 billion that year, given its premium priced petroleum.

It's not surprising that Tom Goines, the new president of the National Bankers Association (NBA) which represents about 80% of the nation's minority-owned banks, wants to establish a connection with African and Arab depositors. Nigeria alone has over three times the cash flow of the total \$2 billion in assets of NBA members. Any infusion of Nigerian oil dollars would couple cash with clout for the Black American community.

Nigeria supplies a significant amount of petroleum to several of the seven sisters of the oil kingdom. Texaco has just recently expanded its operations in Nigeria, and British Petroleum and Gulf get over 13% of Iranian oil supplies

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LAS VEGAS VOICE

NEVADA'S BLACK COMMUNITY WEEKLY
"An Uninterrupted Publication Since 1963"

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Lawrence Albert.....Publisher
Sandra Albert.....Editor
Barbara Robinson.....Office Manager

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
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Telephone 648-2615

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