

## Where's the Beef for Blacks?

People of color are not the only ones confused by the president's performances. Perhaps that is the saddest part of this current presidency. Car manufacturers overheard his oratory in Detroit about import quotas on Japanese imports and beef restraints in one paragraph, put together. First talking about beef, then cars, then beef, then cars again without punctuation! Putting both General Motors and Chrysler chairmen as confused as the general public was after a muttering presidential speech. Still speaking on the campaign trail about the accomplishments of his administration, an aging observer would have to ask, "Where's the beef?"

There is no substance to the statement that the American public is better off under this president than any other previous presidents. In spite of his heavy advertisements. There are at least three areas in which his administration must accept responsibility for failure to deliver dollars.

Free enterprises and entrepreneurship are exotic to executives for the simple reason that their salaries soar in a successful economic environment. Evidently, some missed the sound of the gun. Now that the dust is clearing it is not just the mediocre and masses left behind, but those would be yuppies on the way to the top. The want ads are in and the record is clear, there are few executive job openings every place but in the Southwest part of the U.S.

Since those who wish to be ahead of the middle-class are slipping, there should not be anything but joy in "Mudville". But the venom of the villain in the White House has wiped out the hopes of a healthy chunk of even the children of the middle-class during his first term. In a study by the Federal Reserve Board over the past five years, people's pay has just gone backwards for the average American family.

When incomes are adjusted for the so-called reduction in inflation rates much heralded by the administration a shortage of beef appears in the sandwich. Since 1976 the average real income paycheck has gone down from \$28,860 by about \$2,000. So much for the president's second promise of being better off under his administration. Unless of course you belong to the top 2 percent of the families in the country whose increase in wealth now collects 15 percent of the nation's income, or seven and a half times their wealth, as well as, control one-half of public corporate America and one out of every five pieces of property! But there was no mention of this sour pickle in the public barrel!

But the real slinger is the security issue of the White House hype. How do you feel about a strong defense against the "Soviet/Cuban" or "Soviet-backed Marxist" in Central America as asked by the Republican National Committee official survey on the administration's defense strategy? Sent to anyone by mail personally, to persuade them to think highly of the president. An enormous war campaign chest has expenditures for accusing Mondale of making the cutbacks in defense spending authorized by President Carter. Considering the results to date of this current administration continued cutbacks would not have meant any more lack of defense in Beirut. Blood of America's able-bodied men has flowed in the streets of Beirut off and on since the current man in the White House has been in office. While a world war had not started, who can say the president's political death threats to the U.S.S.R. have not sown the seeds of nuclear disaster! The major thing wrong with advertising a "Big Mac" is that sooner or later, someone is likely to look between the buns and find there is nothing between the ears.

## SHAME ON THE SENATE

Americans who thought the civil rights struggle was over had better think again. As Congress raced to adjourn in October, a handful of senators led by Orrin G. Hatch, Republican of Utah, dashed all hopes for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1984 which would have reassured Americans that Federal funds would not go to institutions or state governments that discriminate against minorities, women, the handicapped or the aged.

When the chips were down, 51 Republicans and two Democratic senators voted to kill the measure. The four Republicans voting to save it were Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., of Connecticut, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, Charles H. Percy of Illinois and William S. Cohen of Maine. The two Democrats who voted to kill it were J. James Exon and Edward Zorinsky, both of Nebraska. President Reagan remained silent at the crucial hour.

Playing the commendable roles of David vs. Goliath in leading the fight for passage of the measure were Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Bob Packwood (R-Ore.).

The measure is needed to correct a misinterpretation of the will of earlier Congresses by the United States Supreme Court. It ruled last February in the Grove City College case that Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 barring sex discrimination applied only to programs receiving federal funding, not to the institutions running those programs.

The NAACP is proud of its leadership in the long struggle against federally-supported discrimination.

## Black Caucus Gives Awards to Youth

Nine top national awards for outstanding American youth were presented by the National Black Leadership Roundtable during the recent Congressional Black Caucus Foundations' legislative weekend.

The youth awards were presented by Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.), NBLR chairman. Winners selected for the fourth annual NBLR awards were: Inventions-Dwain Saulsberry; Sports-Benita Fitzgerald Brown, Olympic gold medalists in the 100 meters hurdles; Beauty and Fashion-Desiree Keating, Miss District of Columbia; Entertainment-Dennis Watson, humorists and poet; Education-Gregory Moore, president of the U.S. Student Association; Communications - Derrick Gibbs Johnson, radio program producer and founder of Pyramid Communications multi-media firm; Business - Myra Evans, president of Gelato Modo Italian ice cream company; Professional Development - Michael Ross, president of the National Black Law Student Association, and Special Merit - Attallah Saban Shabazz, community activity.

Ross is a University of Virginia Law School graduate and a Congressional Black Caucus Fellow summer intern in 1982. Miss Shabazz, the daughter of martyr Malcolm X and his widow, Betty Shabazz, was cited for her work with the Ophelia DeVore School of Charm in New York City and her activity with Yolanda King, daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his widow, Coretta, in the theatrical production company, "Nucleus".

Earlier this year, the NBLR developed a targeted voter registration and get out the vote plan designed to increase voter registration and voter turn out by 25 percent in the 22 states where the membership of NBLR organizations is most highly concentrated. The plan could result in the election of several new Black members of Congress and the defeat of several conservative members of the Senate and House of representatives, Fauntroy stated.

The NAACP calls upon Americans of good will to express their outrage over the fate of the Civil Rights Act of 1984 at the polls on November 6. Such crass disregard for the rights of all Americans as was displayed in the Senate on October 2, 1984, is not only anachronistic but it also destroys respect for the hallowed constitutional principles of justice and equality.

**"Congratulations for your leadership and support for this historic legislation. Thousands of minority and woman-owned businesses will for the first time have the opportunity to compete for state contracts." Nat Jackson, Chairman, MBWE Legislative Task Force**

*Working Together Works!*

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Complete text of above letter available on request.



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