

# Prominent Black Leaders Join In Suit Against SWP

NEW YORK — Benjamin L. Hooks, the executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has joined other black leaders in public support of the lawsuit of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against spying, harassment, blacklisting, and wiretapping by the FBI, INS, and other government agencies.

In a recent statement Rev. Hooks expressed "the NAACP's empathy for your aggressive protection of your political rights. The NAACP holds a profound respect for the democratic process and feels that any illegal actions by a governmental agency or by the police, through illegal wiretapping, the use of provocateurs and other harassment tactics, have no place in this society."

"We, therefore, join you and all other right-thinking Americans in your efforts to those basic rights."

The *Socialist Workers Party v. Attorney General* lawsuit, first filed in 1973, is now at trial before Judge Thomas P. Griesa in Federal District Court in New York. The socialists have forced the government to turn over thousands of files documenting widespread surveillance, use of informers, blacklisting, and other forms of harassment against the SWP and YSA over a 40-year period. They are demanding \$40-million in damages and a ruling that the government cannot premise an investigation of the two organizations based on their political ideas and activities. The trial, which began on April 2, is expected to continue at least another month.

Rev. Hooks joins many other leaders of the black and civil rights movement

who have raised their voices in support of the socialists' legal effort.

Representatives John Conyers, Ron Dellums, Gus Savage issued a statement on the eve of the trial, which noted, "While the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance have been the victims of wiretapping, burglaries, electronic surveillance, and informants for decades, the Government has never indicted these groups or their members for any crime."

They called upon "the Attorney General to end all illegal practices against the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance."

In another statement, Cong. George Crockett noted "the Cointelprograms of the FBI and other government agencies directed against me and others who have supported the struggles for human rights."

Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said "Since its inception, the civil rights movement has been subjected to illegal surveillance, disruption efforts and harassment by the FBI."

"We must demand an end to FBI interference in political activity that is guaranteed by the U.S. Bill of Rights. We have the right to speak out and demonstrate against unemployment, job discrimination, cuts in social services, the attempts to repeal the Voting Rights Act, the rise in Klan violence, and here, in Atlanta, the murders of our children."

"While I do not necessarily agree with many ideas of the SWP, we must insist of these rights..."

Activist Dick Gregory said he was "glad that the Socialist Workers Party



EPISCOPAL CHURCHWOMEN HOLD ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY AT ST. AUG.'S — The Episcopal Churchwomen of Saint Augustine's College recently held its annual Women's Day program. Shown above are Episcopal officers conversing with (l-r) Mrs. Thelma C. Lennon, speaker, State Department of Public In-

struction; Mrs. Mabel Gray, president; Mrs. Anita Fox, vice president; Mrs. Lula Robinson, wife of President Robinson; Mrs. Don Holloway, wife of Dr. J. Mills Holloway; Dr. Thelma Roundtree, vice president for Academic Affairs; Miss Joan Taylor, secretary; and Mrs. Lillian Simmons, treasurer.

has carried the fight through to the end and not faltered, but gotten stronger and stronger. There are a lot of people that the government can appeal to with money but I thank God the Socialist Workers Party is not one of them. I welcome the trial of the Socialist Workers Party suit against the FBI and CIA because it will help uncover the truth about the whole spy apparatus. We have a right to know what the government is doing to us and what it has already done to us — to Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr., for example."

Other supporters of the suit include Lucius Walker

of the National Anti-Klan Network; Horace Sheffield, national secretary of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; and actor Ossie Davis.

FBI disruption of the black movement and collaboration with the Ku Klux Klan and other racist organizations is a focus of the SWP trial. Witnesses include Andrew Pulley, SWP 1980 presidential candidate, and Mel Mason, a black SWP member who serves an elected member of the city council of Seaside, Calif.

Bad advice is no excuse for your mistakes; no one can force you to accept advice.

## Life Force Group Helps Grief-Stricken Parents

WINSTON-SALEM — Thousands of young children die each year from terminal illness, and the depth of grief suffered by the parents of those children is enormous.

Robert and Mary Randolph of Emeryville, California, have experienced that grief and learned to cope with it with the help of an organization called Life Force.

The Randolphs' experience is perhaps typical. They watched their two-year-old son, Matthew, painfully wither away in a hospital because of an incurable neurological birth defect.

Following Matthew's death last October, the Randolphs became frustrated, depressed and angry—sometimes at themselves, and sometimes even at Matthew.

All this didn't make life any easier for their elder son, Mike, age 4.

Such traumas often rip families apart. But the Randolphs sought help from those who probably could understand—other parents whose children had died or were dying from terminal illnesses.

