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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1972

Groups Make Study Of County Relief

The Brotherhood of Jobless Workers and WRO decided several weeks ago to try to find out more about how C.R. is and is not, doing its job. They decided that for several weeks one or two people would be at C.R. during office hours to talk to people as they left C.R. and find out if they were helped; how they were treated; if they signed saying they would pay back or work off assistance they received; etc. The effort was started February 14.

The first morning at C.R. a worker asked if she could help the two people who went up. They said, "No, thank you." When they went into the hall to talk to the first two people that left C.R., everything went fine. The third time they went into the hall to talk to someone, there were two wall-washers who continued to wash the same spot on the wall all morning. The wall washers listened and threw out a few harassing comments about the Brotherhood and WRO. It was a little difficult to talk to people, and they were uncomfortable.

Monday afternoon, two more went to C.R. This time they were asked why they were there by a worker. They handed C.R. the printed sheet explaining the purpose. Shortly, Mr. Miller appeared and ordered the two out or he would, "Get someone to help them out." They politely explained that they were not creating a disturbance, but did leave. Tuesday morning two more people went to C.R. This time the sheriff escorted them out. The sheriff and Mr. Miller were told to call a lawyer, who had advised the Brotherhood and WRO that as long as they were not creating a disturbance or interfering with business, they were not violating the trespass law. It was decided at that time that the lawyer would ask the Board of Supervisors about it that day. Tuesday afternoon no one went to C.R. and the Brotherhood and WRO did not get any word on whether they could go or not except that the lawyer said they were not violating the trespass law and had a right to be there. However, Wednesday morning when the two went in, they were given chairs to sit in the hall and were allowed to remain.

For the remainder of last week, and so far this week, the Brotherhood and WRO have had one or two people at C.R. during most of the office hours, to talk with folks as they left. They plan to make recommendations and present their finding to the Supervisors. It is still a difficult task, they do not know if C.R. is just going to be on "good behavior" as long as they are there, or what. They have talked to people who did not get help and referred them over to WRO. The study may have to be continued for a longer period of time.

Dr. Harvey Won't Be Counted Out

At its February 14th meeting the Waterloo school Board voted on Dr. Robert Harvey's 10 points for total school integration which he had presented at its Jan. 10th meeting. Three of the points were accepted as Dr. Harvey had presented them. They were (1) Non-certified personnel be maintained at 12 - 14 per cent Black; (2) New programs be instituted immediately under the budget provisions for spending \$100,000 for integration in 1971-1972; (3) Beginning with 1973-1974 that all new textbooks and supplementary materials . . . be fully integrated . . .

Three of his motions were defeated completely. They called for the hiring of a minimum of 4 Black principals, the volunteer enrollment program be abolished and replaced with total integration and that the principal of Central High be Black.

The other four motions were adopted but in a revised form. They dealt with the increasing the minority to white teacher ratio, keeping the human relations program, buying of textbooks and materials that reflect contributions of minority groups, and the providing of \$100,000 instead of \$200,000 for integration.

Dr. Harvey granted the Defender an interview in order to express to our readers and the community how he now feels about the present school board and educational system.

Q. What do you feel is the board's position on integration?

A. Most of the board members don't feel we should do anything for integration and desegregation. They turned down most of my proposals and modified the others. And by changing what I had originally asked for-it was no longer mine, I don't feel they expect to do anything to alleviate the problems that we still have.

It is quite possible that now that the trespass law hassle is settled, that people can also go to Social Services and the Food Stamp Office. You may be hearing more about the findings at C.R. and Soldier's Relief in the newspaper, or in the next newsletter.

Whatever else, we finally have our foot in the door. The people going to C.R. are also being given handout materials and are learning about WRO and the Brotherhood. Whatever way you look at it, progress is being made. Friends have also been going with Brotherhood and WRO people, and are supporting the effort. If anyone has questions or suggestions, contact the WRO or the Brotherhood of Jobless Workers.



Dr. Robert Harvey

Q. Do you think that redistricting the boundaries could be the answer?

A. Not necessarily, if it only dealt with the elementary school it might help. But the junior and senior high will still have to bus.

Q. Would you explain why you objected to the use of the \$100,000 that was set aside for integration?

A. I object because it's a waste in the way they're planning to spend the money. \$10,000 would go for an employee's salary, \$80,000 would go for library books and the other \$10,000 would go on a survey of the library to see what's needed. That's a waste. What I wanted was text book that would be USED and not library books stored away on a shelf.

Q. From the outside looking in one might think impressively about the fact that the board proposed to hire 10 black teachers for next year and they've asked that money

be allocated for this. Could you clarify some of the procedures that may come up to hamper these decisions?

