

## Jenkins advises graduates to explore business

Black college graduates must explore other fertile economic areas and occupational fields where Blacks have yet to make their mark, urged John L. Jenkins, Director, Office of Minority Business Enterprise, U.S. Department of Commerce.

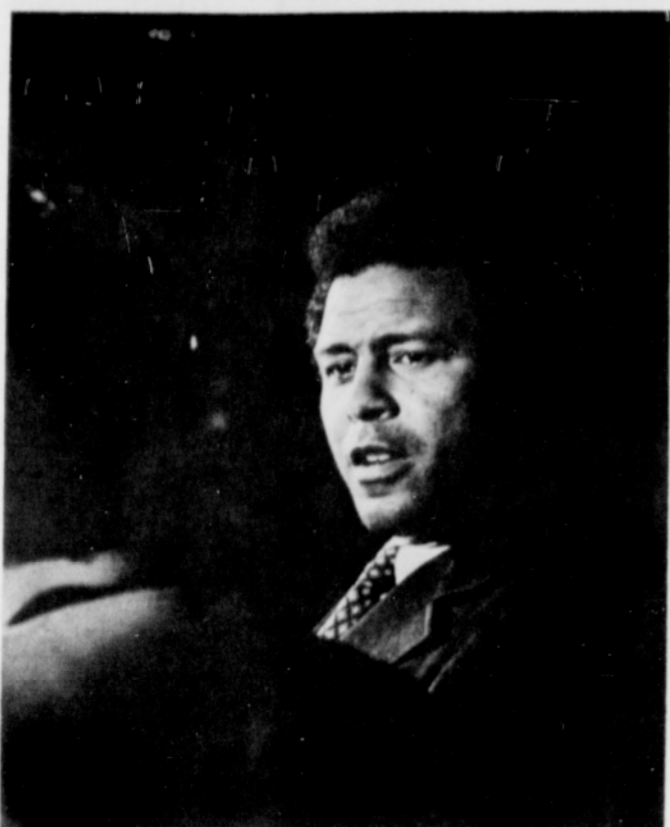
As the Commencement speaker at Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tenn. (Saturday, August 19), Jenkins, a native of Chattanooga and an alumnus of TSU, pointed out that, "Thanks to the outstanding contributions of Black colleges such as Tennessee State University, Blacks have made notable progress in the arts, music, athletics and medicine."

However, Jenkins added, Blacks must now begin to pursue aggressively increasing new opportunities in the private sector, as owners and operators of their own businesses.

Jenkins told the graduates, "My message to you is this - the world is tough. It's tougher for white graduates - and even tougher for Blacks. But your chances of making it today are far greater than your parents' chances were, or even my own. I must add here, however, you must prepare yourself not only in areas of academic achievement, but in how to live, how to get along with people, how to reason and negotiate, and how to be ready when the true opportunity comes your way."

In discussing expanding new opportunities for minorities in private business ownership, Jenkins said, "When I graduated, the job that I hold today didn't exist. There was no national concerted effort to get minorities involved in the economic mainstream of this country."

"The Federal Government was not spending one hundred million dollars to provide the needed resources, technical assistance and capital for Blacks and other minorities to own and operate their own businesses."



JOHN L. JENKINS

Jenkins said it is through economic sufficiency - Blacks owning their own enterprises and becoming producers as well as consumers - that "we can have some say about our future development and destiny, as a people."

The real test and strength and ultimate success of a Black college graduate, Jenkins said, "does not come from an individual profit assessment alone - as important as this is - but from what he or she is as a person, as a 'whole' person and to what extent he or she is able to provide leadership, at any level and in any area, toward affecting and improving the quality of life of others."

In relating to the imminent danger of Tennessee State University closing or being merged out of existence, Jenkins said, "No other publicly funded educational institution in Tennessee has the history and distinguished record of providing such equal education for Blacks in this state."

"TSU gives Black students the advantage of being involved in a life style which serves as a lighthouse for people who are proud of their heritage and

who are discovering their destiny. This life style must not be sacrificed as our nation moves to eliminate racial dualism. The entire educational process benefits from this unique contribution.

"But let me remind you," Jenkins said, "that this is no brief or treatise for a return to the life of 'separate but equal'. It is an appeal for rational priorities, to make the test of a university or college whether it teaches its students or not. There is no question here as to the dedication and ability of our teachers at TSU, for they have sent many on to serve our great country in many areas of endeavor."

"It is evil to say to those of us who have our roots here at TSU that your educational heritage must be closed or merged," Jenkins said, "All that we have worked to achieve and bring honor on - our great educational heritage - will be lost in a fusion of such equality. We must be allowed to continue to prepare the Black student for efficient and effective participation in a white controlled society with the hope that all men will be viewed as equals."

## Anti - busing bills pose rights threat

By Bayard Rustin

There is a strong chance that we will witness the passage of stringent legislative curbs on busing during this election year. Should this occur, the challenge of desegregating our public schools, already a delicate and complex process, will be made even more arduous.

But more than that, it would represent the first successful congressional attempt to impede by legislation the cause of racial equality in a half century, the last time this occurred having been laws segregating public facilities in Washington, D.C. during Woodrow Wilson's administration.

What are the implications for the civil rights movement?

Some are convinced that the adoption of any of the proposed anti-busing bills - three are pending before the House - will inaugurate an era of civil rights reaction which would cripple future liberal initiatives and endanger much of the progress for which so many have sacrificed. They perceive anti-busing legislation as signaling the end of a period known as the Second Reconstruction just as the first Reconstruction was doomed by the federal government's abandonment of the freedman's cause.

I do not necessarily adhere to so cataclysmic a view since busing is an issue which has aroused such deeply-felt and widespread passions among persons of all ideological persuasions. But I nonetheless believe that they do represent a distinct danger to the progress of civil rights. And I am convinced that their defeat

is essential if we are to proceed unhindered to the ultimate goal of a racially ideal society.

