

**NATIONAL  
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**"THE TRUTH UNBRAIDED"**

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**Words of Wisdom**

A man who boasts only of his ancestors confesses that he belongs to a family that is better dead than alive.

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**THE NAACP LEGAL TEAM THAT WON IN BROWN VERSUS BOARD OF EDUCATION CASE: RULING RACIAL SEGREGATION IN THE NATION'S SCHOOLS UNCONSTITUTIONAL**

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF Supreme Court Outlawing Segregated Public Schools

NEW YORK, N.Y. — In the middle of May, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, popularly known as LDF, commemorates the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, ruling racial segregation in the nation's public school unconstitutional. The 25th Anniversary Program held in conjunction with Howard University School of Law and Columbia University's Center for the Study of Human Rights will concentrate public attention on specific areas of American life where racial discrimination still continues and will examine the effect America's racial experience has had in other countries.

LDF is bringing together hundreds of the nation's foremost attorneys, legal scholars, educators, and civil rights leaders as well as black and white representatives from the Sudan, Tanzania and India for a four-day program being held in New York and Washington, D.C., beginning May 14.

A day-long meeting at the Columbia University Law School in New York on May 14 will examine the status of human rights in South Africa, India, and East and West African nations. Among the speakers will be Bayard Rustin, Judge William S. Thompson of the District of Columbia Superior Court, Director-Counsel Jack Greenberg of the Legal Defense Fund, and Soli Sorabjee of the High Court of India.

Three days of conference at Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. on May 15, 16 and 17 will deal with education and employment discrimination and with the special problems of black women. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Dorothy Height, Andrew Brimmer, and Dr. Kenneth Clark are among the dozens of noted speakers.

A highlight of the Washington session will be two special events on Tuesday, May 15 honoring lawyers and plaintiffs who participated in

the *Brown V. Board of Education* cases that culminated in the May 17, 1954 Supreme Court decision.

Despite the gains that the Legal Defense Fund's lawyers have won in thousands of lawsuits for establishing rights to equal treatment in education, employment, voting, and access to public accommodations, many areas of injustice persist. Backlash against earlier victories is seen in new cases being brought to court that claim "reverse discrimination" against whites.

The 1978 *Bakke* decision, in which a 5 to 4 Supreme Court threw out the University of California at Davis's preferential quotas for minority students, attracted wide public attention. Other, less publicized cases challenge affirmative action programs that affect hiring and promotion practices.

As job markets tighten, court challenges against companies and unions seeking to overcome the longstanding penalties suffered by minority workers have increased. The 1977 Supreme Court decision in *International Brotherhood of Teamsters v. United States* threatens to lock an entire older generation of black employees into an inferior, poorly paid underclass. Its main point was that established seniority systems may have kept black workers few and low on the lists, but they did not intend to do so. Proof of deliberate attempt is difficult.

The suit of Brian Weber — now pending decision, after argument before the Supreme Court — against Kaiser Aluminum, the United Steelworkers, and the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will stifle those affirmative action programs that corporations and unions begin voluntarily. If the *Teamsters* decision is allowed to stand without modification, any company or union that is required to admit to previous racial discrimination opens

up broad invitations to be sued.

Job discrimination in public employment at federal, state, and local levels is a major Legal Defense Fund concern today. The Fund has won a series of fundamental court decisions compelling the Civil Service Commission to permit class actions on behalf of minority employees who are victims of long entrenched discrimination in the federal employment service. Twenty such suits now seek redress for past discrimination. These affect tens of thousands of black, Hispanic, and other minority workers.

Hundreds of thousands of middle-level civil service jobs hinge on the discriminatory PACE (Professional and Administrative Career Examination) tests. Disclosure of experience in a case the Fund is working on showed that on the West Coast, while 15% of white applicants pass the tests, only one per cent of blacks and no Hispanics received passing grades.

In the state and municipal civil services, LDF is pressing 27 suits that attack job bias. The survival of affirmative action in Detroit police department hiring and promotion is at stake in two suits in which LDF is representing Mayor Coleman Young and the City of Detroit in efforts to preserve fair hiring policies.