A. I wonder if this isn't a way of trying to appease the black community. George Diestelmeyer proposed \$100,000 for the hiring of black teachers but the next years board will not be bound by decisions of this years board, so it could get thrown out. The board sent down its temporary budget for the next school year to Des Moines in December of

(Continued on Page 3)

Deputy Registrars Take To The Streets

If you are an American citizen, 18 years or more, have lived in the state six months, lived in Black Hawk county 60 days or more, lived in the precinct 10 days or more and have not registered in the city of Waterloo before or have not voted since 1967, but were previously registered in the city of Waterloo -- then you will need to know something about the mobile deputy registrars. The mobile deputy registrars' function is to get as many people as possible registered between now and the upcoming elections. It is a particularly good program for the sick and shut in, for those who are working hours that make it difficult for them to get to the city hall, or for those of us who would rather be registered in the comfort of our own homes.

Mrs. Henritta Miles is just one of 11 black mobile deputy registrars sworn in to serve the public. The others are: Ada Tredwell, Mary Robinson, Jimmie Porter, Governor Estes (alternate), Jo Ann Turner (alternate), James Ander-

son, Monroe Stevens, Mae Nola Brown, Bea Oden and Willie O-Neal. The registrars are assigned only to the city of Waterloo and are at free will to travel to any area of the city.

Future voters will notice two distinct changes on this year's registration form. Both come under the "party affiliation" category. In the past you would have been marked an "independent" if you didn't declare a party choice. Now the "independent" has been changed to the "American Independent" party which is George Wallace backed. So for those of you who don't wish to back George Wallace -- be careful! The other change is that if you won't declare a party then you must mark the slot on the form for "no party" and if you refuse you cannot become registered and therefore cannot vote!

If you are not registered and have a preference for one of the above mentioned registrars, please contact them.

Has The School Board Relinquished Leadership Role?

The Coalition for the Black Community, a group composed of 17 organizations and clubs interested in the black community, sent a letter on Feb. 24 to the Waterloo school board protesting the conduct of the board at its Feb. 14 meeting.

The letter states that concern has been voiced in several quarters, of the disgust, frustration and feelings and disappointment felt by concerned parents at the board meeting. The cold impersonal handling of Dr. Harvey's proposals only served to more polarize the community and the board. It has created more animosity and distrust than anything since this board has been in existence.

The letter asks the board why has it relinquished its leadership role in bringing about quality education? The letter accuses the board of being preoccupied with correct procedure and not with being thoughtful. It reminds the board that black children are a part of the school district and the board has a responsible and moral obligation to provide quality integrated education.

The letter, signed by all 17 members of the coalition, asks the board not to forget that integration helps all children, white and black.



Mrs. Henritta Miles of 2202 Idaho, one of 11 black mobile deputy registrars, is shown registering Chauncey Bernard Carr.



BLACK GAL

Born and raised in the slums
 Educated in the happy schools of the ghetto
 Black Gal

Where you had friends and teachers that cared
 you worked and saved to pull up by your
 boot straps
 Black Gal

Went to college
 Sat up nights studying
 Black Gal

Earned your degree
 Proud of yourself
 Black Gal

Earned your degree
 Proud of yourself
 Black Gal

They said, you'd go places
 You thought of North, East or West
 You were afraid of the South
 Black Gal wake up!
 You're in Waterloo, Mississippi.

by - M. Powers



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT AS OTHERS SEE US

If all the people in the world could be reduced proportionately into a theoretical town of 1,000 people, the picture would look something like this:

In this town there would be 60 Americans with the remainder of the world represented by 940 persons. This is the proportion of the population of the United States to the population of the world, 60 to 940.

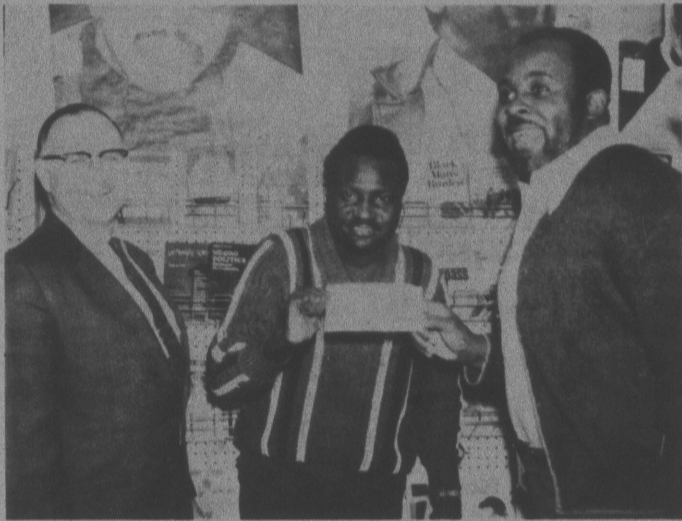
The 60 Americans would have half the income of the entire town with the other 940 dividing the other half. About 330 people in the town would be practicing Communists, and 370 others would be under

Communist domination. White people would total 303, with 697 non-whites. The 60 Americans would have a life expectancy of 70 years, the other 940 less than 40 years on the average. The 60 Americans would have 15 times as many possessions per person as all the rest of the people.

