

**Council for a Black Economic Agenda**  
Memorandum

To: Members of the Council for a Black Economic Agenda

From: Bob Woodson, Chairman

Subject: Progress Report

Date: April 1, 1986

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Following is a progress report on meetings with Reagan Administration officials regarding the implementation of the Council's policy recommendations.

Since our meeting with President Reagan on January 13, 1986, a series of follow-up sessions have been held with members of the Administration including Cabinet level and sub-cabinet level officers, White House policy advisors and bureau chiefs at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Most of the meetings were general in nature and held to establish liaison with policy officials within the Administration and to become acquainted with the various players. The meetings were fact-finding to determine the Administration's domestic policy intentions as well as their direction.

We met with Secretary of Labor William Brock to discuss the proposed conference on the Enterprise Allowance scheduled for September 1986. Brock expressed support for this effort and requested more information.

Meetings were also held with Charles Hobbs, director of the White House Office of Policy, who is directing the Administration's welfare reform effort called "Low-Income Opportunity." More details on this initiative will follow as the program evolves.

We met with Attorney General Ed Meese and members of his Domestic Policy Council staff on March 7. The Domestic Policy Council is responsible for developing the Administration's domestic policy agenda. We were impressed with the earnestness with which our proposals were received. At the conclusion of the meeting, we were challenged to recommend specific proposals on what government should be doing to aid low-income groups, as well as overall domestic policy issues. In addition, we were asked to determine what government should not be engaged in. Again, we were asked for specifics.

Kimi Gray, Rosalind Inge and other NCNE staff members met with directors at the Office of Management and Budget as a follow-up to a previous meeting with OMB Director Jim Miller. Miller asked that we brief his staff on the current status of resident management of public housing as it effects government policy. Since there seemed to be some resistance to the resident management program at OMB, this gave us an opportunity to explain resident management to OMB staffers. They too asked for more details on how federal policy can be more responsive to resident management. When our information is received and digested by OMB staff, it will be circulated to other pertinent offices. When this happens, we will meet again to determine where we go from here.

In addition, we have been working with members of the traditional black leadership. As you know, two weeks prior to our meeting with the President, Council member Jim Nuthall arranged a meeting with D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy and myself to discuss cooperation between the Council for a Black Economic Agenda and members of the Black Leadership Roundtable. This meeting led to a larger meeting between a Council delegation including Bob Hill, Paul Pryde, Kimi Gray, Carl Holman, and representatives from the Roundtable including Congressman Fauntroy, Evelyn Moore and a representative from the Children's Defense Fund. At the meeting Roundtable representatives agreed to support three of our proposals: tax incentives for small businesses within economically depressed communities; foster care and adoption reform; and resident management of public housing.

Subsequently, Representative Fauntroy has introduced HR 4026 to promote tenant management with Jack Kemp as the bill's co-sponsor. On March 25th leaders of tenant management groups from around the country supported the bill at a hearing before the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs subcommittee on housing and community development.

We are anxious to increase Council member's participation in these deliberations. If you cannot play an active role in these meetings, we would appreciate receiving your input into these policy deliberations. The Reagan Administration has been extremely responsive to our policy recommendations and has given us direct access to Cabinet Secretaries and other policy staff. We have an unparalleled opportunity to make a major impact on the Administration's direction in urban policy.

We must respond to this challenge by making our views and opinions known. Please send specific policy recommendations that lend substance to our present recommendations.

Some of you have not been able to attend the meetings at the White House or any of the planning meetings. If you do not wish to serve on the Council, please let me know. We do not want to

be in the position of representing what we presume to be your views, if that is not so.

I will call you within the next two weeks to discuss your suggestions. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call.