

BLACK POLITICAL DYNAMICS

Eddie N. Williams, President
Joint Center for Political Studies



AND KEYS TO POWER

Recently, here in Washington, the Joint Center for Political Studies, joined by seven organizations which collectively represent the interests of the nation's 3,503 black elected officials, announced plans to sponsor a third national leadership development institute for all of the black men and women who hold elective public office in the United States. It is expected that the Institute, to be held in the Nation's Capital, Dec. 11-13, will be the largest gathering ever of elected black U. S. Officials. Sponsors of the institute, in addition to the Joint Center, include: the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association; the Congressional Black Caucus, Inc.; the National Association of Black County Officials; the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials; the National Black Legislative Clearinghouse; the National Caucus of Black School Board Members, and the Southern Conference of Black Mayors.

The institute also has the support of the following officials who hold statewide offices: Senator Edward Brooke, Gov. George Brown of Colorado; and Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally, of California.

Commenting on the institute shortly after it was announced, Senator Brooke noted that it was timely for black elected officials to get together, and to decide how to serve their constituencies more effectively, "and how to tackle the issues that plague all Americans, but most desperately Black Americans."

Specifically, the institute will concentrate on:

- assessing the current state of black politics in the U. S.
- discussing strategies for enhancing the opportunity of blacks to participate more effectively in the political process
- exchanging ideas and experiences between black officials serving at various levels of government, with the goal of developing from such talks useful coalitions and linkages;
- developing black perspectives on vital issues such as employment, income, and the eroding black economy, and,
- projecting the fact that effective political participation at all levels of government is the most important key to the doors of opportunity for black people.

It was only eight years ago that the first national meeting of black elected officials (who totaled about 400 at the time)

was held in Chicago so that the small-in-number could get acquainted personally and exchange ideas and experiences. A second institute, held in Washington in 1969, led to the establishment of the Joint Center.

In the years since the second institute, there have been dramatic advances in the number and power of black elected officials. In 1969, there were 1,185 black elected officials. As of June 1975, that number had grown to 3,503. In 1969, only municipal chief executives.

In addition to our successes in electing lieutenant governors in two western states, the number of blacks in state legislatures has increased significantly. Equally significant among those in the latter category is the number holding positions in leadership in the legislatures of the states.

With such shifts and movements in black political life, those of us who have joined in the planning for the third national institute are satisfied that now is the time to gain a long-range perspective of the strategies and tactics that can best be employed to further empower black Americans within the political system of the United States. (NNPA).



CONFERENCE PLANNING - Phenizee F. Ransom, Jr., (right) meets with E. Frank Bellinetti of the National Council of the Aging to plan an older worker training conference for prime sponsors under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. Ransom, a manpower planning specialist with the U. S. Labor Department in Atlanta, was a leader in the effort to place qualified blacks in "nontraditional" jobs in Atlanta. He also serves as regional coordinator of manpower services to special client groups.

BLACK FEDERAL OFFICIAL HELPED BREAK RACIAL BARRIERS

ATLANTA - Phenizee F. Ransom Jr., a black manpower planning specialist in the U. S. Department of Labor's Atlanta regional office, has had a long career helping to break down racial barriers in jobs.

He gained first-hand knowledge of racial prejudice during the first portion of his 20-year tenure as manager of an Atlanta office of the Georgia Employment Service.

He would call an employer on the telephone to arrange an appointment and "the employer would be extremely cordial and interested in knowing about our office's job applicants who might fit into his work force. But, when I'd walk into his office and extend my hand, you could see his face fall and his manner grow cooler. He just wasn't ready to deal with a black as a peer."

The fact that white employers weren't "ready" didn't deter Ransom one moment from fulfilling his responsibility and determination to place qualified blacks in non-traditional professional and clerical jobs in Atlanta.

Among some of the many serious barriers he had to overcome, the Civil Rights Act notwithstanding, he says, were aptitude tests contrived to eliminate blacks from job competition and as assumption on the part of employers that their white employees would resent black co-workers.