The Americans would produce 16 percent of the town's food supply. Although they eat 72 percent above the maximum food requirements, they would either eat most of what they grow, or store it for their own future use at an enormous cost. Since most of the 940

non-Americans in the town would be hungry most of the time, it would create some ill feelings toward the 60 Americans, who would appear to be enormously rich and fed to the point of sheer disbelief by the great majority of the townpeople.

The Americans would also have a disproportionate share of electric power, fuel, steel and general equipment. Of the 940 non-Americans, 200 would have malaria, cholera, typhus and malnutrition. None of the 60 Americans will ever get these diseases or probably ever be worried about them.



Pictured left to right are Earle D. McCrea, Powell and Jimmie Porter.

Helps Build Racial Pride

The letterhead reads Powell's Ebony Shop, 810 East 4th, Waterloo, Iowa, 50703 specializing in Afro-American History. When you enter in response to the "Open" sign on the door, you see exactly what the letterhead would lead you to expect -- a table of African carvings, another of small knickknacks in which items from India are mixed with others from Africa. Around the room books are displayed. Above the books, the walls are covered with posters of prominent Americans of African descent. Their faces ran the gamut from those who have achieved fame within the system to those who advocate the radical overthrow of our government. The common link is the blackness of their faces and their hero status within their own race.

The pictures prepare you for the books offered for sale. The titles indicate the great diversity of needs existing in the black community. There are books that deal with preparation for the high school equivalency examination and preparation for civil service examination. There is a book entitled "Black Hate." And there are all sorts of books in between -- biographies and novels written

about blacks and mostly by blacks.

Powell's Ebony shop is the fruition of a dream by Nathan Powell, a black resident of Waterloo. Back in 1968, Powell, who is a victim of a rare nervous disease which destroys nerve endings and results in progressive muscular deterioration, conceived the idea of an outlet for black cultural objects and literature. Waterloo has the highest proportion of blacks in its population of any area in Iowa. But Waterloo is almost completely segregated, not only in residence but in thought patterns and life style. The racial problems of 1968 clearly demonstrated how far apart the races were in their knowledge and concerns. Powell believed that a store specializing in Afro-American cultural objects and literature could fill a real need in the area of communication between the races. He also saw such a shop as a means of building racial pride among his own people.

Many people were involved in changing the dream into an actuality. Vocational Rehabilitation personnel, a VISTA volunteer, the urban minister of the United Methodist church, a minority employment Outreach specialist, an employe of the Small Business ad-

ministration and a college professor in business administration all gave time to establishing Powell's Ebony shop in 1969.

Since then the store has been hampered by the perennial problem of such small ventures -- lack of adequate inventory. The Self Development of People committee of North Central Presbytery evaluated Powell's Ebony shop during 1971 and came to the conclusion that a grant to be expended for inventory might make the difference between success and failure in this enterprise. The committee, while acknowledging that this project primarily benefits one individual, decided that, apart from that single factor, it certainly meets all the criteria for self development. On Feb. 14 Powell received a valentine in the form of a check for \$2,000 from Self Development funds.

If this venture succeeds, Powell will be living proof that a black man and a physically handicapped one can "make" it in our society.

In a statement to the Defender, Porter said that in addition to the Self Development funds given to Powell, there are three other proposals that have been submitted to this committee for the purpose of aiding other local black organizations.

Dr. Harvey--

(Continued from Page 1)

1971. There was no mention of money to hire black school teachers so in July when the budget for 1972-73 is allocated there

doesn't have to be provisions for this particular proposal.

Q. What are your feelings on the DPI report issued recently?

A. I'm in favor of it in general. Black parents should be concerned about getting the best education for their kids and use whatever means necessary to achieve it. Going to school with white children doesn't mean anything, but if that is where the best schools are, then I say fine.

Q. The controversy over the DPI report has been the busing issue, what are your concerns over busing?

A. Busing is not hard on kids and black children have only recently been bused, anyway. And it's nothing new for whites to bus because they're always bused and didn't worry until our children had to be bused.

We now have 295 black children being bused as opposed to 3,000 white children.

Q. Isn't the concern over busing on the school board part centered around the increase cost?

A. This increase of talk is a lot of scare talk. Since we started busing black students we haven't had to add a single extra bus. We have only had to change some of the routes. We haven't added any new bus drivers so the only new cost is for additional gas. Therefore the cost has been kept at a minimum increase.

As I said earlier, this increase talk is a lot of scare talk. Dr. Wells brought in a figure of over 1 million dollars for increased bussing. That's not true because its not costing us that now and we certainly don't have more than 3,000 students to add.