My most profound fear is that the momentum generated by the anti-busing campaign will inspire those forces who have consistently and destructively opposed the aspirations of black Americans. For while a measure of liberal support for busing curbs is undeniable, (support based on political practicality rather than moral conviction) it has been the most racially unlightened, those who said "Never!" and applauded when others stood in the school-house door, who most zealously pursue this legislation.

A victory on busing might be followed by efforts to emasculate the Voting Rights Act, which, more so than any single law, has weakened the power of southern conservatism. For those who dismiss this as unlikely it would do well to recall that an enfeeblement of the Voting Rights Act was a cornerstone in the Nixon Administration's Southern Strategy.

Or we could see a campaign to restrain the federal government from employing its social welfare programs to encourage integration or to penalize communities which continue to discriminate against blacks and other minorities.

The bills before the House include a constitutional amendment prohibiting all busing; a bill, supported by the Nixon Administration, which would impose severe restrictions on busing and a second Nixon-backed measure which would set a moratorium on

court-ordered busing until next July.

In their fervor to see this legislation passed, its supporters have resorted to the same tactics which were so successfully employed to thwart lynching bills and other civil rights measures for decades. Influential southern congressmen with years of accumulated seniority are exerting every bit of power even if in so doing they violate congressional tradition.

Even those blacks who have reservations about busing recognize the forces who are supporting this legislation as their traditional enemies. Thus all blacks and those many white Americans who are morally committed to integrated education have a stake in the outcome of the drama now being played out in the House, and would do well to let their congressman or Senator know how they feel on this issue.

The passage of a busing curb will not destroy the civil rights movement. Our movement has survived more serious challenges, and lived to flourish despite more disheartening setbacks. But we cannot gain substantial progress - both in integrating society and securing basic economic dignity - if our attention is perpetually occupied by issues which are marginal to social progress. This is why we must turn back the assault on integration, no matter what form it takes or how rhetorically cloaked, so that we can proceed beyond symbolic issues to those which touch the essence of an equal and just society.

## Rap Brown charges officials

H. Rap Brown is seeking contempt citations against Corrections Commissioner Benjamin J. Malcolm, Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward Boyd and U.S. Marshall Benjamin Butler. The three must appear before Federal Court Judge Edward R. Neaher to show cause why they should not be cited for contempt.

William M. Kunstler, lawyer for Brown, said the charge was filed against the officials because of their flagrant and atrocious violation of an agreement Kunstler reportedly obtained from Judge Neaher for Brown to remain in New York on May 30.

New Orleans the following day where he was sentenced to five years and fined \$2,000 on a conviction there.

Kunstler also said Justice Harold Hirs had signed an order directing Brown to appear before him in Bronx Supreme Court on the morning he was spirited out of the state.

Prices good Wednesday, August 30, thru Saturday, September 2

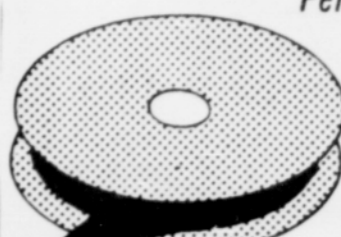
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## To Be Equal.....

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

One of the most successful health experiments in the country is in danger because of a struggle for control by political leaders. The Delta Community Hospital and Health Center, located in the all-black town of Mound Bayou, Miss., may lose its federal funding because of a veto by the state's governor. And even if the funds eventually come through, the Center will remain in danger of a takeover by forces outside the community and a cut-back in services.

The dispute is important not only because it could cripple the town's economy and retard health services in the area, but also because it illustrates the continuing difficulty federal-funded local groups often run into with the state and local political powers.

The Delta Center was established five years ago with funds from the Office of Economic Opportunity. It consists of a 51-bed hospital and an outpatient clinic that treat hundreds of poor people each week. Federal authorities view the Center as a great success and authorized \$5.5 million to keep it in operation for another year.

But in June, Mississippi Governor William Waller vetoed the grant, placing the Center in jeopardy. It's hard to understand the reasons for the veto. The state claims the hospital doesn't meet certain regulatory requirements, but neither do over half the hospitals in Mississippi.

The real issue seems to be who will control the federal money coming into the state, the community-controlled health center or state political authorities. Time and time again, in communities all over the country, this has been the basic source of dispute over federal grants. OEO projects bring money and jobs to a community and it is a rare political leader who can stand to see all that power and potential patronage slip from his hands.

As of this writing, the dispute is unresolved. OEO wants to continue the project, and it is still possible that the governor will relent and allow a temporary grant. But that won't end it. If the grant is allowed to flow through the state capital, the Center will still be endangered because control may pass from the community.

There is no question about the importance of this health

center. It serves some of the poorest counties in the whole country, counties that never had decent health services before. Its survival is literally a life-and-death issue for many people whose illness might otherwise go untreated.

There seems little question that the Center ought to be continued and that control over its operation should remain where it has been for the past five years - in the genuine community-controlled board that has run it so well for so long. If anything, the state of Mississippi should replace its present efforts to sabotage the Center with matching grants to really make an effort to provide health care for poor people in that area.

And it is increasingly clear the crucial services delivered by federally-funded groups must be insulated against local political storms. There is no reason why a governor or a mayor should have veto-power over federal monies for federal programs run by local citizens.

So long as the professional administrators of OEO are satisfied that a program is doing what it was funded to do, it should be immune from local political pork barrel; they are to important for that. In fact, they exist because local political authorities never cared about the poor and never fulfilled their responsibilities to all the people of their state or city.

Here's a thought to remember on Memorial Day from the Portland Traffic Safety Commission:

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