

## Spending

(Continued from Page 6)

side of Black hands, because Blacks do not practice group economics—pooling of money, focusing it into one geographical area and purchasing in a bloc, he added.

A perfect example of group economics, according to Anderson, was accomplished in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Okla., in the early 1900s—a time when legal segregation forced Blacks to do business among themselves.

Commonly referred to as “Black Wall Street,” the area became a nationally recognized entrepreneurial center, as dollars circulated 36 to 1,000 times within the Black community, according to authors Jay Wilson and Ron Wallace in their book on the subject.

Among over 600 successful businesses were 21 churches, 21 restaurants, 30 grocery stores and two movie theaters, plus a hospital, a bank, a post office, libraries, schools, law offices, a half-dozen private airplanes, and even a bus system.

On a fateful June 1, 1921, the business district was bombed from the air and burned to the ground in a riot by mobs of envious Whites, including ranking city officials.

Today, there are 38.3 million Blacks in America and more than 400,000 Black businesses, according to Anderson. He claims that in the past 25 years, other ethnic groups have increased their disposable income and out-produced Blacks in wealth because they practice group economics, resulting in the creation of more businesses.

“One out of every 10 Asians is in business; one out of 35 Whites is in business;

one out of every 54 Hispanics is in business; and only one out of every 104 Blacks is in business,” he said.

Anderson encourages Blacks to use what he calls competitive advantage in industries where Blacks dominate in consumer patterns or in population.

“If you consume more leather than anyone else, you should be manufacturing leather,” he said. “Blacks need to come together, pool their resources, build industries around their competitive advantages and control everything from the resources at the bottom to the manufacturing and production, warehousing and distributing, all the way to retail market at the top, and confine their money by buying Black and selling to any color. Otherwise, they will never be able to survive in this society,” he said.

Ridgely Muhammad, an agricultural economist and manager of Muhammad Farms, said that the definition of “slave”—a person who has lost control of himself and is dominated by something or someone—describes the economic condition of most Blacks in America.

He points to the economic program of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad as a solution to the ills of the Black community. And it starts with the land, he said.

“When I heard the Hon. Elijah Muhammad say that agriculture is the root of civilization, I changed my major in undergraduate school from architectural engineering to agricultural economics,” he said.

“The children of Israel were taken out of Egypt and given he Promised Land so they could be a free people. There has never been in the

*“If most of us were not psychologically enslaved, we would be spending with one another, we would be building more businesses and supporting them, we would be pooling our capital and pooling our intellectual resources and doing more for our people, just like others are doing in this country.”*

— James Clingman

history of the world a people who were free and independent with no land. The number one thing a nation must do is feed its people,” he said.

Muhammad said that the American agricultural economy is being slowly worn down, explaining that 90 percent of family farm income comes from off-farm employment.

To help save Black farms, he proposes that Blacks in each city form a buying group to collectively purchase produce in bulk orders for distribution throughout the community. Several major cities, he said, have buyers clubs successfully underway. He also commended the POWER company and MATAH network for striving to lead in the manufacturing and distribution of Black products and goods.

“We’ve got good jobs, but we end up paying the money right back to the people who we’re working for. The White

man’s system only works if there is a slave, because the ‘upper crust’ doesn’t do any work. They call it capitalism,” he said.

According to Jawanza Kunjufu, author and publisher of “Black Economics: Solutions for Economic and Community Empowerment,” the three ways to develop wealth are entrepreneurial ventures, real estate or the stock market.

A recent Chicago Sun Times report showed that Black investment in the market dropped from 74 percent last year to a current 61 percent, and that Blacks are looking into real estate as a more viable investment option. The TMN report says that housing was Black America’s greatest expenditure in 2002, at over \$131 billion.

Entrepreneurship, which Kunjufu said was championed for Black Americans by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and Marcus

Garvey, offers many challenges. He claims, however, that Black Americans could maintain their communities, despite a nine-year peak in unemployment, by supporting Black businesses.

“For every \$1 billion that we spend with each other, we employ 50,000 more of our people,” he said.

Asians and Jews circulate money better, he said, because they make decisions based on community, while Blacks make decisions based on price. But Blacks hesitate to support Black merchants because their prices may be higher or the same as the competitor, he added. The challenge also lies, he said, in location.

The 25 percent of Black households that earn a substantial income live in the suburbs where there are considerably fewer Black businesses, said Dr. Kunjufu.

“If your best Black minds do not live or work, spend, volunteer or invest in the Black community, can it be anything else but a ghetto?” he asked.

James Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati and founder of the Greater Cincinnati Af-

rican American Chamber of Commerce, echoed others who say that control of manufacturing, production and distribution are key to economic empowerment.

“We have a lot of income, but we don’t have a lot of wealth. And we don’t have wealth, because we simply transfer our wealth to others by spending most of that with businesses other than our own,” said Clingman.