Q. In one of your proposals you asked for an end to open enrollment. Would you give us your reasons for that?

A. Open enrollment only serves to take our children out of their neighborhoods but it doesn't do anything about exchanging students from both sides of Waterloo. The black students in the open enrollment program feel stigmatized because they can't feel a part of the school they are attending. They are referred to by teachers and other students as "those open enrollment kids". There must be an attitude change and we'll not have that until something is done to make every child feel that any school in Waterloo is his.

This could come about by reverse bussing which would put an end to the open enrollment program. Q. Supposedly the N.S.A. membership has boomed and they are urging

school board members to support their interests. And we are aware that their main concern is against

bussing. Where does that put you and Dr. Gamb, particularly since you will be up for reelection this year? A. Despite all the talk, no one really knows how strong they are. And the mere fact that they have a lot in numbers doesn't mean that all of the members support all of the platforms.

Q. The N.S.A. is fighting to keep the right to decide where their children will go to school. Traditionally, have parents ever had a choice in selecting a school for their child?

A. No. Parents have never had a choice in where their kids attend school. The neighborhood school traditionally has been a segregated school concept. This is where the danger lies.

Q. What advice do you have for Black parents?

A. Parents should find out the fundamentals of a good education and see that their children receive them. Many parents are just satisfied if the child passes -- that's not enough.

Q. What advice do you have for Black students?

A. Too many students are busy-ing themselves with trying to be Black. They are running around telling everyone how Black they are. What ever you are it will show through and that includes your Blackness. So if these students will get something upstairs they can "show" what they can do. But if they don't do this and if they should make it to college the competition will be too difficult. Many of these same students end up frustrated and flunk or drop out.

I might also add that I'm against lowering the college entrance requirements. Because you may get into a school but that doesn't mean you can stay there. Many of the young people don't want to hear these things. But the fact must be faced -- we are living in a world where the whites have control of the system. And if we are going to affect any change, we must learn the rules of the game. Only then will we understand enough to combat the injustices.

Q. In view of the current crisis at Hawthorne elementary school what would be your suggestions for improvement?

A. There is a school social worker assigned there and that is one step. But what Hawthorne really needs is administration and teacher changes.

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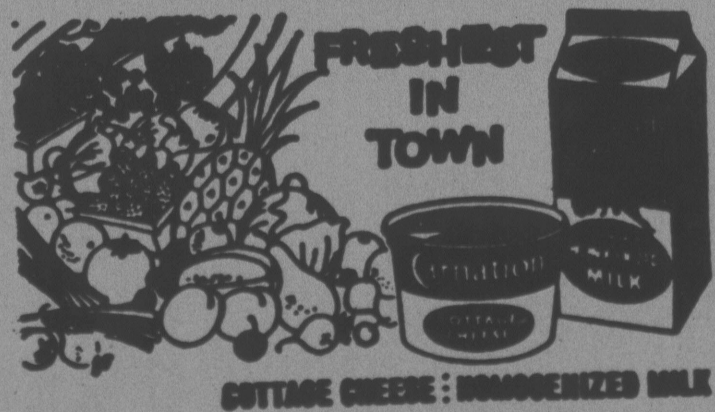


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Midtown Outlines Three Year Program

The Midtown Neighborhood center has outlined a three-year program designed to aid in problems of the community, its needs and goals. The five areas of concern range from lack of information and communication, unemployment, housing, youth and the aged.

According to Clinton Troy Carvin, Midtown's manager, the Midtown board has approved the plan. It is now subject to approval by the Threshold board.

I. Lack of information and communication.

Categories of problems -- Rights and obligations of welfare, relief regulations, family budgeting, special family problems and disabled members of families.

Urgent needs -- Education in rights and obligations, liaison person to work with recipient and welfare agency, education in budgeting and existing agency being more responsive to the needs of low income residents through the efforts of the central office.

Important needs -- Instructions in family budget moderate needs - negative. Resources - Department of Social Services, county relief, self-instructional booklet on budgeting, county extension service and Family Service league.

Objectives, number, kind and time to accomplish -- Contact five new families in target area per week and follow up on all families referred to other agencies.

First year's goals: Of problems and needs; second year's goals: T/TA; third year's goals: Put into action self-esteem and independence through group action.

Program to operate OEO and non-OEO: Midtown.

Training and technical assistance -- Training in relief regulations, self-instructional booklet on budgeting and training in applying for disability.

II. Unemployment

Categories of problems -- Discrimination against low income people, lack of formal education, inexperience in applying for employment and agencies serving low income people should be notified first of job openings.

Urgent needs -- Enforcement of the Equal Opportunity act, vocational education provided for low income residents and job coordinator to work in the center on placement and followup.

Resources -- Legal Aid society, Chamber of Commerce, Iowa State Employment office, Hawkeye and adult education through school system.

Objectives -- Educate three unemployed low income persons per week to the extent they will be able to compete with the job market and placement of three low income people per week in jobs.

