

Black women need better health care

From Page A4

pregnancy), instead of seeking prenatal care as soon as they suspect they are pregnant. The results can be disastrous and expensive."

It is clear even to the casual observer that women who do not receive adequate prenatal care are at risk and so are their babies. While we must continue to insist on an increase in public health ex-

penditures for prenatal care, we must also encourage women to take advantage of all the health care services and information already available to them.

The young midwife tells me that myths about childbirth are all the information many black women have about their bodies. Women still turn to their friends and their hairdressers for advice

on health care. They rely heavily on over-the-counter remedies which may treat the symptoms but not the causes of conditions.

If this lack of information affected only women, it would be bad enough. Unfortunately, children who grow up in households where there is no communication about nutrition, preventive medicine and

reproductive health continue in a vicious cycle.

As a people, we cannot afford poor health habits. As mothers, we pass them on to our children. As black women, we have an extraordinary responsibility to do all we can to diminish, rather than increase, the handicaps under which we must struggle.

When you go to the doctor or

when you take your children, be prepared with a list of things you want to discuss. Let your doctor know that you intend to be involved in your care. If you have health insurance or are on Medicaid, know what it covers before you need it. If you don't have health insurance, don't be embarrassed to ask how much your care will cost.

Pay attention to your body. Be aware of food and activities that cause you problems. Remember: Your health and your family's health cannot be ignored without dangerous consequences.

(Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children.)

Free South Africa Movement launched

From Page A4

of the mass media and the masses, selected politicians, entertainers, civil/human rights leaders and athletes will participate and openly defy the law banning demonstrations in the South African Embassy.

Thus, with persons such as Congressman Fauntroy, Ron Dellums, John Conyers and Charles Hayes, entertainer and

Transafrica member Harry Belafonte, Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Joe Lowery and Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter, Yolanda, having been arrested as of this writing, the immediate goal of focusing attention on the "most oppressive government since Nazi Germany" has apparently succeeded.

In response to a reporter's in-

quiry as to the effectiveness of the proposed civil disobedience tactics on the Reagan administration, Robinson countered that "Reagan's re-election mandate was in no way a mandate for the continuation of the bankrupt policy of 'constructive engagement' with South Africa."

"Therefore," he continued, "the Free South Africa Move-

ment will take its case to the American people and appeal to their moral decency and democratic ideals."

Congressman Fauntroy added that, despite Reagan's re-election, he "still had faith in the integrity of the American people

... once they see this issue put squarely in the middle of the U.S. political agenda and begin to

realize that unemployment in Ohio and Pennsylvania is directly related to the U.S. corporate presence in the slave labor economy of South Africa; once they realize that this country is politically and economically supporting a tyranny which denies the majority of its citizens the right to vote, own land, or do anything save breathe -- simply because of the color of their skin

-- then maybe together we can change the hypocritical and backward policies which presently exist."

Finally, Robinson requested that all those interested in either supporting or finding out more on the Free South Africa Movement should contact Transafrica at 545 Eighth St. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 or by telephone at (202) 547-2550.

Blacks face leadership crisis

From Page A4

Link's Wonderland, a black-owned facility that creates jobs and wealth for the black community, and Jones' event was a at the plush Holiday Inn in Mansfield that, thanks to the NAACP branch, has a staff that is over 30 percent black -- more wealth and jobs.

The outgrowth of the NAACP's thrust in Mansfield is the Central City Economic Development Council, which concentrates on black business development. In the formative stage, the council focused on the retention, expansion and development of business which will create jobs and wealth for blacks.

After the black leadership had come up with this economic model of self-help as an alternative to the failed religion of electoral politics, Jones recruited Rex Collins, president of the First Buckeye Bank, a division of Toledo Trust, as both a life member of the NAACP and a business partner to the community-private enterprise.

Together, the council and First Buckeye targeted the development of a central city neighborhood. A supermarket had recently closed and had left all of the employees at the mercy of a pride-depriving welfare system. First Buckeye provided the underwriting and today 50 percent of the employees (from the neighborhood) are black -- more wealth and jobs.

Fort Wayne's Pressey, a member of the mayor's MBE Task Force, which designed the model ordinance to assure minority entrepreneurs a piece of the city's procurement and contractual budgets, says, "We're just beginning to impact the area of economic development in this city."

John Jones and J.B. Pressey are the kind of leaders that the new times demand. The vehicles of the future will consist of an NAACP emphasizing economic alternatives, such as neighborhood development councils and the use of black consumer power to drive black business development.

The First Buckeyes of the future will share in this consumer-led economic revolt.

In another part of the country, a local NAACP leader boasted that, although his memberships

were down and his financial problems acute, he had done well in

voter registration. His priorities, in my opinion, are in the wrong

place. If electoral politics, programs

or leaders do not lead to wealth and jobs, they will fail to solve

the underlying problems of the black community.

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Letters

From Page A4

So, while we are all able to do more, including seeing that our government responds well, by being responsible Christian stewards in various national denominational structures, there has been some black Winston-Salem response to the crisis.

Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley
Winston-Salem