

Tuskegee Mayor pays tribute to Messenger

By Harold 4X
and
Minister Oscar X
(M.S. Atlanta Bureau)

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — In an unprecedented move, Mayor Johnny Ford of Tuskegee, Alabama presented to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the key to the City. This ceremony followed a letter to the Messenger of Allah from the mayor, himself, which stressed the desire for the Nation of Islam's "industrial entry" into the Tuskegee-Macon County area.

ACCEPTING THE key on behalf of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad at the historical event in Tuskegee was Brother Earl Pasha, a Black Inventor. Minister Abdul Rahman, the Nation of Islam's Southern Regional Representative, delivered the key to the Messenger at his home in Chicago.

Tuskegee Mayor Johnny Ford, Dr. B.D. Mayberry, Dean of Applied Sciences and Development Officials from both Tuskegee Institute and the City of Tuskegee, met with business representatives from the Nation of Islam at the ceremony to discuss Tuskegee for industrial development.

Mayor Ford's letter to the Messenger stressed his desire

to see the Messenger come into the Tuskegee and Macon County area to build industries, factories, and foundries. And to do whatever the Honorable Elijah Muhammad wanted to do in the way of structuring "Black Economy."

IT WAS a letter from the Mayor of Tuskegee, telling the Messenger how "very much" he, the mayor, wanted to work with the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam, in terms of his efforts to structure these businesses in the Tuskegee-Macon county area.

MAYOR FORD asked the Honorable Elijah Muhammad if he could come to Chicago and discuss these matters with him, or if he would prefer to come to Tuskegee. Mayor Ford invited Brother Earl Pasha, a 40-year Follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, to bring some of his inventions and display them at the ceremony.

Pasha, a Black genius whose inventions are unmatched in modern day, has several on display. There were special fold-away trash containers, racks for holding garbage cans and metal refuse container cabinets.

Pasha, though his formal

education never exceeded the third grade, is the holder of seven governmental patents. His wisdom and intellect is so overwhelming that he can produce steam engines and various tool and die type machinery.

Also on display were other products of the Nation of Islam, including farm items, in which the group of specialists from Tuskegee Institute decided to do a feasibility study. The study is to determine to what extent of marketability these items offer in the Tuskegee-Macon County Area and also the local manufacturing potential. And further to examine their marketing and manufacturing possibilities on a national and international scale.

THE GROUP of experts considers the Nation of Islam, under the guidance of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, as the number one Black economic enterprise in the country, having amassed massive assets throughout North America, the Caribbean, and in Japan.

Mayor Ford expressed his views on the Nation of Islam by saying, "I believe fully in the philosophy of self help; of pulling one self up by one's own bootstraps of economic



ACCEPTING Key to the City of Tuskegee for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is Brother Earl Pasha, inventor (right). In making the presentation, Mayor Johnny Ford (left) resoundly praised the Messenger's economic endeavors.

development, of building and helping ourselves.

"That philosophy is a most meaningful one; it is the kind of philosophy that other people have adopted," said the mayor. "This is what makes the movement of the Nation of Islam so successful and the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad so viable."

As a result of the productivity of the Nation of Islam, Mayor Ford said that he was just "Gung - Ho" about working with the Messenger "Hand in Hand," to lay an economic foundation in Tuskegee for Black people.

Mayor Ford separated the religion from the whole aspect of business, but he said the one thing he particularly liked about the Teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, separate from the business, is that it actually cleans up the Black man. He said it really brings us (the Black man) up

out of the mud and makes us stand, act and talk like civilized folks.

THE GREATEST tribute that a mayor of any city can pay to an individual is to accord that individual the distinction of presenting him the key to his city. Mayor Ford made this move all on his own.

The city of Tuskegee sets in predominantly Black Macon County which has 26,000 residents, 12,000 of which are in Tuskegee. The major employers are the famous Tuskegee Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington, and the Veterans Administration Hospital run by Blacks.

The major problem is unemployment; however, the city has 3,000 acres of ripe land owned by the city available for industrial development. Even though Blacks control 80 per cent of the political offices, whites still possess substantial economic and political power.

Urge U.S. Blacks to enter foreign trade

By Donald Mosby

CHICAGO—The end of World War II marked the beginning of a new era in the world's economy, though few people realized how significant the "new era" would be. The death of colonialism in Africa, and the Caribbean and the birth of more than 50 new independent countries was the basis for the changes that took place during the quarter-century since

World War II ended.

TODAY, THE NEW frontiers in world economy are the nations of Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Export - import, joint ventures, and foreign exchange are terms which are becoming common place in the various business centers of Black America. The saying is — to repeat an old phrase — "there's gold in them hills."

Mining the above mentioned

gold, however, is a very complex and tricky business. One key aspect of the "mining" process is convincing those Black businesses in America, that have the resources and capacity, to move into international trade.

This is the primary function of the Pan African Business Center, Inc., located in New York City. The center was

begun in order to "educate and inform" Black businessmen about the opportunities which exist in Africa and the Caribbean.

In addition to the above, another key aspect of the centers' operations is aiding those Black businessmen who want to take advantage of the opportunities, to do so.

THE CENTER began operations more than six months ago. Since that time they have held one day seminars and workshops in several cities across the country.

According to Walton A. Johnson, director of research, the seminars are designed to "broaden the horizons of Black businessmen and acquaint them with the possibilities of doing business in Africa and the Caribbean."

"At the sametime," he continued, "another very important aspect of the seminars is to focus in on those companies who presently have the capabilities to enter into the international market."

ONE COMPANY currently operating in Africa, Johnson says, is the Thomas A. Woods leasing company. "This is the fifth largest Black business in America. But he only has ten or 12 people working for him here — the remainder of the staff is in Africa and all his business is done in Africa."

"Woods has just signed a contact with the Zambian government to lease them 300 trucks," Johnson said, "which will represent a profit to that company of \$10 million. And at the same time he has a line of credit from General Motors, who is going to provide the trucks, for something like \$2 billion."

JOHNSON VERY candidly stated that Blacks who wanted to make money in Africa had to be willing to go there. "One of the brothers in the seminar today said he only wanted to sell what he makes here in Africa he was adamant that he didn't want to go there and live."



BLACK PUBLISHER W. Leonard Evans Jr. (third from left) during a panel discussion on business opportunities for Blacks in Africa and the Caribbean held by the Pan African Business Center to acquaint Blacks in Chicago with the growing opportunities in world trade. Others, from left: G. Varney Freeman, Pan African Business Center; Maryavis Bokal, U.S. Dept. of Commerce; Walton A. Johnson, Pan African Business Center; Chileshe Mulenga, University of Chicago; Jose Canchola Office of Minority Business Enterprise. (M.S. Photo by Emerson Muhammad)