

# Sullivan..... (Continued from Page 8)

never knew before, such things as computers, sensors, lasers, microchips, robotics and so on. If we are to survive, we will need skills to become a part of this new mechanized world; otherwise the unemployment lines will grow longer, the welfare rolls larger and the deficits of the U.S. government bigger.

If America want to help solve the budget deficit problem, America should work towards taking people off welfare and putting them in training programs like OIC so they can become skilled workers and economic contributors to society. We are constantly being told that the overall outlook

for the national economy continues to improve, yet the economic plight of the disadvantaged communities still lags far behind the national average. For some things might be better, but for too many things have not changed. Obviously, we are experiencing a period unlike any in recent history. And just

as obviously, it is incumbent upon us to "reach out" and assist every American who walks through the doors of our national network of skills training centers across this land. This is our reason for being.

Next on Rev. Leon Sullivan's agenda for changing the cries in the streets from "Burn, baby, burn" to "Build, brother, build" was a powerful example of controlled economic power called the 10-36 Plan. He asked the members of Zion Baptist Church to contribute an average of \$10 a month for 36 months to launch a grand project, a profit-making component that would involve manufacturing, residential and commercial development and the granting of loans to small businesses.

The result of this experiment was Progress Investments Associates (PIA), whose building company developed a number of businesses, among them, the first large aerospace company owned by Blacks in America. Scores of present Black manufacturers and owners of businesses throughout America received their start with the help of PIA.

PIA's shareholders are mostly members of Zion Baptist Church who have contributed over \$2 million in seed money to launch this experiment in capitalism. At first there were 50 contributors, then 200, then 600, then 4,200. About \$160 of every \$360 was channelled into one of the non-profit ventures, including housing for families with low and moderate incomes and loan to small businesses.

PIA's real estate holdings include Progress Enterprises, Inc., which owns several business facilities, and OIC-Ventures, Inc., which owns the office building on North Broad Street which houses OIC's Philadelphia office, a bank and city and state offices.

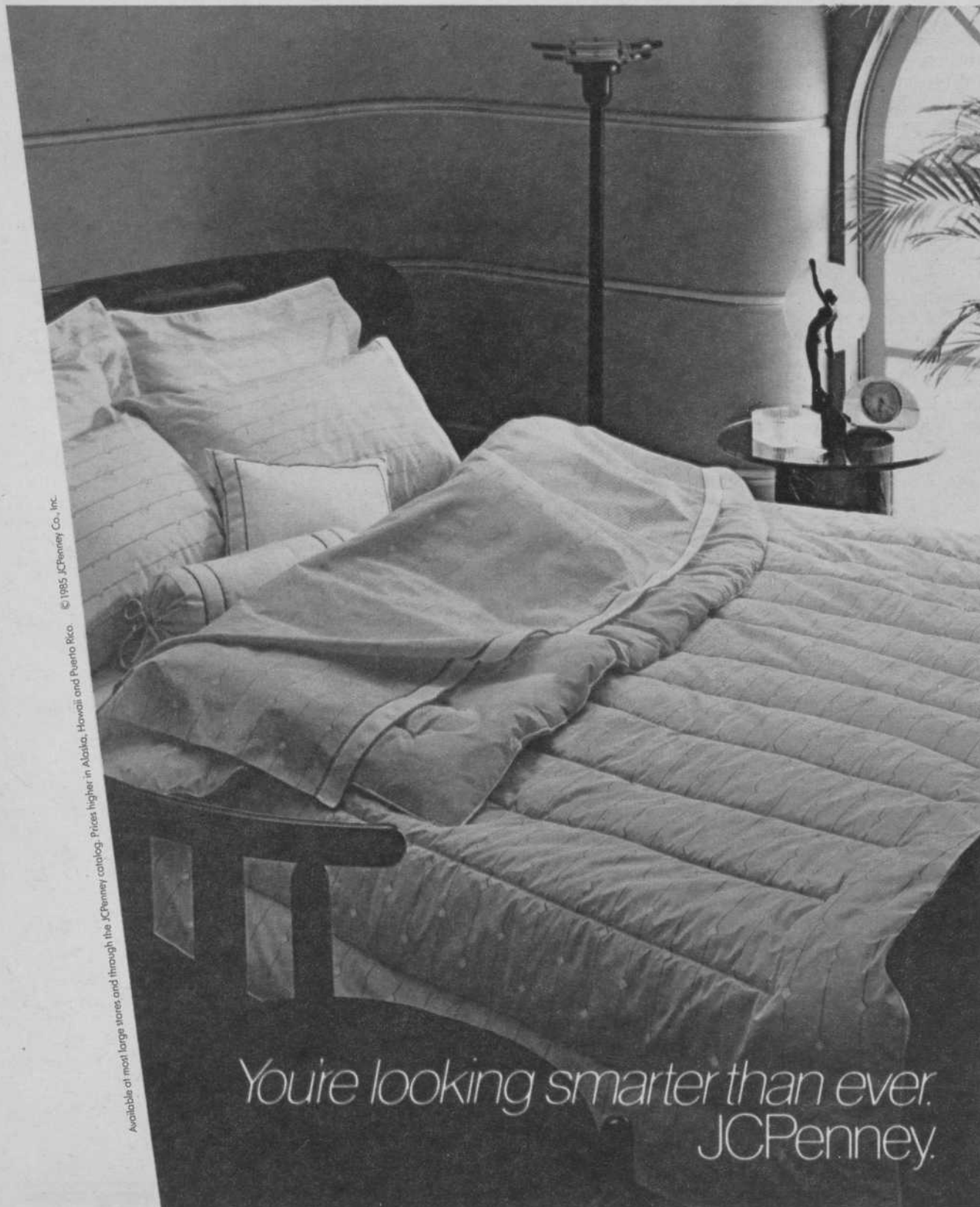
PIA's other real estate developments include Progress Plaza, a fully-occupied, highly profitable North Philadelphia shopping center. Progress Plaza is the largest Black-owned and operated shopping center in America. There is also the Progress Haddington Shopping Center in West Philadelphia.

The first success harvested by the 10-36 Plan was the 96-unit Zion Gardens Apartments, the first of its kind in the East. PIA's other housing developments include the 115-unit Mill Creek Townhouse Development in West Philadelphia, Opportunities Tower, one of the finest housing complexes for senior citizens in the city, 155 rehabilitated units at scattered sites in West and Southwest Philadelphia and some 100 rowhouses that were acquired from the city, rehabilitated and resold.

Progress Human Services Center, a  
*(Continued on Next Page)*

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