

The original documents are located in Box 26, folder “May 4, 1973 - National Association of Minority Architects” of the Stanley Scott Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Bettye L. Scott donated to the United States of America her copyrights in all of her husband's unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

HOLD FOR RELEASE 7:00 P. M. , FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1973

PARTNERSHIP IN PROGRESS

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTS

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1973



BY:

STANLEY S. SCOTT
SPECIAL ASSISTANT
TO THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PARTNERSHIP IN PROGRESS



A TEACHER ASKED HER STUDENTS TO RAISE THEIR HANDS IF THEY WANTED TO GO TO HEAVEN. ALL HANDS WENT UP EXCEPT ONE. THE TEACHER ASKED THE BOY IF HE WAS SURE THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN. HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD HEARD HIS FATHER TELL HIS MOTHER THAT "BUSINESS HAD ALL GONE TO HELL" AND HE WANTED TO GO WHERE THE BUSINESS HAD GONE.

IT IS HUMAN NATURE TO WANT TO BE WHERE THE ACTION IS. WE WANT TO GET AHEAD. WE WANT TO SUCCEED. WE TALK ABOUT MAKING PROGRESS, BUT WE CAN'T ACHIEVE ANY OF THESE GOALS WITH A CLOSED MIND.

BE LIKE THE OLD MAID WHO CAUGHT A BURGLAR IN HER ROOM. THE BURGLAR PLEADED, "PLEASE LADY LET ME GO. I AIN'T NEVER DID ANYTHING WRONG".



- 2 -

THE OLD MAID ANSWERED, "WELL, IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN".

IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE ON HUMAN RESOURCES, SOME WEEKS AGO, THE PRESIDENT SAID, "WORKING TOGETHER TO MEET HUMAN NEEDS AND UNLOCK HUMAN POTENTIAL IS THE GREATEST ADVENTURE UPON WHICH ANY PEOPLE CAN EMBARK. I PLEDGE CONTINUED STRONG FEDERAL LEADERSHIP IN THIS WORK. BUT WE HAVE LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT WASHINGTON CANNOT DO THE WHOLE JOB BY ITSELF. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS, AND EACH INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN MUST DO THEIR PART AS WELL."

AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT, I KNOW THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS MORE THAN ANXIOUS TO JOIN WITH YOU TO FORM A PARTNERSHIP IN PROGRESS. YOUR DREAMS ARE OUR DREAMS. YOUR ASPIRATIONS ARE OUR ASPIRATIONS.



- 3 -

MANY OF OUR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE COMMITTED TO THE TASK OF AIDING MINORITY FIRMS IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, FOR INSTANCE, IS SEEKING TO EMPLOY MORE MINORITY ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS ON PUBLIC BUILDING PROJECTS.

MORE THAN 250 MINORITY FIRMS IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN LISTED WITH GSA. THE RESULT? APPROXIMATELY FIVE PERCENT OF GSA'S PROJECTS ARE BEING AWARDED TO MINORITY FIRMS.

PROGRESS AMONG THE MINORITIES OF THIS NATION, HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING. BUT IN FAR TOO MANY INSTANCES, THE TOKEN BLACK STILL EXISTS IN THE HIGHER RANKS OF TECHNICAL, PROFESSIONAL AND MANAGERIAL JOBS, WITH THE MASSES BEING CONCENTRATED IN THE LOWER RANKS. WE NEED TO TURN THIS



- 4 -

SITUATION AROUND AND CONCENTRATE ON GETTING MORE
BLACK ARCHITECTS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS INTO THE
MAINSTREAM.

THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALL AROUND US FOR BLACK ARCHITECTS
TO PUT THEIR OWN STAMP OF EXCELLENCE ON THE WAY WE LIVE,
THE WAY WE WORK. THE OPPORTUNITY IS THERE FOR GREATER
ASSISTANCE TO MINORITY COMMUNITIES. BLACK ARCHITECTS
CAN PROVIDE THIS SERVICE BY IMPLEMENTING AND ADMINISTERING
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROJECTS IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES.

