

National

Officials Will Not Investigate Deaths of Two Black Students

LENOIR (AP) — NAACP officials are disappointed the federal justice department will not investigate possible civil-rights violations in two 1991 stabbing deaths.

The request for federal help was made in late January by the state chapter of the NAACP in Greensboro on behalf of the Lenoir branch of the NAACP. The request followed an all-white jury's acquittal in December of the two white students charged in the stabbing deaths of the two black high-school students.

The U.S. Justice Department cited insufficient evidence as the reason for denying a federal probe into the 1991 stabbing deaths of two black students at West Caldwell High School, the Lenoir News-Topic reported last week.

State NAACP Executive Director Mary Peeler, who made

the request in writing on Jan. 22, said, "We are highly disappointed. We feel the allegations of violations of civil rights should indeed have been investigated by the Department of Justice."

Peeler said no further action would be taken by the NAACP.

James P. Turner, acting assistant U.S. attorney general, wrote a letter to the NAACP, which said the Justice Department didn't have jurisdiction. Federal civil-rights statutes have strict jurisdictional requirements.

On Dec. 22, 1992, following a two-week trial, Robert Wesley Setzer, 17, and Jimmy Christopher Shook, 18, who are both white, were acquitted on two counts of second-degree murder in the stabbing deaths of Terry Wayne Maxwell, 15, and Randall Earnest Moore, 17. Maxwell and Moore

were stabbed during a hallway brawl at the school on Sept. 23, 1991.

The innocent verdicts on all counts from the all-white jury sent shock waves through the black community following the trial. Local NAACP President Venoy Pearson called the verdicts "a blatant miscarriage of justice."

Turner went on to say that the Department of Justice is committed to strong enforcement of civil rights laws.

"We are committed to the vigorous enforcement of criminal civil-rights statutes," Turner said. "The criminal section has set records in the past three years for both the number and the quality of prosecutions involving hate crimes in which people act out their racial, ethnic and religious hatred with violence and acts of intimidation."



Pictured left to right John E. Jacob, Joseph E. Lowery, Vice President Al Gore, and Henry Espy.

Vice President Meets with Black Leadership Forum

The board of the National Black Leadership Forum met recently with Vice President Al Gore to discuss the impact of various administration policies on the African-American community. The agenda for the one-hour meeting in the Roosevelt Room at the White House included a discussion of minority-business development, voter registration initiatives, the administration's policy on Haiti and Africa, and equal justice in the American penal system.

"I was pleased to meet with the Leadership Forum," Gore said. "We had a good exchange on the issues. This administration wants to continue hearing from the Leadership Forum on all of these problems

affecting their communities."

Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and chairman of the National Black Leadership Forum, characterized the meeting as a productive one.

"We found the vice president responsive, very sensitive to our concerns," he said. "We were able to cover issues of importance to the African-American community, namely the targeting of our communities for jobs and job training, and other economic opportunities on the basis of need. We found the meeting fruitful and look forward to working with this administration."

Also in attendance at the meet-

ing were John E. Jacob, president and CEO of the National Urban League; Benjamin Hooks, former executive director of the NAACP; Dorothy I. Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women; Henry Espy, Conference of Black Mayors; Elaine Jones, director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Ramone Edelin, president of the National Urban Coalition; Norman Hill, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Herman Art Taylor, president of OICs of America; Eddie N. Williams, president of the Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies; and William Stallworth, president of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials.

\$5 Million Grant Boosts A&T Program

Greensboro - North Carolina A&T State University's 20 years of outstanding research and education is the basis for a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to operate an interdisciplinary institute to address transportation problems in urban areas experiencing rapid growth.

The grant, to be paid, at the rate of \$1 million per year, will be administered through the Transportation Institute of the School of Business and Economics.

The grant was made possible by a bill introduced by Congressman Tim Valentine, chairman of the House Committee of Public Works and Transportation, and others.

"This is a tremendous day for North Carolina A&T State University," said A & T chancellor Edward B. Fort, in announcing the grant.

"We are pleased to have been selected to play a leadership role in addressing some of the important transportation concerns of this state and the nation. It will allow North Carolina A&T State University faculty, staff and students to contribute to the advancement of transportation technology and expertise in this country through innovative programs in research, education, and technology transfer."

Valentine said That A&T received this grant is really a historic achievement. It is the beginning of a new era. It signals the assigning of more responsibilities to historically black colleges and universities. It is also indicative of A&T's readiness for a full partnership in ventures like this one."

Quiester Craig, dean of the School of Business and Economics,

said the new grant will "enhance program development in our school, and will provide excellent opportunities for our outstanding faculty members to participate in research activities of value to the state and the nation."

In receiving the grant, A&T has been designated as a National Urban Transit Institute. Valentine said A&T will be one of five such institutes around the country established to develop "internationally recognized centers of excellence, fully integrated within institutions of higher learning, that serve as a vital source of leaders who are prepared to meet the nation's need for safe, efficient and environmentally sound movement of people and goods."

