

Black Caucus

From Page A1

ed "After the Drought: A Marshall Plan for Africa," "Blacks in Media Employment and TV Programming: Challenge and Solutions," "A Memorial for Black Patrons from the Revolutionary War," "Nairobi: An Assessment of the UN Women's Conference," "The Art of Self-Publishing," "A Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty," "The Impact of Reaganomics on Cities with Black Mayors," and "Jazz - America's Classical Music: A Workshop." Noted specialists from each field comprised the panel for each forum.

On Thursday, a different slate of issue forums continued. Thursday also saw the beginning of legislative hearings scheduled to coincide with the conference.

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., chaired a hearing on Alabama's controversial voter-fraud cases against a mostly black group of voter registrars. Albert Turner, known as one of the Marion Three and found not guilty of voter fraud, testified during the hearing. Turner, Evelyn Turner and Spencer Hogue Jr., all of whom are black, were charged on numerous counts of changing the absentee ballots of elderly black voters in Perry County. In the first trial, a jury with one black member was hung. In the second trial, the three were found not guilty.

Although the Marion Three is free, the trial of Spiver Gordon and Frederick Daniels, charged also with absentee-ballot fraud, started last week in Tuscaloosa, Ala. An all-white jury was seated for that trial.

The actions of the Justice Department in the Perry County case and in other "black belt" counties in the South are racist, said Conyers.

"The Justice Department's investigation in this matter, occurring during the primary and general election last year, had the effect of intimidating black voters, especially elderly voters who have fought so long to obtain the right to vote," said Conyers. "Instead of going after the real violators of the Voting Rights Act in Alabama, the Justice Department has totally turned the tables around and is now going after black leaders with an undisguised vengeance."

Topics for other legislative hearings included "Small and Minority Business Involvement in Military Construction," "A Impact on Domestic Credit of Divestment in South Africa," "Poverty and Hunger in the Black Family" and "The Melting Pot: Fact or Fiction?"

Congressional Black Caucus Braintrusts, brainstorming sessions involving congressmen and

experts from specific fields, continued on Friday, concluding the conference's business session.

Before the weekend's social activities started, conference participants staged a protest march against apartheid in front of the South African Embassy.

Although Hurricane Gloria's remnants made traveling in Washington without rain gear impossible, the protest march was not cancelled.

At precisely 12:30 p.m., as if by some divine miracle, the rain stopped. The winds subsided. The sun broke through the clouds. The march went on as planned.

Hundreds of demonstrators walked where thousands before have marched since last Thanksgiving protesting apartheid in South Africa and calling for the United States to impose strong economic sanctions against the racist government there.

The anti-apartheid bill was sponsored by Rep. William Gray, one of the 20 Congressional Black Caucus members. That bill later prodded President Reagan to impose limited economic sanctions against South Africa.



Crowning The Winner

The 11th District of the Order of the Eastern Star recently held a brides' contest in the chapel of the Masonic Temple. Dorothy Sprinkle crowns first-place winner Jessie Landingham, center. Also pictured are second-place winner Tomasue Crockett, right, and third-place winner Barbara Clemmons.

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