



ALFRED LEE HENDERSON  
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

**WE SEE THE WORLD  
THROUGH BLACK EYES**



**EDITORIAL FOCUS**

**Ten years later**

**Labor Day 1973**

Ten years ago Martin Luther King and others led the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom." In that ten years there have been many changes. Three of the leaders -- King, Whitney Young and Walter Reuther, are no longer with us. John F. Kennedy, who sat in the White House, and his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, are dead. The era of the mass demonstrations for civil rights has almost ended.

Voter registration in the South has brought Black mayors to cities where Blacks were once beaten and jailed in their effort to register. The brother of Medgar Evers, who was murdered that same year, is now mayor of Fayette, Mississippi.

The Civil Rights Bill of 1964 was passed. Public accommodations are open. It has become popular to appoint Blacks to governmental positions.

But the past ten years have brought little change to those who still live in poverty -- closed out of opportunity for employment and education because of their race. Little has changed for the residents of the ghettos who do not benefit from the federal programs designed to improve their standard of life.

The past ten years have brought little change to the philosophy and the structure of American society. It has brought no "Brotherhood", no acceptance of the equality of individuals, no real equal opportunity for the benefits of American life. This ten years comes to a close with an administration steeped in corruption, with a foreign policy designed to perpetuate aggression on the people of Southeast Asia, with a domestic policy determined to withdraw from the American people the few programs that have brought economic security and self-determination to the poor and to minorities.

**Study disproves  
Welfare myth**

We are often told that Welfare recipients would rather draw a "hand out" than work and that if financial aid were withheld they would have to find a job. The implication that financial assistance breeds laziness has been used to fight the upgrading of welfare standards and especially the establishment of a guaranteed income.

A four year study conducted for the Office of Economic Opportunity by the University of Wisconsin refutes that theory and shows that giving cash to poor families does not reduce their incentive to work. Those receiving a cash income worked as often and earned as much as others who did not receive the subsidy.

The study showed that Blacks responded to the cash subsidy by earning more money on their jobs. The subsidy apparently provided the encouragement to continue working, even on low paying jobs. Young people and the better-educated poor used the subsidy to take time off work to find better jobs, and so raised their economic level.

The overall finding of the study was that the money did not change work incentive -- it just improved the standard of living.

Without the fear that a guaranteed annual income would cause an immediate and widespread rush to quit work and live on the government subsidy, maybe Congress can get on with the job of providing an economic base for all low-income families.

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USUALLY, WHEN ONE PICTURES WELFARE, ONE THINKS OF POVERTY-STRIKEN, NEEDY PEOPLE, MANY OF THEM FROM MINORITY RACES. PRESIDENT NIXON HIMSELF WHO HAS OFTEN CRITICIZED FOR WHAT HE CHARACTERIZES AS WELFARE CHISLERS, HAS ALSO BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF A FORM OF WELFARE. THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAID TO IMPROVE THE KEY BISCAIYNE AND SAN CLEMENTE NIXON RESIDENCES WAS \$1,283,274.

MICHIGAN CHRONICLE



**KEY BISCAIYNE**

**SAN CLEMENTE**

The poor are not the only one on welfare

**Welfare system:  
Institutionalized poverty**

by Representative Gus Hawkins

In 1969 the President's Commission on Poverty found that of the working poor, one of every four worked 35 hours a week or more for 50 to 52 weeks, but still remained poor.

The commission observed that the assertion "the poor are to blame for their circumstances and should be expected to lift themselves from poverty" is incorrect.

The commission additionally noted "the simple fact is that most poor people remain poor because access to income through work is currently beyond their reach." Mindful of its obligation to all of its citizens, rich and poor alike, the federal government recognizes its responsibility to provide social welfare services to the poor of this nation as a bulwark against poverty, ignorance and disease.

These welfare services are not perfect; however, they are inordinately controversial and greatly misunderstood. Perhaps the most pressing issue regarding welfare is the plight of the welfare recipient and the abusive nature of the attacks leveled against this helpless victim of the disease of poverty.

Not surprisingly, myths about welfare sometimes become substitutes for actual knowledge and cause the real facts to become obscured or distorted.

**Jobs for all:  
issue of basic significance**

by Vernon Jordan

For the past several years national debate over domestic issues has been largely confined to artificial, politically inspired issues such as busing, "law and order", and quotas.

Now that the demagogues have had their day, it is time to move on to a real issue of basic significance to many millions of people and to the future of this society -- jobs for all.

If you read the official statistics that show unemployment trending downward, or the glowing stories about the booming economy, or if you have a good job yourself, you might not know just how bad the situation really is.

The government admits to an official unemployment rate of 4.8 percent of the labor force.

That sounds small enough until you realize that it represents some 4.3 million people, many with families to support, who can't get a job. The labor force is in reality split in two.

There is the upper tier of workers with good jobs, good salaries, union membership and fringe benefits. Then, there is a lower tier of people who have no job, work part-time when they really want full-time employment, and those who do work full-time but make below-poverty wages.

This lower tier of American workers is made up disproportionately of Black people and other minorities, women, young people, and Vietnam veterans.

The latest poverty figures tell the story very well. Last year about one million white people moved OUT of poverty, but some 300,000 Black people became poor. In the past four years, more than 60,000 Blacks became poor.

Black poverty has become something of a hush-hush subject as emphasis is placed on the progress Black people have made in education, in obtaining better jobs, and in higher family income.

But most of the economic progress has been confined to relatively few Blacks with the education and skills to take advantage of the waning discrimination in industry.

What ought to be of greater concern is that one out of three Black people is poor; that nearly half of all Black children are growing up in poor families; and that the typical Black family last year earned about \$700 LESS than the government acceptable living standard.

There are about 10 million people -- white and Black -- who work all year round for less than \$5,000. A third of all Black full-time workers make less than a living wage. And these are the lucky ones, the people with jobs.

The government says there are 4.3 million of them. But that is only because the government counts only people actively looking for work who can't find it.

The fact is that there are millions of people who are not officially counted as being unemployed because they have given up looking for work, or because they are working part-time, even though they may prefer to hold full-time jobs.

If you add these discouraged job seekers and under-employed workers to the officially unemployed, you'll find that there are actually about 10 million unemployed people, over two million of them Black.

Instead of the official rate of 4.8 percent unemployed, a more accurate picture shows 10 percent of the labor force out of work, with a 20 percent rate for Black workers.

This grim reality has been hidden behind doctored statistics, misleading rhetoric about a supposedly booming economy, and other diversionary issues.

But it is clear that the economy doesn't seem able to provide everyone with work, and it is time this issue came out into the open and the nation started a great debate on what should be its No. 1 priority -- a full employment policy.

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