

*Business
in the
Black*

By Charles E. Belle



Ford Forgets About Blacks

Edward M. McIntyre, chairman of Richmond County, Ga., board of commissioners, implied that the Presidential election races should have been a central issue for black political delegates at the Third National Institute of Black Elected Public Officials.

He said "overriding in our sight is the economic disaster that threatens black people aided and abetted by bankrupt political leadership." He may as well have been fighting President Ford as the members assembled at the conference. The President's tax proposal is expected chiefly to benefit the working white middle classes and blow by the black unemployed and other low-income groups.

The shaft is likely to be given to most social welfare programs that placate blacks. President Ford is expected to soup up his stingy tax-cut package to enforce slicing of social programs to keep the budget to a paper magic figure of \$395 billion for fiscal 1977.

This means no new aid programs for the aged and needy for this year or the next. In fact, President Ford is hoping to hobble us with a five year program. The President's State of the Union message isn't suppose to

be for just one year as previous Presidents' have been, but an outline for the next five years.

If re-elected President Ford plans on squeezing the same black folks for years. The five year plan is to hold down government aid to the people. In the meantime, reduce taxes for large corporations and middle to upper income individuals.

The cover up for this coup will be called a total overhaul of the federal tax system. In the face of over swelling unemployment of 8 per cent for the American people, President Ford will present a program for the employed and the employer.

The 40 to 45 per cent unemployed black youth and their white counterparts are expected to tighten their belts and suffer. The small businessman or woman, black or white, will also be sacrificial lambs in this legend.

To add insult to injury, President Ford is expected to call for state control of health, education and welfare where conservatism, corruption and racism run rampant. Perhaps the President has not forgotten about blacks, but he certainly doesn't seem to remember us. (NNPA).

**CENSUS BUREAU TO TAKE
EMPLOYMENT SURVEY HERE**

Local representatives of the Bureau of the Census will conduct a survey of employment in this area during the week of January 18-24, according to Joseph R. Norwood, Director of the Bureau's Regional Office in Charlotte.

The survey is conducted for the U. S. Department of Labor in a scientifically designed sample of approximately 55,000 households throughout the United States. Employment and unemployment statistics based on results of this survey are used to provide a continuing measure of the economic health of the

Nation. For example, in November the survey indicated that of the 93.0 million men and women in the civilian labor force, 85.3 million were employed. The Nation's unemployment rate was 8.3 per cent, the same as in September but substantially below the recession peak of 8.9 per cent reached in the second quarter of 1975.

Information supplied by individuals participating in the survey is kept strictly confidential by law and the results are used only to compile statistical totals.



ATLANTA - Georgia Congressman Andrew Young is moved to tears during memorial services for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorating the 47th birthday of the slain civil rights leader. Young was on King's staff during the early days of the civil rights movement. (UPI).

**USDA Proposes Regulations For
Expanded Summer Food Program**

WASHINGTON - Proposed regulations were announced this week for a children's summer food program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to needy children during summer and vacation periods when schools are closed and lunch programs are not available.

The new regulations enact program changes legislated by Congress in the fall (P.L. 94-105).

The new law expands the summer program by making it available to residential summer camps. Before the new law, the program was limited to non-residential public and private (nonprofit) institutions.

As spelled out in the proposed regulations, summer camps and non-residential institutions can join the summer food program if one-third of the children they serve are from needy families.

USDA reimburses camps and institutions for meals they served based on the number of children in their programs, and their food service costs. Maximum rates of reimbursement are established at 81.5 cents for lunches and suppers; 45 cents for breakfasts and 21.25 cents for snacks. In March, these rates will be adjusted to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for the past year.

To help sponsors gear up for their summer and vacation feeding programs,

the regulations note that start-up funds are available at the discretion of the states for initial planning and training efforts. While start-up funds are optional, however, states are required to advance funds to sponsors for actual program expenses.

At the state level, the Summer Food Service Program for Children will be administered by state education agencies (or an alternate agency designated by the state) or the regional office of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. In addition, two percent of the money given to states for the program will be available for state administrative expenses.

In order for camps and institutions to join the Summer Food Service Program the proposed regulations state that they must:

- accept financial and administrative

responsibility for the program;

- provide an adequate and trained staff to monitor and operate the program;

- certify that all places where children are to be fed have been visited and evaluated as adequate; and,

- document the need of the area they serve.

State or regional offices administering the summer program are required under the proposed regulations to:

- make sure sponsors don't offer more than the necessary number of food programs in an area;

- assure school food service facilities are used whenever possible; and,

- evaluate the capability of the sponsor's proposed food facility to serve more than one meal a day.

The new proposal is scheduled for publication in the Jan. 6 Federal Register.

The Voice In The Wilderness

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. St. Matthew 3: 1-3