## The Shaw Report:

by Rufus Shaw, Jr.

## -The Day After-

The world that thinks the world's premier capitalistic nation is going to forget this country functions on money and economic development is certainly dead. There will be no more socialistic remedies for problems that are indigenous to capitalism.

In other words, the Federal Government won't be "handing out" money to minorities to solve our problems. No sir. We'll solve our problems the old fashioned way. We'll earn money the way a capitalistic system dictates we should or we'll simply starve.

"We'll be hardworking employees. We'll provide goods and services to a public that wants them. We'll earn a profit or a wage for our efforts.

By this, I mean a profit or wage that will be decided by the people who buy our goods and services or by an employee who values our efforts. Jesse Jackson won't determine how much money we'll make. We will.

We will do that by giving 100% effort on our jobs and by making sure our businesses' are functioning at 100% efficiency or we'll be unemployed and out of business.

In a capitalistic system, that's the way it should be. In this sytem, you get what you pay for.

Unfortunately, for the masses of black people, we have not been told the true nature of capitalism. That is — nothing is free. When the Federal Government was doling out Federal Grants for just about anything black or minority, we all thought that was capitalism at work.

On the surface it all seemed free. But it wasn't. We utilized tax dollars. Tax dollars that aided the government in going broke. Tax dollars that flooded our economy with money, which in turn, drove up the prices for goods and services that we all purchase.

They called that "inflation". Tax dollars which were supposed to eliminate poverty, educate the masses of young blacks and build black businesses to a point of national competitiveness were given to black America for the last 20 years.

Yet none of the objectives were met. There is still plenty of poverty. A recent study by the National Center for Policy Analysis showed that during the last decade there has been an upward trend in poverty among all races.

There are still many uneducated black people. There are still plenty of non-competitive black businesses. The questions are what happened? Whose fault is it?

What happened is that we forgot to perform our part. We forgot to work. We forgot that

us a wage for a job well done. Our politicians forgot to tell us that. They forgot to tell us that this country was built with blood, sweat, and tears

This country was built with hard work. All too often, I've heard many of our black leaders talk about the blood and tears that our black forefathers shed to build this nation.

Somehow, they forget to emphasize the "sweat" and work and the pride our forefathers took in their work. We weren't always slaves. Nor were we always forced to work.

The vast majority of early black Americans wanted to work and worked hard. They were proud of their jobs and their productivity. Those jobs weren't the white man's jobs. They were jobs and they got paid for them.

Now somebody told the black Pepsi generation that we didn't have to work. Or if nobody told us not to work, why did we stop? Because we certainly did stop. Just take a look around. You'll find many (not all) but many of the unemployed are rejecting certain jobs.

A great many of our black youth are very poor employees. They are arrogant, discourteous and unprofessional and the sad fact is they expect to be paid!

Why did we bet on a Democratic ticket that didn't agree to most of the platform that Jesse Jackson requested? I think we may have forgotten that the state of the economy was this country's major crisis. Not what this country can do for black folks.

White America rose up and announced to the world, the debt has been paid to black America. Now its time to get back to the basis of capitalism.

This wasn't a Republican statement. You don't carry 49 states with a partisan Republican following. This could be interpreted as a white backlash to the progress black Americans have made in the last 20 years.

However, I choose to interpret this recent Presidential election as a statement for capitalism.

When I talked to a number of black businessmen across the country, they didn't seem dismayed because they know that a strong economy is good for all Americans—not just white Americans.

There is very little difference between a black capitalist and a white capitalist. They both want to make money and with their profits, hopefully, they'll help provide for their

less fortunate brothers and sisters.

But we've got to carry our own land now. We've got to have a good understanding of how this system works. This doesn't mean we all have to go out and start a business.

It does mean we can all do our part to be good capitalists by doing the best job we can do and by demanding that other blacks give you the best goods and services for your money. Don't let the brother slide anymore. Get what you pay for.

I know we have a problem in this job area when just about every black businessperson you speak to is concerned about how difficult it is to find and keep good employees. The key words here are good employees — not just someone on a job:

Finally, our choices are very clear. On the day after November 6th, the rest of America told black America that the 60's and 70's are over and the 80's will be about money for profit-making economic development.

I, for one, don't think that being about money is anti-black. I think being about money is the first step towards anti-poverty. Since Reconstruction, there have been black people who understood the capitalistic system and they were successful in this system.

The truth is, that blacks have been successful capitalists ever since we've been given a chance to be. Now, we have another chance to emulate the capitalistic vigor that our forefather's displayed.

Of course, we can call this whole article conservative, capitalistic rhetoric. If you do, you'd be acting like the fellows who bet on their allwhite high school basketball team to beat the Lakers.

The fact that they bet on the wrong team wasn't so bad. The problem is they never understood their mistake. It was the Laker's time. It's money time again in America.

We still have a choice. We can participate in the economic development of America by being hard working capitalists or we can sit on the sidelines and wait four more years for the non-profit groups to regain power.

But man, four years is a long time to go without eating. And if you don't participate now, you'll not be eating much!

Rufus Shaw's books from Rufus Shaw
Publishing are 1) "How To Be A Rich Nigger" \$8.95; 2) "Hustling: The Art of Black
Financial Survival" \$8.95; and 3) "Street
Economics" \$10.95. The Triology (3 books)
is \$24.00. For Lecture Information, call:
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