



ATLANTA BRAVES center fielder, Dusty Baker, records a "Register to Vote" message for the Youth Citizenship Fund (YCF). The Fund is a non-partisan voter registration agency aimed at registering the nation's 25 million unregistered 18 to 25 year olds. Recording the message is YCF's Sand Brim.

Appeals court to hear Detroit case

After almost two years of battling in the courts, the Detroit Board of Education has gone ahead with plans for a normal school opening in the fall—one which would not involve cross-district busing of students.

The U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a temporary delay on the purchase of 295 buses to transport students from Detroit's predominantly black schools to schools in 52 predominantly white suburban districts. The Appeals court scheduled a hearing on oral arguments for August 24.

Detroit School Supt. Charles J. Wolfe said the court's action "tells us to go ahead now to do our planning for Fall opening in terms of regular schools."

"We have waited to get some firm direction to move in and we can't wait any longer," Wolfe said. "We'll go right ahead with regular planning. If something is changed Aug.

24, then we'll have to consider it at that time."

The Appeals Court, acting on the request of the State of Michigan, will review rulings by U.S. District Judge Stephen Roth which laid the groundwork for implementation of the cross-district integration plan on a limited basis this fall and on a full-scale basis in September 1973.

Roth ruled last September that Detroit's schools were deliberately segregated. He certified his finding as final Thursday so the case could be appealed.

The Appeals court said it would permit a special 11-member desegregation panel created by Roth to continue its work on the details of the integration plan so that "there will be no unnecessary delay in the ultimate steps contemplated in the orders of the District Court in the event the decision of the District Court is affirmed on appeal."

Golden State reaches \$1 billion

Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company, a 47-year-old corporation headquartered in Los Angeles, has become the second black-owned insurance organization to reach \$1 billion in life insurance in force.

The West Coast firm, currently licensed to operate in 20 states, moved into the billion-in-force class with the awarding last week of \$30 million of group insurance to the firm by the American Can Company of Greenwich, Conn.

Ivan J. Houston, FLMI, president of Golden State, said the achievement also makes his company the first minority-founded life insurance firm to reach the 10-figure in-force mark "during the lifetime of its founders."

Norman O. Houston, chairman of the board, and George A. Beavers, Jr., a director and former chairman, were two of the company's original organizers in 1925. Both were present to witness the formal presentation of American Can's commitment at Golden State's home office. William Nickerson, Jr., who headed the founding trio, died in 1945.

American Can's decision to grant the black firm a portion of its employee group life insurance was based in part on the Connecticut company's concern for "corporate responsibility in a period of rapidly changing social standards and accompanying opportunities," according to its chairman, William F. May.

Golden State has for the past two years been engaged in a concentrated effort to attract group life insurance business from major industrial firms, which, according to Houston, have traditionally looked past black companies when considering carriers for their group coverage.

May, responding to a proposal from Golden State's senior vice president and agency director, Ernest Shell,

stressed American Can's willingness to participate in "Golden State Mutual's efforts toward the achievement of competitive equality for minority-owned enterprises in the economic mainstream of our country."

Ivan Houston welcomed American Can's action as "another positive step in the development and expansion of economic opportunity for black business."

American Can is one of the country's largest producers of metal containers and paper products.

Golden State, one of the nation's largest black-owned financial enterprises, ended 1971 with \$957.2 million of insurance in force as the fastest growing of the 40 black-owned companies which comprise the National Insurance Association.

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To Be Equal

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

There's a new kind of backlash around today. The old types are still with us, of course, fuming against welfare, busing and public housing. But the new, sophisticated backlash is most clearly seen in some of the statements and research projects coming out of the academic world.

Perhaps the most prominent of these is the publication of studies by Dr. Arthur Jensen that purport to show that IQ is genetically determined. Blacks measure lower on IQ tests, it is charged, not because of poverty, lack of educational opportunities and other environmental reasons, but because intelligence is primarily a factor of inheritance.

This pernicious theory has been demolished by Jensen's peers in the scientific world, who have pointed out his methodological errors, the fact that IQ tests are biased in favor of the verbal and behavior patterns of the middle-class whites who design them, and the fact that white/black differences are small enough to be accounted for by a variety of other factors. Also, other research demonstrates that blacks often score higher when environmental factors are in their favor.

The controversy that broke over this study was based on the dangers of such stands at a time of volatile racial problems. We just have to look at the experience of a nation like

Germany under the Nazis to see where such racial theories can lead.

The IQ controversy is but one instance to the kind of academic sabotage that sets up roadblocks in the way of ending racism. Several new studies claim to show that integrated education doesn't work. Needless to say, the researchers claim to be all for integration and isn't it a shame their figures argue the other way.

Basic characteristics of these studies include lack of sound research methods; the flimsy use of material from which broad conclusions are drawn, and the avoidance of relevant factors in approaching the problem. For example, one Harvard study on busing used outdated material and excluded cities in which busing is working out well.

Another study that got national attention tried to prove that Head Start programs and similar early schooling doesn't work and that children shouldn't start school until they are older. Several studies, including the famous Coleman Report, condemn programs of "compensatory education" although it actually has yet to be tried on a scale large enough to judge its worth.

