

OUR VOICE

Legend Lost

Heaven has reclaimed one of its angels. John Hope Franklin has died at the age of 94. Born in Rentiesville, Okla., Franklin was only six-years-old when Tulsa was burned by bigots resenting Black progress. The experience would shape Franklin's outlook on life and also drive him to succeed. Franklin graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa. He earned a bachelor's degree from Fisk University in 1935 and a doctorate in history in 1941 from Harvard University.

Hope had professorships at St. Augustine's College and North Carolina Central, among others. He chaired history departments at Brooklyn College and the University of Chicago, worked as a professor of legal history at Duke and eventually became the James B. Duke professor of history emeritus at Duke. Franklin held the presidency of several organizations including Phi Beta Kappa, the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical Association and the Southern Historical Association.

Of the many books he authored, the most notable, "From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans," won the Presidential Medal of Freedom (first published in 1947, it's been continually updated and has sold more than three million copies) and established him as a first-rate thinker on the topic of race.

Of his numerous achievements, a few stand out: the creation at Duke of the John Hope Franklin Collection for African and African-American Documentation, as well as the John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies and the Franklin Humanities Institute; a 2002 listing by Molefi Kete Asanta as one of the 100 greatest African-Americans; in 2006, becoming the third recipient of the John W. Kluge Prize for lifetime achievement in the study of humanity.

"No one knows the price that I've paid for what I've gotten out of this world and this life," he said in a detailed April 2007 piece in the *Independent*, a weekly newspaper covering Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, N.C. "They don't know what my mother went through to see that I had opportunities.... They don't know what my grandfather, on my father's side, paid in terms of taxes so that White young men could go to the University of Oklahoma, where my own father could not go. And I don't see any reason why I should get over that kind of exploitation of my immediate family... I see no reason I should get over it. I see every reason why there should be compensation, apologies, particularly in the hypocrisy it's represented, in their saying on the one hand that all men are created equal, and on the other hand, them saying if they're created equal, some are more equal than others."

Throughout his life, he set about the work of improving conditions for all minorities. He worked with Thurgood Marshall on *Brown v. the Board of Education* case that outlawed segregated schools.

Of all the words written about one of America's most preeminent historians, his own provide a fitting eulogy.

--"The writing of history reflects the interests, predictions, and even prejudices of a given generation. This means that at the present time there is an urgent need to re-examine our past in terms of our present outlook."

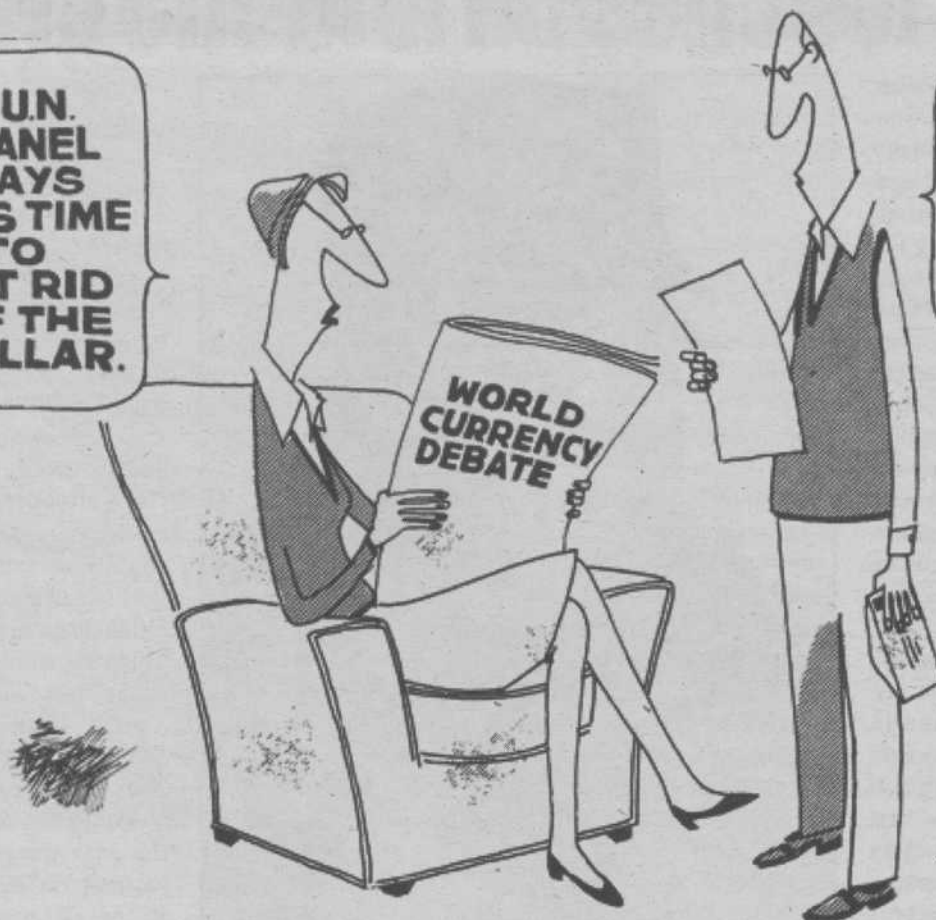
--"You can't have a high standard of scholarship without having a high standard of integrity, because the essence of scholarship is truth."

