

MEDIC Enterprises, Inc.
287 Washington Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

MINUTES OF
BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1970

Ebony Manor
100 Clinton Avenue, Newark, N. J.

At 6:30 p.m. the dinner meeting was convened at Ebony Manor. Present were:

Elvin R. Austin	Mrs. Louise Epperson
Imamu Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones)	Honorable Sharpe James
David Barrett	William A. Mercer
Horace Brown	Dairy Williams
John Buggs	Harold Wilson
Kenyon C. Burke	

Chairman Mercer presided. A staff report of 29 projects being worked on was distributed and comments regarding the status of each was reported by President Austin. The report, sent to all board members, drew a concensus recommendation that this practice be regularly followed as one of the means for keeping the board informed.

EBONY MANOR CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP: Dairy Williams explained the organizational membership benefits that would be exclusively conferred on MEDIC board members and senior staff. Membership cost is \$500.00 annually and the entire board would have charge privileges. Additionally, MEDIC board members, if acting in an official capacity for other organizations with which they are affiliated, would be entitled to discount rates and special consideration if joining or utilizing other facilities of Ebony Manor or Ebony Businessmen's Association. Mr. Williams suggested an annual event be given at Ebony Manor as a method of raising the yearly membership fee. It was agreed, however, that \$25.00 per capita be levied and the mechanics handled by MEDIC staff to immediately acquire the club membership.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH LOAN: There is the possibility of MEDIC Enterprises receiving a \$25,000 loan from the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. Much discussion ensued because of the 5% interest rate to be charged and a clause that the church could exercise an equity option up to 10% in any future MEDIC Enterprises venture it wanted to. Out of the debate came agreement that once the loan was retired the equity obligation was no longer binding. The Board decided the loan should be pursued, but an effort be made to limit the Church's participation for an equity position to those ventures the \$25,000 will be invested in.

MEDIC NEWSLETTER: President Austin announced that the EDA grant provided funds for a Newsletter that should further satisfy the Board recommendation for being kept fully informed about MEDIC activities. He also reported a staff assistant slot would be filled to coordinate this and other responsibilities.

PUBLISHING COMPANY: Imamu Baraka gave details on a well-received project MEDIC is to explore. He outlined the dearth of Black publishing in the nation. It was pointed out that white publishing houses are cashing in heavily on Black writers and exploiting the growing affluence flowing out of Black art, literature and culture. Examples were stated of entire university Black studies curriculum materials and Afro-American cultural enrichment programs amounting to thousands of dollars being totally supplied by white publishers.

Imamu cited the three-year experience of his Jinad Productions. He said a mail order operation was developed with little effort that is currently grossing \$200.00 weekly. He also mentioned Jinad possessed a mailing list of 69 Black book shops across the country and the unpublished manuscripts of a number of young, talented writers. Some of the works were illustrated, carried art and are professionally laid out and designed.

A tri-partite arrangement was suggested with Jinad supplying talent, artistic and editorial resources and unpublished manuscripts. MEDIC Press could be responsible for the mechanical and reproduction process. A third entity is needed to seek funding and work on promotion, public relations and distribution. Chairman Mercer stated he had already talked with Imamu requesting a simple proposal or outline containing what is needed to fund the publishing venture. He offered to take the idea to several sources. Mercer also reported the proposal to expand MEDIC Press enabling it to handle books and mass printing runs was just about ready for submission to a bank.

AMENDMENT TO CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION: Changes in the board of directors due to the recent annual election; MEDIC's relocation from 24 Commerce Street in the Greater Newark Urban Coalition headquarters and other minor changes that might thwart the organization's ability to legally transact some business and accept money, caused an amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation to be unanimously adopted.

Amendment: Third: The principal office in the State of New Jersey is located at 287 Washington Street in the City of Newark, County of Essex. The name and address of the registered agent of the corporation upon whom process against the corporation may be served is Elvin R. Austin, 287 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102.

MEDIC PRESS: The problems of the Press were repeated again. Mention however was made of the new IBM cold-type equipment, added staff and other assets MEDIC Press did not possess 45 days ago. Chairman Mercer also said the expected proposal if funded, would probably solve management, fiscal and promotion problems. It would also allow MEDIC Press to capitalize on the support offered by 14 BICC corporations when MEDIC was founded.

NEW BUSINESS: Mrs. Louise Epperson brought up the fact that although she was a founder and original contributor to MEDIC Enterprises, her name and other board members had not been associated with the organization. She was assured that new stationery, the newsletter and published proceedings about MEDIC activities would remedy that situation.

Mr. Horace Brown requested MEDIC look into the Newark Personal Loan Program because it allegedly favored big white companies over minority businessmen. Mr. Williams who was involved in setting up the program and Chairman Mercer directed the staff to look into the charges and bring a full report to the board after summarizing how the project got started and outlining its original goals and objectives.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Mercer, Chairman