First year's goals: Recruitment, placement and followup; second year's goals: Increase first year's goals by 30 percent; third year's goals: Spin program from center to existing agency.

Training and technical assistance -- Training of job coordinator and training in the area of job development.

III. Housing

Categories of problems -- Lack of low income housing, building of project to become ghettos, sub-standard housing and open housing.

Urgent needs -- Low income residents to sit on housing planning board, instead of building projects build scattered sites, more information about 235 and 235A housing programs, enforcement of housing codes, passing of open housing law and staff to work with relocation of low income persons.

Resources -- Housing authority, Urban Renewal and Iowa Department of Public Aid.

Objectives, numbers, kind and time to accomplish -- To replace three families per month who are living in sub-standard housing.

First year's goals: Identify families living in sub-standard housing, attempt to persuade landlords to bring housing up to standard and replacement of persons whose landlords will not bring housing up to standard; second year's goals: Increase first year's goals by 50 percent; third year's goals: The establishment of a relocation office funded by the city of Waterloo and the county supervisors.

Programs to operate OEO and non-OEO: Midtown.

Training and technical assistance -- Training in city and county housing codes.

IV. Youth

Categories of Problems -- Youth not involved in the planning, conduct and evaluation of programs they participate in, youth being resentful of programs superimposed upon them by a society they already resent, youth not involved in the decision-making process of events that affect their lives, such as: Youth not represented on the city council, board of supervisors, CAC board of directors or park board, lack of recreational facilities and lack of youth programs which provide experience in economics.

Urgent needs -- Youth to be more active in the planning, conduct and evaluation of programs they participate in, youth to be represented on city council, board of supervisors, park board and any other decision-making body that sets policies that affect the total community or the area low income youth reside in.

Important needs -- More recreation equipment and facilities and youth to be involved in programs with economic base.

Resources -- City council, board of supervisors, CAC board of directors, advisory council, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, park board and board of education.

Objectives, number, kind and time to accomplish -- To place two youth from low income areas and one youth from moderate income areas on all decision-making bodies. It should take six months to 18 months to accomplish this.

First year's goals: Make existing boards aware of the fact that youth should be involved in the decision-making process; second year's goals: A youth board made up of all the youth who are sitting on a board or committee; third year's goals: Establishment of a youth advisory board to the youth board.

Programs to operate OEO and non-OEO: Midtown.

Training and technical assistance -- Training for youth.

V. Aged

Categories of problems -- Transportation, lack of information available for senior citizens, very little contact from agencies and groups concerning interest and involvement of the aged in their programs.

Urgent needs -- Transportation provided for the elderly, senior citizens should be made aware of resources and programs which are available for them and existing agencies should be more responsive to the needs of the elderly.

Resources -- Council on Aging and churches.

Objectives, number, kind and time to accomplish -- To provide the elderly with meaningful participation in such programs as Head Start, day care, foster grandparents. The number would be hard to determine at this point, please refer to first year's goals for number and time to accomplish.

First year's goals: Identify the elderly and the area of their residence, determine how many are interested in becoming involved in such activities as Head Start, day care, foster grandparents pro-

grams and also determine what other programs they are interested in, determine how many are physically able to participate and for those who are shut-in cases and cannot come out of their homes, provide them with some type of activities of their choosing that can be done at home; second year's goals: Establishment of senior citizens recreational facilities throughout the community; third year's goals: Turn operation over to the senior citizens board of directors.

Programs to operate OEO and non-OEO -- Midtown.

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W. Shakespeare



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WHAT'S GOING ON

African Palace

One branch of the African Palace outreach towards the community is the African Palace Youth Advisory Senate. The Senate is composed of youths who are interested in providing activities for the community. Our program, though, is geared mainly to the youth.

The YAS is responsible for such activities as dances, Unity days, providing activities for younger children, sponsoring educational classes and other activities.

Some of the future plans of the YAS are to promote a better understanding within the community and among ourselves and one of the ways we hope to do this is by bringing in guest speakers and traveling to visit other youth organizations to see how they function.

To carry out our plans we need full participation of the youth. Therefore we are recruiting any interested youths who would like to work with our organization.

The YAS will meet Monday, Feb. 28, at the African Palace. The time will be 5:45 p.m.

If you are interested in seeing these activities carried out, attend the meeting Feb. 28.

Thank you.

Valerie Anderson, president.

Mount Carmel Baptist Church

The Mount Carmel M.B. church's regular order of worship: 9:30 a.m. - Sunday school.

11 a.m. - Morning worship.

4:30 p.m. - Afternoon service.

All groups are asked to meet on their regular time.

Everyone is invited.

Sick list: Mrs. Rosie M. Roby, McKinley Beck.

Rev. R. S. Ruckett, pastor.

Jesse Cosby Center

The Jesse Cosby board of directors invites you to attend the board of directors meeting this Saturday at 9 a.m.

We meet each fourth Saturday of the month. Come and bring your ideas and suggestions.

