

Social Workers Told Black Progress Is A Myth

By Wekesa Madzimo

Robert Hill, director of research for the National Urban League told over 350 black and white social work practitioners, teachers and administrators "that the condition of black people had not improved over the last decade." If anything, he added, "our condition has deteriorated."

Hill was one of the key speakers and workshop leaders for a conference held at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill on last Friday. The conference was sponsored by the School and Social Work and was designed to "enhance the knowledge base of the Social Work practitioner in the community regarding the concerns that black people have," said Dr. Audrey Johnson, conference coordinator and social work faculty member.

"It is hoped that they will become more sensitive to the fact that black people are a diversified group with many differing concerns. And that those concerns should always be understood as dignified and worthy of consideration," said Dr. Johnson.

Robert Hill, chairing the workshop on "Economic Concerns of the Black Community," disposed of the myth that black people had progressed during the seventies by indicating that "the number of black people unemployed at the end of 1979 was twice the number unemployed at the beginning of the decade."

Criticizing the numerous reports which indicate that blacks have advanced, Hill stated that movement from a blue collar job to a white collar job does not necessarily mean white collar income. He added that "real progress means moving into higher paying jobs, not just higher status jobs."

Howard Lee, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources, chaired the "Black Experience in

Politics" workshop and urged social workers to become aware of and involved in politics "because many of the issues that social workers are concerned about are pushed low on the political agenda because they impact on people who generally don't vote."

Relying on his training as a social worker, Secretary Lee explained in a casual but serious tone that "social workers are often the people who bring the last hope to those black people with whom they work."

According to Lee, black social workers have the additional responsibility of organizing with the community and using their training to influence political action directly and indirectly through the people whose lives they touch.

Conference participants remarked that they enjoyed the conference, especially the diversified opinions and the opportunity to exchange ideas. However, some criticism was directed at those workshops in which papers were read and discussion stifled. The most prominent regret expressed by the conferees was that they couldn't attend all ten workshop sessions.

In addition to those on economics and politics, there were sessions on "The Black Family," "Black Children and Youth," "The Physical and Mental Health of Blacks," "The Black Aged," "Black Education," "Socio-Cultural Considerations in Working with Blacks" and "The Development of Social Work and Social Welfare in the Black Community."

Chairing the workshop on the development of Social Work and Social Welfare in the community was Mrs. Edyth L. Ross an Atlanta University Social Work professor. Providing perhaps the most insightful alternative to present social work policy

and practice, Mrs. Ross exposed the conferees to the social service delivery system developed by Afro-Americans before the Civil War. "An analysis of Afro-American social work and social welfare development indicates a process of developing strength through adversity," said Mrs. Ross.

She insisted that social workers become aware of the values and attitudes which have allowed Afro-Americans to develop as a people in an oppressive society. Central to developing this sensitivity, she believes, is the ability of social workers to recognize and respect these values as they appear in the

black community in such forms as: "extended family patterns, communal child rearing practices, enduring kinship patterns and new modes of language expression."

The conference ended with a panel of workshop leaders and the conferees reflecting on the day's activities. The recurring question during that period was "when will the sequel be released?" Dr. Johnson, calling her dean's attention to the request and overwhelming support, indicated that follow-up conference was possible but that conference proceedings would definitely be forthcoming.

520 Black Students to Receive Achievement Scholarships

EVANTON, IL.—The National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students announced the names of about 520 Achievement Scholarship recipients Wednesday. Winners are black high school seniors from schools in 39 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Commonwealths and territories, and overseas schools that enroll U.S. citizens.

This announcement includes the majority of winners in the sixtieth annual competition. Named

this week are 335 winners of a one-time National Achievement \$1000 Scholarships. Most (97 per cent) of these awards, valued at about 1.5 million, are underwritten by companies, foundations, and business organizations that participate in the Achievement Program.

The program awards a National Achievement \$1000 Scholarships are one-time awards of \$1,000 that are allocated by geographic regions to ensure that winners will be representative of outstanding black students nationwide. The number of winners in each regional grouping of states is proportionate to the U.S. Negro population in that region. All winners of National Achievement \$1000 Scholarships were chosen by a selection committee of educators convened for this specific purpose.

In making their judgments, committee members evaluated Finalists, region-by-region, and chose as winners students who appeared to be most promising, based on academic records, extracurricular accomplishments, self-descriptions, test scores, and school recommendations.

Winners of corporate-sponsored four-year Achievement Scholarships named Wednesday were chosen from among black students who attained Finalist standing in the Achievement Program and who met preferential criteria specified by the organizations supporting these awards; for this reason, four-year scholarships are awarded without regard for regional distribution of winners.

Most corporate-sponsored four-year Achievement Scholarships are designated for Finalists who reside in areas where a company has operations, those who plan careers a sponsor wishes to encourage, or Finalists who are children of employees of the sponsoring organization. The annual stipend for each winner is determined individually and is related to financial circumstances. Because confidential family financial information is used in determining each winner's stipend, the amount is not made public; however, the average stipend is expected to be about \$1,525 per year, or \$6,100 over the four college years.

A few students included in Wednesday's announcement have been designated Honorary winners. Because they have accepted other awards or have made plans to study at special purpose institutions not covered by Achievement Scholarships, they will receive no monetary assistance through the Achievement

Program; however, they are being recognized for their outstanding performance in the competition.

