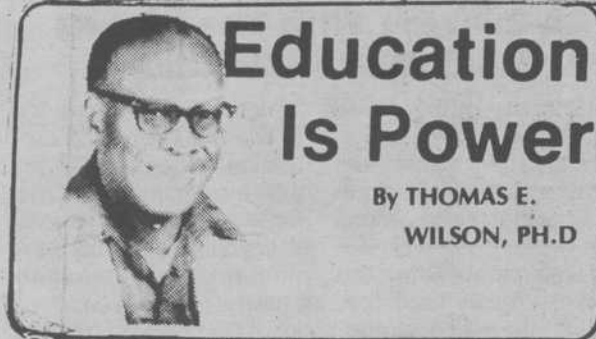


Education



Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D.

Many people feel that the education of children should begin as early as possible. This may be especially pertinent to Black children who come from impoverished homes that are caused by forces other than the children themselves or their parents.

Because of many factors commonly found in our American society, many Blacks, because of economics, segregation, and/or racism, have been deprived of the educational opportunities they so rightly

deserve.

It is the opinion of this writer that the school districts of a city or county should take it upon themselves to prepare all children for the educational experiences that lie ahead of them when they enter the formal world of education. In the long run, early preparation of these children would really help solve a lot of problems that would undoubtedly turn up if these children were ignored.

We must ask ourselves as teachers, university professors, administrators,

parents, etc., how we can best help all children become useful and successful members of society? We would do well to seek answers to this question before the child is enrolled in elementary school.

We must make sure that only the best, most progressive teachers are allowed to teach our children. Teachers must be well trained in cultural differences and how to cope with these differences if they are to work successfully with all children who present themselves in their classrooms.

Where should the education of children begin? We are very quick to say that basic educational experiences should begin in the home. But, what if, for some reason beyond the control of the people in the home, it does not begin in

the home? What if both parents work, or neither parent is literate, or there is a large family and there is no time or money for educational materials and/or equipment? We feel that if such conditions exist, then the local school districts, the state, and/or the federal government should step in to see that all needy children be introduced to some of the opportunities that other children have. For instance, most kindergarten and/or first grade teachers are delighted when children come to school unafraid of other adults, knowing their colors, their first and last names, addresses, telephone numbers, shapes, and several other relative things. Elementary teachers are also delighted when children come to school with a positive image of self. Children who come to school not knowing or caring about themselves do not usually do well in school. The self-concept of an individual is so important that it is usually considered the most significant aspect of an individual's educational experience.

Children, especially Black children, could benefit from a pre-school program that stresses the things mentioned above. After all, Black children deserve the best we can give them.

Funds to be earmarked for school buildings

Of \$26 million for required renovation and upgrading of older schools in the Clark County School District during the next five years just \$6.4 million, or approximately 25 percent, is earmarked to be funded from the Pay-As-You-Go Building Program. This small part of the Pay-As-You-Go Building Program will help protect the value of homeowners' property by maintaining an investment in buildings that already exist.

According to the CCSD Maintenance and Operations Director Vern Burk most of the \$26 million required for proposed renovation would be generated from two principal sources: motor vehicle privilege tax monies, and a portion of CCSD maintenance funds. 'The motor vehicle privilege tax,' said Burk, 'alone could generate \$14.2 million over the next five years, and could only be used for

rehab work at schools.'

Burk said that the same holds true for maintenance funding which would provide about \$1 million annually and is also earmarked for renovation work. 'Neither of these funding sources,' added Burk, 'has anything to do with the Pay-As-You-Go Building Program. These are separate, independent funding sources which already exist.'

The Pay-As-You-Go Building Program contains an entirely separate allocation of \$6,421,640 to be used over a five year period for school renovation including heating, cooling, electrical, plumbing and roofing repairs as well as asphalt repair work.

The Pay-As-You-Go Building Plan will be on the May 7 ballot. The Plan calls for construction of 19 new elementary schools, additions to existing schools, and renovation to older schools.

PALMER

from page 2

reality is that we always will be Black Americans—not simply American in a social sense. Thus, there is just as major a need for Black Americans to have a positive image of themselves as it is for White Americans to do so likewise.

Our Black-owned community-building newspapers not only have been helping to make up for that void in positive images of Black Americans...but many of our Black newspapers also have enabled our Black educators in the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. and others to join forces in re-educating our people about who we are.

(To be continued)

Science Fair April 9

The Southern Nevada 1985 Science Fair will be held at the UNLV Moyer Student Union Ballroom, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and April 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend the free exhibit of student science projects.

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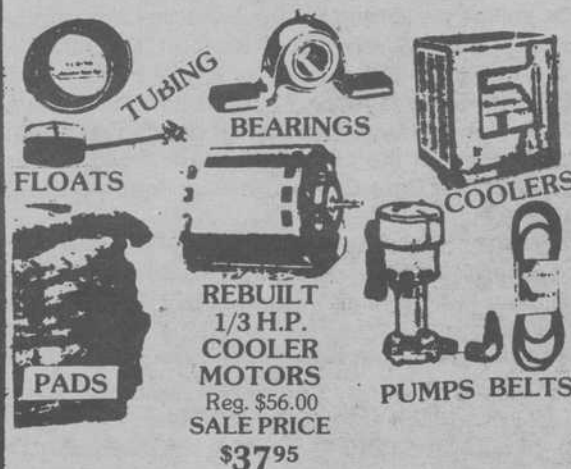
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