

Black Social Workers Propose Networking

By Donald Alderman
FAYETTEVILLE — Black social workers and other professionals who have progressed economically in America must be forever committed to improving the quality of life for all black people, the co-convenor of the North Carolina chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party told a black social workers conference here last week.

"Networking is the effective coalition of all blacks regardless of income and profession into a united movement to make fundamental social changes," Ms. Barbara Arnwine said, as she offered to define the conference theme: "Networking: Black energy effectively channeled into power."

"What is power," she asked the group. "Is it the ability to have a certain job or to talk to the governor?" She told the group of mostly professionals not to "get caught up playing these system games" and to let blacks affected most by their decisions "be your guiding rod and you their instrument."

Black movements of the past failed because they were not structured around the community's overall objective of self-determination, Ms. Arnwine said. American society is structured "to keep black people down." Therefore, the black community must decide its interests and how to achieve them.

The seventh annual conference of the N.C. State Association of Black Social Workers was in session here September 25-26. The group examined the negative effects of Reagan's supply-side economics and discussed the present state and destiny of black Americans. Workshops were held on critical concerns of blacks such as health and human services, education and employment.

Ms. Arnwine said the employment disparity between blacks and whites widened in 1980.

Receives

(Continued from Front) Kithcart, Ms. Ruth Markham, J.C. Scarborough, III, Melvin Speight, Ms. Ethel Stanfield, Ms. Rosa Price, Ms. Patricia Sutton, Ms. Etta Vinson, Haskell White and Carroll Willis.

Decree

(Continued from Front) viability of black schools depend largely on increasing the college-going rate of blacks, Ms. Fairfax said. In 1980, 76% of white high school graduates attended undergraduate school as compared to 57% of black high school graduates, which is a college-going rate disparity of 19%. Moreover, the number of blacks entering four year schools must be increased, she said. About 50% of black high school graduates in North Carolina attend two year schools.

Noting that the drop-out rate of blacks is considerably high, she said retention programs will also have to be established to insure the viability of black schools.

Ms. Fairfax said the black schools have to start vigorously recruiting blacks that are being recruited by white schools, as well as a non-traditional minority. She said the question now is, "What is the quality of black students at black schools?"

She pointed out also that facilities and programs at the black schools must be enhanced to attract quality black students and a minority of white students.

Increased political involvement by the black community is essential for the survival and enhancement of black schools, she noted.

Fifty-three per cent of all entry level jobs were filled by white women, 26% by white men, 12% by Hispanics, 4.5% by black women and 0.5% by black men.

She urged blacks to pool their resources and address problems of the black community collectively rather than with individual interests. She called for more political education, creativity and innovation, and collective vision in order to effectively channel black energy into power. She said blacks who have "made it" and have secure employment will have to begin "taking risks," speaking on critical concerns on behalf of "our less fortunate brothers and sisters" in order to implement the overall objectives of the black community. She warned that the "liberator struggle may be defeated if blacks within the system lose their black identity."

African Consciousness Needed

Black social workers who over-identify with their profession and not the interests of black people will act contrary to black concerns because they are not aware and have forgotten "what we are all about," the executive director of the National Association of Black Social Workers told the conference on Saturday.

"We must perceive of ourselves as African people," Cenie Williams told the group while noting what is necessary to deal with the Reagan administration, a racist profession, and society.

"There needs to be African orientation so



Officers of N.C. State Black Social Workers

Officers of the North Carolina State Association of Black Social Workers take a break from the hectic and busy day during their annual statewide conference in session in Fayetteville, September 25-26. Left to right are: Walter Council, treasurer, Greenville; Ms. Mildred Council, recording secretary, Greenville; Ms. Gloria Hawkins, public relations coordinator, Durham; Leonard Dunston, president, Durham; Ms. Sara Fields, corresponding secretary, Durham; Ms. Ann Speights, vice president, Greenville; and Irving Moore, Jr., member-at-large, Charlotte. (Not pictured) Ms. Joyce Dickens, member-at-large, Rocky Mount.

that blacks working in agencies can do what's best for black people," Williams said. "Too many in agencies are not concerned about helping our brothers and sisters get jobs once they are secure themselves. We must organize while we are in these agencies."

Williams reminded the social workers that politics is not only played within the electoral arena. He said it was because of political action that many blacks are employed as social workers. He urged the group to continue the political process on behalf of other blacks.

Role Of The Black Church

Informing the black community of the political, economic and social conditions that warrant concern and involvement by explaining their significance and impact upon the community is a critical role that the black church must increasingly perform, Rev. John Fuller said while addressing the conference Friday. Fuller is pastor of Lewis Chapel Church in Fayetteville.

The church, Fuller said, must also serve as a catalyst to bring about democratic action, and must lift the relevance of

the gospel to conditions of the black community.

Fuller, citing a need for ministers to address their congregations about contemporary issues as they relate to black survival, said the loss of land ownership by blacks and the conservative tide that has surfaced is cause for grave concern.

