

Black Unemployment Rate Continues To Rise

WASHINGTON — The unemployment rate among blacks continued to rise during the third quarter of 1975, leading a National Urban League official to note that "although there appears to be some signs of possible upturn in the economy, there is still no recovery in sight in the black community."

In releasing the Urban League's "Quarterly Economic Report on the Black Worker," Dr. Robert B. Hill, director of the League's Research Department, said today that black unemployment rose to a record high of 3,075,000 between July and September, according to the NUL Hidden Unemployment Index. This brought the unofficial jobless rate for blacks to 26 per cent, while white unemployment dropped from 12.2 million to 11.8 million.

238,000 between July and September, he explained, black joblessness increased by 44,000 to an all-time high of 1,527,000. Blacks did, however, experience an increase in employment, according to Dr. Hill, as an additional 385,000 blacks entered the labor force, bringing the total number of blacks with jobs to 9.3 million. Since this increase in employment, Dr. Hill said, the official black jobless rate remained virtually unchanged at 14.1 per cent, while the white jobless rate continued, a "steady descent" from 8 per cent to 7.6 per cent.

The Urban League official said that although these official unemployment figures "are at their highest since the great Depression of the 1930's, they still understate the actual extent of joblessness in the nation." He chastised the Labor Department's definition of unemployment because he said it fails to take into account the discouraged worker who has dropped out of the labor market and part-time workers who want full-time employment.

(The "Hidden Unemployment Index" was developed by the Urban League's Research Department based partly on a formula developed by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress. It takes into account workers who have become discouraged and stopped looking for work, and part-time workers who want full-time jobs. Official employment rates ignore these classifications).

Because of increased industrial production, Dr. Hill said, thousands of formerly laid off workers were rehired, while many discouraged workers sought to reenter the labor market. Consequently, he added, the number of employed workers rose during the third quarter as an additional 1.6 million persons entered the civilian labor force and the number of unemployed workers decreased, causing the official jobless rate to drop from 8.7 per cent to 8.3 per cent. "But, as might be expected," the Urban League official said, "black unemployment patterns lagged behind those of the rest of the nation."

While the official unemployment decreased by

According to the Urban League's "Hidden Unemployment Index" which incorporates both groups, the total unofficial unemployed dropped from 15.3 million to 14.9 million during the third quarter, resulting in a decline in the unofficial total jobless rate from 15.6 per cent to 15 per cent - one of the highest since World War II.

Dr. Hill noted that more than three million blacks - one of every four black workers - are unemployed today. Additionally, he said that although black male heads of households appear to be "slowly reentering" the work force, joblessness among black female heads of households "continues to climb." As a result, he explained, about three million black children are in families in which the head of the household is either unemployed or not in the labor force.

The Urban League official called for "a national commitment" to end what he called "an American tragedy."



THE DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR



LEFT TO RIGHT: Glenn Starnes, recipient; Klay K. Box, Board of Directors of Lions Club.

Durham Lions Club Treated To Musical Program By Durham High School

The Durham Lions Club was treated Wednesday, Dec. 3, to a Christmas musical program presented by Glenn Starnes, director of vocal music at Durham High School, and his Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers.

Starnes was honored at the weekly luncheon meeting for presenting the club's Christmas program for 25 years. A plaque

of appreciation was presented to Starnes in the name of the club by Klay K. Box, a member of the club's board of directors and a member of the Durham City Schools administrative staff.

The Madrigals and the Concert Choir, top-rated groups

in the state, sang traditional Christmas songs and a parody of another.

When the Christmas show was completed and Starnes was told that he had more time if he desired it, he asked his singers what additional numbers they would like to perform and they responded resoundingly with "The Hallelujah Chorus."

Voorhees Presents Concert

Denmark, S. C. — The 82-voice Voorhees College Choir will present "CHRISTMAS TOUR IN SONGS" Sunday, December 14 in Massachusetts Hall. A colorful candlelight professional opens the traditional concert followed by a musical visit to Germany, Russia, Poland, France, and England with a return to America with representative song selections.

The male ensemble, composed of 20 choir members, will sing selections from Russia

and America while the female sextet plans songs from Poland. England's contribution will be appropriate portions of "The Messiah."

A candlelight professional concludes the program according to John W. Hunter, Director. Mrs. Paulette Green accompanies the choir.

There is no admission charge.

Tips on Health

Fighting a Cold

REST, liquids and aspirin usually help fight a cold—unless you're allergic to aspirin. For millions who are, doctors suggest Co-Tylenol cold formula as a safe, effective alternative. In tablet form or children's liquid it combines a non-aspirin pain reliever with a decongestant and an antihistamine for relief of colds' distress.

Close Work-Myopia Link

THE MORE close work you do the greater the chance of developing myopia (near-sightedness), says the American Optometric Association. Have your eyes checked more frequently if you do much close work on a daily basis.



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BLACK POLITICAL DYNAMICS

Eddie N. Williams, President
Joint Center for Political Studies



If you allow other people to do your figuring for you, pretty soon they will own you, lock, stock, and barrel. There's an old adage which states this proposition with greater punch and wit: figures don't lie, but liars can figure.

As we approach the 1976 Presidential election year, we are being bombarded with faulty figures. Contenders are trying to redefine us statistically by what they say that blacks will not figure prominently in the 1976 election.

competitors are white or black. They have similar potential in 250 municipalities (25,000 or more population) where they comprise 10 percent or more of the total population. More than 100 of these cities have NO black elected officials at present.

These figures suggest that we have enough political potential to force Presidential and other candidates to address themselves to our needs and our concerns. But so long as others are at

liberty to quantify our problems and define our issues, from their perspective only, we will be short-changed.

We must force our concerns, our issues, our assessments onto the national agenda. We must persuade politicians and others that we are not political weaklings and that we, too, can figure; that we can not only count our votes, but can apply them in such a way as to calculate the political life span of those who seek and hold public office. (NNPA)

Modern medicine has provided near-miracles in extending people's lives, but the blessings are not entirely un-mixed. Average life expectancy has increased from 47 years in 1900 to 71.9 today, according to the December Reader's Digest. That's the good news. The bad: we may be living longer, but we're not necessarily enjoying the extra time. Thirty-eight percent of our over-65s suffer some kind of chronic condition that limits their activities. Of these, fully half have serious problems, and five percent are homebound. And about a third of all elderly Americans are also plagued by poverty.

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It is time we did some figuring on our own. While our economic power is relatively small, our political potential is relatively large and growing. Black elected officials now 3,500 represent a little less than one percent of all elected public officials, but many of them are strategically located. Black voter registration and turnout rates, admittedly disappointing on occasion, are nevertheless deceptive and not reflective of the real black political potential.

What is, for real, is that: The black voting-age population is at least 10 percent of the nation's total. Strategically located in the crucial industrial states with large blocks of electoral votes, it is concentrated in major urban centers which tend to influence the way many states go.

Blacks have the voting potential in 120 Congressional Districts 27% of all 435—for influencing the outcome of elections, whether the

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