—Our agenda for the 80s

(Continued from Page 3)

'To Mr. Carter we say — 'Remember the black vote. It put you in the Oval Office . . . but the enthusiasm of black voters has cooled. There is disappointment in the black community . . .'

bigger check. Last January the Comptroller General issued a report on cost overruns for federal hardware. The amounts are staggering. Federal cost overruns amounted to over $200 billion. Eliminating those cost overruns and pork barrel projects and squeezing waste out of current programs could yield billions for the agenda for the 1980s.

Our agenda for the 1980s is not an impossible dream. It is a matter of priorities. It is a matter of leadership and resource management.

America's public and private leadership suffers from a cramped view of its responsibilities. Few exhibit the quality of leadership as defined by Professor James McGregor Burns, who writes:

"Truly great and creative leaders . . . arouse people's hopes and aspirations and expectations, convert social needs into political demands, and rise to higher levels of leadership as they respond to those demands."

Leadership, says Burns, "is power governed by principle, directed toward raising people to their highest levels of personal motive and social morality and tested by the achieving of results measured by the original purpose."

By that definition, our nation faces a crisis of leadership and a crisis of confidence in that leadership. That crisis is primarily political, but it infects private leadership as well. Given a cautious administration and a hostile Congress, there is a need for men and women in the private and voluntary sectors to come forth with the leadership that inspires the great creativity of this nation.

Black citizens have a responsibility to encourage that kind of leadership. We must exercise our moral claims on the nation through pressure on public and private leaders. We must develop the political strength that will ensure greater responsiveness by elected officials.

It will be crucial for black leadership to follow sound strategies in the coming campaign for the presidency. It is too early for black people to become enmeshed in speculation on who to support or to run informal primaries in the black community.

It is too early for blacks to call for dumping Carter, drafting Kennedy or backing Baker. There's too much at stake for black people to become pawns in other people's games.

The black strategy should be to hang loose and make the candidates come to us. No one can win without the black vote. The black vote is not in anyone's pocket. It must not be given away; it must be earned with ironclad commitments to the programs and policies black people need.

It's a long, grueling road to the White House. Whoever climbs that rocky road is going to have to make plenty of stops before he makes the victory statement. He's going to have to make stops with Democrats, with Republicans, with independents, with business and labor, with women, and most assuredly, with black and brown people.

Anyone who hopes to be called "Mr. President" in 1981 is going to have to come by here. He'll have to make stops in Chicago's South Side, in Atlanta's West Side, in Harlem, in Watts, and in the urban and rural strongholds of black voters. Yes, no matter who he is, incumbent or challenger, he's got to come by here.

Any candidate who ignores us is in jeopardy. Any candidate who takes us for granted is in double jeopardy.

To Mr. Carter, we say — "Remember the black vote." It put you in the Oval Office. Ninety - four percent of black voters cast their ballot for you. They swung the South behind you. They were your margin of victory in key northern states. But the enthusiasm of black voters has cooled. There is disappointment in the black community.

Black citizens understand that the process of governance means compromise and delay. But they understand too, that their rights and needs have been compromised and delayed since the birth of our nation.

Black people appreciate your urban programs but they're not enough. Black people appreciate your job efforts, but they're not enough. Black people appreciate your health and welfare plans, but they're not enough. Black people appreciate your appointments of blacks to judgeships and other high posts — but they're just not enough.

The expectation of bold leadership and renewed moral commitment to minority needs has not been fulfilled.

We understand a president has the right to determine who shall serve in his administration. But we watch with great interest to see what effect these changes will have on our needs, our aspirations and our agenda for the 1980s.

To all other aspirants to the presidency, Democrats or Republicans alike, the black community will be harsh judges. Black people will be examining your record, evaluating your performance, and checking your positions.

In the meantime, it is the responsibility of the black community to maximize black registration and voter turnout. We don't have the wealth. We don't have the power. But we do have the numbers. Those numbers won't count unless we register and vote. The black agenda for the 1980s depends on that.

'. . . it is the responsibility of the black community to maximize black registration and voter turnout. We don't have the wealth. We don't have the power. But we do have the numbers."