Education, in spite of hundreds of court decisions won since *Brown*, continued to be segregated in northern cities and in southern public colleges. In the elementary and secondary schools, remaining trouble spots include "tracking" programs that result in segregating black children, arbitrary suspension

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**A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH**  
Founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, died Wednesday night in New York at the age of 90.

## Dr. Brooks: Success Or Failure?

This is the second in a series of articles which we hope will shed some light on the public school situation in Durham and evoke some serious dialogue among those concerned about the education of all our children.)

After one leaves Dr. T. Brooks' Right to Read Program, it becomes more difficult taking single events which could have contributed to the Durham City School Board's decision not to renew the superintendent's contract. But rather, examined in toto, these circumstances and others too numerous to list here show that Dr. Brooks bucked the board every possible point. So concerned was one board member that he often charged other board members with attempting to administer the schools — which was the superintendent's job.

Precisely, Brooks, faced with problems of children being unable to read, disruptive in school, and others, proposed solutions that the board could not stomach. A review of several disputes and/or agreements between Durham City School Board members and Superintendent Brooks now a progression of events that are indicative of ineffective communication and lack of understanding.

Besides confrontations between Brooks and the board over Dr. Weaver's role, Brooks succeeded in fulfilling many community fathers as intent was questioned with the police at the schools program. Another proposal to establish a system-wide school for "disruptive students" aroused suspicions as to intent. That was rejected by the Board. Many of the problems existing within the school system are a result of descriptions being written by a doctor who doesn't understand the patients' symptoms. Some of the descriptions proposed by Superintendent Brooks are analogous to aspirin being prescribed for a fever — they don't do a good job of relieving the fever, and certainly do nothing toward curing the fever. They were geared toward treating symptoms rather than toward eliminating the causes.

Perhaps lack of understanding and communication contributed to the stalemate which developed before the end of Brooks' first term as superintendent between him and Dr. Frank Weaver. Brooks recommended to the board that Assistant Superintendent Weaver not be rehired — a recommendation overridden by the board. That refusal of the board to rubber stamp Brooks' decision left deep seated problems between board members, Brooks and Weaver — a handicap that was never totally overcome.

Following the Board's decision, two memos surfaced that hinted of personal problems between the two administrators. First, Brooks wrote to Board members, "we have reached some basic agreements about our respective roles and the framework for an effective professional relationship."

Secondly, another memo was dispatched to principals clarifying the duties for superintendent, assistant superintendent, and principals, which overrode verbal directives Brooks had given the principals the day he had asked the board to terminate Weaver. Indications are in this memo that Weaver had been isolated from

communications between principals before the Board action.

Relationships deteriorated to the point that simple communications originating from Brooks to Weaver were reduced to memoranda. So cold were relations that this year, some local

## Malawi Gives \$1 Million To Wilberforce, No Strings

Seldom do alumni, foundations or any sources for that matter give \$1 million in unrestricted funds, no strings attached, to a predominantly black college. Such a gift was announced last week by Dr. Charles Taylor of Wilberforce University in Ohio. The donor was the African nation of Malawi, whose President, Dr. Hastings K. Banda, was a 1928 graduate of Wilberforce Academy (a preparatory school at that time associated with the college).

"I can't tell you how unusual it is for anyone to give you any money, even \$10, without giving you all kinds of advice about how to spend it," said Dr. Taylor, pointing out that the gift was unrestricted.

Last week, Wilberforce's trustees voted to

spend \$700,000 of the funds for the 79-80 operating budget, indicating that the school, like other black schools, is financially strapped. Larger universities which have large endowments and alumni contributions are not so worried about operating expenses as they are sustaining their endowments.

Three hundred thousand dollars of the grant will be used to start an endowment for the university, the trustees reported. The college began an aggressive \$30 million building fund drive this year and so far \$785,000 has been collected from three foundations.

St. Augustine College professor Dr. J. Archie Hargraves, former president of Shaw University, said this week that the

ministrers, made aware of the problem, asked for a conference with Dr. Brooks to help deal with the problems between him and Weaver. A minister who participated in the meeting said the group was disappointed with Brooks' responses and felt that little was accomplished to change the situation.

