

THE PUBLISHER'S PAGE

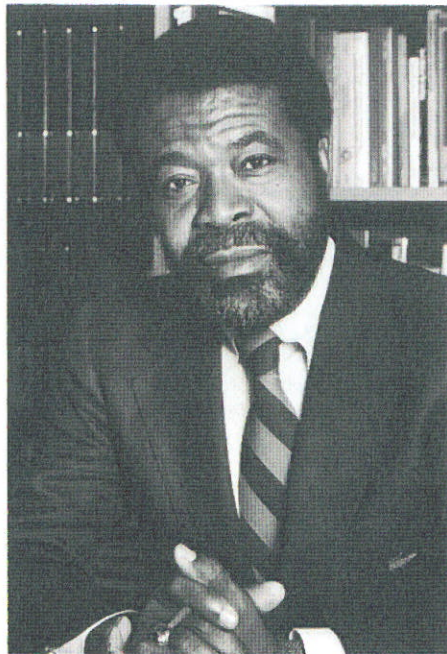
"Charity Begins At Home"

by Lloyd Hyde

Yes friends, "charity begins at home," and for you, me, and many others residing in North America and other parts of the world, home will always be Jamaica. So then the question is, if Jamaica is our home, and we are a charitable people, why have we not made an all-out effort to put that tenet into operation? We could by our collective efforts and resources mount a large-scale fund-raising drive among ourselves that could make a significant difference in aiding the country's development. Notice, I said among ourselves. Our sense of accomplishment and nationalism will be heightened if we can achieve our goal with minimal assistance from friends and associates in our host countries.

To borrow a couple of lines from that old song which Peter, Paul and Mary made popular, "This land is your land, this land is my land, this land was made for you and me." This land is indeed ours, made for you and me—and our children too. What are you, as Jamaicans, giving back to Jamaica? I ask the question not to be cynical or judgmental, but to provoke thought and to stimulate action in a proactive sense. It is no secret that our country needs our help and it needs it now. So, my friends, the year is 1990 and the time is now. Let's come together and forget self-interest, which only serves to factionalize us. Do we need to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps? Yes. Do we need to start now? Yes. Do we have the economic strength and the intestinal fortitude? Yes. Do we have the numerical quantity and ingenuity? Sure, we do. Remember that you cannot always lead from the front. However, you can start leading

wherever you are. We hear varying statistics pertaining to our numbers in North America and England. Whatever the precise figure, my position is, quite frankly, that there are more than enough Jamaicans away from home, who by joining together, can contribute significantly to improving the country's economy. As I said, we can do it by starting a massive,



on-going fund-raising drive among ourselves in North America and the United Kingdom to raise \$50,000,000—that's fifty million dollars U.S. annually. I mean every year, like clockwork, the next ten years with no breaks and no rest periods. Let us discontinue the idle talk on what Jamaica needs, and to use a common U.S. dictum, let's "put our

money where our mouths are." Whatever she needs, she is ours, therefore it becomes our responsibility to fulfill these needs. New hospitals, you say, a new public transportation system, new roads, a new railway system, new schools and colleges, new industries. Do you say we need more leading edge technology, improved communications and general utilities? I say we can certainly do much of this by ourselves. Let's be slower to criticize and quicker to provide. Let us cease advancing untried cures, and give more. How do we do it? From half a million Jamaicans in England, the United States and Canada. When you establish the mechanism and find the appropriate vehicle the annual contribution per person will be miniscule. One hundred dollars per year would be reasonable in my opinion. My \$100.00 and that of my wife and other family members are ready. Come on Jamaicans, we can do it. We are a tenacious people, we are a proud people, and a caring people who love our country well. The components are all out there among us. Let's pull them together and assemble them systematically. We certainly have the people—people whom we have come to respect and trust over the years and whose support we could seek in the administering of this kind of large-scale project. The mechanism and talent are around you. Let's harness them for more effective use. Remember your talent is tremendous, your power awesome and your worth immeasurable. I think we could well use the Jewish people as examples of the type of self-help approach that we must employ, and which they have successfully applied over the years in supporting

Israel throughout its lean periods. The considerable U.S. aid to Israel has been greatly bolstered by the intensive collective contribution of the Jewish people to their motherland. Their assistance has been a powerful force in establishing for Israel the type of enviable self-sufficiency it continues to have.

It is our hope that you will search for and find the needed mechanism that will

enable and empower us along this path. Bear in mind that who we are and what we have become was conceived in a tiny land called Jamaica. Wouldn't you then agree that we ought to give something back to her? Let us set our goal to identify ten projects for the first ten years at \$50,000,000 U.S. and start and complete one project per year. In ten years we will have started and completed ten

worthwhile projects at a cost of \$500,000,000 U.S. at no cost to the Jamaican taxpayer. I believe this is a worthwhile challenge and a goal worth working for. However, what is important in all of this is that Jamaica, the land of our birth, will have employed the bootstrap approach effectively. History will record that its nationals abroad "tried a thing," and it worked. ■

JACQ FEEDBACK

As I think you know, it is very difficult to get good, historic reggae records in our country. We have the same trouble with publications and artists' news. I have been hosting a radio reggae program since rag-gamuffin, revivals with calypso and ska.

I am interested in all aspects of reggae. Please send me any issue of your publication that has information on reggae. I will send you in turn copies of tapes with my program, Rasta Revolution, and with Spanish reggae bands.

Many greetings from Spain, and thanks.

Luis Coya Alaez
Oviedo, Spain

JACQ is informative and provides timely and positive information on developments in the Caribbean. We wish there were more magazines such as yours. My wife and I have been faithful readers of JACQ since the first issue came out, and we are pleased to see that you have continued to maintain the same high standards that went into the first issue. Don't ever close your doors.

Glen Blackwood
Portland, Oregon

Apparently your publication has been in circulation for quite some time. Since I am not very active in the modest Jamaican community here in Chicago, I have not been exposed to the many contributions of the West Indian people. My mother introduced me to JACQ and I must say I am most impressed with its content. Currently I do not have a subscription to your magazine and would like to take a one-year subscription.

Thank you for your time and KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

M.I.J.
Chicago, Illinois