Because black voting rates are so low we have congressmen who vote against our interests. Right now those congressmen are trying to repeal the Brown decision through a constitutional amendment to ban busing. The Motl Amendment will prevent black kids from getting equal educational opportunities. It must be defeated.

While we strengthen black voting power we also must strengthen the black - brown coalition. And we must revive the traditional coalitions that share our agenda for the 1980s.

Black people know that freedom is not free. We know that we've bought the little we have at a dear price, a price paid over centuries of oppression and misery, a price paid through painful struggle and constant agitation. Yes, we know the truth of Frederick Douglass' immortal words:

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters."

Black people understand the struggle for equality. We know we must weather the storms ahead — storms of recession, of racism, of an uncaring nation. Yes we know our days of sacrifice and struggle are not over.

Our struggle is for America's soul. We know that our struggle is one to revive the floundering moral principles of our nation. We have faith in America's ideals, in her promises of equality, in her innate morality. Our faith has been sorely tried, it has been burned in the furnace of racial hatreds, but always, black people have revived their faith in America and through their example and commitment, America's faith in itself.

The top black businesses: what they are, where they are

"Black business is small business, but black economic development is one of the grandest movements in our national history."

With these words Black Enterprise the national monthly magazine reporting on minority economic affairs, began its article on the "Billion Dollar Baby," the top - 100 black businesses in 1978.

Each year since the publication's inception in 1973, Black Enterprise has annually listed the top - money making firms owned and managed by black business persons.

Black Enterprise noted that the nation's black businesses in 1978 grossed $1.053 million marking a 17 percent increase over 1977.

The nation's black businesses have shown increased profits in every year of the past nine except 1975 when minority firms suffered, a slight decline.

Number one black business in America again this time is Motown Industries, the record - making and entertainment conglomorate, founded in 1959 by Berry Gordy, still its chief officer.

Motown, which began in Detroit, but now headquartertered in Los Angeles, had 1978 sales totaling $58 million.

Second largest black business again is, the Johnson Publishing Company, publishers of Ebony and Jet. Corporate head is firm founder John H. Johnson. Gross sales were $55 million for the year.

Fedco Foods Corporation of the Bronx, N.Y. is third top - grosser again for a second year. Fedco employs some 500 workers in its chain of supermarkets and its total sales were $48 million.

JOHNSON PRODUCTS CO., Inc., manufacturers of hair care products and cosmetics, located in Chicago, Ill. Last year's sales were $41 million.

H. J. RUSSELL CONSTRUCTION CO., Inc., construction and development, Atlanta, Ga. Last year's sales - $32 million.

AFRO INTERNATIONAL CORP., exports, New York, N.Y. Last year's sales - $26 million.

SMITH PIPE AND SUPPLY, Inc., Oilfield pipe and supply, Houston, Tex. Last year's sales - $24 million.

TERRY BRANTLEY GREENBRIAR LINCOLN - MERCURY SALES, Inc., auto sales and service, ATLANTA, Ga. Last year's sales - $20 million.

DRUMMOND DISTRIBUTING CO., Inc., liquor wholesaling, Compton, Calif. Last year's sales - $16 million.

AL JOHNSON CADILLAC, Inc., auto sales and service, Chicago, Ill. Last year's sales - $15 million.

WALLACE & WALLACE CHEMICAL & OIL CORP., fuel oil import and distribution, St. Albans, N.Y. Last year's sales - $15 million.

COMMONWEALTH HOLDING CO., Inc., Mfg., retail - wholesale, real estate, general contracting, New York, N.Y. Last year's sales - $15 million.

DICK GIDRON CADILLAC, Inc., auto sales and service, Bronx, N.Y. Last year's sales $15 million.

CHIOKE INTERNATIONAL CORP., marketing crude oil, cargo ships, oil tankers, defense equipment, New York, N.Y. Last year's sales $15 million.

WALLACE AND WALLACE FUEL OIL CO., Inc., retail fuel oil sales, St. Albans, N.Y. Last year's sales - $14 million.

MEL FARR FORD, Inc., auto sales and service, Oak Park, Mich. Last year's sales - $14 million.

MICON CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CORP., general construction, Lynbrook, N.Y. Last year's sales - $13 million.

