

Getting Smart

BY WALTER L. SMART
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Five years ago at the not-so-tender age of 21, Bennie Thompson was elected, along with two associates, to the five member ruling board of alderman of the town of Bolton, Mississippi. Since that time the white power structure has done its utmost to prevent him and other Black folk from changing the life styles of rural Black Mississippi.

Now Bennie Thompson is twenty-five and is Mayor of Bolton. His was not an easy task. Bolton has a population of 1,100, of which 65% is Black. He states that for years he and his fellow citizens have been the subject of direct and continued harassment at the hands of both the state and local powers. There have been election irregularities in the past, continued lack of registration efforts, and continued and subtle pressures preventing sizeable Black turnouts.

This year there was a drive to void the May election that swept him into office. The local political boys asked the local democratic party controlled Elections Commission to void the Mayoral election. They did. Bennie was tossed out of the general election. Bennie then went to the Southern District Federal Court to have the election re-instated. They did. Bennie Thompson is now mayor. He has won. But has he really won?

The city of Bolton has an annual budget of close to \$48,000. As Mayor he makes a salary of \$1,200 per year. His town is 65% Black and

the population is increasing. He now faces the near superhuman task of bringing Bolton into the twentieth century and beginning to deal with the problems of underdevelopment, unemployment and dilapidated housing.

He faces a hostile white political and economic community which has thwarted every effort to bring needed services to the rural poor. He expects now an even more bitter fight. His fight will not be in the Board of Aldermen however. With Bennie Thompson came an all-Black board.

His first plan is to go over the books. He says they are a mess... riddled with confusion. He knows his second step. "With my budget, I could never hope to get very much accomplished. We have some \$50,000 homes here that pay few if any taxes. We will have to re-evaluate our tax assessments and in all probability raise the rates. The way I figure it, we'll have a \$100,000 budget very very soon."

Believe it or not Bennie Thompson is a social worker. He is and will continue to be the Director of the Tri-County Neighborhood Center of Jackson, Mississippi. Bennie Thompson, only twenty-five years old, Black, strong and vibrant. His name among the hundreds of other fighters for political and economic freedom will not be lost in history. His is the story of a living hero - a name, a thought, a set of goals our children should be taught to emulate.

Black officials plan workshop

Many of the nation's Black elected officials are expected to be in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, September 29, to attend a day-long workshop on "Black Politics and the Legislative Process". There are some 2,621 Black persons holding elective offices ranging from local school boards to members of the U.S. Congress.

The workshop is being sponsored jointly by the Congressional Black Caucus and the Joint Center for Political Studies. It is being staged in conjunction with the Caucus' third annual fund-raising dinner which will follow the conclusion of the workshop. The dinner, a \$100-a-plate affair, will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel beginning with a reception at 6 p.m.

Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, says that the goal of the dinner is to raise some \$250,000 to be used to underwrite the group's research efforts. The Caucus is a non-partisan coalition of the 16 Black mem-

bers of the House of Representatives formed in mid-1970. Its primary objective is to utilize the legislative process to help bring about full equality of opportunity in American society.

The legislative workshop is designed to provide a mutual exchange of information on practical ways that Caucus members and other Black elected officials can be of greater assistance to each other. It will get underway at 9 a.m. in room 2175 of the Rayburn House Office Building, Independence and New Jersey Avenues, N.W. with welcoming remarks by Mr. Stokes; Clarence Mitchell, Director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau; Percy Sutton, President of Borough of Manhattan; and Eddie N. Williams, President of the Joint Center for Political Studies.

Topics covered will include the legislative process as it affects the drafting and introduction of legislation, the role of committees and subcommittees, consideration of measures by both House, and how Presidential action relates to the law-making process.

The afternoon session will deal with such problems as the impact of Federal legislation at the state and local levels.