The programs and activities at the Jesse Cosby center are as follows:

Adult basic education classes each Monday and Wednesday morning at 9-11.

Students from all grade levels are asked to participate in our tutoring program on Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. if needed.

The chef class for boys on Wednesday at 3:30-5 p.m.

Adults may beautify your homes or make beautiful gifts by participating in our ceramics classes on Monday from 5 to 7 p.m.

Saturday from 10-12 a.m., story hour for ages 3-6 from 10-12 a.m.

Sewing for girls 9-12 years of age. Cooking for girls 9-12 years of age. Come and join the fun. See you there.

Dorothy Quines, program coordinator.

Union Missionary Baptist Church

Sunday, Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m., Worship in Song presented by the music department. This will be an all-request program.

Rev. L. J. Jordan will return to the city on Wednesday after spending six weeks conducting revivals and campus crusades in Little Rock and Pine Bluff, Ark.

Reported on the sick list at Allen hospital: Mrs. Lillian Miller, Roosevelt Rainey, Major Butler. At St. Francis: Mrs. Zora Mae Rainey and Rev. H. L. Butler. At Schoitz: Mrs. Lula Mallett and Ed Loggins, Iowa City.

Order of service: 9 a.m. to 10:45, church school; 11 a.m., morning worship; 4 p.m., afternoon worship; 7:30 p.m., evening worship.

Every second Sunday night -- Youth worship in song.

Every fourth Sunday night -- Mass chorus worship in song.

Every Wednesday night -- Mid-week prayer and praise service.

WRO

The Advocate Training program will consist of a six-week training period for low income and other interested people. These courses will be provided free of charge to low income people. Others will be charged a fee commensurate with their income.

This training program has been assembled to provide practical and comprehensive training in areas pertinent to the day-to-day existence of low income people. Some of the courses are:

Social welfare -- Eligibility, rights, etc.

County relief -- Eligibility, rights and how to procure them, etc.

Food stamps -- Eligibility, rights, etc.

Loans and credits -- Rights, interests, types of loans, etc.

Legislature -- Aware of bills, procedures, representatives, etc.

Poverty personality -- Understanding low income, why are they low income? Survival instinct, social moves, etc.

Individual self awareness -- Studying ourselves, why we do what we do, etc.

Resource groups -- Religious, social, school. How to find necessary resources for low income.

Community agencies -- Available agencies, type of services offered, how to get service, etc.

Organizing low income -- Basic concepts of organizing as applied to low income.

Legal services -- Provide basic legal knowledge in areas of housing, bankruptcy, divorce, etc.

Housing -- Contracts, leasing, landlord responsibilities, government housing and how to get it, etc.

Employment -- How to look for

employment, where to look, rights of unemployed, rights as an employee, etc.

City and county administration -- General information gathered from low income involvement with these structures.

Speech -- How to present talks, basic knowledge concerning making presentations.

Some of these courses will involve on-the-job training, whenever it is possible.

These courses will be available as a group. Classes will be scheduled two days a week from 10-12 and 1-3. Selection of days will be determined by students and instructors.

Instruction of individual courses will be available to any group of 20 or more people. For those contributing to Advocate program there will be no fee.

Contact Ernie Fleurette, phone 235-6237.

Citizens Committee

At its meeting on Feb. 18 the Citizens committee held election of officers. Those holding offices are: Cuba Tredwell, Jr., president; Tommie Henderson, vice president; Ms. Phillis Henderson, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, corresponding secretary.

Peter Umoren, executive director of Operation Threshold was the guest speaker. He outlined goals and objectives of the program.

Invited to next month's meeting will be all black commissioners serving on city committees.

Antioch Baptist Church

Sunday, Feb. 27, at 5 p.m. UNI Cultural center's Voice of Freedom choir will present a one-hour musical program.

Zone Five of Antioch will sponsor the program. The group will also host a reception for the choir members after the program.

Coalition For The Black Community

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 29, at 7 p.m. at Jesse Cosby.

Number one on the agenda will be defining the purpose of the coalition.

The next order of business according to Ruth Anderson, chairman, is to discuss attendance at the March 4 Iowa black caucus in Des Moines.

Condolences

The Defender staff would like to offer condolences to the family and friends of Theodore Cyrus.

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We Must Become Self Sufficient

Watson Hutchins, a native of Waterloo and graduate of the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, has been executive director of WE, Inc. in Waterloo since September of 1971.

He now comments on the purpose of the organization and gives some of his views on blacks entering more fully into the business world in this interview with Defender staff writer Aduka Oyenlaya.

Question:
Would you explain WE's background and purpose?