--"In discussing the history of a people, one must distinguish between what has actually happened and what those who have written the history have said has happened. So far, as the actual history of the American Negro is concerned, there is nothing particularly new about it. It is an exciting story, a remarkable story. It is the story of slavery and freedom, humanity and inhumanity, democracy and its denial. It is tragedy and triumph, suffering and compassion, sadness and joy."

--"When we learn that this country and the Western world have no monopoly of goodness and truth or of skills and scholarship, we begin to appreciate the ingredients that are indispensable to making a better world. In a life of learning that is, perhaps, the greatest lesson of all."

John Hope Franklin was a legend. He will be missed. We must hope that the void he leaves won't last forever.

A U.N. PANEL SAYS IT'S TIME TO GET RID OF THE DOLLAR.



OUR 401-K SEEMS TO AGREE...

Urban areas get stimulus help

By Harry C. Alford
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Stimulus Bill is a reality. As House Majority Whip James Clyburn stated, "The President and Congress has made this happen.

"That was our job and now you (businesses and advocates) must approach your governors and mayors and make it happen for your particular community or interest." That is so profound and accurate. We must get active to make it happen. So now, let's get busy.

The first money to come out of the Stimulus Bill is from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The implementation of Section 3 of the HUD Act can make this opportunity a reality in our urban communities and provide serious business development for our entrepreneurs and vast job opportunities for our people.

This law has been on the books since 1968, after the first Watts Riot of 1965. It was strengthened in 1992 after the Rodney King Riot. I sure hope we do not have to burn down Los Angeles one more time for it to actually be implemented.

Most communities, including Los Angeles, do not abide by the law and opportunities are missed. One would think large organizations such as the NAACP or Urban League would champion this, but that would con-



HARRY C. ALFORD

flict with their love of construction unions. You can't love construction unions and support Black employment or business development. When you are addicted to union money you will find your mission weakening. Thus, this opportunity has been inert. We are going to change that.

Since 1998 the National Black Chamber of Commerce has begun an intensive campaign to get communities to comply with this law. The law states that if you receive HUD funding (cities, counties, states, housing authorities, etc.) 30 percent of the new jobs created by that funding must go to people living below 80 percent of the national medium income level, such as public housing residents, low-income and very-low-income people.

Ten percent of the contracts created by the HUD money are to go to Section 3 businesses (those hiring Section 3 residents per the Act).

When we started to move on it only 3 of the 5,000 HUD grantees were in compliance.

Today, there are about 1,300 responders out of the 5,000 grantees.

Thus, we are not even half way there and important cities like Los Angeles, Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Atlanta haven't even begun. One of the largest cities in compliance is New Orleans. 75 percent of its population is back after Katrina and Section 3 residents are being snapped up by Section 3 businesses. As the nation approaches an average of 10 percent unemployment, New Orleans is at 5 percent. Section 3 makes a difference! To police this we are going to train our affiliated local chapters to audit their local HUD grantees. By law there are various checkpoints we can review and measure the compliance with Section 3.

Each city, county, state (governor's office) and pub-

lic housing authority doing more than \$500,000 in funding for a fiscal year must prepare and submit a "5 Year Consolidated Plan." This is a forecast on how you are going to recruit, hire and contract with Section 3 residents and Section 3 businesses and how you are going to make regular contractors hire Section 3 residents. In essence, it is a strategic plan.

Next, each grantee has to prepare an Annual Action Plan. This is done at the beginning of each fiscal year and it focuses on the next 12 months, specifying immediate projects and programs.

This should be sent to HUD prior to the first day of the fiscal year. After 12 months a third report is due. That is the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (also known as

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