The Joint Center for Political Studies reported in its latest **National Roster of Black Elected Officials** that some 2,621 Black persons hold 2,627 elective offices, including six who hold more than one office. In 1969, when the tallies were first made, there were 1,186 Black office-holders. Today there are almost that many in the South alone. The 1973 figures represent an increase of 121 percent over the four-year period. According to the study, however, Blacks still hold only one-half of one percent of the more than 500,000 elective offices in the country, and they still lag in offices which are contested on a state-wide basis.

Dinner goers are expected to be entertained by a host of nationally known Black entertainers including Ruby Dee, the Dells, Isaac Hayes and Melba Moore, with Don Cornelius of "Soul Train" fame as the entertaining host.

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BUSINESS

Your voluntary help now may help head-off enforced curtailment later. Here's why: Every kilowatt-hour of electricity you use means either some water must be released from reservoirs behind a dam, or some thermal fuel burned to generate that power. If the area's utilities can save the water and the fuel until the big winter demand occurs, we will all be in much better shape to meet the need. A kilowatt-hour saved now can be very important later. Nobody wants a forced curtailment or blackout. Jobs suffer. People are inconvenienced. It is bad for us all. Here are some things you can do to help:

LIGHTING

Turn off all signs except "exit" signs. Also turn off show window lights, and non-essential flood and all decorative lighting. Turn out lights when not needed...even for a few minutes.

COOLING

Turn off all cooling equipment an hour or two before closing. Shut out direct sun by closing drapes or installing sun shades. Raise the cooling thermostat setting to 80°. Make sure filters are clean. Outside air should be shut down at night if possible. This conserves energy in both summer and winter.

HEATING

Lower the thermostat setting to 68°. Make sure filters are clean. Check for ways to improve insulation.

WATER HEATING

Set thermostat at 110° for washroom use. Set thermostat to 140° for commercial kitchen use. Booster water heaters are designed to raise 140° water to 180° for dishwashing. Minimize the use of water, both hot and cold. Repair any leaky faucets immediately. Turn off circulating pumps after hours.

MOTORS

Motors should be turned off whenever not needed. Slow down escalators or turn them off completely. Re-program elevators to force maximum loading and usage. Remove some elevators from service, if possible. Turn off office machines when not in use.

PROCESS HEATING

Reduce temperature to turn off if possible during idle periods. Insulate and cover tanks when not in use.

MISCELLANEOUS

Re-evaluate hours of operation to determine if store hours might be shortened. Re-schedule custodial service to daylight hours.

PGE joins 109 other utilities in the Pacific Northwest in urging customers to save energy now to help dilute the impact of a power crunch this winter. We share the groups' concern that sooner or later, unless new generating plants, transmission lines and other electrical facilities are built as needed... without imprudent delay for whatever reason... scarcity of electricity and enforced rationing may become a permanent fact of life in this region. We're working hard to avoid that situation. But we need your help and understanding.



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Soy Loaf

- 1/4 medium green pepper, finely minced
- 1/4 cup finely minced celery
- 1/2 cup chicken bouillon
- 3 ounces cooked, dried soybeans, drained
- 1 teaspoon dehydrated onion flakes
- 1 slice 100% whole wheat bread, made into crumbs

- 1 egg
- Dash garlic powder
- Pinch thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 medium green pepper, cut into rings
- 1 oz. onion, sliced
- 1/4 cup fresh mushrooms

Combine green pepper, celery and bouillon in a saucepan. Simmer until celery is tender. Drain and place in mixing bowl. Add remaining ingredients, except last 3, and mix well. Spoon mixture into a small baking dish and shape into a loaf and bake at 350° F. for about 25 minutes or until firm and golden brown on top. Serve with pepper rings, onion and mushrooms. Makes 1 serving.

WEIGHT WATCHERS®

(Class Listings)

NORTH PORTLAND

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4737 N. Lombard
Tue. 9:30 a.m. (Starts Sept. 25)
and 7:00 p.m.

Emanuel Hospital
3001 N. Gantenbein
Extended Care Building
Thursday 7:00 pm

Carpenters Hall

2225 N. Lombard
Mon. 7:00 pm & Thurs. 9:30 am

NORTHEAST PORTLAND

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