Despite their faults, such research is used to argue against more school funds and more teachers. So important public policy is based on bad research rather than on ex-

periment and experience.

While the anti-education researchers haven't yet resorted to genetic arguments, those old faculty genes have been used to explain why black children are more likely to be victims of lead poisoning than whites. Why go through genetic exercises when it is so obvious that a far greater percentage of blacks than whites are poor and live in slum housing whose walls are still covered with dangerous lead-based paint. It is the social and economic disparities in our society that account for this, not genes.

There is no point in pretending that most of this kind of research is value-free. There is no such thing as "pure" research in human affairs. These poorly chosen and designed projects, with their hasty and ill-drawn conclusions, serve only to strengthen the racism latent in our society and constitute a sophisticated form of anti-black backlash.

Such studies are a throwback to the nineteenth century theorists who adopted Social Darwinism - the survival of the fittest - as a means of bolstering the privileged classes of society. That school of science withered in the more rational light of our own time, but now this old and ugly tradition is being revived. I believe a more fertile new field of study would be of the racism embodied in the new, sophisticated backlash.

Court asked to halt redistricting move

The Department of Justice today filed suit to halt redistricting and reapportionment of the school board wards in St. Mary Parish in Western Louisiana.

Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said the civil suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Shreveport against St. Mary Parish School Board and Ogden E. Stanbury, its president; 14 board members; the St. Mary Parish Democratic Executive Committee and its chairman, F.J. Winchester; and, the St. Mary Parish Republican Committee and its chairman, Howard E. Whitney, Jr.

The suit charged that changes in voting procedures proposed by the school board to redistrict and reapportion the school board wards violate provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Justice Department had twice objected to the proposed redistricting and reapportionment plan, the second time on January 12, 1972. The complaint said the plan "would have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race."

The Justice Department said that despite its objections, the school board, through a May 11, 1972 resolution, proceeded with the redistricting measure preparatory to a primary election scheduled for August 19, 1972.

Requesting a "speedy and expeditious hearing" because of the short time remaining before election day, the suit asked that the defendants be enjoined from: --implementing the St. Mary Parish School Board reapportionment; and, --implementing any voting procedure different from those previously in effect unless such procedure had not been objected to by the U.S. Attorney General, or unless a favorable declaratory judgment had been obtained from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

According to the suit, no action has been instituted in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and without it the Justice Department contends the school board's reapportionment "is legally unenforceable."

The suit asked the Federal court in Shreveport to direct the board to adopt a reapportionment plan conforming to the 14th and 15th Amendments and meeting the U.S. Attorney General's objections.

Alternatively, the suit requested that the Court devise a reapportionment and redistricting plan through appointment of a Special Master.

Such a plan would be effective on an interim basis for the 1972 elections or until the next decennial census.

Black, Chicano win NASA contract

Two minority-owned construction firms have pooled their resources to qualify for a Small Business Administration (SBA) award. The award is for construction of a trainer hardware support facility at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC), Houston, Tex. Black-owned Roy Owens Interests, Inc., and Mexican-American firm, Advance Systems Construction, Inc., both Houston-based firms, formed RO&S Joint Venture in order to win the \$200,000 award. It marks the first time in NASA's history that two minority businesses have joined forces in a contractual effort.

"Roy Owens and Joe Haucuja, owner of Advance Systems, had never formally met before," said Carlos Garza, an official at MSC's Minority Business Enterprise Office, "and when we met to discuss the joint venture possibility they had less than 48 hours to make a decision."

After the preliminary negotiations the owners conferred with their attorneys and agreed to the plan. NASA engineering and technical officials approved of it and the SBA undertook negotiation of the contract.

Garza said the joint venture agreement combined the Mexican-American firm's managerial experience with the black firm's ability to assemble the proper work force to take on the job. NASA officials said the project is currently two weeks ahead of schedule and that the work is top quality.

The trainer hardware support facility now being built by RO&S is an addition to a building housing instruments used in the Center's simulated flights, conducted in a large facility opposite the construction site. The new structure will serve as a storage facility for the delicate electronic instruments used in the simulated space flights.

Garza said both firms had done work under the 8(a) program before, but nothing of this magnitude. He said that RO&S Joint Venture is an experiment in working together for the two companies, and if it proves successful, the firms may use it for other business engagements.

Sullivan asks jobs

Dr. Maurice A. Dawkins, Executive Vice-Chairman of OIC of America addressed the Republican Party Platform hearings in Miami, Florida and delivered a message on behalf of Reverend Leon H. Sullivan, Founder and Chairman of the Board of the OIC movement.

Reverend Sullivan, who is also the first Black member of the Board of General Motors, challenged the Republican leadership to be aware of the dangers of expanding unemployment that has doubled in the Black communities from the general rate of 5.5 per cent.

Dr. Dawkins quoted Reverend Sullivan's declaration that, "President Nixon has done more than any President in the history of the United States to assist Black Americans and other minorities enter the mainstream of business enterprise." He then went on in his testimony to call the Republican Party to draft a plank in the platform that would give equal priority and make a major effort in the field of job development and job training, with specific plans to expand OIC into every city that is striving to get poverty stricken citizens off of welfare rolls and onto pay-rolls.

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