"We are committed to doing our part to increase the pool of qualified transportation professionals in the country," said Jacob.

Senator Sees Encouraging Prospects

Washington, DC — Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, the first black woman United States senator, told 1,500 guests recently that "prospects for meaningful change, change that can bring real improvement to people's lives, are greater now than at any time since the days of the New Deal."

The keynote speaker for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' Annual Dinner at the Washington Hilton, Moseley-Braun said: "I feel especially blessed to be here at this critical time in our nation's history."

The senator cited several reasons for her optimism during her well-received address: the new administration-proposed programs; the increase in black elected officials; her own election to the Senate from Illinois, and the effectiveness of the Joint Center in keeping "the issues of concern to black America front and center in the public policy arena."

"The days of writing off one segment of the population or of the

world are over," Moseley-Braun said. "As we invest in public education, we prepare our children for global economic competition. As we invest in cities, we end the tragic waste of both money and talent that now sees one young black male in four either in jail or on probation."

Noting Illinois' African-American population of less than 12 percent, Sen. Moseley-Braun told the guests: "I won my election with 55 percent of the vote, by a plurality of more than half a million. What that suggests is that the time may be upon us to make the leap in our relations as a people. A leap to the time when we can come together as one people to make the dream of our democracy more a reality than at any time in our history."

George L. Knox III, vice president, of public affairs at Phillip Morris Companies Inc., said his company was pleased to join in support-of the Joint Center, "an institution that has proven vital to the nation as the top African-American-led think tank on politics and on



Carol Moseley-Braun

economics."

At the Phillip-Morris-sponsored pre-dinner reception, Knox remarked: "The choice of Sen. Moseley-Braun as keynote speaker proves once more the Joint Center's effectiveness in helping us all better understand the dynamics and trends of our changing world."

Earlier in the evening President Bill Clinton found hundreds of enthusiastic well-wishers during a visit to the pre-dinner reception.

Research Centers Established to Study Minority Related Illnesses

Secretary Donna E. Shalala recently announced establishment of five federally funded research centers designed to increase research efforts to prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses among minority populations.

Funding for the centers, which was provided by the Public Health Service's Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, includes \$2.7 million over the next five years. The centers are located in Baltimore, Detroit, Nashville, San Francisco and Chicago.

Shalala said a principal focus on the centers' efforts will be on "outcomes" research — study of variations in practice styles and treatments are most effective and are most likely to lead to favorable patient outcomes.

"The centers will support outcomes research in health problems that are especially prevalent among minorities," she said. "In addition, they will provide training opportunities for researchers specializing in minority health issues, offer technical assistance to policymakers and state and local health officials, and disseminate health information pertinent to minority communities."

AHCPH Administrator J. Jarrett Clinton, M.D., said that minority populations, when viewed as a whole, have higher rates of hyper-

tension, heart disease and many other diseases. Research can help health-care providers improve the effectiveness of medical treatment for minorities and reduce or eliminate ineffective or inappropriate care."

Clinton said type II diabetes is 33 percent more common among African-Americans than whites. Untreated, diabetes can lead to heart disease, stroke, kidney failure and blindness. "Aids affects proportionately more African-Americans and Hispanics — and rates are increasing disproportionately," Dr. Clinton said. "In some Asian American communities the incidence of tuberculosis is 40 times higher than in the general population."

The Research Centers on Minority Populations are part of AHCPH's Medical Effectiveness Treatment Program (MEDTEP), which includes outcomes research, development of clinical practice guidelines, and widespread dissemination of research findings and practice guidelines to health care practitioners and consumers.

The centers, for which funding was announced today, include: University of California at San Francisco, Institute for Health Policy Studies (\$748,166). Principal investigator: A. Eugene Washing-

ton, - will investigate cardiovascular disease, breast and cervical cancer screening, type II diabetes, and prenatal-care issues among African Americans and Latinos (target populations will be extended to Native Americans in 1994).

University of Maryland, Department of Pediatrics, Baltimore (\$677,663). Principal investigator: Dr. Bonita F. Stanton, - will study child and adolescent health among African-Americans, focusing on AIDS, emergency-room outcomes, violence and substance abuse.

Meharry Medical College, Nashville (\$400,000). Principal investigator: Dr. Mark J. Young, will study hip fracture and total replacement, type I diabetes, asthma and geriatric outcomes among African-Americans.

University of Illinois, Chicago (\$400,000). Principal investigator, Aida Giachello, will study type II diabetes, substance abuse and infant mortality outcomes among mid-west Latinos. In addition to the five research centers, AHCPH has also funded six other MEDTEP Research Centers on Minority Populations. These are located in New York, Texas, California, Georgia, New Mexico and Hawaii.



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