

BLACK BUSINESS

BLACK BUSINESSES MUST SUPPORT EACH OTHER, NATIONAL BLACK CHAMBER PRESIDENT URGES AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FORT WORTH, TX — Black businesses must patronize other Black-owned businesses if African-Americans hope to develop and expand their economic power, Oscar Coffey, President and CEO, National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC), told a group of more than 300 delegates who attended the Chamber's 5th Annual Conference here recently.

"Silver Rights — Our Emancipation" was the theme of the convention, and for three days the delegates — representing some 73 Black chambers of commerce representing 15,000

members nationwide — participated in a variety of workshops and discussions on topics ranging from doing business with Africa to the problems Black businesses face in attempting to get loans from banks.

Coffey, who said this year's conference was the Chamber's most successful yet, was exhilarated by the depth of interest in, and discussion about, the convention's theme.

"This represents a tremendous coming together for Black businesses," said Coffey. "Many of us are realizing that we've got to go back to square one, and

share the responsibility of supporting and patronizing our fellow Black businesses."

Coffey said that before the advent of integration, numerous African-American businesses provided much of the goods and services Blacks used, and that Black communities were often the base for largely self-contained and successful Black businesses. "We need more and more strong Black-owned businesses today, and we must support them. We all have a responsibility to share with each other," said Coffey.

Allene Roberts, Manager,

Public Programs, Philip Morris Companies Inc., delivered the convention's opening keynote address.

She said: "Although Philip Morris is today the world's largest manufacturer of packaged consumer goods, we remember what it's like to be a small and struggling business. Almost all of our operating companies were started by individual entrepreneurs — people with a dream — just like many of you here.

"Philip Morris, for example, was an actual person who ran a small tobacco store. Miller Brewing was started by Frederick Miller, a German immigrant. Kraft, Birds Eye, Oscar Mayer, and Post all began as small companies founded by individuals who had those names. These individuals achieved the American dream through inspiration, talent and old-fashioned hard work, but they also achieved it because they had the opportunity.

"Today we must ensure that minority business owners have a similar opportunity. We must do everything we can to encourage the future Birdseyes, Millers, and Kraft," concluded Roberts.

The National Black Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1983 to promote the growth and development of Black-owned businesses nationwide and also to support state-

wide Black chambers of commerce.

The conference was sponsored by Philip Morris Companies, Inc., Philip Morris Companies, U.S.A., R.J. Reynolds Tobacco company, American Airlines, Kraft General Foods, Coors Brewing Company, Black Travel & News, Miller Brewing Company and the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce.

THE VOTE

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comes even less. So because of this institutionalized voting system, we have limited access to the American political system. I'm sure most would ask, well how are we supposed to positively effect the system then?

The answer is simple, we have to move away from hoping America will heal itself. History has proven, the system has always looked upon black America with open disdain. We have

to move away from hoping to effect the system through conventional channels. Blacks must establish their own political agenda and direction, which can function 365 days a year. Whites elect officials to establish policy, and to govern their country each day of the year. In this way, they have clear, long and short term plan of attack. Blacks should be doing the same thing. Only in this way can we supplement our voting power with real initiative and direction. Peace...

CHURCH

(Continued from Page 2)

ministers but also conductors of underground railroads teachers, friends, and everything else that one could imagine.

Money or no money, there are too many other important issues that our community must deal with instead of wasting time with whether or not somebody was given a hundred dollars. Lets not lose the focus of uplifting our community and our people to the positive level it should be; just like African-American ministers have been doing for over 200 years!

The Black church should not ignore politics because we can make a positive difference if we leverage our votes together in smart ways. We should remind ministers to have concerns with the well-being of the body as well as the soul of their followers.

Remember, focus on the big picture, exercise your right to vote, but don't just vote for exercise.

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PREBID CONFERENCE: July 24, 1992, 9:00 AM, to be held in the Clark County General Services, Procurement Division, 225 Bridger Avenue, Tenth Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155.

Bids will be received in the Office of the Clark County Director of General Services, Purchasing Division, Bridger Building, Tenth Floor, 225 Bridger Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155 on August 13, 1992. Bids must be time-stamped at 3:00 PM or before. Bids time-stamped at 3:01 PM or after will be returned to bidder. **Overnight Mail** must use the 89101 zip code.

Specifications are available at the above address.

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July 16, 1992

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