"A landless people is a powerless people. Land ownership provides a measure of independence and a sense of security and dignity that is critical to the elevation of the social status of the black community," Fuller said. Noting that

in 1910, blacks owned fifteen million acres of land as compared to five million today, he urged blacks to "keep guard of the land. Keep it in the hands of black people."

Fuller said the conservative tide which prevails today represents a mentality that is always present in America. "The Klan today is not an organization but rather an institutionalized mentality that functions in every facet of American life. The black community must educate her people to the demonic mentality that governs this nation."

Fuller warned that

acute conditions lie ahead but, "We are not alone. God is still on our side. God is still in charge of this universe." Dr. Stanley H. Smith is the recipient of the third annual Human Service Award. The NCSABSW presents the award in appreciation of untiring service and personal dedication to the black community. Smith is president of Shaw University. Since assuming the presidency at Shaw, Dr. Smith has moved the school from

red to black ink as a viable and continuing force for black education. During the final workshop, over nine black state organizations initiated a proposal to begin networking so that the concerns of black workers can be effectively communicated. The purpose of the special workshop was to provide an opportunity for each organization to share and discuss how collectively it can work to address concerns of the black community.

James Farmer To Be Keynote Speaker At NCAE Meet

Districts 9 and 11 of the North Carolina Association of Educators will sponsor a one-day professional conference on October 16, at Brogden Junior High School on Leon Street in Durham.

The keynote speaker for the 11:00 a.m. general session will be James Farmer, noted civil rights activist and executive director of the Coalition of American Public Employees. The conference will also present seven () workshops on various education issues. Topics include: extremist group's effects on education, handling the aggressive child,

testing — evaluation — truth in testing, North Carolina's teacher/principal evaluation process for 1981-82, stress — how to handle it, effects of the North Carolina General Assembly on education policies, and creative use of aides and volunteers. Workshops begin at 9:00 a.m. and will be repeated at 10:00 a.m. and educational exhibits will be on display.

The conference is for educators in NCAE Districts 9 and 11 which include the counties of Durham, Orange, Wake, Alamance, Person, Chatham, Caswell, Granville, Franklin, Vance, and Warren.

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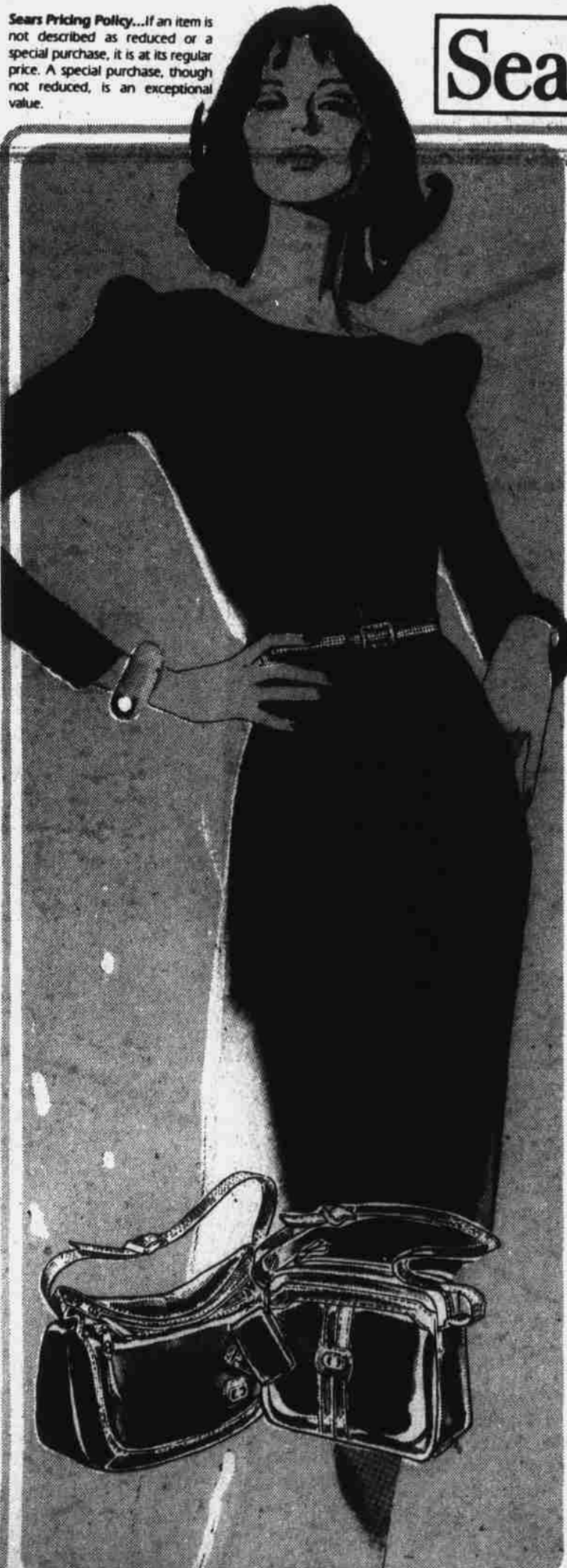
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