SUPERIOR FORD, Inc., auto sales and service, Minneapolis, Minn. Last year's sales - $12 million.

THACKER CONSTRUCTION CO., heavy construction, airport and highway, Atlanta, Ga. Last year's sales - $12 million.

PORTERFIELD WILSON PONTIAC, Inc., auto sales and service, Detroit, Mich. Last year's sales $12 million.

COCOLINE CHOCOLATE CO., mfg. chocolate and chocolate products, Brooklyn, N.Y. Last year's sales $12 million.

SEIDEL CHEVROLET, Inc., auto sales and service, Landover, Md. Last year's sales $11 million.

HOPKINS CHEVROLET, Inc., auto sales and service, Atlanta, Ga. Last year's sales - $11 million.

PATMON OLDSMOBILE, Inc., auto sales and service, Grosse Point Park, Mich. Last year's sales - $11 million.

VANGUARD OIL AND SERVICE CO., Inc., retail fuel oil distribution, Brooklyn, N.Y. Last

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Mitchell plans October summit

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D - Md., has scheduled an Economic Summit to be held in Baltimore Monday, October 29, at the World Trade Center.

This summit meeting to be attended by black officials from across the country is a follow - up to the National Summit held in Baltimore in 1971.

Purpose of the meeting is to develop several long - range economic issues that will have a direct impact on the black community.

At the 1971 summit meeting, one goal was to increase the number of minority owned banks which totaled 23 at that time. In five years, the number increased to 46.

Jerry Lymus, aide to Mitchell reports that one of this year's goals is to develop capital formation so that minorities can obtain money venturing into business.

Another goal is to develop strategies so that black firms can purchase those companies owned by conglomerates which are breaking up.

Among those expected to attend this year's summit is Earl Graves, editor and publisher, Black Enterprise magazine, and five black bank owners, economists, professors of business from various colleges and universities as well as various businessmen.

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—Are we gaining or losing?—
Baltimoreans evaluate economic conditions

Are black Americans gaining or losing in their struggle to get a full share of America's abundance?

Many black leaders, notably Vernon E. Jordan and the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, have recently pointed out that this nation's blacks face their harshest economic conditions since the 1930s.

They urge that economic development be the major thrust for the black community as the 1980s begin.

More accurately, however, there has been in the last decade a remarkable upsurge of successful black businesses. These, by and large, are individual success stories.

The problem in the next decade clearly is to develop strategies that see the kinds of benefits individual black business people are achieving spread out among a great many more people.

While one out of every four black families is near a point of economic equity with Americans in other ethnic groups, over 75 percent of all black families are still economically deprived.

Against this background we asked Marylanders active in minority economic development just how the immediate economic future looks for them.

Here are their views:

M. J. Brodie

M. JAY BRODIE, director, Housing and Community Development — "In my view, the involvement of black developers and builders in the revitalization of Baltimore is one of the most vital issues that we deal with.

"I've tried to make it clear to everyone that we encourage this involvement in everything that we do. This means being innovative in the way we approach a particular problem.

"Walbrook shopping center, which required city assistance and financing is under construction and is a terrific project not only for the community but the city as well.

"I am very excited about Glenn Doughty's Shake and Bake Family Sports Center. This is a unique development.

"We were able to obtain a federal action grant for the programs for the Eastside Community Corporation."

"Although the city does not have a requirement on what percentage of city contracts must go to minorities, HCD uses 10 to 25 percent as a goal range. I'm confident we've met the 10 percent and in most cases passed that."

John Douglass

JOHN DOUGLASS, candidate for city comptroller — "The status of black economic development is one of no growth, there really hasn't been anything substantial.

"This can possibly be attributed to the overall economic climate which has not been very encouraging.

"Baltimore could have a very effective set - aside program for minority contracts, which would guarantee that blacks would get a certain percentage of city contracts similar to what the state awards.

"But we also must show a more concerted effort on our part to foster black economic development and one crucial part of that is supporting black businesses."

Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings

DEL. HOWARD "PETE" RAWLINGS — "I don't think black economic development is where it should be. There are signs we're about to break out of the bottleneck.