But with persistence and a constant good humor in the face of frequent rebuffs, Ransom gradually achieved a high degree of success in placing blacks in desirable jobs in previously all-white firms.

With a church-oriented background, it isn't surprising that Ransom knew early he wanted to go into ministry, but the age at which he began is surprising. At 14 he was preaching each Sunday at two rural churches near Boggs Academy, Keysville, Ga., where he graduated from high school in 1954.

The Mary E. Borland and the Abdemelech Sunday School Classes of West-Durham Baptist Church held their regular monthly meeting Friday, November 7, at the home of Mesdames Mary McClary and Naomi Parker, 1023 Cornell Street.

The meeting opened with a song, "Have Thine Own Way Lor," the devotion was brief. The meeting was called to order by the vice president and president respectively, Mesdames Clara Perkins and Elizabeth Tate. After the business meeting was over, the following were served a delicious re-past by the

hostesses Mesdames Mary McClary and Naomi Parker. They were Mesdames Ruby Bolding, Mary L. Stephens, Jennifer Love, Mary Horton, Josie Powell, Gertrude Gibson, Ella Jackson, Clara Prekins, Elizabeth Tate, Margaret Fuller, Mary Love, Sadie Winston, Margaret Hedgepeth, Mary W. Stephens, Gertrude McBroom, Julia Freeland, Lana M. Geer, Rosa Artis, Burch Coley, Willie Love, Molachi Duke, John Plummer Sr., E. T. Artis, and Palmer Perkins Sr. were also present.

Mrs. Mary W. Stephens thanked the hostesses for an enjoyable evening.

volunteered to help an ill friend who was pastor of Atlanta's Butler Street Baptist Church. For eight years he substituted for the friend without accepting payment for his help.

In 1956, following the friend's death, Ransom assumed full pastordship. In spite of his enormous responsibilities, Ransom never appears harassed. "I don't consider either of my jobs as 'work' in the conventional sense," he says, "I enjoy doing them. I'm only doing what comes naturally to me."

The satisfactions in his Labor Department post are numerous, but they all have to do with helping people, according to Ransom. "Just yesterday I was in downtown Atlanta and happened to bump into an ex-prisoner who was serving seven years for fraud when I first met him years ago. I arranged for him to attend barber school when he was released and today he owns his own business. That's happiness to me - having some part in helping people to realize their potential and to lead full, satisfying lives."

In reflecting on Ransom's trail-blazing career, William U. Norwood, the Labor Department's assistant regional director for manpower, Atlanta, says: "Phenizee Ransom had the ability and courage to prove that competent black professionals can gain the enthusiastic cooperation of top state Employment Service officials throughout the Southeast."

Ransom's many duties include serving as the regional coordinator of manpower services to special groups, such as the handicapped, older workers and minorities in eight Southeastern states.

Characteristically, however, he has also continued to work in the ministry. A year after separation from the Army, he

Men's Day Observance Slated For Sunday

Annual Men's Day Observance will be held Sunday, November 16 at the 11 a.m. worship service.

Guest speaker for this occasion will be Herbert E. Tatum Jr.

He is the Principal of James E. Shepard Jr. High School. He is also on the Trustee and Deacon Boards of White Rock Baptist Church. He has taught in the public schools of Durham.

He is also a member of the Board of Directors of John Avery Boys Club and has served as instructor for three years in the United States Army.

He is married to the former Gertrude Blackwell and is the father of two sons.



HERBERT E. TATUM, JR.

Lincoln Memorial Church Observes Women's Day

The 19th Women's Day of the Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church will be observed on November 16. The theme is "Reach Out and Touch". Speaker for the 11 a.m. service is Mrs. Marion Glenn of Raleigh. Mrs. Glenn is a graduate of Shaw University School of Divinity. The Youth Choir will sing.

At 5 p.m. the young adults of the church will present a symposium on "Reach Out and Touch". Those participating are: Miss Wilma Davenport, Miss

Annette Brodie, Mrs. L. Wall, Mrs. C. Ingram, and Mrs. Barbara Melvin will preside. The history of Women's Day will be given by Mrs. Cynthia Turentine. Congregational singing will be led by Sia Leona Allen.

