

Point of View

To Be Equal

Spurring Black Science Progress

By John E. Jacob

President Reagan's recent address to Tuskegee University graduates dealt with a subject of prime importance for black Americans — the need to become full participants in the scientific and technological revolution that's sweeping through our economy.

Today's job market puts a premium on technical accomplishment, math proficiency and scientific know-how. Unless more black young people excel in those subjects, pursue them at colleges and universities, and embark on careers in science, engineering and technology, the black economy — already weak — will shrivel.

But it will not be enough to simply exhort blacks to enter those fields; it will take programs and resources in both the public and the private sectors.

One starting place in the public schools, which must assure quality education for all and encourage high aspirations among their students.

Education reform is of course, on everybody's agenda. But it will take determined government leadership,



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business involvement, and such community-based programs as the Urban League's Education Initiative, to get the schools to deliver.

A second key element in bringing blacks into the technologically advanced professions is the college and university system. There too, it will take federal and private actions.

The President was eloquent in talking about the importance of black technological proficiency but he should also understand that his Administration's policies actually make it harder for young

people to aspire to higher education.

There's been a radical shift from direct federal student aid to loans. Given the deep poverty of half of all black young people and their fear of

A number of programs are in place to boost the numbers of black students going into engineering and other occupations demanding high levels of technical proficiency. Employers should also be

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large debts, there has been a sharp decline in black college enrollment.

That hurts black people and it hurts the nation's ability to utilize all its human resources to become more competitive.

So a reversal of federal policy — expanding direct student aid programs for young people from poor families and increased assistance to the schools such as the historically black colleges that traditionally have educated them — would go a long way toward increasing the pool of black technicians and scientists.

The private sector too, can help with imaginative programs that stimulate interest in math and science at lower school levels, and programs that support black students in college and post-graduate training programs.

looking at minority employees who do not have such training, yet demonstrate the skills and aptitudes that suggest they could be sent back to school to qualify as engineers, computer scientists, and other occupations the nation needs.

Breaking the technological barriers to progress won't be easy; blacks have a lot of catching up to do. But at the same time, a changing economy offers new opportunities as new fields have emerged and as new professions are created.

There's no question that economic change brings dislocation and pain. But as our economy advances further into the age of technology, we may see broader black participation than was typical of the old industrial economy of the past.

From Capitol Hill

By Alfreda L. Madison

Black Poor Are Blamed For Conditions Inherited From U.S. Injustices

The outcome of the '86 election was greatly affected by the upsurge of Black voters. This should serve as a powerful barometer for national, state and local candidates to contemplate.

At the advent of the '88 election, a group of outstanding Black scholars have drawn up a very timely policy framework for racial justice. Chairman of the group was Dr. John Hope Franklin, Duke University professor and a noted Black historian. A report was issued by the

Joint Center for Political Studies, entitled "Black Initiative and Governmental Responsibility." Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women says that the report was "a compelling statement on the values and traditions that have brought Blacks through a difficult past. Our future progress must be built on these values and traditions as we pursue both our own initiatives as well as government action in solving the problems that remain. "Black Initiative and Governmental Responsibility" should be required reading for every leader, policymaker, educator, officeholder and citizen in the nation."

The report offers a tripartite framework for the new Black organization's agenda: the need for Blacks to draw more explicitly and openly upon the rich and vibrant values that continue to sustain them; the need for Blacks to mobilize and, in some instances, redirect the strong self-help tradition that is hard at work but too often hidden from public view; and the need to lay out the much obscured case for government's responsibility for disadvantaged citizens in a stable democracy and indicate specific steps that government should take.

The report takes cognizance of the wide economic and educational gap between the Black middle class and the Blacks at the lowest rungs of

the economic and educational ladder. It differs with some Black leaders, especially Thomas Sowell, a Black economist and other leaders who feel that remedies for these unfortunate conditions lie within the Black community itself. It advocates a judicious, concurrent and sustained mix of both Black self-help efforts and public and private assistance, to meet the complicated problems that have produced a so-called Black underclass.

The report also emphasizes traditional Black values as a basis for community action. Dr. Franklin said that Blacks reminded during the American Revolution that freedom must be extended to all. He cited Crispus Attuck's heroic deed — being the first to die in the Boston Massacre in the fight for freedom. The report says that Blacks were the first to prove that the Constitution is color-blind, through its profound social revolution. Through nonviolent means it broke down the laws of segregation, expanded the conception and application of equality and dramatic political and leadership gains.

Blacks have always embraced society's central values of family ties. Even though many families were broken during slavery, there were strong efforts of the slaves to reunite the family as far as possible during the slavery period and after the slaves were free. Blacks have always embraced

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Words of Marcus Garvey

By Kofi Tyus

"I pray that a new inspiration will come to us as a race; that we will think of nature as our servant; that we will think of man as our partner through life, and go through the length and breadth of this world achieving and doing as other men, as other nations, and other races.

COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Why Relationships Fail

"They are all no good! They are only interested in you if you look like a movie star and have a lot of money. I'm sick of them. They are all phony and I'm not going to let them mess over me anymore."

Can you guess who made the above statement? You might be surprised to discover that it represents the thinking of thousands of women and — don't be surprised — men, about each



other. There are characteristics about the statement that are alarmingly significant:

1) It reveals that many people have lumped each other into a group about whom they form negative judgments, 2) It displays an attitude that many people will express to the next man or woman to come along, 3) People have resigned themselves to their negative per-

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