

The Miami Herald

A Knight-Ridder Newspaper

David Lawrence Jr.
Publisher and Chairman
(305) 376-3525
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February 20, 1997

Viter Juste
290 NW 86th St.
Miami, FL 33150

Dear Viter:

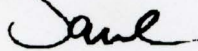
Thanks for sharing all this. I'll help in any way that I can.

Clearly, as a newspaper publisher, I cannot be involved in politics. Indeed, I am a registered "Independent."

Maybe it makes sense for me to sit down with you and several others and talk about all this. I'll be glad to do this. Just give Carmen Dominguez in my office a call at 376-3527, she'll arrange a time and date.

As always, I wish you and your family the very best.

Sincerely,



Dave Lawrence

cc: Carmen Dominguez



The Miami Herald, Miami, Florida 33132-1693 (305) 350-2111

ECONOMIC BOOM OF 1996! DREAM OR REALITY FOR POOR NEIGHBORHOODS by Viter Juste

During the 1996 presidential election, President Clinton, running for a second term, branded "Economic Recovery" as the main accomplishment of his term and borrowed ex President Reagan's coinage: "Are you better off today than 4 years ago?" Vice President Gore followed in tandem with his boss.

Wall Street and big business roared in approval. But many small businessmen had to close their doors and enter the job market to avoid personal bankruptcy. To these few - struggling against the odds, founding it nearly impossible to secure a loan from the Small Business Administration because of the Republican Congress's objection to government investments in poor neighborhoods, - those 4 years were no better.

In many middle class families, both parents must work overtime to make ends meet. The average person is scared to visit a doctor, or will not even be accepted in a hospital because he lacks insurance, private or public.

Benefits for the poor, the elderly, the unemployed, the welfare recipients are drastically cut because federal grants and appropriations to State, County and City have been reduced under the banner of "Welfare Reform". Consequently, community organizations which are dedicated to advocate and help those in need are closing their doors. The recipients of these services are grimacing in despair.

These forgotten majorities are raising their brows in doubt. Definitely, they are not part of the highly publicized "Economic Boom" and the trickle down economy has not reached them.

The Labor Department claims that unemployment is very low, but in what sector of the population? Definitely not in the unskilled and poor neighborhoods.

At the 1996 Republican Convention in San Francisco, more millionaires and billionaires were counted than ever. Around the world as well as in the U.S. the "Global Economy" Makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. In these U.S. of ours, the wind of economic boom so far has blown in only one direction.

Now that the election is over, the American middle class and the poor are coming out of the lethargy inflicted upon them by well crafted, smart, slick political speeches and manipulated statistical data, are asking themselves: "Are we part of this miraculous economic recovery. Are we better off than 4 years ago? We have more millionaires, but do we have less poor? Is money siphoned from poor neighborhoods to be invested in the more affluent suburbs? Are the poor communities condemned for ever to their plight? Is it truly possible that more tax breaks for the riches and less benefit for the poor and the needy are in the making?"

Those questions uttered all over the U.S. should be the basis for the Herald to conduct a study in impoverished communities and propose solutions.

As an example, because of the political situation in Haiti, why not create a Tourist Corridor in Little Haiti where tourists can enjoy the best we have to offer: Music, Art and Food blended in Creole flavor as in New Orleans. It should be a good investment for the private, public sectors and the Haitian community. It would create jobs and economic recovery in a very appealing sector of Dade County.

Campaigning in Little Haiti, Dada Mayor Alex Penelas promised to give some attention to this idea. The election is over, Mr. Penelas won. Good-bye promise!

Please help us fight poverty by creating jobs in our community. Support a "Tourist Corner"

in Little Haiti. It will benefit every one.

in Little Haiti. It will benefit every one.
Records • Books • MAGAZINES • Haitian • Spanish • French • English • Mahogany Woodcraft

Phone: 754-8445

*Les Cousins and Haiti - Florida*7858 N.E. 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33138Attention M^{rs} Gyffre Metellus
MEMO

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6104

TO: Participants
FROM: Viter Juste
DATE: Monday, March 17, 1997
RE: Meeting with Miami Herald Publisher Dave Lawrence

This is a reminder of our up coming meeting with Mr. Dave Lawrence. This meeting is scheduled for March 21st at 3.30 P.M. in Mr. Lawrence's office at the Miami Herald.