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## Alliance Against Racism Holds Annual Confab

NEW YORK — Ms. Angela Davis said last week in Harlem, she believes the nation may soon experience the birth of a new movement. She added that for a militant new movement to exist, it has to be organized. She called for mass support of the National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression.

Some evidence of a new movement being ripe and in the picking was evidenced by the more than three thousand that packed the aisles, choir loft, and side rooms of the Covenant Baptist Church in Harlem,

on a Friday evening, to hear what direction the Alliance is being charted.

The Friday evening session was the opening of a three day conference, the fifth annual for the Alliance.

During five years, the organization has been most noted for its militant struggles to free political prisoners and resist a growing police state. The case of the Wilmington Ten has been and still is on the Alliance's front burner, said Executive Secretary Charlene Mitchell who indicated that other cases would be more

vigorously pursued.

The cases of George Merritt of Plainfield, N.J. condemned to life in prison for a death which occurred during a 1968 insurrection and Imani Johnny Harris, an Alabama man condemned to die for allegedly killing a prison guard, are other cases that Ms. Mitchell says will be pursued. Using the leverage of the Wilmington Ten case, these cases and others would be brought to public focus.

Many of the delegates who assembled around the U.S., Puerto Rico and

Canada were present at the founding conference in Chicago five years ago. But one North Carolina delegate-founder Rev. Ben Chavis was sitting this conference out in the Orange County Prison Unit in Hillsborough, N.C.

But, Ms. Davis played a taped recording bringing a message from the civil rights leader encouraging the delegates to build the Alliance on the local level.

While the Alliance has aggressively attempted to build local chapters in North Carolina to support

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## NBL Launches Presidential Poll

### Seeks to Determine Best Candidate For Minority

The National Business League has announced that the 79-year old organization will conduct a national poll of the minority private sector to determine its preference of candidates for the 1980 presidential elections. In undertaking this unprecedented effort, NBL President Dr. Berkely G. Burrell said: "The League believes this poll is important because rarely has the minority private sector had the opportunity to raise the issues of concern to its constituents in national political debate. Usually the issues are raised on our behalf; and others have determined the framework in which they are discussed."

Underscoring the non-partisan nature of this venture, Burrell explained that the poll represents a framework in which minorities can ascertain

which presidential candidate could best advance the cause of minority economic development in the 1980's. He added: "For once, the minority private sector will identify the economic issues of greatest concern to its well being. The poll will raise the question: which potential presidential candidate is most committed to ensuring that the minority private sector receives its fair share of the economic resources of this country."

It is believed that no previous national opinion poll has addressed itself to this specific issue. The Minority Private Sector (MPS) Presidential Preference Poll is designed in part to help eliminate the vagueness which candidates have often used to avoid a specific commitment to promote minority economic development.

According to the NBL, it is unlikely that other national opinion polls will cover the economic aspects of the minority private sector. NBL is undertaking the MPS Presidential Preference Poll to fill that void.

In conducting the poll, the League will rely heavily on its national network, including constituents, the National Council for Policy Review (and its organizational constituents), the National Student Business League and other affiliated groups within the minority private sector. As with other polls, the release of NBL's findings in no way constitutes an endorsement of any potential candidate.

In launching its Presidential Preference Poll, NBL expects to be able to announce the results of its findings at

the League's 80th Annual Convention in September, 1980, in time for all presidential candidates to respond. Noting the obvious social implications of economic development, Burrell emphasized that this poll could be used to formulate an economic perspective on national issues. Moreover, such an undertaking is clearly consistent with the purpose and function of business and trade associations.

According to Burrell: "The economic interests of the minority private sector are critically important, and must be included in the national debate of issues for the 1980's. yet, if we do not raise the issue, it may never surface. By pursuing the MPS Preference Poll now, we help insure that our economic concerns will become part of the debate surrounding the 1980 elections."



**PRESIDENT MEETS BLACK LEADERS**  
President Carter speaks to black community and civic leaders from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana in a special all-day briefing session at the White House. The attendees, totaling about 150, earlier participated in question-and-answer sessions with various Carter Administration officials, including Patricia Harris, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and senior aid Jack Watson. (White House Photograph)