But he also contends that Blacks have psychological barriers. “We’re also rich in intellectual capacity, and that’s what bothers me,” he continued.

“The only reason I see for us being the most educated and intellectual Black people on this earth, and having nearly \$700 billion go through our hands and still be in the condition that we’re in, is that we’re still psychologically enslaved,” he said. “There’s no way that this White man can do to us what he does and we just accept it. We have to stop accepting it. Turn inwards, look inwards to our own resources and do more for ourselves, regardless of what he does.”

Cinque Muhammad writes for *The Final Call*.

## Clingman

(Continued from Page 11)

Scouting for a new military base, no doubt.

He left there and went to Uganda; I guess they figured with Idi Amin near death it was safe enough to go there. Finally, the coup de grace, Nigeria, the country that has the fifth- or sixth-largest oil reserves in the world, the last stop on the tour.

Hmmm. Now we’re getting somewhere, George. We went all over Africa pretending to care about human beings and some how we ended up in Nigeria, one of the most corrupt country on the continent.

Nigeria, a place where people are protesting high gas prices, despite having tremendous oil reserves, is a country where the annual per capita income is only \$290.00. Did I say Nigeria has the fifth- or sixth-largest oil reserves in the world? Why would people protest high gas prices with so much oil under their feet?

Because they have no control of their own resources. I guess that’s why I get so many e-mails from the relatives of Mr. Sani Abacha, offering me millions of dollars if I would just....

Big oil conglomerates such as Chevron-Texaco and

Shell make tremendous profits exporting millions of barrels of oil from Nigeria to other parts of the world, while the Nigerian citizens remain extremely poor.

Can you say, Bush, Cheney, Rice? Among those three, there is an oil connection somewhere. I am sure more oil deals were cut during Bush’s visit to Nigeria. After all, why make the trip if there is no money in it for his corporate buddies?

Finally, since Bush was so concerned about Africans, I wonder why he didn’t visit Kenya to offer his personal condolences to the families

of those killed when our embassy was bombed?

Then again, what must have I been thinking? There’s no oil in Kenya, at least not a lot, right?

It was quite significant that Bush began his trip in Senegal, visited Goree Island, and stood in The Door of No Return. I can hear the people in that football field saying, “Please make it come true once again, Mr. President; don’t ever return.”

James E. Clingman is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati’s African-American Studies department.

## Overstreet

(Continued from Page 10)

programs to encourage and promote the use of local businesses owned and operated by disadvantaged persons, particularly in the area of contracting and procurement by public agencies in Clark County.

Others on the council include the city of Henderson; Henderson Library District; city of Las Vegas (CLV); CLV Housing Authority; city of North Las Vegas (CNLV) and CNLV Housing Authority.

Others are Clark County (CC); CC Health District; CC Housing Authority; CC Regional Flood Control District; CC Sanitation District; CC Water Reclamation District; CC School District; LV/CC Library District; LVCVA. Others are the Las Vegas Water District; Regional Transportation District; Southern Nevada Water Authority; University Medical Center; UNLV; and NDOT.

Miracle workers, Arberry, Brown, Lopez, Ramos and Williams you have “done the do.”

Now it’s up to more black and brown people to get in the game on the playing field you have helped to level. I hope it doesn’t take another miracle for us to stop “bitching” and step up to the plate and get a hit for economic fairness and inclusion for persons of color in Nevada.

## Curry

(Continued from Page 11)

back—PFC [Jessica] Lynch, SGT [George] Buggs and PFC [Edward] Anguiano. 1SG Dowdy was killed on impact. Piestewa survived the crash, but was seriously injured and died in captivity. Lynch was also injured and captured. The circumstances of Buggs’ and Angiano’s deaths remain under investigation.”

Before the Army report was issued, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and, later, the “Times” of London, disclosed that the “Washington Post” had published a hyped account of Lynch’s capture that was at odds with the facts, something the “Post” would acknowledge and correct in subsequent stories.

The paper’s ombudsman, Michael Getler, told Amy Goodman on her “Democracy Now” radio program that, “...the story should not have been presented in what really did look like a propagandistic-type account.”

Speaking with Goodman on that same radio program,

Richard Lloyd Perry, a foreign correspondent for the London “Times,” said, “When I was in Nasiriyah, this was a week or so ago, I stayed in the General Hospital, principally that’s the safest place in town, protected by both Iraqis as well as a small number of American Marines.”

Workers interviewed by Perry said, “There was no resistance at the hospital. The Iraqi soldiers and commanders who had been there, had fled several hours before—really the day before, so these special forces didn’t have to fight their way in at all.”

None of this hype was Lynch’s fault; she deserves our prayers and concerns. So does Shoshana Johnson. And that also goes for the families of the 11 soldiers killed in combat that night.

In war, as we’re seeing again, truth becomes the first casualty.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com.