Answer:
WE, Inc. is a community development corporation which started when a group of eight men from Rath's got together because of their concern about community services that were not being provided on the east side of Waterloo. One of the main purposes of WE is to aid black people in becoming more independent through our own economic development, which would mean more black-owned businesses on the east side -- which at the present time are very much needed. Another purpose is to make resources available to black people so we can enter ourselves into business. We also hope to provide scholarships for prospective college, business or vocational school students and jobs for them once they've finished. Parents and the community will have to invest money into the students and enterprises so they'll have some reason to return to Waterloo. Maybe this will stop the flow of one-way traffic, as students leave the state for more promising jobs in other cities.

Question:
What progress have you observed since WE started?

Answer:
Two and a half years ago when WE started with the eight members, they each pledged one dollar a week and sought community help. The community people then pledged one dollar a week and the organization has grown in number to 500 people. That's quite a step. WE has recently built a small grocery store in City View, the WE Duck Inn, WE has bought and made definite plans for the land on Dane St. Development of it now depends on getting a major supermarket chain to locate.

Question:
Will blacks own this supermarket?

Answer:
WE will own and build the building but we'll lease the supermarket and other stores built in this area. That will definitely mean more jobs for blacks.

Question:
What are some of the problems you've been faced with?

Answer:
The definite need for capital and



Watson Hutchins expertise in the area of business.

Question:
Is there anything that the community could do?

Answer:
Yes. Become more interested in the economic development of the community. The community is just going to have to get behind us. Although it is a fairly new concept we are not the first to try it. It has and is being developed across the country right now.

Question:
As you probably know some people are dragging their feet because they think the process is too slow. Would you like to comment on this?

Answer:
There is no business that's developed overnight. It takes time and effort. WE has definitely progressed and all I can say is there is no "instant success."

Question:
Have you had support and help from other businessmen in the

area?
Answer:
Yes, some advice and expertise have been offered. We've had support from the Chamber of Commerce and other businessmen in Waterloo but the success of the over-all project will still depend on us.

Question:
Based on what you've learned, do you have any advice for future black businessmen?

Answer:
Yes. Enough capital is going to be their number one problem. They must remember when they borrow money to open a business they must get enough to keep the business going until it becomes self-sufficient. Once you haven't acquired enough capital (which is very often the case), it's very difficult to go back and get more when your business is not making a profit.

Question:
There is a move to encourage more black students into business and law schools because it's very evident that these two institutions run this country. What are your feelings on this?

Answer:
I would definitely encourage more black students to take a hard look at business. If there is going to be a change we will need a broad economic base. We are now striving to get into the economic mainstream of the community but we don't have enough black entrepreneurs or businessmen. Once we have a broad base or are moving sufficiently into the economic mainstream only then can we change the economic structure to better serve our needs.

Letter From Native Son

I don't know if black people (also "colored" and also those unable to define their state of mind and are called "oreo") are infected with some physical malady which makes us unable to respond to what is evidently a system designed to reject and repress us (assuming the effects of the system are those which were intended) or if we are beset by some psychotic disorder which causes us to fabricate dreams of our existence which do not jive with our reality. We cling to and fight for the crumbs from the white man's table; killing (physically and mentally) and emasculating our brothers and sisters (and in the process losing all touch with our black realities) in the tradi-

tion of Staggerlee and Sweetback and like Sweetback proclaiming how baaaad we really are. But, all the time we remain niggers begging for bread and eating cake; we remain niggers, beggars, slaves, devoid of spirit and inspiration and eternally powerless.

We are black; black people are -- dead? At least, we are un-live; un-well in Waterloo. To be alive is to react to stimuli. We have forgotten how to react (did we ever know?). Ours is a life of tolerance; I'll tolerate you, you tolerate me, but please don't tell me how insufferable my life is; I would rather just tolerate myself. Jesus Christ arose from death after three days and as-

Seal Announces Change

Says Panthers To Work 'Within System'

National Black Panther Chairman Bobby Seale said in Chicago last week that although the party is still a revolutionary organization, it is now definitely committed to working within the system "in order to transform it."

Speaking at a press conference at Roberts motel, Seale urged "righteous, dedicated black politicians" to come forth and promote, "by deed not words," the community survival programs of the Panther party.

Seale, whose four-year conviction for contempt of court during the 1969 Chicago 7 conspiracy trial is being contested this week in Federal Appellate court, pointed to the positive programs in which Panthers are involved as evidence of their true intentions. In the last four and one-half months, he said, 40,000 black children, including

15,000 in the Chicago area, have been tested for sickle cell anemia under Panther auspices. Some 35,000 bags of groceries and 10,000 pairs of shoes, he stated, were distributed to the ghetto poor at Christmas time.

In addition, he cited the free medical clinics, the free breakfast programs, and the free prison bus-ing programs as further evidence of what the party is about. The peace-loving image extends even to Huey Newton, whose title, said Seale, has been changed from "minister of defense" to "servant of the people."

But Seale denied that there is any real change in this with the Panthers' original philosophy. It has always been, he claimed, the transformation of an oppressive system for the poor to a healthier one, "a transformation from hunger to non-hunger."

