

The Publisher Speaks



Energy is the power in home lighting, heating, cooking, refrigeration, freezing, cooling, television and radio reception. Electricity is the energy which powers the trolley and trains which take workers to their jobs. It works the machines, the tools, the elevators, the assembly line belts, the computers and typewriters; even the coffee and soda machines. Oil, gas and coal perform basic heating functions.

There has not been time in America for Blacks when employment was not a critical issue; with the exception of warteme. Today, with America's trillion-dollar economy, with government spending at an all-time high, the Black community is in a state of depression; with youth employment at an astounding 40%.

What has this to do with energy? Plenty. There are powerful forces in this country, with heavy financial backing, which want the increasingly required amount of energy production reduced. They want to stop the building of electric and nuclear plants; plants which could easily supply the energy for the present and for the progressive future. They claim a stoppage would stabilize the economy; that the country is over producing.

Amid this din, the Blacks and the poor must not be fooled in the least. If the skyrocketing demand for energy is reduced, then industry stops growing and expanding. Jobs diminish. The old last hired and first fired comes back into play. In other words, disaster for Blacks.

Some factions of the anti-nuclear and anti-energy forces claim a deep love for the environment; that new plants are dangerous and their building and operations will harm the environment. Protecting the environment can well be the position of the white middle and upper classes. Their cash and property reserves can cushion them against economic statemate.

But for the Blacks and the poor the environment would have to take a second spot to critical unemployment which would become even more critical. Blacks cannot stand a no-growth position. As bad as things already are, national growth is the only chance for Black growth survival.

President Carter has offered the solution of energy conservation. But what is really needed is additional sources of energy; sources which America can control. At the rate the need for electricity is increasing . . . to run the plants, light the homes, and move mass transit . . . there will not be enough power in the next eleven years to do the job. Not if new plants and new sources are not found.

Without touching on gasoline rate increases, but dealing with the creature comforts like heat, light cooking . . . who would suffer most from cutback in energy? If the generating sources of gas, electricity were slowed down,



THE NEW AWARENESS.

Just the FACTS

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By: Charles E. Belle

Entry forms for the 1979 edition of the \$100,000 Mint 400 Desert Race, to be held in Las Vegas, April 26-29, have been mailed, according to Andrew M. Zorne, Vice President and General Manager of Del Webb's Mint Hotel & Casino.

The annual springtime classic, the richest and most prestigious event in off-road racing, will pit drivers and their racing machines against the tortuous Nevada desert outside of Las Vegas. The course is approximately 100 miles long with each car racing four laps.

In just eleven years this exciting desert race has become a classic, drawing some of the biggest names in racing and show business. A variety of celebrities take part each year including Speedking Mickey Thompson and Indy 500 winner, Parnelli Jones.

One of the highlights of the event is the technical inspection or racing cars on Fremont Street the day and night before the race, providing spectators with a close look at the drivers and their highly engineered racing cars. Technical inspection will be held Friday, April 27, with the race beginning from the Las Vegas International Speedrome near Nellis Air Force Base on Saturday, April 28.

For more information, contact: Mint 400 Racing Headquarters, P.O. Box 2160, Las Vegas, NV 89101.

CHINA, COMMOTION AND COMMERCE
While sitting quietly on a local black leadership conference panel, looking nonchalant, a question on doing business in China was pointed at me. Hey you up there with the nappy hair, how 'bout us brothers doin' some business in China!!

Jumping to my feet, I hollered back the same too er! Because doing business with China for Black Americans is about like doing business with white America. The Chinese are noted for being shrewd shoppers in any society and mainly their own.

To make matters worse, China is a communist country which means everything goes through the central control first and then out of the country. Government purchases are massives and tend to be made to big businesses as opposed to small business owned and operated by Black Americans.

Caution has got to be the watch word for doing business with the People's Republic of China (PRC). Mainland China has stressed economic self-reliance until just recently and such independence is reinforced periodically by China's negative experiences with Russia.

Political problems are not the only obvious obstacle in doing business with the PRC. The total value of the PRC'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCTS (all the goods and services produced in the country) amounted to \$353 billion in 1977. The United States GNP is \$2.3 trillion. The US 1980 federal budget alone is expected to be almost one and a half times larger than China's entire economy at a projected \$504 billion.

Nevertheless, nobody is going to ignore approximately one quarter of the world's population (some 950 million - one billion souls compared with 219 million in the U.S. and 412 million on the entire continent of Africa). The new great leap forward 10 year Economic development Plan is an ambitious plan aimed to achieve "four modernizations in agriculture, industry, the military and science." Such goals get a lot of publicity in the western press.

But Black Americans must remind themselves that the Chinese may continue to honor old friends, such as the English who eat, sleep and drink in Hong Kong,

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LAS VEGAS VOICE

NEVADA'S BLACK COMMUNITY WEEKLY
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THERE'S HOPE for humanity,
in its children.
There's hope for Democracy,
in its minorities.

KDWN Radio (720) 3:30 a.m. . . . LISTEN!

Zion United Methodist Church at, 2108 N. Riviera St. Maricn D. Bennett, Minister. The Chancel Choir will present, ZIONSCOPE, in keeping with Black History Month. Public is invited. Sunday, February, 18, at 6:30 p.m.