Those invited to attend are:

- Viter Juste, Businessman, owner of Les Cousins Books and Records Shop and Community activist Tel. 754-8445 Fax 758-7012
- Jacques Despinosse, Democratic Political Leader, Immigration advocate. President of the newly organized Haitian American Chamber of Commerce. Tel. 75 4-4256 Fax. 754-0180
- Lionel Cayard Businessman advocate of new business ideas Tel 754-9376 Fax 758-6334
- Carline Paul Teacher .Tel. & Fax 949 8239
- Fulgencio Padilla Cuban businessman owner of Pady AutoParts; advocate of good social & economic relations between Cubans & Haitians. Tel. 756-7185 Fax 758-0271
- Jean Colin Activist for strong relations between Haitians from Dade, Broward Palm Beach Tel & Fax 954 680-9927
- Reverend Fritz Bazin Episcopal Pastor addresses relations among Haitians and from a religious, and scientific point of view the taboos of our community, Tel. 685-5588 Fax 685-0327

It will be necessary that we meet for one hour exactly on Thursday 20th. One day before the meeting to set clearly the goals of that meeting. The location will be at the Episcopal Church: Les Martyrs d'Haiti located at 64 th Street & North Miami Ave. May I suggest 5 P.M. sharp.

If you have any comment, please call me at 754-8445.

*I thank you for your cooperation in achieving a Community goal: **THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LITTLE HAITI***

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MARIA JUSTE

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Miami FL 33150
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Thursday, February 20, 1997

Senator Christopher Dode
Democratic National Committee
Membership Card Division
430 Sought Capital St.
Washington, DC. 20090-6032

Mr. Senator.

With this letter, please receive a check of 20 as payment of my Democratic membership dues for the fiscal year 1997-1998. I am sorry, I wish I could offer a better participation but the economic situation prevailing in Little Haiti where my family lives is preventing me from being more generous.

As the name indicates, Little Haiti is a section of Miami in Dade County, Florida with a high concentration of Haitians and Haitian-Americans who mostly vote Democrats. It's also the center of the commercial activities of the Haitian Communities of South Florida.

My husband, Viter Juste, has operated for the past 24 years, the first Haitian business in Little Haiti and South Florida. It is the family's main source of revenues. He is also an activist who in 1992 encouraged Haitians to become American citizens and to register and vote democrat in the upcoming November 1992 elections if they really wanted democracy to return to Haiti after the September 30th 1991 military coup d'Etat. Furthermore, my husband out of his own pocket went to local radio stations in Miami and New York to dialogue with the Haitian communities and encourage them to overcome their reluctant attitude in changing nationality, and to become American Citizens because with their voting power, they will be better advocates for their "MOTHER LAND" as the Jews, the Cubans and others have done. Two weeks before the elections my husband bought a full page of "HAITI EN MARCHE", a Haitian newspaper published in Miami and well known in the Haitian circles in United States and abroad. This page carried a large picture of candidate Clinton and asked the Haitians to stand up and vote the democratic ticket. Thanks to the Haitian vote, Democrats carried Dade and Broward Counties, two republicans strongholds in South Florida. The same results were achieved in 1996. During his 1992 campaign, President Clinton promised to invest in deprived neighborhoods like Little Haiti, but the Republican Congress blocked his efforts. As a member of the Democratic Party in good standing, I thank you in advance for the promised amenities. They will make my family very proud.

Also, I am pleased as are many Haitians and Haitian-Americans to read all the "GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST TERM". Unfortunately, the most important

Miami February 20th. 1997

Mr. Dave Lawrence
The Miami Herald

Dear Mr. Lawrence

This message is to introduce a letter that my wife, Mrs. Maria Juste, is sending to Mr. Christopher Dod Chairman of the National Democratic Party (Fund Raising), in response to the Party's Fund Raising Drive.