Robert and Mary joined Life Force, a group of San Francisco area parents who meet once a month to share problems, and receive guidance from professionals who voluntarily conduct the meetings. The parents also offer each other a special companionship frequently extends beyond the sessions.

Life Force was so successful in helping the Randolphs cope with their son's death that Robert has become one of the group's most active members. He started a fathers group which also meets once a month.

Robert is a 29-year-old process supervisor at the Emeryville, California, plant of Del Monte Corporation, a subsidiary of R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc. He is one of more than 25,000 people employed by RJR's growing California operations (food, energy and transportation). Like many of his fellow employees, Robert gives his time and skills to contribute to the well being of others.

"By helping others, we can help make Matt's life more meaningful," Randolph says. "His life was meaningful in itself, but it lives on because we can help other people."

Life Force was formed last September by two mothers who had met at the University of California Medical Center, where their incurably ill children were hospitalized. The two women contacted other parents they had heard about through doctors, employees of a crisis intervention center and other sources.

The growing group now consists of five families who meet the first Saturday of each month at a church in Walnut Creek, a suburb of San Francisco. After a buffet dinner, the children gather in a separate room and the parents gather in a semi-circle to share their feelings about such subjects as death, marriage, hospitals and depression.

The discussions are often lead by professionals — psychologists, pediatricians, social workers or ministers.

The group members treat each other with raw honesty. Randolph recalls telling the group how he felt watching Matthew die: "All of his fatty tissue had deteriorated until the nerve endings were on the surface of his skin... I think he weighed six pounds when he died. I was happy for him when he passed."

Relief for Matthew was but one of a confusing mix of emotions churning inside of Randolph and his wife after their son died. The couple needed people who could truly empathize with them. "The most important thing to know is that there is somebody with you who has gone through the same thing," says Randolph.

Husbands and wives don't go through the same thing, he says. Most men suppress their feelings, especially in front of their families. He says husbands are more likely to show their true feelings in an all-male group. That's why he formed a father's group.

Randolph recalls how a new member of the group was hesitant to tell how he felt about his daughter dying of cancer. Robert then described how he felt watching Matthew "disintegrate." After that, the new member cried. Then Randolph cried. Then both men talked and laughed freely.

Because of such exchanges, many Life Force parents have become close friends. They call each other and gather informally at member's homes and other places.

## Assistant Dean Named For NCCU Evening Law School Program

Ms. Acie L. Ward has been appointed to direct the operations of the Evening Law Program of the North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Ms. Ward has been named Assistant Dean of the Law School, and has begun to process applications for the evening program. The next class of evening law students will be admitted for the session beginning in August.

Until she joined the NCCU Law School faculty, Ms. Ward was an Assistant Attorney General of North Carolina. She joined the North Carolina Attorney General's Staff in September, 1975, as a magna cum laude graduate of NCCU School of Law.

The Evening Law Program at NCCU is the first such program at a North Carolina Law School. It offers an opportunity for college graduates to maintain their current employment while pursuing a legal course of study. By taking a full evening schedule each semester and each summer, Evening Law Program students may complete work toward the juris doctor degree in four calendar

years. The first class to enter the program, in January of this year, was composed of professional persons and managers. Many held the master's degree and five were holders of the Ph.D. degree.

Ms. Ward, who has worked with the Consumer Protection Section of the Department of Justice during her service as assistant Attorney General, shares common interests with many of the potential students for the Evening Law Program.

She holds the bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Marywood College, Scranton, Pa., and has engaged in graduate work toward the Master of Chemistry degree at Newark College of Engineering and Drexel University.

College graduates seeking admission to the fall session of the Evening Law program must submit applications to the NCCU school of Law by June 1. Candidates must take the Law School Admissions Test prior to admission to the program.

Students will also be admitted to the Evening Law Program for classes beginning in January. Early applications are encouraged.

## Sorors Observe Nurse Week

Pi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority climaxed Nurse Week Saturday at White Rock Baptist Church with a presentation by Ms. Betty Daniels, pheresis consultant for the American Red Cross. The title was "The Importance of the Black Donor to the American Red Cross," with emphasis on the pheresis process.

The pheresis program started in Durham at the American Red Cross in 1975. It is a 2½-3 hour process in which platelets, white cells or plasma can be extracted from the donor's blood and the remaining blood components returned to the body.

The percentage of black donors is very small. Every healthy person is encouraged to donate blood.

Ms. Daniels gave a special tribute to three sorors involved with the American Red Cross blood program. Sorors Barbara Davis and Alice young, employees and donors; and Nannie Davis, a pheresis donor.

A reception followed in the fellowship hall of the church.

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