"The development of Harborplace will provide opportunities for constructive growth for black entrepreneurs. This is a very positive indication.

"One negative aspect is that we weren't able to charter a minority owned bank.

"The main problem is establishing economic development in areas such as Edmondson Village and Park Heights where there is critical neglect."

Wes Ivey

WES IVEY, local businessman — "Black ecdnomic development at this time is at a slow pace. There has been some progress in black economic development but nothing apparent.

"It's very difficult to assess because everything seems to be at a standstill."

Rev. John R. Bryant

REV. JOHN R. BRYANT, Bethel AME Church — "It looks very positive, not that the city or the state has done very much.

"But there is increasing interest in the black community for self-help projects and there's more concern from the grassroots people about the ideas of economics.

"It looks rather bright because of what we as a people are now ready for."

Parren J. Mitchell

REP. PARREN J. MITCHELL, D-Md. "The minority business sector has been a virtual step - child of the nation's economic system. If it was not for a series of affirmative action efforts — spastically evolving from the social tremors of the 1960s — minority business enterprise would still be best characterized as loosely connected "mom and pop" operations strewn about the country.

"The struggles seemed endless, futile ordeals until last year's passage and the president's signing of Public Law 95 - 507. This series of amendments to the Small Business Act and Small Business Investment Act of 1958, is the most important piece of economic legislation benefitting the minority business sector. I believed then, as I do now that the minority entreprenuer is on the road to 'economic parity.'"

Lenwood Ivey

LENWOOD IVEY, executive director, Urban Services Agency — "We are making some progress but not enough. There's no doubt that black economic development is the foundation for us to gain black power.

"Without this, we'll never get the kind of power that is required to be in the mainstream of this city.

"At this point I'd say we're still years and years behind."

Robert Blount

ROBERT E. BLOUNT, executive director, Greater Baltimore Minority Purchasing Council — "Looking from a very positive standpoint, more so than any other city, Baltimore has a wealth of opportunity for young blacks who want to get into business.

"There is a lot of growth in industrial, wholesale and manufacturing which are areas where minority involvement is increasing.

"Minority businesses are also now able to handle larger contracts with corporations and agencies."

Herbert Nutter

HERBERT NUTTER, funeral director - "Black economic development in Baltimore has improved over the last 50 years with great potential of improvement in the future."

Doug Sands

DOUG SANDS, Minority Contracters Association — "Just looking at the federal dollars invested in the development of Baltimore there is precious little economic development among blacks.

"We get a few jobs but we don't have any of the major construction contracts. We also have the financial institutions and the black business but they are just a small part of the economic development."

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NSC prof named to health post

NORFOLK — Dr. Don Taylor, director of health sciences and services at Norfolk State University, has been appointed to the steering committee of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' new allied helath technical assistance project for minority institutions.

The project is designed to provide opportunities for minority students to enter allied health professional programs.

It is being funded by HEW which awarded a two - year contract to AASCU to provide technical assistance to 18 predominately minority institutions, to initiate new allied health programs on campus and to improve the quality of existing programs.

UL official named at Atlanta U.

NEW YORK — Clarence D. Coleman, vice president, field operations, National Urban League, has been nameddean of the Atlanta University Graduate School of Social Work.

Coleman will assume his new post on Sept. 1, 1979, according to Dr. Cleveland Dennard, president of Atlanta University.

Coleman has served in the Urban League movement for over 20 years, beginning his career with the Atlanta Urban League as its director of Community Services. He moved to the Southern Regional Office in 1959, becoming, in succession, community service director, associate director, supervisor of social work and field work, and director in 1962.

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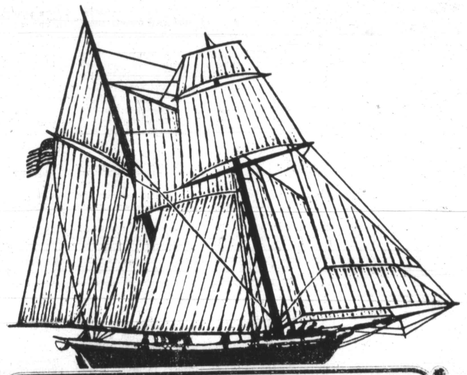

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