WE NEED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MINORITY ARCHI-
TECTURAL GRADUATES AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. THOSE OF YOU
IN THE AUDIENCE THIS EVENING, KNOW THAT A MAN HAS TO BE
QUALIFIED IF HE IS TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP ROLES IN INDUSTRY.
A MAN CANNOT BECOME A COMPETENT ARCHITECT WITHOUT A



- 5 -

KNOWLEDGE OF ARCHITECTURE, JUST AS HE CANNOT BECOME A PILOT WITHOUT THE NECESSARY TRAINING IN FLYING.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT MANY BLACKS ENTERING COLLEGE HAVE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING THEIR EDUCATION. THAT IS WHY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN THIS RESPECT. FEDERAL AID TO BLACK COLLEGES WILL REACH THE \$200 MILLION IN 1973.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT MINORITY FIRMS TOTAL ABOUT ONE PERCENT OF ALL FIRMS PRACTICING IN THE UNITED STATES. FORTUNATELY, BLACKS ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT THE CLOUT OF ORGANIZATIONS IS FAR GREATER THAN ANY ONE INDIVIDUAL MIGHT HAVE. YOUR ORGANIZATION, FOR INSTANCE, WAS BORN OUT OF THE REALIZATION THAT BLACK ARCHITECTS COULD BETTER ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS THROUGH A UNITED EFFORT.



- 6 -

LIKE THE SOCIAL WORKER, THE TEACHER AND PREACHER, BLACK ARCHITECTS TODAY ARE BECOMING MORE PEOPLE-ORIENTED. THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR MEN IN THIS PROFESSION TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING COMMUNITIES. THEY CAN INFLUENCE THE ENTIRE LIFESTYLE OF MINORITIES.

SOMEONE ONCE SAID THAT HOME IS WHERE A MAN HANGS HIS HAT. BUT IT TAKES MORE THAN A PEG ON THE BACK OF A DOOR TO TURN A PLACE INTO A HOME. IT TAKES PLANNING, INGENUITY AND CAPABILITY. LIKEWISE, A BUSINESSMAN WANTS MORE FOR HIS MONEY THAN AN UNIMAGINATIVE MATCHBOX OF OFFICES THAT HAS LITTLE REGARD FOR HIS INDIVIDUAL NEEDS. HE WANTS A STRUCTURE THAT IS FUNCTIONAL.

ON A WIDER PLANE, WE NEED WHOLE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE FUNCTIONAL IN UPGRADING OUR LIVES. WE ARE MOVING INTO AN ERA OF RESULTS. WE HAVE GOT TO STOP TALKING AND START PRODUCING.



- 7 -

WE HEAR A LOT OF TALK ABOUT SELF GOVERNMENT AND
TURNING OVER THE DECISION MAKING PROCESSES TO THE PEOPLE.
THIS ADMINISTRATION STRONGLY ADVOCATES SUCH INDEPENDENCE.
ON OCCASION, DEPENDENCE ON GOVERNMENT SUPPORT HAS DIS-
TRACTED US FROM DEVELOPING OUR OWN RESOURCES SO WE CAN
PROVIDE OUR OWN JOBS, CONSTRUCT OUR OWN HOUSES, EDUCATE
OUR OWN CHILDREN AND POLICE OUR OWN COMMUNITY.

AMERICA IS A GREAT NATION TODAY NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT
GOVERNMENT DID FOR PEOPLE -- BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT PEOPLE
DID FOR THEMSELVES. THE GREATNESS OF THIS NATION IS GOING
TO BE MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S SELF-RESPECT,
PRIDE AND DETERMINATION TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIMSELF.

SOMETIMES BLACKS FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THAT FAR MORE
CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE SYSTEM THAN FROM THE
OUTSIDE LOOKING IN. THERE ARE SKEPTICS WHO FAIL TO



- 8 -

UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE TO PREPARE THEMSELVES ACADEMICALLY IF THEY WANT TO GET AHEAD. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME -- YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GET THERE.

THE AMERICAN STANDARD OF LIVING IS SUBSTANTIALLY BASED UPON SELF-RELIANCE IN THE MARKET PLACE, AND THE SOUND BALANCE BETWEEN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH ACCRUE TO BUSINESSMEN AND CONSUMERS UNDER THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

ACCORDING TO THE FIRST CENSUS OF 1790, THERE WERE 757,181 BLACKS IN THE UNITED STATES. TODAY, THERE ARE MORE THAN 25 MILLION. BUT THEN, AS NOW, BLACK PEOPLE ARE LARGELY CONSUMERS. WE SUPPLY LITTLE, WE MANUFACTURE LITTLE, BUT WE CONSUME A GREAT DEAL.



- 9 -

BLACK AMERICANS SPEND MORE THAN 40 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY, BUT WE EXERCISE NO CONTROL OVER THE MONEY WE SPEND. NONE OF IT IS CHANNELED BACK INTO THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND VERY LITTLE OF IT BENEFITS THESE COMMUNITIES.