Chairpersons are Mrs. Rebecca N. Carlos and Mrs. Christine Ingram. Those on the committee are: Mrs. M. Harrell, Mrs. C. Crawford and Mrs. G. Kelly.

The public is invited to attend.

Helpful Club Sponsors Special Service

The Helpful Club of Emmanuel A. M. E. Church, 2018 Riddle Rd. Rev. J. R. Crutchfield pastor, will feature a special service Sunday afternoon at 3:30.

Rev. F. A. Peeler, pastor of the First Christian Church, Concord, his choir, and congregation will be the guests and will render service. This service climaxes several months of activities for special efforts on the church's building fund. The

Helpful Club selected this as its major project for the year.

The Club president, Mrs. Eveline Hill, has worked untrudgingly and unselfishly along with her members and the pastor to make this service become a reality. She also has exemplified excellent leadership.

Everyone is extended a very cordial invitation to attend. The results of the activities will be given prior to the closing of the service.



H. B. GOODSON (right) receives "Citizen of the Year" Plaque from Edwin L. Patterson. This plaque was awarded during a celebration last Sunday on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

Goodson And Shaw Honored By Omega Psi Phi

WINSTON-SALEM - H. B. Goodson, local civic and political leader, was named "Citizen of the Year" by the local chapters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Sunday.

Goodson was honored at a banquet which initiated a week-long celebration of Achievement Week, a national project of the fraternity, held in the faculty dining hall on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

Sharing honors with Goodson was Howard L. Shaw, a member of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System, who was named "Omega Man of the Year" for his many services to the fraternity, and to the community. He is a member of Psi Phi Chapter, the local graduate chapter. Others honored were Winston-Salem State coaches Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines and Cleo

Wallace, Tony Couch of Slater Food Services, Miss Sandra McCracken and Dr. Cleveland Williams of Winston-Salem State, Edwin L. Patterson and Joseph O. Lowery, members of Psi Phi Chapter who retired at the end of the 1974-75 school year after 32 years of teaching in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System.

At the banquet, the fraternity heard mini-speeches on the theme of the observance, "How to Treat Three Major Problems of the Seventies: Dishonesty, Immorality and the use of Drugs," by Johnathn Cloud, president of the Parkland High School Student Body, Forsyth County District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale and Sgt. Ralph Fry of the Winston-Salem Police Department.

The Achievement Week Celebration will continue with Drug Abuse Workshops on the campuses of Winston-Salem State University and the Wake Forest University during the week and it closed with group worship service on Nov. 9. Chapters participating in the observance are Mu Epsilon Chapter at Winston-Salem State University, Lambda Eta Chapter at Wake Forest University and Psi Phi Chapter, the local graduate chapter. Lemuel Johnson is the local Achievement Week Chairman.



HOWARD L. SHAW (right) receives "Omega Man of the Year" Plaque from Lemuel L. Johnson. This plaque was awarded during a celebration last Sunday on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

SHRINERS

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Among them were: NORTH CAROLINA - William L. Davis, Sr., Delco; Reginald M. Harris, Henderson; James L. Harrington and John T. Tucker, Durham; Elmer LeGrand, Am E. Owens, Greensboro; Herbert Lipscomb, Shelby; Tomie H. Patrick, Warrenton; Joseph M. Stephenson, Conway, and Roosevelt W. Whitehead, Kinston.

SOUTH CAROLINA - Joseph R. Maxberry, Jr., Columbia; M. Masco Nance, Jr., and Willie L. Samuel, Jr., Orangeburg, and Benjamin J. Sanders, Jr., Greenwood.

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Constitution, the amendment upon which thousands of school desegregation cases have been based, has shrunk in the hands of the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In an opinion concerning the Atlanta School System and one which may have an adverse impact upon numerous other urban schools systems across the South and the nation, a three judge appeals court panel declared that "the aim of the Fourteenth Amendment . . . is to assure that state supported educational opportunity is afforded without regard to race; it is not to achieve racial integration in public schools."

Sunday School Classes Meet

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