

## \$1.1 Million Construction Loan For Badly Needed Day Care Centre

New York — Olga De Freitas of Bedford-Stuyvesant today signed a \$1.1 million construction loan agreement with National Bank of North America which will make possible a badly needed day care centre primarily for the infant children of unwed mothers. The agreement was signed at the bank's 48th Street and Fifth Avenue office.

"Though the Infant Day Care Centre is the result of hard work and contributions by many people," said Miss De Freitas, "it would not have been possible without this very generous loan from the National Bank of North America. They gave us lower than usual interest rates and also

waived many of the requirements that ordinarily apply to a loan of this size."

The Infant Day Care Centre, to be located at 1410 Bedford Avenue, is the result of six years of continuous effort by Miss De Freitas to provide training programs and services for unwed teenage mothers.

She began in 1965 with a small grant from Bedford-Stuyvesant Youth In Action, the local anti-poverty agency, and supplemented it with a vigorous door-to-door fund raising effort right in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area. Later, this community program was given official shape and form under the name of The Community Sponsors, Inc. This

organization has now gained the support of the Department of Social Services which will finance operation of the day care centre upon completion of its construction.

Miss De Freitas said, "we could not have reached this happy day without the untiring support and dedication of The Community Sponsors. Especially dedicated were Mrs. Nancy Chase, Mrs. Almira Coursey, and Mrs. Helen McCollough who worked endless hours for over two years to make it a success."

Miss De Freitas' initial work — which began in the basement of a Salvation Army building — concerned training, education, counseling and health service for young pregnant girls who were unable to attend regular schools and often had been turned out by their families. Her School For Unwed Mothers now offers 8th to 12th grade instruction to about 100 girls who attend for a 22-week period.

As the school progressed, Miss De Freitas realized there was a need for day care service for the infants of mothers who wanted to return to work or regular school. As a result, she began the campaign which today resulted in the loan from National Bank of North America.

In completing the loan, National Bank of North America chairman Sidney Friedman said, "we made the loan because we believe it is good business to help such a worthwhile project get started. This

ing were Almira Coursey, chairman of the board, and Mrs. Nancy Chase, president of The Community Sponsors, Inc. Although Community Sponsors, Inc. is a grass roots group, it has enlisted the aid of Councillman and former State Senator William Thompson, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and former member of the City Planning Commission, Elinor Guggenheim.

National Bank of North America is the 27th largest bank in the United States. It has over \$2 billion in assets, 4,000 employees, and 116 branches in New York City, Long Island and Westchester.

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## How Music of Black America Created A Radical Alternative

New York — The sound of jazz is political — i.e. the voice of the people — contends Ben Sidran in BLACK TALK, his fascinating and highly original analysis of the role of music in the social and cultural development of black America.

"Music is the black American's native tongue," Sidran writes. Distinctly American, yet distinct from the language of the whites, it has been "a major survival tactic for the black America" and has played an integral part in the growth of a black counter-culture.

The underground, or counter-cultural, nature of black music first surfaced with the slaves for whom work songs, and later spirituals, were the sole means of self-expression. And throughout the years, music has continued to express the feelings of black America, both directly reflecting and indirectly causing social activity within the black community.

In BLACK TALK, published September 30, 1971, by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Sidran traces the development of black music from the days of slavery, through the forties when bebop rose as a direct reaction to white co-optation of black music, to the

sixties and the confrontation music of John Coltrane.

As he parallels the social and musical development of black America, Sidran tells the story of pioneers like Buddy Bolden, Louis Armstrong, Charlie "Bird" Parker, and Coltrane.

"Future historians may well note," Sidran writes, "that black music was the element that not only provided the basis for a viable social structure during times of crisis for the black community, but was at the heart of the ensuing black social revolution as well."

Ben Sidran is a young white musician — singer, composer, lyricist, and jazz pianist — with a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Sussex, England. He's just cut a new record, called "Feel Your Groove" (Capital Records), on which he sings all his own songs, applying his jazz roots to rock with amazing results. Jessie Davis, Charlie Watts, and other well-known musicians play on the album.

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