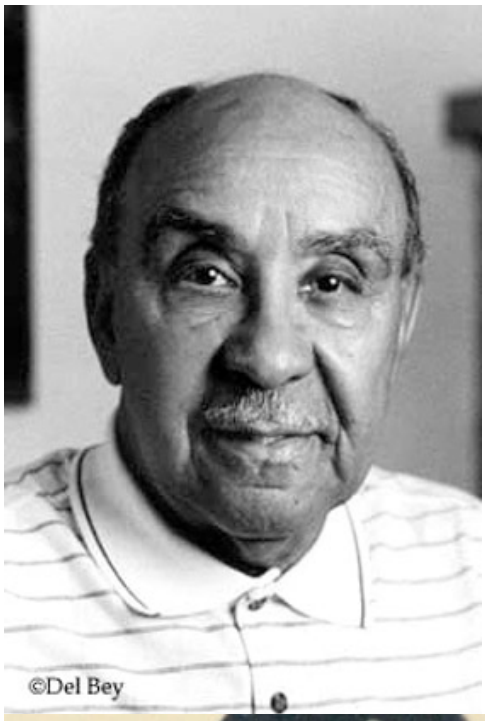
A Black History Month speech delivered at the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition Black History Month Breakfast, 2013

I bring you the greetings and well-wishes of the board of directors and members of the Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce who stand with you in your quest to bring businesses together to make sure the West Broadway Corridor is thriving and filled with sound and successful businesses.

When I was asked to speak today, I was told that the event was a breakfast in honor of Black History Month. And of course that got me thinking. I flashed back to so many moments in our Black history. It was difficult to narrow down one single period or topic. My thoughts raced to the Middle Passage in the 1660's when our ancestors were brought here on slave ships. I found myself thinking about the 1760's, 100 years later, when our ancestors toiled in the burning heat, picking cotton in the fields of southern plantations. Then, I smiled as I thought about the 1860's, when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed into law.



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