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“What Do You Know About the NBPC?”

The NBPC (National Black Planning Council) does not exist. But it certainly should exist.

If we are going to get things done, then we must organize properly. Proper organization facilitates effective planning, information flows, plan execution, plan monitoring, and course corrections so that we make real progress in achieving an evolving agenda that we establish for ourselves. Therefore, an NBPC should be assembled.

What would the NBPC be? A *supra* organization (an organization of organizations) comprised of one empowered member from all important Black organizations: e.g., BIG (Blacks in Government), CBC (Congressional Black Caucus), CNBC (Conference of National Black Churches), Divine Nine and National Pan-Hellenic Council, NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), NABA (National Association of Black Accountants), NABJ (National Association of Black Journalists), NAN (National Action Network), NBA (National Bar Association), NEA² (National Education and Economists Associations), NMA (National Medical Association), NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers), NUL (National Urban League), etc.

How would the NBPC work? It would operate using “bubble up” and “flow down” principles—considering important concerns and issues reported by member organizations and formulating broad coordinated recommendations to address these concerns and issues. It would be forward looking. It would develop, maintain, monitor, and adjust as required an overarching strategic plan for Black America for important aspects of our lives. Most importantly, it would ensure that each represented organization and Black Americans at large are informed about these recommendations and plans in a timely manner.

The NBPC should not be or become a bureaucracy. It should not require significant financing, and what little financing is required should be supplied by member organizations. Most of the NBPC’s work should be performed within its member organizations. Again, the NBPC should be a clearing house for ideas that bubble up, that should be synthesized, and then related recommendations and plans should flow down to member organizations and to Black Americans at large through the NABJ and Black media outlets.

We know from experience that, because we have not planned for ourselves, others have planned for us and ensured that we fulfilled their plans. Now it is time for the Black

American nation within the larger nation to plan and provide oversight for our own current and future wellbeing.

Black America is certainly organized around specific specialties and areas of interest in stove pipes. What we do not have is enough communications, cross-fertilization, and planning across these specialties and areas of interest. An NBPC will enable Black America to know effectively what the various specialties and areas of interests are thinking, planning, and doing separately and what they agree to achieve on a combined basis. It is this type of coordinated information flow that

will enable Black America to achieve our aspirations on a more coordinated, organized basis.

An NBPC would serve as a crowning achievement for Black organizations in America and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of all of our efforts to improve and enhance Black America wellbeing.

B. Robinson
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