ONLY 4% OF THE NATION'S SEVEN MILLION BUSINESSES ARE BLACK OWNED. A THIRD OF THE BLACK POPULATION IS CONSIDERED IN THE POVERTY CATEGORY. WHILE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE LOWER RANKS OF INDUSTRY, WE NEED TO BE ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF GETTING MORE BLACKS AT THE TOP.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS IMPLEMENTED PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS TO GO WHERE THE NEED IS. THROUGH THE OFFICE OF MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE, FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MINORITY BUSINESSES HAVE INCREASED FROM \$200 MILLION IN 1969 TO \$700 MILLION FOR 1972 WITH A \$1.1 BILLION BUDGET FOR 1974.



- 10 -

LOANS WILL GO TO OVER 11,500 MINORITY FIRMS IN 1974.

THIS IS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OVER 9,000 for 1972.

ON THE MANAGEMENT SIDE, ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED TO OVER 18,000 MINORITY FIRMS NEXT YEAR.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN HELP BY PLACING MORE EMPHASIS ON THE DISPERSAL OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND PROVIDING OTHER INCENTIVES TO MINORITIES, BUT THE LARGER JOB MUST BE PERFORMED BY YOU. THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY IS TO RETHINK THE PRODUCTION PROCESSES, EXPAND TRAINING PROGRAMS AND ANTICIPATE THE NEEDS OF A CULTURALLY DEPRIVED CITIZENRY STRUGGLING TO ENTER THE MAINSTREAM.

SINCE 1949, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED OVER \$12 BILLION FOR URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS. WE HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT URBAN RENEWAL GRANTS DEAL ONLY WITH THE MANIFESTATION OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS, NOT WITH THE BASIC CAUSES.



- 11 -

THE CLIMATE OF PROGRESS HAS CHANGED SINCE THE NEW DEAL, THE NEW FRONTIER AND THE GREAT SOCIETY. BLACKS MUST START TO THINK OF BLACK ADVANCEMENT IN TERMS OF ECONOMICS -- BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES, BLACK OPERATED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, POLITICAL COALITIONS AND BUSINESS COALITIONS MUST ALL BE OUR MAJOR CONCERNS. NOMA IS ALREADY AT WORK, BUT WE HAVE GOT TO REACH MORE MINORITIES WHO HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF PROGRESS. IN YOUR LEADERSHIP POSITION, YOU CAN ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO UNDERSTAND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE ECONOMICS OF CAPITALISM WHICH HELPED MAKE THIS NATION GREAT.

WHEN WE SPEAK OF BLACK CONCENTRATION ON CAPITALISM, CENTRAL TO THAT IDEA IS THE FOSTERING OF BLACK PRIDE AND BLACK DIGNITY.



WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MEASURE OUR PROGRESS IN TERMS OF ERASING THE BLIGHT OF THE GHETTO. TO THE EXTENT THAT BLACK CAPITALISM SUCCEEDS IN THIS COUNTRY, WE SHOULD SEE MEASURABLE PROGRESS IN THE RISE OF BLACK ASPIRATIONS AS WE MOVE FROM A STATE OF DEPENDENCE TO ONE OF INDEPENDENCE.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID, "WHAT WE NEED IS TO GET PRIVATE ENTERPRISE INTO THE GHETTO, AND GET THE PEOPLE OF THE GHETTO INTO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE -- NOT ONLY AS WORKERS, BUT AS MANAGERS AND OWNERS. THEN THEY WILL HAVE THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE THEY DO NOT HAVE TODAY; THEN THE ECONOMIC IRON CURTAIN WHICH SURROUNDS THE BLACK GHETTOS OF THIS COUNTRY WILL FINALLY BE BREACHED".

AT THIS CONFERENCE, AS YOU ADDRESS YOURSELVES TO THE CONDITIONS THAT CONCERN YOU, KEEP IN MIND THE WORDS OF W.E. B. DuBOIS WHO WROTE, "...TEACH THE WORKERS TO WORK



- 13 -

AND THE THINKERS TO THINK: MAKE CARPENTERS OF CARPENTERS,
AND PHILOSOPHERS OF PHILOSOPHERS, AND FOPS OF FOOLS.
NOR CAN WE PAUSE HERE. WE ARE TRAINING NOT ISOLATED MEN
BUT A LIVING GROUP OF MEN, -NAY, A GROUP WITHIN A GROUP
AND THE FINAL PRODUCT OF OUR TRAINING MUST BE NEITHER A
PSYCHOLOGIST NOR A BRICKMASON, BUT A MAN."

BY CAREFULLY WEAVING AND WORKING AT A SYSTEM, WE
CAN BRING FORTH A NEW DAY FOR ALL MINORITIES, NOT ONLY IN
THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE, BUT ACROSS THE BOARD.

LIKE JACOB'S LADDER, EVERY ROUND GOES HIGHER,
HIGHER. TOGETHER, LET US CONTINUE TO CLIMB.

#