

Reflections On The Bicentennial & The Great American Majority

At this hour of Bicentennial Celebration, a small minority of Americans, the very rich, one-fifth of our nation, who control 70 percent of our nation's wealth, have cause to celebrate and to attempt to perpetuate their ruling elite for another 200 years.

□□Those of us who are poor who are black or Spanish speaking, or native American, those of us who are the American majority, who are the three-fifths of the population who must subsist with only 10 percent of nation's wealth, need to reexamine our concepts of participation in this nationalistic celebration.

As a black person, it is not enough for me to point to the hypocrisy of the founding of this government by slave-holding colonialist who brought us here in chains and stocks. We, as blacks, are all too painfully aware that we bore the burden of establishing the dreams of the wealthy white. We are too aware that our tenuous position as citizens came about by our own struggle and heavy sacrifices.



JOHN LEWIS

From the ghettos of Chicago, the barrios of California, every continent, from East Harlem to the western reservation, from the cotton curtain of the South to the raped and ravaged region of Appalachia, there is a mighty majority whose aspirations and dreams must be realized.

We have cause to celebrate because we have our heroes, we have strong intellectual men and women of vision who fought slavery. We have the heritage of the great civilizations of native Americans. We can celebrate because we had a Frederick Douglass, a Eugene Debs, Harriett Tubman, and a Martin Luther King, Jr.

□□We have cause to celebrate because we have had our movements. We can celebrate because we had a women's suffrage movement, a labor movement, a civil rights movement, and Indian movement, and a successful farm workers movement, and other great movements which move us closer to the full realization of human potential and dignity and a sense of self worth as human beings.

We have reason to be proud of our heritage, but we must be about the task of creating coalition, reaching out to our brothers and sisters who share our plight and our dreams, to realize the aspirations of humanity around the globe.

We must instill sensitivity into the consciousness of the great exploited American majority so that the leaders of our nation cannot use our powerful resources to create another Vietnam, to support the racist domination of 36,000,000 blacks in southern Africa, or to prop up the undemocratic regimes which suppress legitimate human

Now, as a segment of this nation celebrates, it is time for black and all people who have been victimized by the violent American nightmare of exploitation, militarism, racism, and sexism to recognize our common plight and create our own revolution. We must rise about the distraction of the Bicentennial Celebration and work together to solve the problems which are eating away the very soul of our society.

In my work as the director of the Voter Education Project, I come into contact with thousands of nameless poor working people who have been left out and left behind. In the midst of affluence, their dreams to share in the wealth and to have an equal voice in determining humane governmental policies are unrealized.

apply those resources to the solution of human problems of famine, disease, poverty and special needs.

We, the great American majority, have no room for bitterness or recriminations at the time of this hollow Bicentennial Celebration.

With the belief that change is change is possible, with a continuing sense of hope, and with faith in the ultimate good and worth of humanity, we, the great American majority, must continue the nonviolent struggle to build a world community of peace and justice.

Benjamin L. Hooks

FCC
COMMISSIONER



CB Fellowship

Not long ago I wrote several columns on a skyrocketing communications phenomenon--citizens band radio usage. So popular has this pastime become, so increasingly heavy the demands for CB licenses that the Federal Communications Commission has been literally swamped by requests of clamoring citizens.

To facilitate the process, the Commission recently ruled that any eligible citizen native born, 18 years or older; (if younger with parents' express approval) could on temporary authority, begin operating his/her set-up on purchase. Permanent license would be forwarded some weeks, hence.

I urge blacks -- and blacks are getting into this sweeping rage in numbers that are so astonishing in volume as those of whites -- to get in the business end of this burgeoning enterprise -- by establishing manufacturing concerns to make parts and equipment for the radio sending and receiving sets; to set up CB retail outlets, etc.

Now comes Berkeley B. Burrell, personable, long time president of the National Business League, with some additional exciting insights on this startling current national passion.

Burrell has leaped enthusiastically into the CB maelstrom complete with sobriquet ("Boston Blackie"). He was instrumental in recently calling together more than 2,000 CB enthusiasts from all over the country, in a three day "Channel Break" conference at Stouffer's Restaurant in Cincinnati, Ohio.

This club calls itself the "Rooster Channel Jumpers" and represents thousands of other black CB enthusiasts. Burrell, bursting with enthusiasm, recounts: "They showed up in all kinds of uniforms. One fellow was 'Running Bear' and wore an Indian costume with feathers. The president, Ned West, was

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Yours truly,

TOD ENSIGN
Coordinators
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On Working People

to whatever government you work for.

Every state, city and county worker should be infuriated. Every citizen of this country should be infuriated, and letters should be written indicating your disgust at being treated different than the rest of the workers in this country.

HOWARD I. HENSON
REGIONAL MANAGER
LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF NORTH AMERICA

In Need Of