He said there has been no real improvement in the judicial system or in police protection during the past two years, and he maintained it is therefore all the more necessary for black people to "get themselves unified" for the continued struggle.

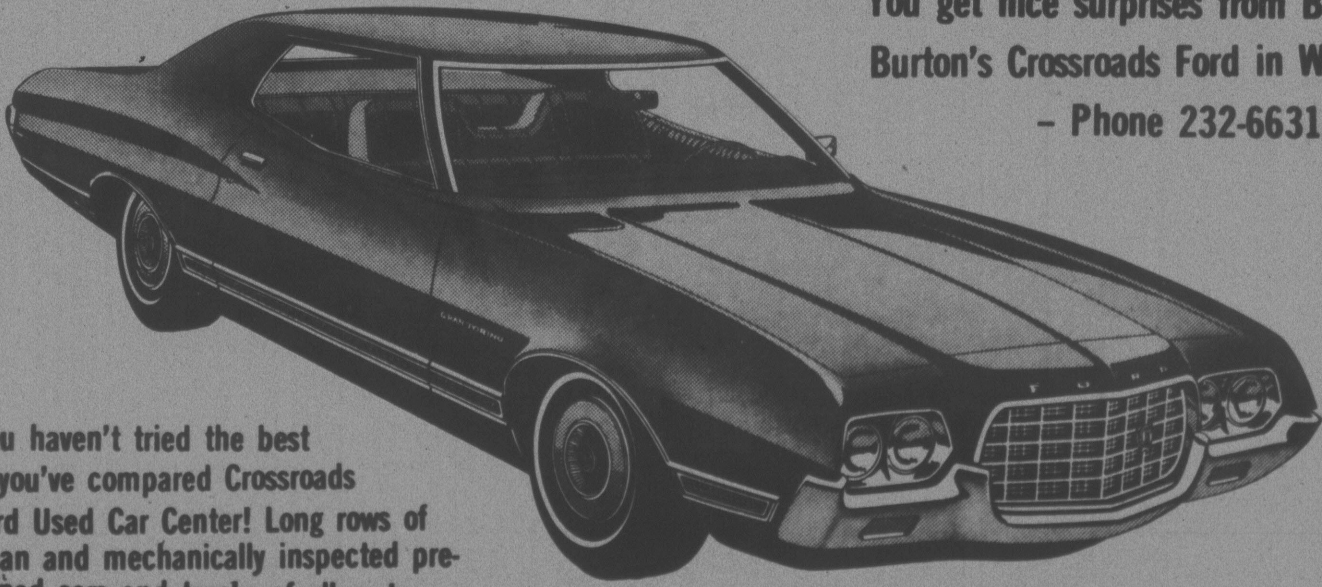
But he said the party now realizes that it cannot ignore the system or overthrow it. Black politicians, he said, can help in the transformation by helping to get governmental funds for the kinds of survival programs the Panthers are sponsoring. Black city council members, claimed Seale, could do a lot to change the system, by cutting, for example, a city's police budget in half.

"That alone would eliminate 50 percent of the guns in the black community," he said, and would be far more helpful than a small segment going around shooting isolated policemen.

Other party programs discussed by Seale included:

- a plumbing and maintenance program designed to train blacks in the skills necessary to repair their own homes and apartments.
- a free prison commissary program to provide food and other necessities for needy convicts.
- intra-communal youth institutes, which are small neighborhood schools for young people, 3 to 14 years of age.
- free ambulance service in ghetto areas, where such services are often minimal or non-existent and
- scholarship programs to provide higher education opportunities for young blacks.

Seale said many of these efforts are already in operation in Oakland and Berkeley, Calif., and in the other 38 cities where the party has chapters or branches.



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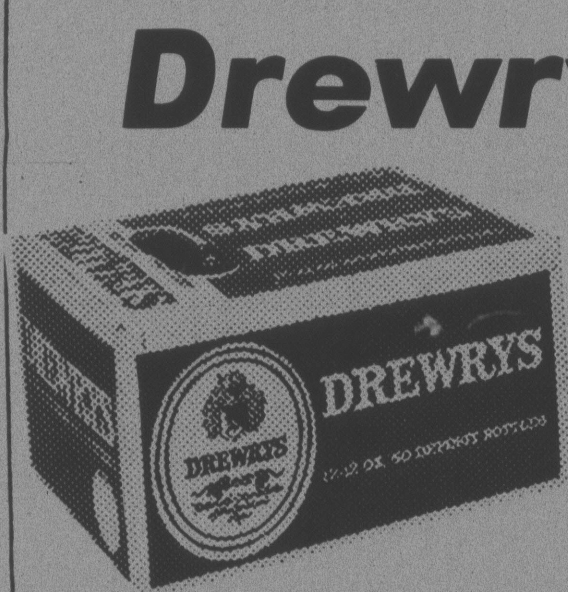
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