Over 60,000 black students enrolled in about 7,000 secondary schools entered the 1980 Achievement Scholarship competition in 1978 by taking the Preliminary Scholarship Aptitude Test National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Exam (PSAT/NMSQT) as high school juniors. In September 1979, about 1,500 (the highest scorers in each geographic region established for the competition) were named Semifinalists and identified publicly throughout the nation. By meeting further requirements, almost 1,200 of these Semifinalists advanced to Finalist standing, and thereby qualified to be considered for the Achievement Scholarships this year.

The Achievement Program, administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), is a compensatory effort initiated in 1964 by a Ford Foundation grant for the specific purposes of identifying and honoring academically able black students. Between 1965 and 1979, funds totaling about \$18.1 million have been expended or committed for over 6,250 Achievement Scholarships.

Achievement Program sponsors and donors have supported eighty per cent of the awards offered in the fifteen programs completed; it is anticipated that by the completion of the 1980 competition, nearly \$2.0 million in grants from program sponsors and donors will be committed for this year's Achievement Scholarship winners.

In May, about 100 winners of a third type of award — College-Sponsored Four-Year Achievement Scholarships — will be notified. Some forty colleges and universities are expected to sponsor renewable awards for

black students who are Achievement Program Finalists and who will attend their institutions. Winners of these scholarships will be announced on an individual basis from May sixth through June ninth.

From Durham, Miss. is Candice R. Melton, a student at Southern High School, for whom named in honor of the Thomas J. Watson Memorial Achievement Scholarship of International Business Machines Corporation. IBM annual awards four-year achievement scholarships on a competitive basis in memory of Thomas J. Watson, Sr., first president of IBM. These awards are reserved for children of IBM employees who qualify as Achievement Program finalists. Winners may attend any accredited U.S. college or university covered by the Achievement Program where they may follow any traditional baccalaureate course of study.

Miss Melvin plans to study Computer Science. She has studied music (organ) for four years and plays second clarinet. She is a member of the Spanish Club, advisor to the Girls Club of Delmar Forest; member of the French Club, Junior Church and Junior Missionary member.

From Chapel Hill, Miss. Raelysha K. Butler of 136 Emily Road, is the recipient of a \$1000 National Achievement Scholarship. She plans to enter pre-medical studies. She is a member of the National Honor Society; was selected for Governor's School Summer Program for Gifted and Talented Students; Junior Class president; graduation marshal; Student-Faculty Advisory Committee; Senior Class Council; Women's Varsity track team captain; recipient of Judith Adams Walker German Club and Positvie Action Committee awards.

Public Invited To Suggest Changes In HUD Regulations

The Department of Housing and Urban Development wants your help in making its regulations simpler, less burdensome and more effective.

HUD Secretary Moon Landrieu announced that HUD is undertaking a major review of its existing regulations and is inviting public comment on which ones they feel are most in need of review and revision.

"It is our intention," he said, "to make HUD regulations clear and direct and to make compliance with them as simple as possible. In this effort, we are inviting public comments and suggestions, and will welcome examples of troublesome and confusing provisions, general recommendations for improvement and, in particular, suggestions for feasible alternatives to regulation." HUD is also interested in evaluations of the costs of complying

with various regulations and their effect on the economy, he added.

HUD's immediate task is to set priorities on which regulations may need revision most, Landrieu said, so that limited staff resources can be allocated most effectively. Thus, detailed comment on specific regulatory provisions is not being sought at this time, he added, so much as general suggestions that will help the Department determine which rules may need revision and which should be examined first. Proposed changes to individual rules will be published later for more detailed public input.

The comments sought now, on the general improvement of HUD rules, must be received no later than March 25.

These comments will be considered along with six other factors in deciding which regulations should

be withdrawn or redrafted.

The other factors, or criteria, are:

- The burden that the rule imposes on the public, particularly in terms of general costs, record keeping and reporting requirements;
- Whether legislative changes require revision of the rule;
- Whether the language of the rule should be simplified or clarified;
- Whether public complaints or petitions for rulemaking have been filed, and the nature of these complaints or petitions;
- The age of the rule and the length of time since it was last reviewed and revised.

When all public comments have been considered and this preliminary review completed, HUD will publish its semi-annual regulations agenda in the Federal Register, indicating which rules have been selected for redrafting or withdrawal, Secretary Landrieu said. As soon as possible thereafter, the Department will begin scheduling individual rulemaking proceedings on proposed change.

Written public comments and suggestions on how HUD's regulations might be improved should be directed to: Rules Docket Clerk, Room 5218 HUD, 451 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20410.

Funds Sought

[Continued from Front] come before the council, several members spoke for and against it.

Councilman Bill Smith said, "Let the record show that the policy that is about to be rescinded will affect the level of intervention on the cost of utilities."

Councilman Barney West said, "Intervention can occupy the city manager's time. We can handle this on an individual basis."

Mayor Harry Rodenhizer asked for citizens' response and Mrs. Thelma Denning, a senior citizen was the only person to speak.

"You sit up there and you are supposed to be serving the citizens of Durham. How could you let this pass: I live on Social Security, and this will hurt the senior citizens." The motion to rescind the policy failed on a 5-6 vote.

On other matters before the Council, the following actions were taken:

—A discussion on whether to demolish a house that was said to violate safety code at 2907 N. Elizabeth Street was postponed until April 8. The owner had asked that the matter be deferred until he could secure an attorney.

—The Council voted to open bids on life and health insurance for city employees.

—The Council voted to appropriate \$3900 to interview applicants for Public Safety Director.

—The Mayor issued a proclamation to Police Officer Ted Warren who had received both the local and state Junior Chambers of Commerce awards for distinguished service.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 to go into execu-

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