In its pursuit of happiness, through economic development, the Haitian Community desperately needs "MENTORS" and we sincerely believe that Mr. David Lawrence who, some times, behind the curtain, has always supported the Haitian causes, can guide us in our quest for economic development by his advice, and by introducing skillfully our cause to those posted to come with solutions.

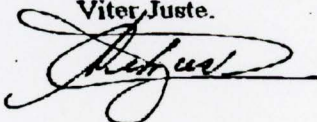
I already sent copies of this letter and the "VIEWPOINT" addressed to the Herald to Mrs. Molly Ivins of the Fort Worth Star for advice and support. The Herald reproduced her article, "Dow. Jones. How. about Doug Jones" on its Feb. 18, 1997

I am considering mailing or faxing the same to the Federal, States, County, City elected officials. through the Haitian American Democratic Club. .

I know, Mr. Lawrence, as a busy man your time is precious. We don't intend to use it or even less abuse it. for personal purposes. However, I remember you told some members of the Haitian Community during a lunch at the "Chez Moy Restaurant", that you will be always accessible to this Community and ready to help it as much as you can. It was more than 10 years ago. Today, I am drawing a check on this account, if possible, please honor it. .

Sincerely.

Viter Juste.



Phone: 754-8445*

Les Cousins and Haiti - Florida

7858 N.E. 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33138

all "THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN 7 YEARS " has not reached the impoverished communities specially Little Haiti. If there is an "ECONOMIC BOOM" in the UNITED STATES, it's still a dream for the unskilled and untrained inhabitants of the poor and deprived neighborhoods where drug lords, prostitutes, gun peddlers run the show.

In Little Haiti, the violence has not reached the point of other neighborhoods like Liberty City - were in the morning of New-Year's Day over 1000 bullets casings had been swept off the streets - or of other poverty stricken pockets in Los Angeles, Chicago or Gary, Indiana, New York, Washington where abject poverty is rampant next to the luxury enjoyed by the richest country in the world.

So far, thanks to the devotion of the Haitians and Haitian-Americans, their force of character, hard work, traditions, good appreciation of education and family values, Little Haiti is only on the brink of economic catastrophe.

If you choose to be our advocate, the Federal Government can stop the catastrophe by working jointly with the State of Florida, Dade County, the city of Miami, and the Haitian Community in South Florida and make Little Haiti as time goes by, a TOURIST CORRIDOR with a Creole flavor comparable to New-Orleans. Such venture can be created by public and private investments. Public investments can be in roads, lightning, trees planting, sidewalks, proper housing developments, high police visibility to protect inhabitants and visitors, efficient public and vocational schools dedicated to effective education for children and adults. Money thrown in poor neighborhoods without proper education creates a fertile ground for drug and crimes but do not guarantee desired social changes and behavior.

Soon to be, private investors will build on empty lots, crack houses will be demolished and replaced by stores or private homes. Property values will go up instead of going down. Conjointly, the Haitian businessmen entrusted with loans from the Small Business Administration and Banks will organize themselves to cooperate and compete with others by offering to tourists the best they have in art, food, music and will contribute in attracting cruising tourists as well as visitors. This Project could be a PILOT PROJECT to be adapted in many other communities throughout U.S.A.

Since President Clinton, the Democratic Party and the Federal Government are serious about "ECONOMIC BOOM", they must make it "trickle down" to disadvantaged neighborhoods, then the "economic booms" present and future will profit every group not only the rich leaving the poor to be poorer. The whole nation will breathe easier because the oxygen of economic betterment will generate life and hope in every part of its body as the virtuosi of the rap music is trying in vain to tell those who govern and those who are governed.

With that letter I'm enclosing a copy of an article published by the Miami Herald in its "Viewpoint" section. The Herald published part of it but HAITI EN MARCHIE published it in its entirety.

As an émigré from Haiti, I chose to be a democrat. For 23 years I responded to my obligations to my adopted Country and My Party. My elder son is a disabled veteran from the Vietnam era. Is it not time that I ask my Party what it can do for my Community, the Haitian Community of South Florida? Are you ready to propose to President Clinton to use his power and help us make Little Haiti a Tourist Corridor. If you are ready, please let us know.

Hoping that this letter will find a favorable response I thank you in advance.

Very truly yours

Maria Juste